BRITAIN'S MOST TRUSTED NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

THE TIMES

Monday March 2 2020 | thetimes.co.uk | No 73096 2G

ONLY £1.80 £1.10 to subscribers



First for football

Foden stars in City's Wembley triumph The Game



Bringing up baby at No 10 Times2

Alarm over surge in suicides by veterans of Afghan conflict

Lucy Fisher Defence Editor

There has been a spate of suicides this year among former soldiers who took part in the bloodiest fighting in Afghanistan, it has been revealed.

Johnny Mercer, the minister for veterans, raised the alarm over a cluster of deaths as he said that he would expedite government plans for a new mental health service for veterans. Fourteen former and serving British personnel are thought to have taken their own lives in the past two months, although some inquests have yet to take place.

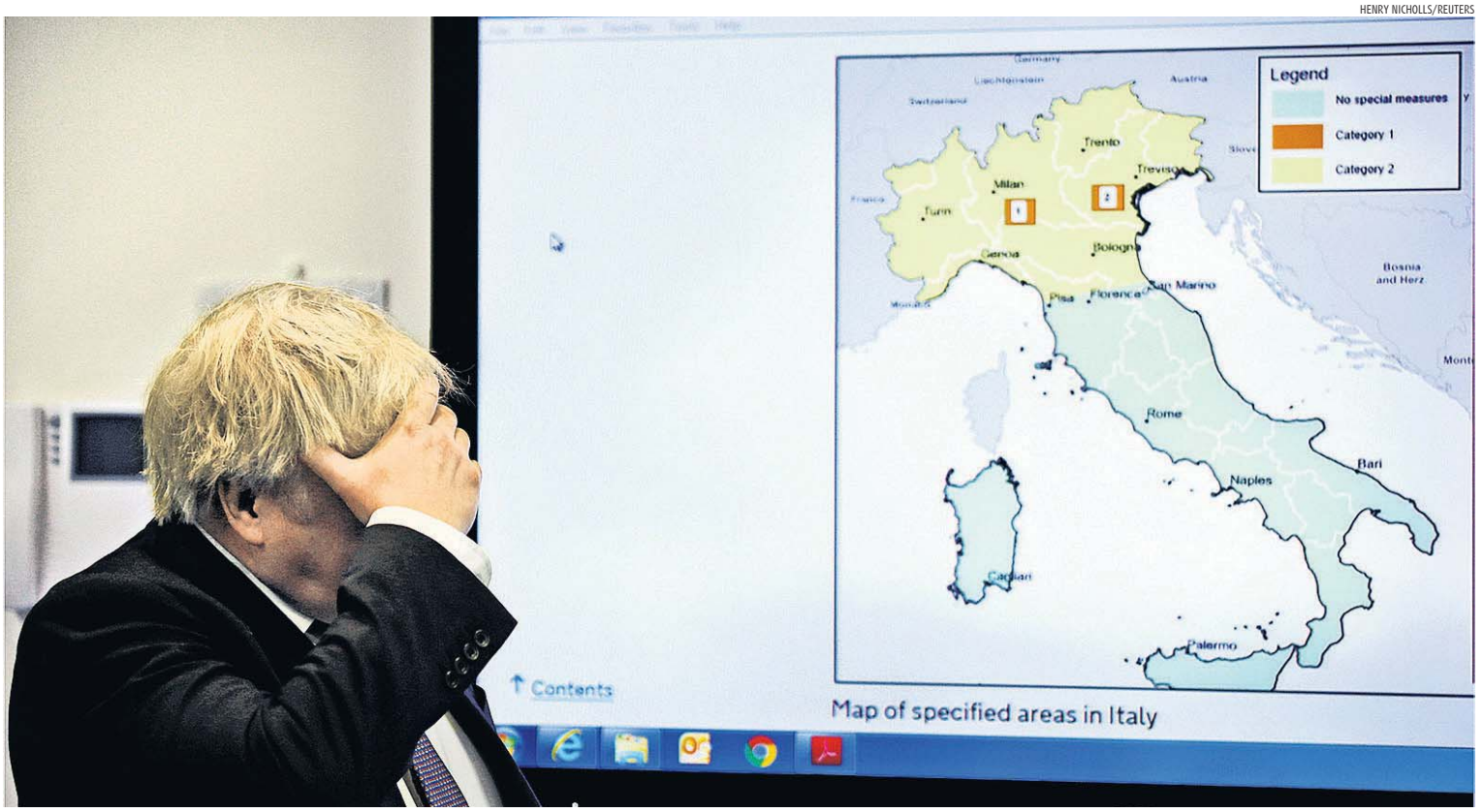
A high proportion are veterans of a particular grouping involved in Operation Herrick, Britain's combat mission in Afghanistan between 2002 and 2014, it is understood. Mr Mercer emphasised that "one suicide is one too many" as he told *The Times* that plans would be brought forward by two months for a "high-intensity" mental health programme for those who are "at their most poorly".

It will begin next month and is designed to complement existing NHS programmes, which treat post-traumatic stress disorder and help veterans with problems such as addiction and debt.

Mr Mercer, 38, said that he was particularly concerned about a cluster of recent deaths from "a specific unit that served at a specific time in Afghanistan … the bloodiest time". This newspaper has agreed not to name the unit out of concern that publicity could lead to more loss of life. Reflecting on the possibility that some of the veterans may have been suffering from delayed-onset post-traumatic stress disorder, which research suggests can occur about a decade or more after a traumatic event, the minister said: "I'm scratching around looking at evidence from across the globe, including the US, Israel and Australia, to understand if there is an

Continued on page 2, col 3

HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS



Boris Johnson at the National Infection Service centre in north London yesterday. The government said that millions of people could be told to work from home

Johnson: We'll stop at nothing to tackle virus

Ministers prepare public for drastic measures as UK cases jump by a third in one day

Oliver Wright Policy Editor
David Brown

Boris Johnson will pledge today that the government will "stop at nothing" to fight coronavirus as ministers prepare the public for drastic measures to tackle the spread of the illness.

The prime minister is to chair a meeting of the government's emergency Cobra committee that will sign off a "battle plan" to tackle the virus, which, he will warn, presents "a significant challenge for our country". Health officials confirmed yesterday that the number of infections had jumped from 23 to 36, the biggest rise in a single day, including a second case where a cause had not been identified.

All of the patients, which include the first case in Scotland, are being investigated and their close contacts traced. Matt Hancock, the health secretary, said yesterday that the illness could have "huge economic and social" consequences. Millions of workers could be told to work from home, schools could close and big sporting events could be cancelled.

Companies may also be ordered to halt all "unnecessary travel" in a "social-distancing" strategy. Worst-case scenario plans indicate that 80 per cent of Britain's population could get the virus, with up to 500,000 deaths.

Mr Hancock also said that Britain had not ruled out following China's lead in shutting down cities, should the outbreak escalate into a pandemic. "There is clearly a huge economic and social downside to that," he told the BBC. "But we don't take anything off the table at this stage because you have to make sure you have all the tools available if that is what is necessary."

The developments came as:

- Public health officials sought a suspected "super-spreader" who has now been linked to four confirmed cases in Britain.
- Two primary schools were closed

Continued on page 7, col 1

Hot news: why dogs have such cold noses

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

The mystery of why dogs have cold noses appears to have been solved: they are ultra-sensitive heat detectors.

Scientists have learnt that dogs can perceive very faint sources of heat, equivalent to the warmth emitted by a small furry mammal from five feet away. Researchers believe the rhinarium — the cold, bare tip of a dog's muzzle — is the organ they use to achieve this.

The findings again show the superiority of the canine nose, which is up to 100 million times more sensitive to smell than ours. The dog joins a select group of animals, including the pit viper and common vampire bat, known to be able to detect body heat at a distance.

A study in *Scientific Reports* describes how three dogs — Kevin, Delfi and Charlie — were trained to identify which of two identical, 4in-wide objects had been heated to about 12C above room temperature. "All three dogs could detect stimuli of weak thermal radiation," the study says.

The dogs' noses appeared to be able to detect heat transferred as parcels of electromagnetic radiation known as photons. Scans of another 13 dogs showed that regions of the brain that process information from the nose became more active near a warm object.

The coolness of the nose appears to be important. The sensitive area in vampire bats is also in the nasal region and also colder than other parts of the face. In pit vipers the organs used to detect heat must similarly be kept cool.

The temperature of a dog's nose changes according to surrounding conditions. At 30C it tends to be about 5C colder than the ambient temperature and about equal at 15C.

The researchers discount the theory that the canine nose plays a part in regulating body heat, because its surface area is too small in relation to body size. Moreover, when a dog pants much more heat is lost from its warm tongue than from its cool snout.

The discovery was made by scientists from Lund University in Sweden and Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary.

News

DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

TODAY'S EDITION

NEWS



COMING HOME
Treasures plundered 1,400 years ago are to return to East Anglia
PAGE 19

SPORT



RUGBY THREAT
The Six Nations could disappear from free-to-air TV under a future deal
PAGE 60

TIMES2



STILL RECYCLING?
The front line has moved in the campaign against single-use plastic
PAGE 2-3

COMMENT

The award of an extra £400,000 to a divorcée who had opted out of work sends a depressing message

LIBBY PURVES, PAGE 25

Disease risks of daytime fatigue

Researchers at Stanford University, California, have found that people over 65 who reported chronic daytime sleepiness were about twice as likely to develop cancer. They were also more than twice as likely to get diabetes. Page 4

Sacked worker's compensation

Craig Kerins, who was sacked as a business manager at Barclays bank in 2018 after a woman accused him of putting a codeine tablet into her wine glass, has been awarded more than £12,000 by a tribunal that rejected the claim. Page 5

Call for Patel investigation

Senior civil servants have called for an independent inquiry into bullying claims against Priti Patel, the home secretary, as it emerged that there had been at least one formal complaint before her top official resigned. Page 14

Turkish threat to invade Syria

President Erdogan of Turkey threatened a full-blown invasion of Syria as his air force shot down two Assad regime jets. Thirty-four Turkish troops were killed in an airstrike last week on the opposition-held Syrian city of Idlib. Page 28

Northern Rock payout battle

Thousands of former Northern Rock shareholders are planning to restart their campaign for compensation after the nationalised bank was left with £5 billion in surplus equity, having repaid its government loans in full. Page 33

Wilder triggers Fury rematch

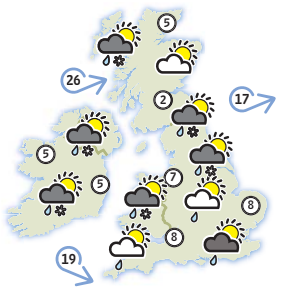
Deontay Wilder has triggered his rematch clause and a third WBC heavyweight title fight with Tyson Fury is likely in July. This delays the prospect of Fury meeting Anthony Joshua in an all-British world title unification fight. Page 60

COMMENT 23 | WORKING LIFE 41 | SPORT 52
THUNDERER 24 | REGISTER 45 | CROSSWORD 60
LEADING ARTICLES 27 | COURT CIRCULAR 47 | TV & RADIO TIMES2

FOLLOW US
thetimes timesandsundaytimes thetimes

OFFER
Save up to 35% with a subscription to The Times and The Sunday Times
THETIMES.CO.UK/SUBSCRIBE

THE WEATHER



Early rain or sleet clearing the southeast. Wintry showers across western areas. Full forecast, page 49

Please note, some sections of The Times are available only in the United Kingdom and Ireland
© TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 2020. Published in print and all other derivative formats by Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7782 5000. Printed by: Newsprinters (Broxbourne) Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY; Newsprinters (Knowsley) Ltd, Kitling Rd, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN; Newsprinters (Eurocentral) Ltd, Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Johnston Press, Carn Web, Morton 3 Esky Drive, Carn Industrial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YY; Smurfit Kappa News Press Ltd, Kells Industrial Estate, Virginia Rd, Kells, County Meath, Ireland; KP Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR; Bermont SA, Avda de Alemania 12, 28821 Coslada, Spain; Newsprint Impresion Digital SL, Poligono Industrial Los Majuelos, 38108 San Cristobal de la Laguna, Sta Cruz de Tenerife, Spain; Omniprint SA, Poligono Son Llaut, 07320 Santa Maria del Cami (Mallorca), Spain; MOP, 62 Boulevard de l'Europe, 13127 Vitrolles, France; Europrinter SA, Avenue Jean Mermoz 10, 6041 Charleroi, Belgium; Miller Newsprint Ltd, Miller House, Tarxien Rd, Malta Airport, LQA 05 Luqa, Malta; Milkro Digital Cyprus Ltd, Nissou Industrial Estate, Old Nicosia-Limassol Rd, 2571 Nisou, Cyprus; Milkro Hellas Publisher Services Ltd, 2nd Kilometer Peanias-Markopoulo Ave, Position Nisiza, 19441 Koropi, Greece; Atlas Media Communication FZ LLC, PO Box 14833, International Media Production Zone, Dubai. For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact Newspaper Licensing Agency at PO Box 101, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1WX, tel 01892 525274, e-mail copy@nla.co.uk. For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7711 7888, e-mail sales@newslicensing.co.uk

British troops in Afghanistan told to start packing their bags

Michael Evans

British troops are preparing to leave Afghanistan after the signing of a peace deal between the Taliban and the national government.

The 1,100 remaining soldiers, based in Kabul, will be part of a 14-month operation to withdraw 16,500 coalition troops and vast amounts of equipment, including Foxhound armoured patrol vehicles. It will be a logistical challenge. Defence sources said the troops would be withdrawn in co-ordination with Nato, which is in charge of the Afghan national army training programme.

The Royal Irish Regiment represents the bulk of Britain's contribution, forming the Kabul security force. It is backed by 120 men of the Parachute Regiment and attachments from signals, intelligence and other units. The British set up and still help to run a military academy for Afghan officers in Kabul.

The United States faces the biggest withdrawal challenge, with 13,000 troops in Afghanistan, hundreds of armoured vehicles and a large inventory of aircraft at Bagram near Kabul and at Kandahar airbase.

Troops from 38 countries, which have been training and assisting the Afghan national security forces in Operation Resolute Support, will also be packing their bags, among them 1,300 Germans, 895 Italians, 790 Romanians, 600 Turks, 230 Mongolians, 350 Poles and 300 from the Czech Republic.

Resolute Support troops are based at Bagram, Mazar-e-Sharif in the north, Herat in the west, Kandahar in the south and Laghman in the east.

Under plans that US Central Command has worked on for months, the 13,000 American troops will be reduced to 8,600 over the next 19 weeks, provided there is no resurgence in violence by the Taliban or other serious breach of the deal signed on Saturday in Doha, Qatar. The rest, about 5,000 of whom are involved in Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the separate American counterterrorism mission, will leave by the 14-month deadline.

US military hardware in the country includes mine-resistant armoured patrol vehicles, attack helicopters, F-16s, Black Hawk helicopters, electronic countermeasure aircraft, Reaper armed drones and other assets used to increase airstrikes against the Taliban and Islamic State in recent months.

The withdrawal is complex but more straightforward than in 2014, when the combat mission came to an end. The region was so awash then with American equipment that the only answer was either to leave much of it behind for the Afghans, to save money on transporting everything back home, or destroy it.

● A deployment of 250 British troops will arrive in the West African nation of Mali by the middle of this year to fight a growing Islamist insurgency. Dozens of British troops are in the neighbouring country of Senegal, training troops from three African countries.

Peace deal tested, page 29

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Surge in suicides by veterans

event at the ten-year point. I'm yet to see a conclusive basis for that." However, he added that the research in this field was far from comprehensive because many western nations "started at such a low base for mental health".

The Ministry of Defence was previously accused of turning a blind eye to the suicides, because it did not collect data on veterans, unlike the US, Canada and Australia. Last year the department agreed to expand a study into deaths among those who served between 2001 and 2014, to monitor suicides in near-real time.

State funding has also been given to a project examining the final 12 months of veterans who have taken their lives. "I want to understand at exactly what stage we could or should have intervened in that process," Mr Mercer said.

Any personnel or veteran suicide is "a tragedy not only for the individual, not only for his family — it's unimaginable, it's a tragedy for the institution [the army] that I am so proud of. So we are fully eyes open and ears open," he said.

Mr Mercer met four bereaved families last week and he said he was "literally working on this every day". A former serviceman who completed three tours of Afghanistan, the minister has spoken publicly about witnessing PTSD and said it had "ripped apart" his circle of friends.

More than 70 former and serving personnel took their lives in 2018 and at least 50 suicides occurred last year, according to reports.

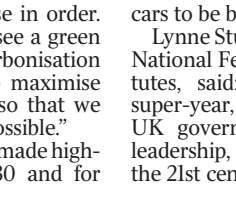
General Lord Dannatt, a former head of the army, has called veteran suicides an "epidemic of our time" and said that ministers and charities should have acted faster to address the issue. He called on coroners to record it when people who took their lives had a service background. His intervention last autumn came after a coroner wrote to the NHS and police to highlight gaps in treatment options for veterans. Emma Brown, the coroner for Birmingham and Solihull, identified failures in the treatment of Dave Jukes, a former lance corporal who had served in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan, before he killed himself aged 49 in 2018.

There are estimated to be about five million serving and former members of the armed forces in Britain and about 15,000 men and women leave each year.

Case study

Dave Jukes took his own life behind his family home in Birmingham in 2018 aged 49 (Lucy Fisher writes). The former lance corporal had suffered acute depression.

Mr Jukes completed tours of Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan but "his service killed him in the end", his widow, Jo Jukes, has said. She told ITV News that she had sought help from her GP, the local health authority, the Ministry of Defence and veterans' charities as Mr Jukes's post-traumatic stress disorder worsened, with night terrors and flashbacks, and he became depressed.



"I was trying to save his life and people didn't work with me," she said, adding that the pair had been "passed from pillar to post". She had to secure a court order banning Mr Jukes, left, from their home after his behaviour grew too volatile. He was sleeping rough at the time of his death.

Emma Brown, the coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide last year at Birmingham coroner's court and identified failings and missed chances to help him. She warned the NHS and West Midlands police of a risk of future deaths if action were not taken.

Ban new diesels by 2030, charities urge

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Sales of new petrol and diesel cars should be banned by 2030 and frequent flyers should pay extra tax to help the UK to meet its climate targets, according to a coalition of 60 charities.

They also want hundreds of wind and solar farms built in the countryside and all airport expansion to be scrapped.

The charities, which include the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Women's Institute, the World Wide Fund for Nature, Christian Aid and the Woodland Trust, have written to Boris Johnson urging him to introduce tough measures this year before a climate change summit hosted by the UK in Glasgow in November.

They say that Britain needs to set an example if other countries are to be persuaded to make serious commitments on emissions at the summit. The charities want the UK to set a stricter short-term emissions target for 2030 to drive action towards the government's long-term, legally binding target of making the UK carbon neutral by 2050.

Last month the prime minister brought forward by five years to 2035 the date when the UK will "end the sale" of new petrol and diesel cars. Mr Johnson said the restrictions could be introduced earlier if a "faster transition is feasible".

The charities' letter says: "The UK must also get its own house in order. The coming months must see a green turbocharging of our decarbonisation policies and investment to maximise our emissions reductions, so that we reach net zero as soon as possible."

It calls for all homes to be made highly energy efficient by 2030 and for £2.3 billion a year to be spent on subsidising the installation of electric heat pumps, which extract warmth from the ground or air.

The charities say that at least 10 million heat pumps should be installed in buildings by 2030 to decarbonise heating, beginning in homes off the gas grid. The UK should also end financial support for oil and gas projects abroad, they say.

The Clean Air for All campaign, launched last year by *The Times*, has also called for new petrol and diesel cars to be banned by 2030.

Lynne Stubbings, chairwoman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, said: "In this environmental super-year, all eyes are already on the UK government to provide climate leadership, and a climate legacy, fit for the 21st century and beyond."





Winemakers pressed to cut prices in face of glut

Adam Sage Paris
Ben Hoyle Los Angeles, **Mark Bridge**

In the cellar of the 18th-century Château du Pavillon in Bordeaux are 70,000 bottles of wine that nobody seems to want to drink.

Olivier Fleury, 48, the château owner, had earmarked them for the United States, where they usually sell for between $25 and $60 (£20-£45) a bottle.

That was before President Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on $7.5 billion worth of European exports including Scotch whisky, Italian cheese and still French wine containing less than 14 per cent alcohol.

The result has been a slump in sales as importers block orders and customers turn to Chilean, Argentinian and Italian bottles, unaffected by the tariffs.

"It's been an absolute catastrophe," Mr Fleury, in Paris for the annual farm and food show, said. "The US accounts for 20 per cent of my exports in normal times. But since the tariff came in, it's been zero. My importer says he doesn't want me to send him anything."

At the same time there has been an unprecedented supply of grapes and wine in California. Last year's harvesters left grapes on the vine rather than pick them after too many acres were planted and too few old vines removed. Falling demand from a slowing Chinese market, coupled with the effect of the coronavirus, are also taking a toll, prompting a leading French wine merchant to warn that Bordeaux's most prestigious châteaux will have to cut prices to avoid a collapse in sales. François Janoueix, whose family has been making and selling Bordeaux since 1898, said that the grands crus, the finest, most expensive wines, were in danger of pricing themselves out of the market.



Olivier Fleury sends a fifth of his exports to the US. François Janoueix, above right, and his Château Condat

"The price cut needs to be significant and not just symbolic," he said. "It needs to be in the order of 25 or 30 per cent."

Mr Janoueix said that his warning applied only to the 50 or so top châteaux, whose bottles sell for hundreds of euros. "I might buy a bottle for €100 [£86] and sell for maybe €110. [They] will sell it on for €130 but no one wants to buy it at that price. And that is why the châteaux at the start of the chain need to bring their prices down."

Bordeaux's grands crus enjoyed a boom last year, with revenue up by 12 per cent at €1.2 billion.

Mark Ross, of Farr Vintners, a London fine wine merchant, said: "For us, there are three main markets. Europe has problems due to Brexit, Asia due to the Hong Kong situation and now coronavirus, and the US due to anti-EU trade measures. It is logical that prices need to come down if the Bordelais want to sell. They really haven't got any choice. Consumers stand to benefit because when prices come down it won't be because they're selling bad wine. Quite the opposite."

Mr Fleury is by no means alone. Bordeaux's wine-making bodies reported a 46 per cent fall in exports to the US since the tariffs. Across the French wine industry, exports to the US were 18 per cent down in the last quarter of 2019 compared with the quarter before.

When President Macron visited the farm and food show in Paris, he was greeted by worried châteaux owners demanding €300 million in state aid to help them through the crisis. They said that 100,000 people could be laid off.

"I employ 22 people and I will certainly have to get rid of some," Mr Fleury said. "I need to keep those who work in the vines but I won't be able to keep those who are employed to put labels on bottles and things like that. I've already had to reduce their hours."

The hillside château had been in Mr Fleury's family for 200 years before it was sold by his grandmother in 1989. In 2013 he bought it back.

Sometimes he wonders whether it was a good idea.

Leading article, page 27
Icewine ruined, page 32

Rare Beatles guitar worth £400,000

Mark Bridge History Correspondent

It is a guitar that was once given away as a "strange old thing" after its owner struggled to play it.

But since that former owner was George Harrison, it belonged before that to his fellow Beatle John Lennon, and it is an "exceptionally rare" design, it was valued at up to £400,000 on yesterday's *Antiques Roadshow*.

The prototype fretless guitar was made by Bartell of California in the 1960s and used by Lennon before it ended up in Harrison's collection. Jon Baddeley, an expert on the BBC show, said it was one of the highest valuations ever on the programme, adding: "I think in 25 years it's by far the most expensive thing I've ever seen."

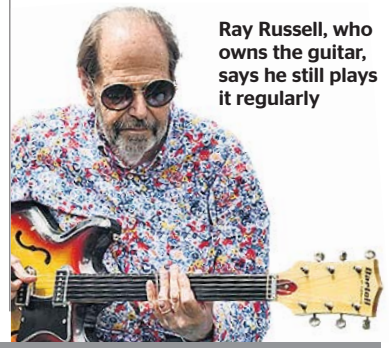
Its owner, Ray Russell, a former session musician, explained that he was given the guitar because he could play it better than George Harrison. In the 1970s and 1980s Mr Russell played for Handmade Films, the production company co-founded by Harrison, which made classics such as *Withnail and I*.

Mr Russell said Harrison asked him to play the fretless instrument. He added: "It's a strange old thing to play … I played a few notes and he said 'Yeah you're definitely getting more out of it than I am … it's doing better for you, why don't you have it'."

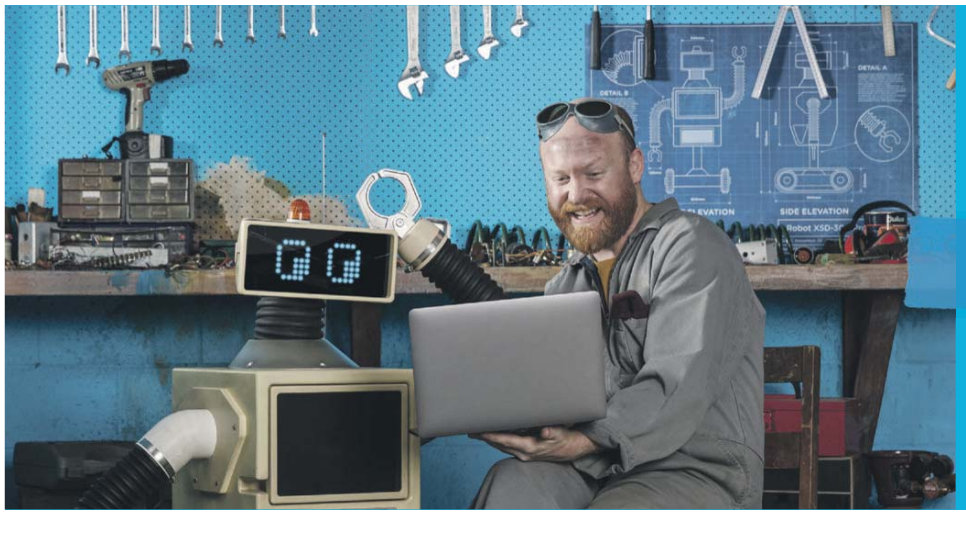
Fretless guitars lack the raised metal frets normally found on the instrument's finger board. Musicians say this brings advantages and disadvantages. The scope to play a wider range of sounds and achieve a more fluid style attracted a number of 1960s musicians.

Some Beatles enthusiasts have speculated that a fretless guitar could have been used in some later Beatles tracks, including from the White Album.

The owner said he was amazed at the value of the guitar and he still plays it regularly: "I never really thought about value, as George being a mate and all that. I don't know what to say actually, I'm really taken aback by it. I didn't realise it was worth that much money. It's lucky I don't keep it in the house."

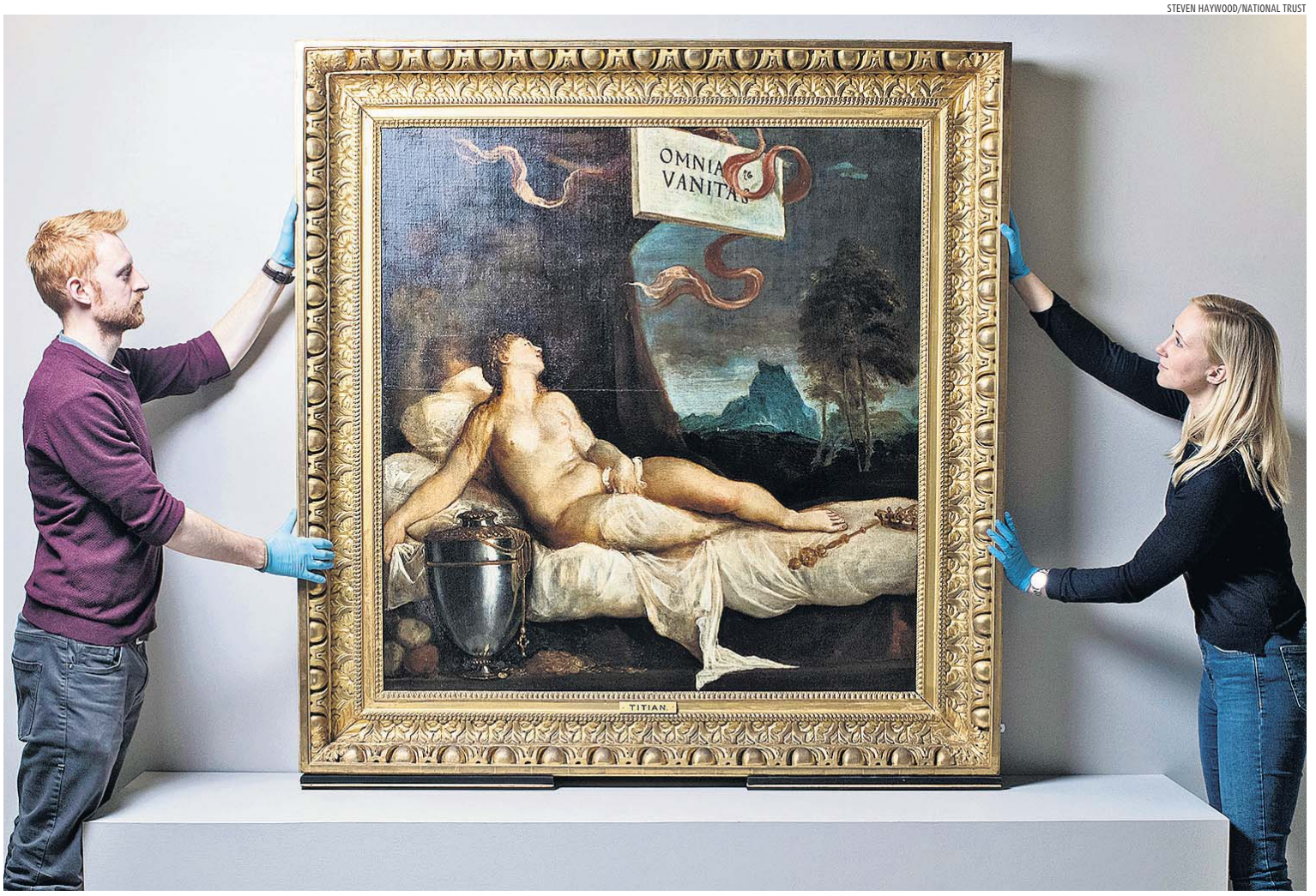


Ray Russell, who owns the guitar, says he still plays it regularly



News

STEVEN HAYWOOD/NATIONAL TRUST



Beauty restored Omnia Vanitas, or All is Vanity, from the studio of Titian, on display at the National Trust's Kingston Lacy near Wimborne, Dorset, after conservation

Long naps may indicate a higher risk of heart disease and cancer

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Observing whether older adults are taking unusually long naps could help to identify those at a higher risk of heart disease and cancer, a study suggests.

Researchers found that people over 65 who reported chronic daytime sleepiness were about twice as likely to develop cancer. They were also more than twice as likely to develop diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

The study looked at people with hypersomnia, which involves feeling very sleepy during the day, even when they have seven or more hours of sleep during the night. Such people often still feel tired after napping.

"Paying attention to sleepiness in older adults could help doctors predict and prevent future medical conditions," Maurice Ohayon, of Stanford University in California, who carried out the research, said. "Older adults and their family members may want to take a closer look at sleeping habits to understand the potential risk for developing a more serious medical condition."

The study looked at nearly 11,000 people, about a third of whom were 65 years old or older. The researchers interviewed these subjects by phone on two occasions, three years apart. In the first interview 23 per cent of people over 65 met the criteria for excessive sleepiness. In the second interview 24 per cent reported excessive sleepiness. Of those, 41 per cent said that the sleepiness was a chronic problem.

The study found that people who reported sleepiness in the first phone interview had a 2.3 times greater risk of developing diabetes or high blood pressure three years later than those who did not experience sleepiness. They were also about twice as likely to develop cancer.

People who reported daytime sleepiness during both interviews had a 2.5 times greater risk of developing heart disease.

People who reported sleepiness only in the second interview were 1.5 times more likely to also have diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue, such as arthritis, tendinitis and lupus, than those who did not have daytime sleepiness.

The study was purely observational, meaning that it could not say that poor sleep causes a greater risk of disease. The results remained the same after researchers adjusted for other factors that could affect daytime sleepiness, such as sleep apnoea.

The results are due to be presented at a meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, in Toronto.

The NHS advises that adults need seven to nine hours of sleep a night. Its website also says that excessive sleepiness and sleeping is different from feeling tired all the time. It says that people with hypersomnia will regularly nap during the day and not feel refreshed and may fall asleep during the day, even while eating or talking. They may still sleep for long hours at night.

Proper sleep is well known to be important to health, and previous studies have suggested that abrupt changes in daytime napping can be an early warning sign. One paper, published last year, linked sudden excessive napping to an increased risk of Alzheimer's.

Three regions of the brain involved with keeping people awake during the day were found to be among the first casualties of the degenerative condition. Researchers linked the damage to a protein called tau, suggesting that it may contribute more directly to the brain degeneration that drives symptoms than a more extensively studied protein known as amyloid.

Dentists raise alarm over DIY braces sold online

Dental experts have warned of the dangers of patients trying to straighten their teeth with "DIY braces" that are increasingly available online.

Recent statistics show that the demand for adult orthodontics is continuing to rise and three quarters of orthodontists report an increase in the number of patients.

Concerns have simultaneously risen about "direct-to-consumer" teeth straightening, which lures in customers with the promise of low prices and fast results but can often result in permanent damage to the wearer's teeth, gums and jaw. The Oral Health Foundation and the British Orthodontic Society have set up Safe Brace, a website providing expert advice on getting braces.

Nigel Carter, the chief executive of the Oral Health Foundation, said: "Straightening teeth is a highly complex medical procedure and should only be carried out by a dentist or orthodontist. These face-to-face appointments are essential. They allow for a patient to be fully assessed by a qualified professional who can help guide them to arrive at the most appropriate treatment for their needs.

"Importantly, the dentist will also be able to monitor a person's progress throughout the course of their treatment and make adjustments to the appliance when needed.

"By visiting a trained clinician, patients will get a full examination and have a range of different treatment options explained to them. This will put the patient in a great position to get the best results in a safe and effective environment. The consequences of ill-fitting braces are hefty and can leave a person with permanent damage to their teeth, gums and jaw."

Professor Jonathan Sandler, president of the British Orthodontic Society, added: "In my professional opinion, if you embark on any orthodontic treatment without a suitably trained clinician taking the time to examine you and make appropriate recommendations, you could be in danger of having serious conditions missed, as well as inappropriate and dangerous treatment carried out."

Quintagram® No 626

Solve all five clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Hairless (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Savage flying creature of myth (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Of a 50th anniversary (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Warlike (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Expert lawyer (5,5)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	A	B	D
D	E	E	E	E	G	G	G
H	I	L	L	L	L	L	L
M	N	O	P	R	R	T	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues every day online

'New evidence' in US against Prince Andrew

New evidence linking Prince Andrew to a woman who claims she was forced to have sex with him as a teenager will emerge in a US court in the coming months, her lawyer has claimed. The Duke of York has said that he has "no recollection of ever meeting" Virginia Giuffre, now 36. She says that she was trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein, who died in jail in New York in August, and "lent for sex" to the US financier's associates. Lawsuits brought by 16 women against Epstein's estate have been filed at a New York court. David Boies, Ms Giuffre's lawyer, told *The Mail on Sunday*: "There is other evidence that will come out that undercuts his assertion that he didn't know Virginia." Mr Boeis said that there would also be evidence that placed the duke at Epstein's ranch in New Mexico. The duke, who is 60, has denied any wrongdoing in respect of these claims and has denied any knowledge of Epstein's crimes.

Heathrow strike

Workers who repatriate lost baggage at Heathrow airport are going on a week-long strike in a dispute over pay, their third in less than two months. Members of the Unite union will strike from today until midnight on March 9. The union said that the workers received no pay rise last year and were being offered an increase of 32p an hour this year.

Puppy farm vet bills

Pets bought from puppy and kitten farms are so mistreated that their new owners may have to pay vet bills of up to £5,000 during the first year, according to a government survey. One in five vets said that they had been so concerned about the health conditions of newly bought animals that they had reported them to the police.

Antibiotic concerns

People who had nine or more antibiotic prescriptions for common infections in the previous three years were more than twice as likely to go to hospital with another infection in three or more months, a study of two million NHS patients has shown. It raised concern about over-prescription, the researchers at Manchester University wrote in *BMC Medicine*.

Banker sacked over claim of drugged drink wins payout

Tom Knowles

A banker has been awarded a payout of more than £12,000 after being wrongfully accused of drugging a female colleague at a work Christmas party.

Craig Kerins was sacked from his role as a business manager at Barclays in 2018 after a woman accused him of slipping a codeine tablet into her wine glass. The female colleague claimed Mr Kerins had also kissed her on the cheek while she was lying in her hotel bed after he accompanied her to the room when she complained of feeling unwell at the party.

Mr Kerins was subsequently sacked by Barclays, where he had worked for 28 years, for gross misconduct. His appeal against the drugging allegation was successful, but the high street bank told him that his behaviour on the night was still not acceptable and upheld his dismissal.



Craig Kerins was accused after taking a colleague to her hotel room

However, an employment tribunal has ruled that Mr Kerins, who had an annual salary of about £50,000, was wrongfully dismissed, with the judge declaring that he did not drug the woman and the kiss was not serious enough to amount to gross misconduct.

The tribunal was told that the pair had met for a drink in the woman's hotel room before a Christmas work party in Milton Keynes in December 2017. The party was held in a casino and included "dinner, poker lessons, a poker game and complimentary drinks".

While Mr Kerins was more senior than the colleague, he was not her manager, and the pair were described in the tribunal as "very close" friends. The two shared "chatty and humorous" texts regularly and the woman described their messages the day before the party as "harmless banter flirting".

However, the woman claimed that during the poker game, Mr Kerins had slipped codeine into her glass of wine. After accompanying her to her room when she complained of feeling unwell, the woman said she then asked him to leave the room four times as she felt unwell, after which he allegedly moved to her side of the bed and kissed her on the cheek.

"When he came round to my side of the bed I guessed he came to say goodbye so he kissed me on my cheek . . . he kissed me and then he left. I felt I was being tested."

When she woke up in the morning she found a strip of codeine pills in her room, which made her feel "violated". However, the tribunal found that Mr Kerins had not spiked her drink, and had simply dropped the pills, which he had brought in preparation for his hangover the next day, on the floor.

Judge Moor was shown CCTV from the casino where the party was held, which the original investigators at Barclays did not have. There was no evidence on the tape that Mr Kerins had attempted to spike the woman's drink, the judge concluded.

He said: "In my judgment Mr Kerins did not drug her. He brought a tablet of codeine to prepare for a bad head the morning after the party: he had a child's football match to go to. This fell accidentally out of his pocket in her room.

"She leapt to the worst case scenario that therefore he had drugged her. Her behaviour at the casino bar does not support that she had been drugged. She was not drowsy, but alert."

The judge decided that although the kiss was inappropriate it was not sexually motivated and a mistake on the part of Mr Kerins.

The tribunal concluded that his behaviour was not "so serious as to be gross misconduct". He was awarded damages of £12,282 and his claim of wrongful dismissal was upheld.

Barclays declined to comment.

PAUL MARRIOTT



Big match The Duke of Cambridge, an Aston Villa supporter, celebrates as his team scores against Manchester City in the Carabao Cup final at Wembley Stadium yesterday. That was their high point, however, as they lost 2-1. The Game, pullout

Royals deny Camilla will be queen consort

David Brown

The Duchess of Cornwall will not assume the title of queen when Prince Charles ascends the throne, Clarence House insisted last night.

There has been no change in the decision taken at the time of her marriage in 2005 that Camilla, 72, will become princess consort when her husband becomes king, a spokeswoman for the couple said. The decision was made to appease continuing public resentment surrounding the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The *Daily Star* claimed yesterday that Prince Charles wanted his wife to take the title of queen consort. Supporters have hoped that Camilla would take the traditional title amid her growing significance at the heart of the family as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex step back from their royal duties.

Camilla was the 11th most popular member of the royal family and 8th most famous in a YouGov poll last year, with supporters describing her as "genuine, loyal, good-humoured". The poll found 29 per cent of people had a positive opinion of the duchess while a third were negative.

A Clarence House spokeswoman said yesterday: "The intention is for the duchess to be known as princess consort when the prince accedes to the throne. This was announced at the time of the marriage and there has been absolutely no change at all."

No-platform strife at feminist event

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

An event to celebrate British feminism has descended into acrimony after an Oxford University professor of history was blocked from speaking because of her stance on transgender rights.

Selina Todd, whose research focuses on the lives of women and the working class, had been due to talk on Friday evening at an event hosted by Oxford's Exeter College to mark the 50th anniversary of the first Women's Liberation Conference. Her invitation was rescinded at short notice after other participants alleged that her views — including her belief that "identifying" as a woman is not the same as being born a woman — were "transphobic" and threatened to boycott the event.

Professor Todd said: "I was stunned to receive a phone call at 6pm on the evening before the conference telling me that I had been no-platformed. I refute the allegation that I am transphobic and I am disappointed that the organisers have refused to uphold our right to discuss women's rights ."

She appears to have been targeted in part due to her links with Woman's Place UK, (WPUK) which wants wider consultation on changing the Gender Recognition Act to allow people to legally self-identify as a man or a woman.

The event was organised by the Oxford International Women's Festival 2020. Those who complained about Professor Todd included Lola Olufemi, an author who pulled out of the event. She said that she felt the conference planners had not done enough to investigate the professor's links with WPUK, which she alleged was "transphobic".

● A woman who is suing an NHS trust over treatment to reassign her gender as a teenager claims that her care was "rushed" and left her feeling suicidal.

Keira Bell, 23, is suing the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust in a landmark case that could change the way that childhood gender dysphoria, in which a person experiences distress due to a mismatch between their biological sex and the gender they self-identify as, is treated on the health service.

Ms Bell, who used to identify as a boy, said that the drugs and testosterone prescribed to her had a detrimental impact on her physical and mental health.

The Gender Identity Service at the NHS trust in London said it welcomed the chance to "stand up for our dedicated staff who put the best interests of the young people and families at the heart of their practice".

Mary Beard 'rejected for museum role by No 10'

Mark Bridge

The British Museum was told that its proposal to appoint Professor Dame Mary Beard as a trustee was rejected by No 10 because of her pro-EU views, it has emerged.

The classicist and broadcaster was turned down last year at the end of Theresa May's premiership. Whitehall sources said the decision had been made because she often aired pro-Remain views, according to *The Observer*.

The paper said the museum was told, when it asked why Professor Beard had not been approved, that the government did not appreciate her pro-EU remark, made on social media. Her tweets included one last March asking followers to consider signing a "Revoke Article 50" petition.

It is thought that the museum will still be able to appoint her because trustees are able to appoint some members independently. The museum did not comment on the matter but was said to be "upset" by the interference.

Sir John Tusa, a former trustee, told the newspaper: "This is an absolute scandal. Will any Remainer now expect to be punished by the government?"

Professor Beard, 65, said that "things are more likely to be cock-ups than conspiracy", and that she was "not going to diss Boris Johnson or the department of culture". She added that she was "happy to serve" the museum "in whatever way I can, whether as a trustee or not".

Hunt for virus 'super-spreader'

David Brown

A feared coronavirus "super-spreader" sought by health officials has been linked to at least four cases as the number of confirmed infections in the UK made its biggest jump in a day so far.

Two primary schools will be closed today after staff were diagnosed with the infection. The parents of more than 500 pupils will have to keep them at home or make other arrangements.

The number of cases rose by 13 to reach 36 yesterday, including the first case to be found in Scotland. The previous highest number of new diagnoses in one day was four. Half the new cases had recently returned from Italy and two had been in Iran, both hotspots for the virus. A patient from Essex had no link to an affected area abroad.

Three of the cases are close contacts of a patient from Haslemere, Surrey, who was identified on Friday as being the first known victim of the infection caught inside the UK. Professor Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England, said the three patients had been identified as part of "contact tracing".

The three new patients linked to the Surrey cases are all adults and are not GPs or health workers. One is from Surrey and two from West Sussex.

Dr James Mapstone, acting regional director for the south of England for Public Health England, said: "The four cases are part of an adult family cluster. We are aware of the people they have been in contact with and we are making contact with those people to issue appropriate advice and steps to take if they start to feel unwell."

The Department of Health and Social Care said the virus was passed on in the UK but the original source was "unclear" and there was no "immediately identifiable link" to overseas travel.

The original Surrey case had been a patient at the Haslemere Health Centre, where it has been reported that a GP is feared to have become infected. The surgery was closed for a deep clean but has since reopened. The Prince of Wales pub, a mile from the surgery, remains closed after a customer tested positive for coronavirus. The pub landlords said on Facebook that they had no symptoms of the virus and that the closure was a "precautionary measure only".

Haslemere, which has a population of 10,000, was the subject of a BBC4 documentary called *Contagion!* in 2018 that attempted to simulate how a pandemic might unfold. The programme found that the infection spread to 43 million people across the UK and led to the deaths of 900,000.

Camelsdale Primary School in Haslemere told parents at the weekend that a family linked to the school had been advised to self-quarantine until Friday after meeting one of the confirmed cases last month. Sarah Palmer, the head teacher, said the school, which has 215 pupils aged four to 11, would remain open.

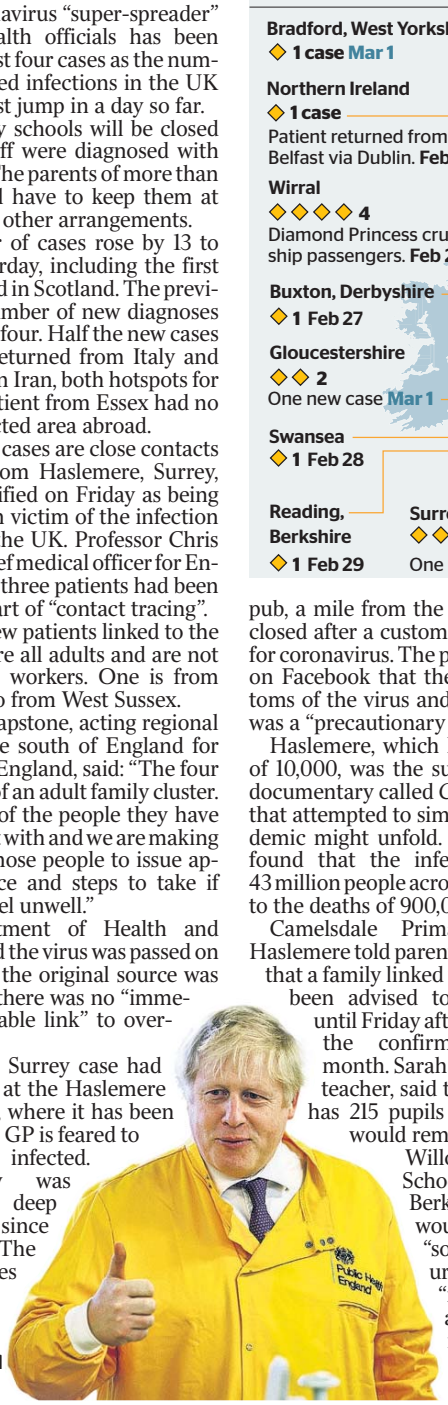
Willow Bank Infant School in Reading, Berkshire, said it would be closed for "some days" and urged parents to "remain calm" after a staff member was found to have the virus on returning from Italy. Michelle Masters, the head teacher, emailed parents of 180 pupils aged four to seven on Saturday evening apologising for the time it had taken to inform them of the infection.

Jo Woolley, head teacher at the 336-pupil St Mary's School in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, told parents yesterday that a member of staff had been confirmed with coronavirus. Although it was not necessary to close the school for health reasons, it would close until at least Wednesday owing to "operational difficulties" with staff members, she said. Burbage Primary School in Buxton, Derbyshire, was closed on Thursday after a parent caught the virus while in Tenerife.

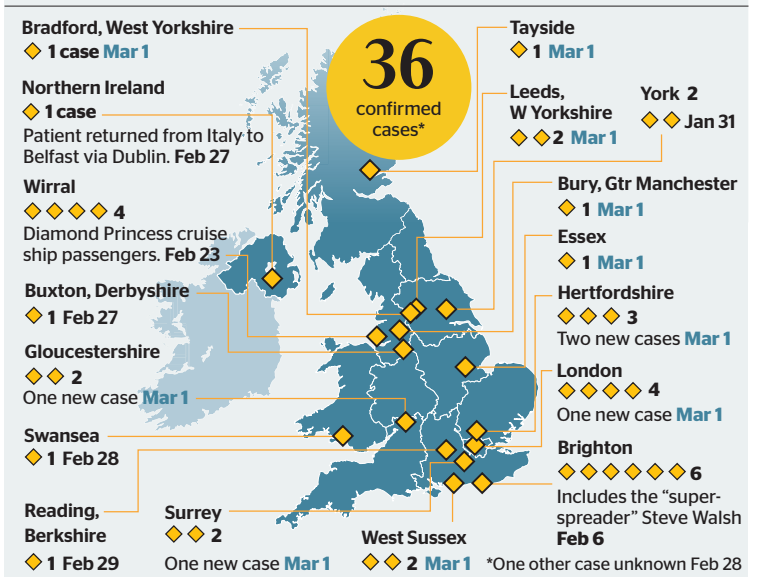
Last week a cruise ship passenger in his seventies became the first Briton to die of the infection. The man was on the *Diamond Princess*, which is quarantined in the Japanese city of Yokohama. He is the sixth person from the ship to die after catching the virus.

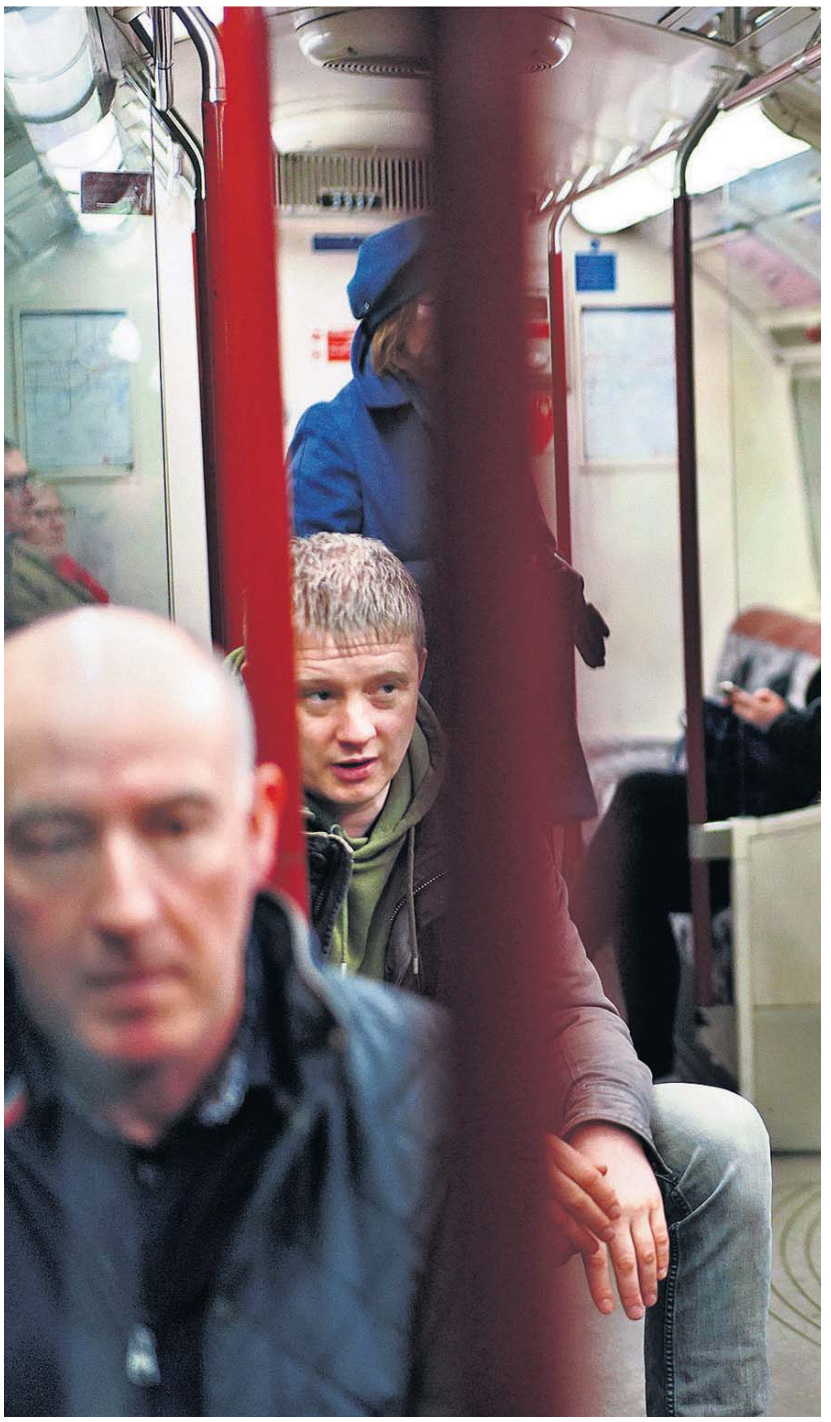
A group of 160 British tourists quarantined in Tenerife have been told that those who test negative for the virus can self-isolate at home. Holidaymakers at the H10 Costa Adeje Palace had previously been told they would have to be quarantined until March 10, after at least four tourists tested positive for the virus.

Clare Foges, page 23
Letters, page 26



Boris Johnson at a Public Health England lab yesterday





A passenger taking precautions on the London Underground yesterday. The

War-gaming officials plan for worst scenario

Analysis

For ministers, civil servants and senior health officials the reality of a global pandemic from an illness such as coronavirus has always been a question of when and not if (Oliver Wright writes).

It is part of their job to take part in regular "war-gaming" exercises that play out precisely the dilemmas now facing the government.

Usually carried out in a bunker under the Ministry of Defence, these highly confidential exercises model all scenarios, including the collapse of law and order. We are not anywhere near that, and nor are we at all likely to be. Nevertheless the decisions that are being taken, or are not being taken at the moment, are guided by this preparation.

This is true in particular of the decision by ministers, so far at least, not to follow some of the measures that have been taken by other European countries. The view at the moment is that the economic harm caused by a premature widespread shutdown outweighs the present threat level.

As the health secretary, Matt Hancock, suggested yesterday, this doesn't mean that the balance won't shift — we're just not there quite yet. The government is in what it describes as the "containment" phase. This means trying to slow the spread by isolating cases.

Given the new cases over the weekend, "containment" will probably soon give way to a "delay" stage. This will involve the government following what has happened in France, Italy and Germany. Some schools will be shut, large public events such as football matches will be cancelled and advice will be issued against travelling on public transport.

When and if this happens there will be significant economic disruption that is likely to push the UK into recession. The more stringent the restrictions, the greater the economic hit. However, the slower the virus spreads the more likely the health service is to cope and the more likely that those who are worst hit by the virus will survive. It is a stark trade-off.

The reality is that the public will demand more stringent action than is necessarily justified on health grounds alone. Such measures can only slow, not stop, the spread and there is an argument that within reason you should just get it over with. The counterargument is that the more you contain the outbreak, the higher the chance that effective treatments will be identified in time to keep the mortality rate low.

Reassurance, of a kind at least, comes from the former health secretary Jeremy Hunt. As someone who has taken part in such "dry run" planning exercises, he knows more than most what the dilemmas are. "I can say hand on heart that if I was going to be in a country which had a pandemic," he wrote, "I would choose the UK."

Q&A

What do the new cases show us?
The fact that 12 more people in England have tested positive for coronavirus — one of whom had "no relevant travel" to a heavily infected country — suggests we are moving towards a new phase. "Even a couple of such cases indicates community spread," Paul Hunter, professor in medicine at University of East Anglia, said. He suggested the focus could shift to slowing the spread of the virus to buy time for medical services, rather than trying to limit it to a few pockets. Matt Hancock, the health secretary, said that this could include school closures, restrictions on mass gatherings and orders to work from home.

Do we understand how it spreads?
Not entirely. Covid-19 is believed to be transmitted by respiratory droplets, including coughing and sneezing, but we do not fully understand the time window. It is thought that transmission can occur just before the onset of symptoms. Researchers are looking at whether it can occur even earlier.

Is the 111 phone service being overwhelmed?
Anecdotes suggesting that the service is close to collapse may be exaggerated. Calls to 111 increased last week but only by about 25 per cent compared with the same period last year, preliminary data shows.

What should we do?
Peter Openshaw, professor of experimental medicine at Imperial College London, advised taking steps now — including "preparing emotionally for life not as usual". Focus on ways to avoid or delay infection, including basic hand-washing, he said. "Plan ahead how to care for sick household members while avoiding infection. If you manage a business or organisation, plan home-working for all." He added that while wearing a mask seemed a good idea, it could give a false sense of security.

after big jump in British cases

HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS



economy could suffer a £10 billion hit in the event of a full lockdown of the capital, an economic consultancy has warned

Chancellor at the mercy of events as he plots his budget

Oliver Wright Policy Editor
Philip Aldrick Economics Editor

The chancellor has been warned that he will have to reassess his budget plans in response to the economic disruption caused by the spread of the coronavirus.

The government's economic watchdog, the Office for Budget Responsibility, is expected to revise its economic forecasts to recognise falling stock markets worldwide.

Economists have cautioned that the global spread of the virus could trigger a recession as consumers cut spending and companies' supply chains struggle to cope with factory shutdowns.

One economic consultancy calculated that the British economy would suffer a £10 billion hit if the government enforced a full lockdown of London and demanded that companies send staff home for a month to try to control the spread of the virus. The disruption will affect the room for manoeuvre that Rishi Sunak has when he presents his first budget a week on Wednesday.

An OBR source confirmed that it would take account of the latest information when it publishes its report alongside the government's tax and spending plans. Robert Chote, the head of the watchdog, would also address the threat of the virus to the government's economic calculations, the source said.

Yesterday David Gauke, the former Treasury minister, said that the budget would have to be recast at a late stage. "Given the uncertainties, the OBR is likely to qualify its economic forecasts," Mr Gauke told *The Observer*. "This does not make the task of the new chancellor any easier."

Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, said that economic forecasts would need to be presented with question marks over their reliability. "Whether or not the OBR has had time to include the likely impact of the virus into its forecasts, the chancellor will need to say how it creates further uncertainty," he said.

Mr Johnson said that the steep stock market falls last week could knock capital gains tax receipts and depress the revenue that the government was expecting from stamp duty on share buying. "There is also going to be a hit to growth," he added.

Economists at the Centre for Economic and Business Research said that if London was locked down manufacturing, catering and traditional retail would bear the brunt of the damage as remote working was not a viable option for their staff. Those sectors would not be alone in suffering a drop in productivity. Given the importance of London to the British economy, quarantining the capital "would result in UK output falling by 6 per cent over the period of lockdown", the centre said.

It emphasised that the £10 billion hit over one month was a conservative estimate because it took account only of London and did not consider "the interconnected nature of the UK economy".

Last week Chevron, the US oil company, sent 300 staff home from its offices in Canary Wharf, east London, after one returned from an Italian skiing trip feeling unwell. Crossrail, which shares the same building, and the media group Omnicom also sent staff home.

Extrapolating from official tourism figures, CEBR estimated that nearly 15,000 Londoners were likely to have travelled back from Italy in the past two weeks. As two weeks is the estimated incubation period, "symptoms may be hidden" and have yet to emerge, it said.

A £10 billion loss of GDP would shave a few tenths of a percentage point off growth. As the UK is expected to grow about 1.2 per cent this year, it would amount to a meaningful slowdown.

Markets braced, Business, page 33

Retired doctors face emergency call

Continued from page 1

after members of staff were found to have coronavirus.

- Temporary emergency powers to be announced this week will allow retired doctors to obtain emergency medical registrations to help to ease the strain on the NHS.
- The maximum class size for which one teacher can be responsible will be raised.
- Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, was warned that the potential economic damage means his plans for next week's budget will have to be re-assessed.
- All of Britain's non-essential diplomatic staff were withdrawn from its embassy in Tehran. The number of virus deaths in Iran has reached 54, with 978 cases, which some believe to be a significant underestimate.
- The number of people in Italy with coronavirus jumped in one day by 566 to 1,694 as hospitals erected tents in car parks to deal with patients. Thirty-four people have died.
- The US government faced growing criticism over how it was dealing with the outbreak after its first death from the virus over the weekend.

Mr Johnson, who has also faced criticism for taking a low profile so far in response to the virus, visited Public Health England's laboratory yesterday in Colindale, north London, where tests for coronavirus are being carried out. He then met staff at the Royal Free Hospital who are treating patients with the illness.

He is expected today to tell officials at the Cobra meeting, including the chief medical officer, that he accepts that the virus will become endemic in Britain.

"The number of coronavirus cases around the world is rising every day — and the UK is no exception," he will say. "There now seems little doubt that it will present a significant challenge for our country. But we are well prepared, and the government and the NHS will stop at nothing to fight this virus. This battle plan lays out in detail the measures we could use — if and when they are needed."

A cross-government "war room" of communications experts and scientists will begin meeting this week before a "public information blitz" designed to remind Britons how to protect themselves and others.

Mr Hancock confirmed that "population-distancing measures", such as banning public gatherings, cancelling football matches and encouraging people to avoid public transport, could be considered. On possible school closures, he added: "It may be necessary, and I'm not saying any of these are decisions we have taken, but they are things we don't rule out, to close some schools. But right now people should not opt to be closing schools if there isn't a case and advice from Public Health England."

Mr Hancock said on *The Andrew Marr Show* on BBC One: "The scientists tell us it is inevitable [the virus] is going to go right through the world and therefore become endemic here because you can't stop these things from becoming endemic."

The World Health Organisation has warned everyone over 60 to avoid crowded areas such as supermarkets and public transport.

Don't panic over pesto: Italian exporters move into overdrive

Tom Knowles

Even if coronavirus continues to affect supply chains, pasta, pesto and tomato sauce are unlikely to be in short supply.

Italian food brands have begun to increase production and ship extra supplies to the UK as the virus spreads from Milan to Sicily. The measures are being taken amid fears that the outbreak of the disease in Italy could lead to limits on exports and even halt production in some processing plants.

Filippo Berio, a leading olive oil brand, has increased production. The company's UK managing director, Walter Zanre, told *The Grocer*: "We've taken the decision to produce as much as we can before it goes into lockdown. If there's an extended lockdown then we will run out."

Mr Zanre said the company was planning to import two months' worth of supplies to the UK.

Mutti International, which supplies the UK's biggest supermarkets with premium tinned tomatoes and passata, has shipments waiting to go but is worried that countries may become concerned about importing Italian food because of the virus.

Conserve Italia, one of Europe's biggest food companies, which is responsible for the brand Cirio, said it was "taking all necessary measures" to reduce the risk of infection at its factories. Diego Pariotti, its commercial director, said: "We look with concern at the evolution of the situation."

In the UK, many retailers have reported a surge in demand for hand sanitizers. Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, said: "Sales of hand sanitiser have risen as individuals and businesses make sensible precautions to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Retailers are also taking necessary steps to meet the rise in demand for certain hygiene products."

Pope gives up on Lent event to pray in safety of home





Tom Kington Rome
Bruno Waterfield Brussels
Marc Bennetts Moscow

The Pope, who is still struggling to overcome a cold, will skip a spiritual retreat with prelates this week as the number of cases of coronavirus soars in Italy, with 34 dead.

As he coughed and sneezed during an address to pilgrims in St Peter's Square yesterday, Francis, 83, said, "Unfortunately a cold will force me not to take part this year."

It is the first time in his seven-year papacy that he will miss the Lent retreat, due to be held in Ariccia, south of Rome, but he plans to follow the prayers from the Vatican. "I will do the spiritual exercises from home," he said.

The Pope, who had part of a lung removed after contracting tuberculosis in his twenties, has cancelled appointments since coughing his way through an Ash Wednesday service last week.

The Vatican has said that he is suffering from no more than a cold but his illness has prompted concern because it coincides with a rise in the number of coronavirus cases in Italy to 1,694 — a rise of 566 in one day. This makes the country the third-worst hit after China and South Korea.

Roberto Gualtieri, the Italian economy minister, said that the government was preparing a €3.6 billion package to bail out businesses. There have been warnings that Italy could fall into recession and lose 3 per cent of GDP as the virus hits tourism and industry.

Although half of sufferers have few or no symptoms and have been placed in isolation at home by doctors, 639 are in hospital and 140 are in intensive care, of whom 106 are in one region: Lombardy. That represented a "tsunami" for hospitals, according to Massimo Galli, an infectious diseases expert at the Sacco hospital in Milan.

Dr Galli told *Corriere della Sera* that the number of cases made him suspect that the virus had been circulating in Italy since the end of January. The country's first case was identified on February 19 in Codogno, one of ten towns now locked down in Lombardy.

Walter Ricciardi, who sits on the executive board of the World Health Organisation and is advising the Italian government, called for the emergency recruitment of medical staff. The local government in Lombardy, where 10 per cent of doctors have the virus, has asked for help from those who have retired. In Milan the army is preparing a former military hospital to take cases. Other hospitals are erecting tents in car parks.

Hospitals, however, have proved to be excellent breeding grounds for the virus. A woman who returned home near Rome after being infected while visiting her elderly father in hospital in Bergamo, near Milan, has prompted fears of mass contagion in the capital.

The region of Emilia Romagna has overtaken Veneto, its northern neighbour, for the number of cases, showing that the virus is moving south. Luca Zaia, the governor of Veneto, apologised yesterday after saying that infections had been more widespread in China because people washed less and ate live mice.

The virus has played havoc with Italy's football season, with five of the weekend's Serie A games postponed. Outside Turin, Cristiano Ronaldo and his team-mates at Juventus had to train separately from the under-23 squad, who had been exposed to infected players from the Serie C club Pianese, from Piancastagnaio in Tuscany.

In Germany cases almost doubled from 66 to 117 yesterday. More than half the cases are in North Rhine Westphalia, the most populated region, where several schools and day care centres will be shut today to prevent the spread. Jens Spahn, the health minister, told *Welt am Sonntag*: "We are at the beginning of an epidemic." He advised people with cold symptoms to stay away from crowded public events.

Horst Seehofer, the German interior minister, said that the authorities were ready to seal off regions or cities. "This scenario would be the last resort," he told *Bild am Sonntag*, adding that he did not expect a vaccine to be ready before the end of the year.

Ireland reported its first confirmed case on Saturday, identified only as a male from the east of the country who had returned from northern Italy. He is believed to have come into contact with pupils and staff at Scoil Chaitriona, a secondary school in Dublin, which will shut today for 14 days as a precaution.

Russia, which has a 2,615-mile border with China, advised citizens to avoid all but essential travel abroad. "It is not worth leaving Russia at this time," Anna Popova, head of the consumer health watchdog Rospotrebnadzor, said. "All possible trips outside the country need to be reduced."

Ms Popova also advised Russians to wear facemasks to protect themselves against the virus. The WHO says that there is no need for healthy people to wear such masks unless they are caring for individuals who have coronavirus.

Despite Russia's proximity to China, there have been few confirmed cases. Two Chinese citizens were taken ill in Siberia last month but have recovered. Three Russians caught the virus on board the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship in Japan.

Russia has suspended flights and trains to and from China and barred most Chinese citizens from entering the country. In Moscow, bus and tram drivers were said to have been ordered last month to report any passengers they believed to be Chinese citizens. Hundreds of people have been quarantined across Russia.

Some critics said that the figures for infected Russians were skewed by a shortage of testing facilities. Mikhail Murashko, the health minister, said yesterday that there was no sense in testing everyone who fell ill unless they had returned from a high-risk country or showed clear symptoms.

Jailed mother thinks she has virus

Richard Spencer
Middle East Correspondent

The family of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the British-Iranian mother jailed in Iran, are appealing for her to be granted temporary release from prison after she told them she feared she had contracted the coronavirus.

The disease is spreading out of control in Iran, which jailed Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe in 2016 for spying, a charge she denies. The regime has denied that the virus has spread through the prison system, but her family say she has not been tested for it even though she has come down with a fever, body pains and a severe sore throat.

Richard Ratcliffe, her husband, told *The Times* that her father, who lives in Tehran, and whom she was visiting with their young daughter when she was arrested, had visited the authorities yesterday morning to ask for a temporary release given the present conditions in Iran. He said that the authorities gave no response.

Mr Ratcliffe also called on the British embassy to demand that she be tested and treated, with test results shared with them to confirm that this had happened.

In a phone call from Evin prison in Tehran on Saturday, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe said: "For a long time this has not felt like a normal cold. These symptoms have lasted almost a week. I know I need to get medicine to get better."

Iran has suffered more deaths from the disease than any other country outside China, with the toll increasing by 11 to 54 yesterday afternoon and the total number of cases at 978, a rise of almost 400 from Saturday. However, independent health experts believe that is a wild underestimate. The disease has spread rapidly and has already been exported to countries across the region, including Qatar on Saturday. A team of Canadian infectious diseases experts has calculated that by the end of last week Iran probably had at least 20,000 cases. It said its models showed there could be as many as 43,000.

A number of senior Iranian officials have caught the disease, including a vice-president and the deputy health minister. The regime has denied a report by BBC Persian that 210 people had died.



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has symptoms

Fearful French close the Louvre and stop kissing

Charles Bremner Paris

The Louvre was closed yesterday by staff fearing the spread of coronavirus in the world's most-visited museum after the government banned large indoor gatherings until further notice.

The authorities have also advised people to avoid shaking hands, a daily greeting ritual in the workplace. Kissing is also not recommended.

Thousands of tourists queued outside the Louvre as staff unions refused management orders to open for the day, citing state employees' right to stop work if they fear for their safety. "We are very worried because we have visitors from everywhere," André Sacristin, a union official, said.

France has more than 100 cases of coronavirus and two people have died. After an emergency cabinet meeting on Saturday the government raised the alert level to its maximum of three and ordered a halt to gatherings in enclosed spaces of more than 5,000 people.

None of the Louvre's 2,300 staff has contracted the virus but Christian Galani, of the CGT union, said: "The Louvre is a confined space which welcomes more than 5,000 people a day. There is real concern on the part of staff."

The management said there was no reason to close the museum but that doors would remain shut this morning while staff were consulted.

The Paris half-marathon was also cancelled. All public gatherings have been prohibited in the Oise region north of the capital because of a cluster of cases there, and also in the Alpine town of La Balme-de-Sillingy.

CLAUDIO FURLAN; ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP



Cremona, in Lombardy, tests people in a tent outside A&E. The Pope's ill health was evident; in Paris the Louvre was shut. A care home in Washington state has reported multiple cases

Bloomberg: I'm the man for crisis

Will Pavia New York

The billionaire and presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg was due to offer an "address to the nation" on the coronavirus last night in a campaign advert crafted amid growing criticism of the US government's preparations to cope with the outbreak in America.

In the advert, to be broadcast on primetime television on the CBS and NBC networks, he stands before a backdrop of flags and a window, apparently staged to resemble the Oval Office. He says that the US needs a leader who is "trained, informed and respected", able to "marshal facts and expertise to confront the problem" and to communicate in a manner that is "honest and transparent".

The three-minute advertising spot, which is estimated to have cost up to $3 million, was billed by his campaign as an "unprecedented candidate address" that would bolster Mr Bloomberg's reputation against a president who "is putting lives at risk by ignoring science".

It seeks to draw a contrast with an address by President Trump last week, in which he ignored signs of the virus's spread in the US and declared that "the infection seems to have gone down over the last two days" and had "gotten smaller".

However, Mr Trump has since announced travel restrictions and acknowledged the first death from the virus in the US of a man in his fifties from Washington state. The man was said to have suffered underlying health conditions and to have contracted the virus from someone in his own community in Seattle, rather than by travelling abroad.

Officials said that he was a resident of the Life Care Center in Kirkland, where 27 other people and 25 members of staff had also shown symptoms of the virus. Washington's governor, Jay Inslee, has declared a state of emergency as officials attempt to contain the outbreak.

More than 30 coronavirus cases have been identified in California, mostly involving people who have returned home from China and other parts of Asia. By yesterday, 69 cases had been reported in the United States.

A rush to buy surgical masks has led to concerns that stocks could be insufficient for doctors. "Seriously people – STOP BUYING MASKS!" Jerome Adams, the surgeon-general, said on social media, adding that they were not effective in preventing people catching the virus. "But if health care providers can't get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk."

Mike Pence, the vice-president, who has been put in charge of the government's response, said yesterday: "We could have more sad news, but the American people should know the risk to the average American remains low."

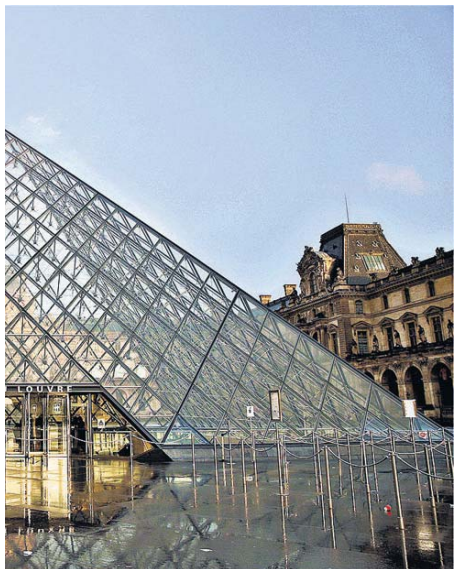
Preparations are believed to have been hampered by a slow distribution of testing kits, amid problems approving a test for the virus and reports that different government departments are squabbling between themselves. "It's complete chaos," a senior administration official told *The Washington Post*.

The newspaper reported that President Trump, watching cable news aboard Air Force One as he returned from a trip to India last week, was infuriated to see a senior director at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warning that it was now a question of "when" rather than "if" the virus would spread in the US and asking the public "to prepare for the expectation that this might be bad".

As warnings caused the stock market to plummet, Republican senators were said to have raised concerns in a private briefing over the administration's state of preparedness.

Some, including Mr Pence's own advisers, were said to be worried that he was taking over a brief in which he had little experience.

Bloomberg sexism row, page 31





Pollution declines after quarantine

Foreign Staff

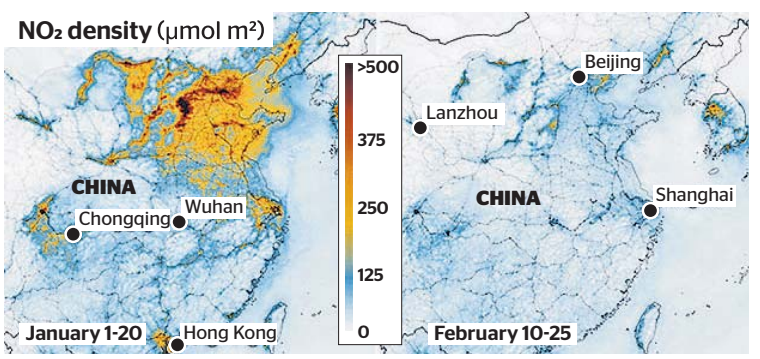
Chinese cities have experienced a dramatic decline in pollution levels since the country began quarantine measures to tackle the coronavirus, images from Nasa suggest.

Scientists from the US space agency said their data showed that the reduction in nitrogen dioxide levels was first evident near Wuhan city, the source of the outbreak, but then spread through the country. NO_2 is emitted from vehicles, power stations and factories.

Pollution monitoring satellites controlled by Nasa and the European Space Agency were used to compare the first two months of 2019 with the same period this year. Their maps show NO_2 values across China from January 1-20 and February 10-25, during the quarantine, when many manufacturers stopped work.

Nasa noted that lunar new year celebrations in late January and early February have been linked to decreases in pollution levels in the past, but they normally increase again once the celebrations are over. "This is the first time I have seen such a dramatic drop-off over such a wide area for a specific event," Fei Liu, an air quality researcher at the Goddard Space Flight Centre, said. "This year, the reduction rate is more significant than in past years and it has lasted longer."

She added: "I am not surprised, because many cities nationwide have taken measures to minimise spread of the virus."



Parents caught out in Japan as schools shut

Jake Adelstein Tokyo

Parents across Japan have condemned the decision by Shinzo Abe to shut all primary and secondary schools from today to try to contain Covid-19. The shutdown is expected to last a month.

Tomoko Takehara, 38, from Tokyo, said: "My husband works long hours for a delivery service and I have a part-time job with no benefits and no paid days off. We barely scrape by. I can't afford day care, even if I could find it."

Toshihiko Kumagai, the mayor of Chiba, near Tokyo, vented his fury on social media, warning that the ruling "could break society apart".

Aimee Blackschleger, 43, a single mother of four, said: "Working mums with younger kids all over the country are panicking because the kids have to be home, and they weren't prepared and have no childcare."

The prime minister has promised that parents who need to take time off from work to look after their children would receive financial support.

Many councils are expected to defy the central government by keeping schools completely or partly open.

Sect leaders could face murder charge

Didi Tang Beijing

The authorities in Seoul are seeking to charge the leaders of a religious sect with murder for their role in the spread of coronavirus in South Korea.

Members of the sect account for almost 60 per cent of the country's 3,736 confirmed cases of the virus.

Seoul has asked prosecutors to charge Lee Man-hee, founder of Shincheonji Church of Jesus, and 11 others with murder. They are accused of keeping the names of some sufferers secret when the authorities were trying to find out the extent of the outbreak. Shincheonji has called itself the victim of a "witch-hunt".

South Korea reported 586 new cases yesterday. The 12 religious leaders are also accused of violating the Infectious Disease and Control Act. Almost 9,000 of the 230,000 members of the sect have shown symptoms of coronavirus.

In China, where the first cases were reported in the city of Wuhan, 79,968 people have been infected, with 2,873 deaths. No cases have been confirmed in North Korea, but nearly 7,000 people are under medical monitoring for showing apparent symptoms of the virus.

News

GUERNSEYS/BNPS



Precious mettle Four gold casts of Nelson Mandela's hands, created in 2002 to raise money for a children's charity and showing the scars from hard labour during years imprisoned on Robben Island, will be auctioned in New York today

Bosses cut staff absences by boosting wellbeing at work

Rosa Ellis

Employers are increasingly embracing staff wellbeing, with new data revealing a huge rise in the number of job adverts offering mental health support.

From mindfulness and dance classes to comprehensive packages providing anonymous helplines and counselling, mental health support at work is becoming mainstream and being used to entice new talent.

Nearly one in 200 jobs advertised in January provided such support as a benefit, according to the jobs site indeed.co.uk. Five years ago the figure was nearly one in every 5,000.

Emma Mamo of the charity Mind said: "In the workplace the conversation about mental health was lagging behind but in the last couple of years, potentially accelerated by the Heads Together campaigns, spearheaded by the young royals, the conversation has really been pushed along."

Poor mental health costs employers up to £45 billion a year in Britain, according to a report by Deloitte. The cost has increased by 16 per cent since 2016, largely due to "presenteeism", where employees attend work but are unproductive, as well as mental health-related absences and staff turnover.

Nicola Jagielski of Health Assured, which provides employee assistance programmes for companies, said it was often contracted by organisations with high sickness absence rates due to mental health. Access to the assistance programme decreases the rate by 45 per cent, on average, she says.

There are now more than 30 providers of the programmes in Britain, according to the Employee Assistance Professionals Association website.

The energy supplier E.On UK has increased investment in staff wellbeing and last year won a gold award in the workplace wellbeing index. Darea Flanagan, its wellbeing engagement manager, said that staff who used the programme early took less time off. E.On has "wellbeing warriors" in every department to support staff. Ms Flanagan says wellbeing is part of the organisational culture. "We never have to give the business case — we're beyond that."

Anonymous helplines can support staff with serious problems. Chris O'Sullivan of the Mental Health Foundation charity says the workplace is a key way to reach adults who feel they have nowhere else to turn. "Nobody wants to talk about gambling or porn addiction or sexual problems or alcohol problems — sometimes not with their families and definitely not with their managers," he said. In one case a City worker in an abusive relationship was able to access domestic violence support via her workplace and prepare to leave the relationship. "It all happened through work in a safe environment and he was none the wiser until she left," Mr O'Sullivan said.

Digital products such as Big White Wall, an online forum and mental health service, help too. Henry Jones, its chief executive, said: "There are around 6 million people on unmoderated social media at the moment talking about mental health issues; that can have a negative impact. Big White Wall is a safe and moderated version of that."

Case study

In 2009 Louise Atthey, who works for Nationwide, knew she needed to change. "It wasn't an all-day thing, it wasn't every day, it wasn't any of the characteristics that at the time I would have perceived as being alcoholic, but I drank into blackout."

Ms Atthey, 52, joined a support group and her employer helped her to find a psychiatrist and psychologist. Once back at work she was promoted and was given a workplace buddy. "I could be open about what I was going through and felt that I could trust the people I was working with."

She got help again when her marriage ended. "I've had my personal turmoil but Nationwide has been my stable place."



Families braced for more flood misery

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Floodwaters have begun to recede in many areas but more than 250 flood warnings and alerts remain in place in England and Wales after the wettest February on record.

Storm Jorge, the third named storm in three weeks to hit the UK, did not cause as much damage as Ciara and Dennis. The Met Office is forecasting generally drier but colder weather this week though it said that the weather would remain unsettled and there was a chance of more persistent rain in places.

There were no reported evacuations in deluged towns in East Yorkshire for the first night since the flooding started. Water levels are generally dropping or remaining stable in Snaith, Gowdall, East Cowick and West Cowick, but are expected to remain high for several days. In Snaith 23 properties were flooded including a bungalow that was



DAN ROWLANDS/SWNS



Houses in Snaith, above, and East Cowick, below right, in East Yorkshire. Caban Coch reservoir in mid-Wales overflowed but river levels are falling at Ironbridge, Shropshire







submerged almost to the roof. Kevin Lorryman, who owns it with his wife, Catherine, told the BBC: "We are going to have to demolish I think." His wife added that "there are people all over this town exactly the same, it's a nightmare".

The River Severn at Ironbridge is expected to peak tomorrow about a metre below the level it reached on Wednesday, when defences were pushed back by the force of water.

A UK average of 202.1mm of rain fell last month, surpassing February 1990, when 193.4mm fell, the Met Office said. It added that the leap year did not affect the records.

A total of 81 flood warnings, five fewer than Saturday, were in place yesterday across England and Wales, mostly in the southwest and along the English-Welsh border, and in Yorkshire, while a further 172 "flooding is possible" alerts were in force, a reduction of 42.

Towns along the Severn in the West Midlands, and West Cowick and Lidgate in East Yorkshire, along the River Aire, are among the worst-hit areas in England.

East Riding of Yorkshire council said: "Storm Jorge appears to have passed with limited effect and the overall situation has stabilised. However, while the water levels are generally dropping they are expected to stay high over the coming days. The council has started planning for the recovery operation that will follow but that can only happen when the risk of further flooding subsides. Council staff will visit affected properties and arrange special bulky waste collection for badly damaged goods, roads will be cleaned and waste collections organised."

More than 3,300 properties in England are thought to have been flooded after Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. More than 1,000 homes have flooded in Wales, with reports of more than 300 businesses also being affected.

Andrew Percy, Conservative MP for Brigg & Goole, called for the government to review how it allocated flood defence money. He said: "There has been a record level of rainfall but it is becoming more normal and we need to look at how we need to manage flood resources in the country. The government is going to have to do a full review."

Letters, page 26
Weather, page 49

Radio 1 DJ accused of Shell 'greenwash'

Ben Webster

A BBC Radio 1 DJ was paid by Shell to present a YouTube series plugging the company's "green" credentials.

Greg James, who hosts the breakfast show, is understood to have been paid £100,000 by the oil company for *The Great Travel Hack*, a five-part series.

Climate change campaigners have accused him of allowing himself to be used to promote Shell's "greenwash". In the series, teams compete to travel 3,000 miles with the lowest carbon dioxide emissions.

Other BBC presenters have been accused of cashing in by being paid high fees by companies. It emerged last month that Mishal Husain, a presenter on Radio 4's *Today*, had been paid to take part in at least ten events organised by the Norwegian oil and gas industry. James, 34, who is paid £225,000 by the BBC, presented the Shell series despite having said he hates "unbearable YouTube influencers".

He told *The Sunday Times* in January that he fell for his wife, the journalist



Greg James is paid £225,000 a year to host the Radio 1 breakfast show

Bella Mackie, because they "hated the same things — the same shit people — political and TV figures and unbearable YouTube influencers". His father-in-law is Alan Rusbridger, the former editor of *The Guardian* who hosted Greta Thunberg, the teenage climate campaigner, last week at a meeting in Oxford, where he is a college principal.

The BBC said that it allowed presenters to take on external commitments if they "abide by the relevant terms".

James did not respond to requests for comment.

● A lake more than halfway up Mount Snowdon in Wales is contaminated by tiny pieces of plastic. Llyn Glaslyn, which lies at 600m on the flanks of the mountain, contains an average of three microplastic particles per litre, according to research. Scientists at Bangor University examined a sample taken by Laura Sanderson, a campaigner for Surfers Against Sewage who is visiting all 15 national parks in the UK to collect samples from rivers and lakes. Ms Sanderson found that the concentration rose on the way down Snowdon, reaching up to eight pieces per litre.

Owners of second homes told to switch off heating

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Second homeowners have been accused of a "reckless disregard" for the planet by leaving the heating on in their empty properties for months on end.

Holiday properties in the West Country are being deliberately left warm over the winter to stop the smell of damp developing, according to a Cornish writer.

Writing in *The Times* today, Catrina Davies, the author of *Homesick*, a memoir about her decision to move into a shed, says vents on empty holiday homes have been "chuffing out steam like Thomas the Tank Engine".

Most remote homes in Cornwall are off the gas grid so are heated by oil-fired boilers, which have higher emissions.

Ms Davies also accuses holiday homeowners of not disconnecting electrical appliances when they go, leaving devices such as fridges and TVs to consume huge amounts of electricity. She said: "I've been appalled by the waste I've seen. The cost to the environment must be huge. Second homes are damaging enough to local communities."

In certain parts of Cornwall up to two thirds of properties sold in recent years have gone to holiday homeowners. One in ten UK adults — or 5.5 million people — owns a second home, according to the Resolution Foundation. Four in ten people owned no home in 2014.

Thunderer, page 24

THIS SEASON'S MUST HAVE

Get the new Motorola Razr now, exclusively on the UK's no. 1 network



motorola razr

WITH 60GB FOR THE PRICE OF 30GB

£99 per month | £50 upfront

Annual price changes apply

Offer ends 2nd March

In-store | ee.co.uk | 0800 956 6039

RootMetrics® By IHS Markit

UK RootMetrics® Report H2 2019

Monthly price will increase from March every year by RPI published in January. See ee.co.uk/increase Upfront cost applies as you're agreeing to a 24 month minimum term. Subject to credit check & availability. Data allowance can be used in UK & EU/EEA. 15GB data fair use policy applies outside the UK. You own the device 6 months from plan start date. Personal use only. Subject to availability. **60GB for the price of 30GB:** Introductory offer available until 2nd March to new and eligible upgrading customers. Upfront charge may vary depending on the memory variant of the device selected. **NO. 1 NETWORK:** Best by ranking first in the RootMetrics® UK RootScore® Report: H2 (Jul-Dec) 2019. Tested at locations across the UK with the best commercially available smartphones on 4 national mobile networks across all available network types **excluding 5G**. Your experiences may vary. The RootMetrics award is not an endorsement of EE. **Visit ROOTMETRICS.CO.UK for more details.** Other terms apply, see ee.co.uk/terms Information and pricing correct as at 21.02.2020.

Strauss shocker is finally screened

Rhys Blakely

A BBC film about the German composer Richard Strauss that was once judged to be one of the most scandalous ever made has been shown publicly for the first time in half a century.

Ken Russell, the late film-maker, created a furore in 1970 by depicting Strauss in Nazi uniform and placing him in compromising positions with a number of nuns.

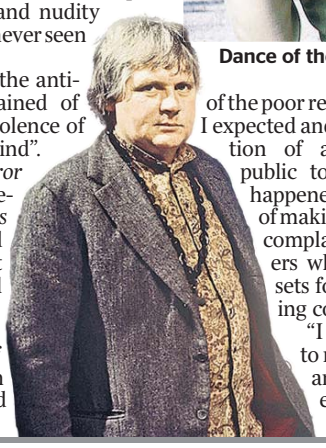
The film was shown just once by the BBC before the Strauss family effectively banned it through their control of the copyright of the composer's music. That copyright has now expired and the work was shown at the Keswick Film Festival in Cumbria on Saturday.

Russell, who died in 2011, said that by making *Dance of the Seven Veils* he had set out to increase the limits of what was permissible. *The Times* said 50 years ago that it "depicted items such as rape, violence, copulation and nudity to an extent probably never seen on television before".

BBC



Dance of the Seven Veils, directed by Ken Russell, left, was widely condemned for its scenes of sex and violence



Mary Whitehouse, the anti-smut activist, complained of "gratuitous sex and violence of the most outlandish kind".

The *Daily Mirror* called it "crude, tasteless", while *The Times* said its scenes recalled "end-of-term frolics at some rather liberal prep school". Shown on February 15, 1970, it marked the end of Russell's association with the BBC. He said of the poor reviews: "This is just what I expected and it represents the reaction of a gullible, half-asleep public to events that actually happened. One of the purposes of making the film was to shock complacent critics and viewers who sit in front of their sets for hours on end watching cocoa advertisements.

"I was simply setting out to make a film about Richard Strauss, and I felt that everything I showed was necessary for presenting my idea of this man. Strauss was one of the most famous people in Germany at the time, and if he had taken a stand against the Nazis this would have had a tremendous effect. I was trying to shock people into a realisation of their responsibilities."

In 1933 Strauss accepted an offer from Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, to make him president of the Reich Music Chamber, a body to promote "good German music". Defenders of the composer say that he acted in large part to protect his Jewish daughter-in-law and grandchildren. The screening at the Keswick festival was hosted by the film-maker's widow, Lisi Russell. "Cumbria was Ken's spiritual home. He came up to make his first film, *Dante's Inferno,* and he saw Skiddaw [a mountain in the Lake District national park] and bought a house the next day," she told the BBC. "This was the area that Ken felt called to his soul, in the same way that music called to his soul, so we are so glad to have it happen where it happened and where Ken's heart was and mine too: Keswick."

Naturists want hate crime law to cover them

Tom Knowles

Naturists have called for protection under hate crime laws, saying that they are increasingly facing abuse.

British Naturism, which represents about 9,000 people, has asked that the right to be naked be recognised as a "philosophical belief" in law.

Mark Bass, president of the group, told *The Mail on Sunday*: "We all agree that shouting abuse at somebody because of the colour of their skin, their sexual preference or their religion is not acceptable. Yet naturists still receive that type of abuse based on their dress code… everybody should have the freedom to choose how they dress, including if that choice is to wear nothing."

British Naturism said it had established a task force led by Colin Langham-Fitt, a former acting chief constable of Suffolk who is not a naturist, to campaign for a Law Commission consultation on hate crime this summer.

The Crown Prosecution Service says that "a balance needs to be struck between the naturist's right to freedom of expression and the right of the wider public to be protected from harassment, alarm and distress". It usually does not prosecute cases of outraging public decency in the absence of a sexual context or evidence of distress.

British Naturism was set up in 1964 and runs events around the country, including a naturist swim at the Waterworld park in Stoke-on-Trent.



Mandarins demand inquiry into

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Senior civil servants have called on the cabinet secretary to open an independent investigation into bullying claims against Priti Patel as it emerged that there had been at least one earlier formal complaint before the resignation of her top civil servant.

The home secretary is facing calls to answer questions from MPs today after the resignation on Saturday of Sir Philip Rutnam, permanent secretary at the Home Office. He accused Ms Patel of "shouting and swearing" at staff, "belittling people" and making "unreasonable and repeated demands". *The Times* understands that Downing Street is so far resisting calls for an independent inquiry into Ms Patel's conduct. Ms Patel denies allegations of bullying.

Last night the head of the FDA union, which represents the most senior Whitehall civil servants, wrote to Sir Mark Sedwill, the cabinet secretary, expressing the concern of its members that there was no independent complaints process available. In the letter, seen by *The Times*, David Penman said that civil servants needed full confidence that complaints against "some of the most powerful individuals in the country" would be treated fairly and transparently.

"That process simply does not currently exist," he wrote. "The events of the last few weeks, including public statements from ministers, and indeed the prime minister, relating to these matters, only reinforces the concerns that any complaint would be subject to political influence."

The Times understands that the prime minister's failure to express confidence in Sir Philip before his departure was one of the key reasons that he decided to resign and speak out. In contrast, Downing Street has made clear that it has "full confidence" in Ms Patel.

Other permanent secretaries are understood to be alarmed at the failure of Downing Street to act as an "honest broker" behind closed doors in disputes between ministers and civil servants. At least one other permanent secretary is understood to be considering their position.



Sir Philip Rutnam said staff had been sworn at and belittled

Mr Penman said that the government had "ripped up the rulebook that ensured ministers don't attack civil servants". "What we are witnessing now is becoming a new norm," he said. "It's also increasingly clear that this modus operandi is being led by No 10 and those around the prime minister."

Labour is demanding that Ms Patel make a statement in parliament today about Sir Philip's departure. She is likely to face questions about her relationship with officials in the Home Office and in other government departments where she has been accused of bullying staff.

Yesterday the BBC reported that a complaint about Ms Patel's conduct had been made when she was employment minister at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The complaint is believed to have come from a member of her private office, a team of six to eight civil servants who work closely with an individual minister. *The Times* has also been told that a complaint was made against Ms Patel at the DWP and that further complaints followed when she was secretary of state for international development. The government has not denied the claims.

In his letter to Sir Mark, Mr Penman said that an investigation into Ms Patel should be led by a senior external lawyer with experience and independence. He suggested that it should be conducted in a similar way to the inquiry into bullying of parliamentary staff by MPs carried out by Dame Laura Cox. "In order to command the confidence of the public and employees it is essential that this process should have complete access to all records that bear on the conduct of ministers and special advisers towards civil servants, including exchanges on social media and cross-platform messaging services," he wrote.

Matt Hancock, the health secretary, told *The Andrew Marr Show* on BBC One that Ms Patel was a "very determined" but also "extremely courteous" minister.

A Cabinet Office spokesman said: "We take all allegations of misconduct seriously. We do not comment on individual personnel matters and note Sir Philip's intentions to bring legal action against the government. It would therefore be inappropriate to comment any further at this time … An interim permanent secretary has been appointed to ensure the vital work of the Home Office continues uninterrupted."

Letters, page 26
Leading article, page 27

Moving into the hot seats

Profiles

Michael Young has been drafted into the Home Office as Priti Patel's special adviser by Dominic Cummings with a brief to be Downing Street's eyes and ears in the department.

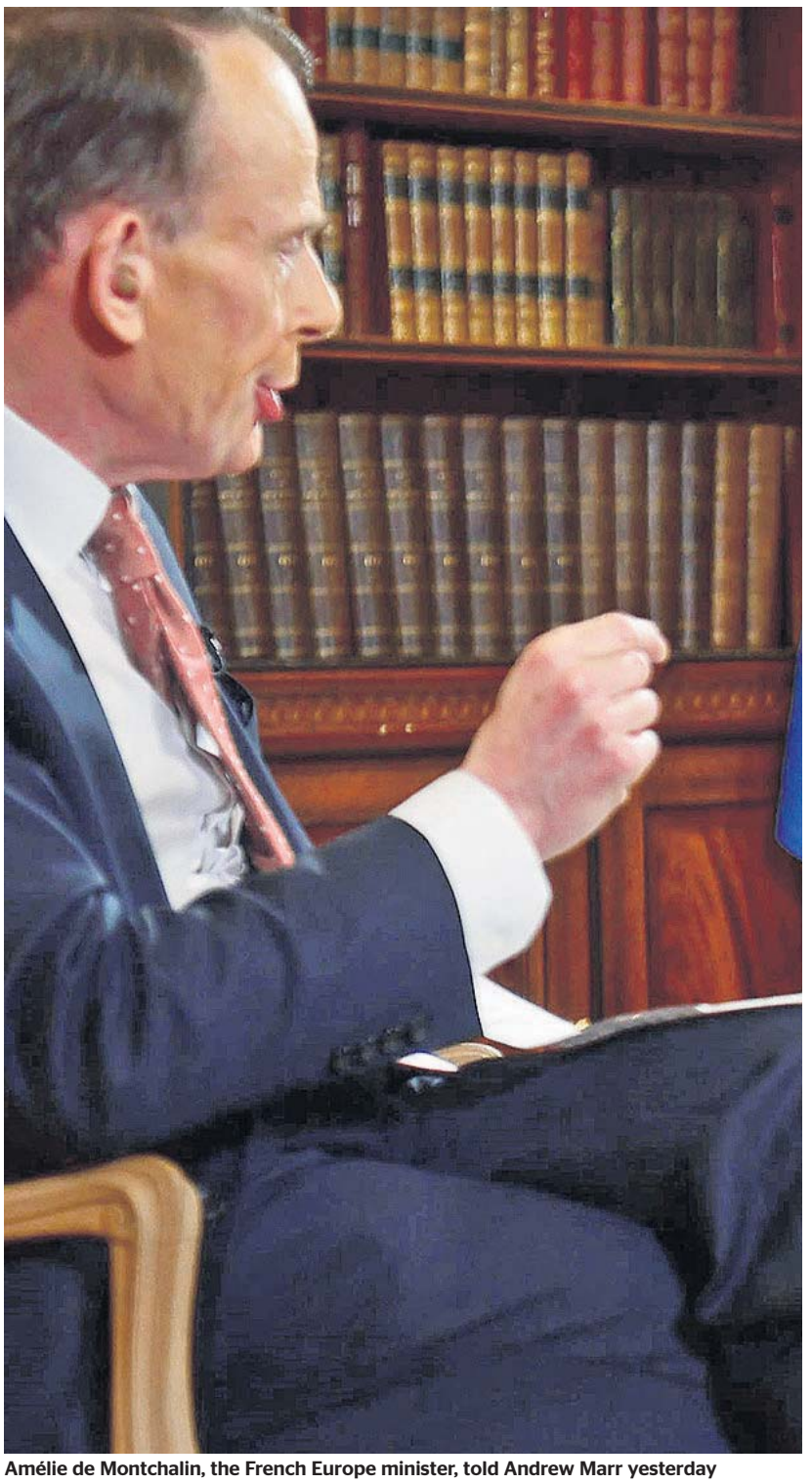
In particular Mr Cummings is concerned that the Home Office is responsible for delivering two of Mr Johnson's key campaign pledges — to increase police numbers and build a new immigration system — both of which are fraught with difficulty and risk.

Previously an aide to the security minister, Mr Young took up his first job six years ago as a management consultant after studying history at Oxford. Since then he has worked for the multinational telecoms company Liberty Global and more recently McKinsey. He joined the Home Office shortly after Boris Johnson became prime minister last July.

Shona Dunn has been in the Home Office for little more than a year and she now takes up the top job in the department after Sir Philip Rutnam's resignation.

A biologist by training, Ms Dunn, 50, joined the civil service in 1995 as a policy officer in the Department of the Environment. She has had spells working for the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Education and the Cabinet Office.

She arrived in the Home Office in the wake of the Windrush scandal as Sir Philip's No 2. She replaced Patsy Wilkinson who had faced criticism for her handling of the scandal that led to Amber Rudd's resignation as Home Secretary in 2018.



Amélie de Montchalin, the French Europe minister, told Andrew Marr yesterday

Tories suspended for Islamophobia

Oliver Wright

The Conservative Party suspended nearly two dozen members, including five serving councillors, yesterday over allegations that they had posted Islamophobic comments online.

A dossier of evidence, passed to *The Times* by an anti-racism group, includes a councillor in Hampshire who warned of a "dangerous Muslim agenda for world domination in the name of Allah". Another member shared a Facebook video that said Sweden was being "raped to death by Muslim migrants", while a further councillor in Nottinghamshire said that mosques were "culpable" for terrorist attacks.

Last night a party spokeswoman confirmed that it had suspended all members named in the dossier. It follows a spate of allegations of Islamophobia among grassroots Tory members.

During the party leadership election last year Boris Johnson pledged to carry out an independent investigation into Islamophobia, but this has subsequently been scaled back into a review of all forms of discrimination.

The dossier was compiled by the charity Hope not Hate as part of its annual report into the prevalence of racism in the UK. It found a string of new allegations against Tory activists and councillors, on top of several dozens that have already been investigated by the party.

The charity said it had conducted polling of Conservative members that showed "worryingly high levels of Islamophobic sentiment and false perceptions about Muslims among Tory grassroots members".

More than two thirds (67 per cent) believed that "there are areas of the UK that operate under Sharia law", while 60 per cent said that "Islam is generally a threat to Western civilisation".

Matthew McGregor, the campaign director of Hope Not Hate, said the Tories "had a problem with anti-Muslim prejudice in its party". "They are not acting as swiftly, or as forcefully, as they need to, and their approach lacks the transparency required to give people trust that they are taking the issue seriously enough," he said.

"The Conservatives must make their party an ally of its Muslim members and supporters by adopting an unambiguous policy of immediate suspension, fast-track investigation and instant dismissal for anyone in its ranks spreading anti-Muslim prejudice."

A party spokeswoman said: "All those found to be party members have been suspended immediately, pending investigation. The swift action we take on not just anti-Muslim discrimination, but discrimination of any kind is testament to the seriousness with which we take such issues."

She added that the upcoming review would examine how the party could further improve its disciplinary processes.

Fancy dinner with the PM? Just send us your logins

Matt Chorley Red Box Editor

Email scammers are getting political. To the long list of self-proclaimed Nigerian princes, lottery organisers, bitcoin traders and Viagra salesmen, we can now add the name of Boris Johnson.

The promise of dinner at No10 is being used to lure unsuspecting recipients into handing over their sensitive personal information. It sounds like the most exclusive invitation in town: putting the world to rights with the prime minister over fine food. The offer is surprising, given that Mr Johnson seems busy with matters at home, at the office — and at the Home Office.

The email, with the subject line: "Dinner invitation from The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson" begins "Dear Sir", even when sent to women, including one *Times* reader who raised the alarm. The scammers have assumed the identity of Alok Sharma, the new business secretary. In this guise, they say: "We are also proud to be discussing Europe Business Luncheon with the President of the European Parliament."

And then the clincher: to access the invitation, the recipient must give their log-in details for sites such as Google and Yahoo. This is likely to be an attempt to gain access to users' sensitive account information.

The email signs off with Mr Sharma's "address", given as 10 Downing Street, half a mile from his actual office at the business department. The phone number given is that of Theresa May, who is more available for dinner invitations than she used to be.

A spokeswoman for Mr Sharma confirmed that the email was a fake.

Priti Patel bullying complaints

JEFF OVERS/BBC



that the Brexit talks could be derailed by the opposition of French fishermen to British attempts to limit their catch quotas

Fishing war risks Channel blockade

Oliver Wright
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

Ministers have been told that they risk paralysing cross-Channel trade with Europe unless they agree a Brexit deal that is acceptable to French fishermen.

In what is being described as a "nightmare" scenario, Whitehall officials have told ministers that there is a "very realistic chance" that cross-Channel ports would be blockaded by EU fishing fleets in the event that no trade deal is agreed. They are particularly concerned that Calais is uniquely vulnerable to even a small-scale protest against attempts to restrict the access of EU fishing fleets to UK waters.

Boris Johnson has said that EU fishing ships would no longer have access to British waters unless a deal is struck by December. The government has invested in new fishery protection ships.

Before the first round of trade and fisheries talks between the EU and the government in Brussels today, Amélie de Montchalin, France's Europe minister, said that without a deal fishing could become a "very nasty battle". Asked on the BBC's *Andrew Marr Show* if the issue of fishing could collapse the entire trade deal, she said: "Yes."

About 17 per cent of the UK's trade in goods, worth more than £100 billion a year, passes between Dover and Calais. The entrance to the French port is a few hundred metres wide, meaning only a couple of trawlers can block traffic.

The issue was first raised with ministers last year at the government's no-deal planning meetings and is still seen in Whitehall as being of serious concern. "We are uniquely vulnerable when it comes to moving goods across the short straits," one Whitehall source said. "In the event of the blockade there is very little we could do."

According to diplomatic sources President Macron of France has warned other EU leaders that a failure to win a good deal for European fishermen would trigger street protests and civil unrest in a country already deeply divided over economic reform. French ministers have been told that protests and blockades of ports, focused on Calais, would begin within 24 hours of European boats being excluded from British fishing waters. The unrest would start in France but would then quickly spread north as Belgian and Dutch fishermen became involved in blockades of key ports such as Zeebrugge and Rotterdam, it has been claimed. Irish fishermen would be embroiled too, closing off ports in the republic and in Northern Ireland.

Added to the potentially violent mix would be policing by the Royal Navy of British waters. European fishermen are already reporting extra surveillance before the talks.

British proposals would exclude European fishermen from close coastal waters and make big cuts to their catch quotas. The proposals threaten to devastate already precarious coastal communities from Brittany to Denmark.

In response several European countries with fishing communities dependent on British fisheries — including France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Spain — hardened the EU's negotiating stance to demand existing levels of access and catches as the price of a trade deal.

French want Napoleon back

Historians in France are calling for the body of Napoleon III to be removed from a Benedictine abbey in Hampshire and repatriated as part of a post-Brexit deal (Mark Bridge writes).

The Foreign Office was asked to consider the return of the remains of the emperor who lived at Chislehurst, Kent, in the early 1870s after France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian war.

"This is the moment," Dimitri Casali, who is leading the call, told *The Daily Telegraph*. "It will be an elegant gesture of reconciliation between England and France."

Letters, page 26

US trade talks 'will bring lower prices'

Callum Jones Trade Correspondent

The public has been promised lower prices and greater choice on supermarket shelves as ministers prepare to begin post-Brexit trade negotiations with the United States.

Boris Johnson vowed last night to "drive a hard bargain" during talks over a free trade agreement that Whitehall officials hope will support some of Britain's leading industries.

Carmakers and farmers are among those expected to be the biggest winners should the deal eliminate US tariffs, alongside professional service exporters such as architects and lawyers, according to the Department for International Trade.

The government is announcing today its negotiating objectives for an "ambitious and comprehensive" pact, which will include a pledge to "rigorously protect" the National Health Service and uphold domestic food standards. A transatlantic deal will provide the economy with "a £3.4 billion boost", according to official analysis also due for publication this morning, increasing trade flows between Britain and the US by £15.3 billion.

Previous government projections have indicated that all new trade deals, including those planned with Australia and New Zealand, would collectively boost Britain's gross domestic product by between 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent.

Mr Johnson said: "We have the best negotiators in the business and, of course, we're going to drive a hard bargain to boost British industry. Trading Scottish smoked salmon for Stetson hats, we will deliver lower prices and more choice for our shoppers."

Liz Truss, the international trade secretary, described striking such agreements as "one of the key opportunities" offered by leaving the EU and regaining an independent trade policy. Britain exported goods and services to the US worth £57.4 billion last year and imported £51.1 billion. Its total EU exports amounted to £168.2 billion and imports stood at £263.9 billion.

● Britain could import all its food, a senior economic adviser to Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, has suggested. Tim Leunig, an ally of Dominic Cummings, Boris Johnson's chief adviser, wrote in emails to the National Food Strategy, a government review, that Singapore was "rich without having its own agricultural sector". He added: "Food sector isn't critically important to the UK, and ag[riculture] and fish production certainly isn't." Dr Leunig, who is also an adviser to the departments of education and food and rural affairs, also suggested that farmers should not be given tax breaks denied to other industries, *The Mail on Sunday* reported. "We know that supermarkets also make very little, and that lots of restaurants go bust," he wrote. A government spokesman said that the comments were "not policy".

Johnson expresses delight at becoming father again

Nadeem Badshah

Boris Johnson said that he was "absolutely delighted" that his fiancée, Carrie Symonds, is pregnant and that the couple intend to marry.

They are expecting their first child together in the early summer, it was announced on Saturday. The prime minister told reporters yesterday during a visit to Public Health England's National Infection Service that he was "absolutely delighted, of course" that his partner was expecting.

The announcement means that the Conservative leader will become the first British prime minister to marry in office for 250 years.

Ms Symonds posted a picture on her Instagram account of the prime minister kissing her on the cheek. She wrote: "I wouldn't normally post this kind of thing on here but I wanted my friends to find out from me.

"Many of you already know but for my friends that still don't, we got engaged at the end of last year … and we've got a baby hatching early summer. Feel incredibly blessed."

The announcement comes 11 days after Mr Johnson, 55, reached a settlement with his estranged wife, Marina Wheeler, with whom he has four children, aged 20 to 26. He also has a fifth child, who was born in 2009, after an affair with Helen Macintyre, an art consultant.

Ms Symonds is six months pregnant and the baby is due in late May or early June, *The Sun* reported.

David Cameron's wife, Samantha, had a baby daughter, Florence, in 2010 during his tenure as prime minister.

What's in store for Carrie, Times2

News

Unruly pupils take advantage of new sanction

Nicola Woolcock
Education Correspondent

More than one in ten teachers feels that their authority is undermined by schools forcing them to use "restorative justice" in the classroom, a survey for *The Times* has found.

Restorative justice usually requires the perpetrator and victim to talk together about their feelings at the time of the incident. In some cases teachers have been compelled by their school to use this after disciplining a child.

Sean Harford, a director at Ofsted, has said that the practice can undermine teachers by forcing them to justify their actions in disciplining a child in front of a "mediating" teacher.

More than a quarter of teachers believe that badly behaved pupils regard restorative justice as an "easy get out", according to responses from 5,600 teachers to the survey by Teacher Tapp, an education app. Some said that the policy wasted time and was used by some pupils to avoid sanctions, although others supported the practice.

Of those questioned, 55 per cent of state secondary teachers and 40 per cent of state primary teachers said that restorative justice was used at their schools. Twelve per cent of secondary teachers and 14 per cent of primary teachers thought it was effective all or much of the time, while 31 per cent of secondary teachers and 15 per cent of primary teachers said it was never effective. Eighteen per cent of secondary teachers and 5 per cent of primary teachers said that it undermined teacher authority.

Thirty-eight per cent of teachers felt that it could promote better relationships between teachers and pupils and 35 per cent said it promoted better relationships between pupils.

In a separate survey by the Nasuwt union, teachers said that the use of restorative justice had made behaviour worse in the classroom. One said: "It has put a lot of pressure on teachers who have to chase students to attend 'learning conversations' and jump through lots of hoops to get the persistent offenders. Students feel they are able to get away with being very disrespectful." Another said: "The way it's been introduced has vastly contributed to the decline in pupil behaviour."

Chris Keates, the union's general secretary, said: "The Nasuwt has deep reservations about the way in which so-called 'restorative' approaches to pupil behaviour management are being introduced in some schools. In too many schools it is being misused and has become synonymous with a belief among pupils that there are no sanctions and punishments."

The use of restorative justice in schools is understood to have grown since 2018, when Mr Harford raised concerns over the practice. He wrote: "What this has actually meant is that the pupil has played up in class and been insolent to the teacher when challenged about it, been removed from the lesson and then lied about what happened to the 'receiving' school leader. The teachers have then been expected to take part in the 'restorative discussion', as if they need to justify their actions to the pupil and mediating teacher. This just seems wrong to me."

Popcorn
at the cinema.
Tap and
Save the Change®.

Switch on Save the Change® and when you use your Halifax Visa debit card we'll round up to the nearest pound and put the change into your chosen Halifax savings account.

HALIFAX VISA

Save the Change® is a registered trade mark and used under licence. This information is correct as of December 2019 and is relevant to Halifax products and services only. Halifax is a division of Bank of Scotland plc. Registered in Scotland No. SC327000. Registered Office: The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ. Bank of Scotland plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under registration number 169628.

PAKO MERA



Beak performance A snowy owl at newly reopened Love Gorgie Farm, Edinburgh

Call to pay teachers more for working in poor areas

Danny Shaw, Nicola Woolcock

Teachers should be paid more for working in schools in poor neighbourhoods, a report says today.

The report by the Education Policy Institute think tank says that teachers in subjects that face severe shortages should get higher salaries if they join disadvantaged schools to help to solve issues of staff retention and recruitment.

About half of all teachers of maths, sciences and languages leave the profession after five years, usually to enter better-paid careers, it says. Teachers working in "shortage subjects" at poorer schools outside London are paid on average £1,500 less than their counterparts at more affluent schools.

Teacher numbers fell by 7 per cent between 2007 and 2019 and it is predicted that secondary school pupil numbers will increase by 10 per cent between 2019 and 2023. The government recently announced that starting salaries for teachers would reach £30,000 by September 2022, with £2,000 incentives for teachers in "shortage subjects" and an extra £1,000 for those working in "challenging areas". The report says, however, that incentives should be extended to early career teachers in shortage subjects, to help to keep existing early career teachers at risk of leaving, as well as new teachers.

Luke Sibieta, an author of the report, said: "'Levelling-up' teacher quality is likely to require extra pay incentives to attract teachers to poorer schools. Changes to the funding formula are also likely to be needed to ensure funding remains progressive and that disadvantaged schools can afford the salary increases for new teachers."

A spokeswoman said that the Department for Education was "delivering a number of targeted programmes to support teachers to join and remain in the profession".

Doomy Balenciaga takes Paris by storm

Anna Murphy
FASHION DIRECTOR

No one else has come close during this Paris Fashion Week to the theatrics at Balenciaga yesterday. A penumbrous film studios in the northern suburbs had been flooded into a kind of Black Sea (the water in truth only a couple of centimetres deep) upon which the models appeared to walk. The first three *trompe l'oeil* rows were empty and semi-submerged. Overhead there roiled a projection of, by turns, stormy skies, turbulent seas and fire. The apocalyptic message was clear.

That wasn't the only symbolism in play. Demna Gvasalia, the Georgian-born creative director of Balenciaga, has been walking on water since he first came to widespread — and lucrative — attention with his own label Vetements. He might be called the enfant terrible of modern luxury, were it not for the inconvenient fact that he is now 38.

Gvasalia is still mixing things up though, taking the ordinary, the extreme and the ugly, then somehow — if you have the eyes to see, not to mention the money to buy — turning it into the covetable.

Kering, the holding company that owns Balenciaga, reported last month that the label's "sustained growth" in 2019 was, along with that at Alexander McQueen, vital to delivering revenues up 20.3 per cent to £2.18 billion in the "other houses" sector of its business. (Bigger Kering-owned labels, such as Gucci, have a separate accounting system.)

Many of Gvasalia's touchstones were present and correct for autumn/winter 20, from Spock shoulders on dresses and tailoring to exaggerated cuts, in the form of enormous coats and shrunk-to-fit suits. Then there were the re-tools of garb not normally seen on a catwalk, from legal robes to motocross leathers. And not forgetting the similarly transmuted accessories, such as — for the luckier and less waterlogged models — leather waders. Was it difficult? Yes. Has that stopped brand Balenciaga selling to date? No.

Valentino also channelled the dark side. Pierpaolo Piccioli showed a predominantly black collection with only a few leavening touches of blood red and blush, and a sprinkling of floral embroidery. Black leather gauntlet gloves and stompy footwear further put the boot in.



Valentino went black, while Balenciaga offered retooled motocross and Spock shoulders

WAGs wage war on clothing waste with garage sale

Ben Webster Environment Editor

You take your unwanted clothing to the charity shop only to see it sell for a fraction of the price you paid or, worse, sit unsold.

This frustrating experience will no longer trouble some of the world's leading footballers and their wives and girlfriends.

The great WAGs' garage sale is about to be launched and the women and players behind it hope to raise millions of pounds for charity.

Jamie and Rebekah Vardy, César and Adriana Azpilicueta, Luka and Vanja Modric and Cesc and Daniella Fàbregas are among those who have donated clothing, shoes and accessories to Footballers4Change.

The idea is that fans will be willing to pay a premium for an item which once belonged to a player, his wife or child, especially when the proceeds go to a charity nominated by their hero.

They can buy Dolce & Gabbana dungarees and Fendi sandals handed down from the children of the Vardys, who have donated more than 100 items. Ms Azpilicueta has given more than 400, including a Joseph jersey from her wardrobe and Ralph Lauren skirt and Burberry jacket from her children.

Gareth Southgate, the England manager, has donated one of his old training tops from the national team.

Players often donate signed kit to charities but Footballers4Change is also trying to change the public's wasteful attitudes to clothing.

It is the brainchild of Anoesjcka Gianotti, partner of the former Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini. She hopes to make wearing second-hand clothes trendy and to reduce the 10 per cent of global carbon emissions caused by the fashion industry. Ms Gianotti, 38, said: "There is too much clothing. We can make these second-hand items useful just by attaching meaningful stories to them — even to the wives' and children's items. It creates a different value and this can be the new luxury."

She got the idea after returning from a trip to a charity store to donate some of Cudicini's kit to find letters from fans asking for a piece of his clothing. "I felt guilty because I had just dropped these items off. I spoke with a few of the other wives and they had the same problem — the surplus of clothing and training kit. I thought, 'How can I connect these fans to the charity and how will they believe these are actually Carlo's items?'"

Ms Gianotti, a fashion designer who met Cudicini when he ordered her bespoke shirts, is guaranteeing the authenticity of each item by marking it with an invisible "forensic DNA chemical" label that can be checked against a central database.

The Footballers4Change website opened for fans to register on Saturday. The first 1,000 items will be available for viewing from April 4 and for bids or purchase for four days from April 24. The players' items will be auctioned and those from family members sold for a fixed price.

Ms Gianotti hopes to raise at least £150,000 from the initial sale and up to £400,000 from the auction. Between 20 and 30 per cent of the proceeds will be spent on running the scheme, though she hopes to find a corporate sponsor to cover the costs so that the entire amount goes to charity. If the sales are a success Ms Gianotti plans to extend them to other celebrities and their families, including boxers, Formula One drivers and musicians.



This handbag belonging to Anoesjcka Gianotti is among the items for sale



Offer ends 12/03/2020. Sky Fibre areas only. Speeds vary by location. TV set-up: £20 for new customers. £39.95 offer eligibility fee for existing customers. Broadband: £9.95 router delivery; £10 connection fee. Separate 18 month contracts for Sky Entertainment (£12 per month (pm)), Sky Broadband Superfast (£25pm including line rental), and Sky Talk Evenings and Weekends (£0pm). All Sky Q kit is loaned and must be returned at the end of your subscription. **Save Big**: Based on saving £17pm (£306 across 18 months) compared with standard in-contract price for advertised products: Sky Entertainment: £22pm; Sky Broadband Superfast: £27pm; and Sky Talk Evening and Weekends: £5pm. **Sky Broadband Superfast**: Average download speed 59Mbps. External factors such as internet congestion and home wiring can affect speed. Wi-Fi speeds vary by device and home set-up. No traffic management policy. See sky.com for more details, usage policies and to check your speeds. Standard price applies after 18 months (currently: Sky Entertainment (£27 per month (pm)), Sky Broadband Superfast (£32pm including line rental) and Sky Talk evenings and Weekends (£5pm). Offer not available with any other offers. **Subject to status. Upfront payment may be required**. **General**: Compatible line required, otherwise £20 connection charge may apply. Non-standard set-up may cost extra. Weekend set up/service visits cost £15 extra. Connect to TV using HDMI cable. You own the Sky dish. Prices may vary if you live in a flat. You must get any consents required (e.g. landlord's). UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man residential customers only. Email address required so we can keep in touch about your services. Calls to Sky cost 7ppm plus your provider's access charge. Chicago Fire © 2019 NBC Universal Media, LLC. The Late Late Show with James Corden TM & © 2019 CBS Studios Inc. All Rights Reserved. Correct at 07/02/2020. Further terms apply.

News

ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA



Wingman James Quickenden gives a pteranodon a lift for an animated exhibition at Blair Drummond safari park, Stirling

Starbucks accused over child labour on coffee farms

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Starbucks has promised to increase checks on its suppliers after being accused of taking coffee beans from farms using child labour.

Children under 13 were filmed picking beans for less than £5 a day on coffee farms in Guatemala. The Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme said that the farms supplied Starbucks and Nespresso.

The actor George Clooney, who is said to have been paid £31 million for his work as a Nespresso ambassador, said last week: "I was surprised and saddened to see this story. Clearly [the sustainability advisory] board and this company still have work to do."

Channel 4 said its reporters had filmed children working long hours in gruelling conditions.

"Where they were able to speak to the children, they were told many of them were aged 11 or 12 but others looked as young as eight years old," it said. "*Dispatches* was told that the children worked up to six days a week and around eight hours a day through the heat of the day — and had to contend with biting insects and possible snakes."

The children are paid depending on the weight of beans they pick and at the end of the day they must carry sacks of beans weighing up to 100lbs. Typically a child would earn less than £5 a day. Channel 4 said that pay could be as low as 3lp an hour. It added: "Given the average cost of a cup of coffee in the UK is priced at £2.50, why do coffee workers earn so little?"

Oliver Holland, a human rights lawyer at Leigh Day, said the footage suggested that the two companies were in breach of regulations laid down by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILO, a UN body, says that children under 14 are not allowed to work if it is harmful to their health or interferes with their schooling.

Mr Holland said: "If children are working 40 hours a week there is no way they can also be having a proper education. These are all unsafe conditions for children, essentially, and in those conditions children simply shouldn't be working."

Starbucks and Nespresso said they had "zero tolerance" for child labour in their supply chains.

Starbucks said it was unable to say when it had last received coffee from the farms but that it would not do so until it could verify that they complied with its ethical sourcing programme.

Nespresso said that it had opened an investigation and would not use coffee from the farms until it was complete.

Famous faces used in scam

Nadeem Badshah

Thousands of people have been duped into losing tens of millions of pounds by fraudsters using bogus adverts featuring celebrities such as Gordon Ramsay and Hugh Jackman, a whistleblower has claimed.

More than 200 criminals posing as financial traders are suspected to have lured people around the world to invest in non-existent bitcoin, commodities and foreign currency opportunities.

According to the whistleblower, the fraudulent investment operation based in Ukraine made $70 million (£55 million) last year. The adverts, which use famous people such as Ramsay, the chef and TV presenter, and Martin Lewis, the money-saving expert, were posted on Facebook and mobile phone games without the celebrities' knowledge.

The scam involves victims responding to the adverts and being contacted by call centre workers in Kiev, according to documents and undercover footage seen by *The Guardian* and the Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter*.

Victims were persuaded to install software on their computers and phones that gave fraudsters access to their bank details.



IN THE TIMES TOMORROW



HEALTH
SUPER SUPPLEMENTS
The new science of pill-popping
TIMES2

COMMENT
RACHEL SYLVESTER
Patel's war with officials is spinning out of control
MAIN PAPER





SPORT
OWEN SLOT
What it takes to win a Six Nations grand slam
MAIN PAPER

BUSINESS
Patrick Hosking Why seductive investment ideas translate into meagre returns
MAIN PAPER

Hoard of plundered warrior treasures goes to Sutton Hoo

Mark Bridge History Correspondent

Treasures plundered from dead and captured warriors will return "home" to East Anglia for the first time since they were taken in battle by enemies from the midlands about 1,400 years ago.

The 4,000-item Staffordshire Hoard, found near Lichfield 11 years ago, is the biggest known cache of Anglo-Saxon metalwork, including decorative fittings hacked from arms and armour.

Many of the Staffordshire pieces are now believed on stylistic grounds to have come from the same workshops that produced the world-famous treasures of the Sutton Hoo ship burial, discovered in Suffolk in the 1930s.

Now dozens of items from the hoard, including gold sword pommels set with garnets, will go on display alongside pieces from the ship burial, which contained the treasures of a warlord commonly identified as King Raedwald of



East Anglia, at the National Trust Sutton Hoo visitor centre, which reopened last summer after a £4 million upgrade.

The organisers of the exhibition, opening in May, say that the hoard items may have been taken by the warrior king Penda of Mercia, who controlled much of the midlands, in the course of battles against East Anglia and Northumbria. They may have been buried and lost during the crisis in Mercia after Penda was killed in battle by the Northumbrians in AD655.

They believe that the East Anglian treasures were produced in Suffolk or Norfolk for the kings and court of the Wuffinga dynasty, one of whom was King Raedwald, who died in about AD625. According to Chris Fern, the curator, the workshops of Raedwald and his successors were producing the finest metalwork anywhere in Europe in the late 6th and 7th centuries. It combined design elements from Germanic Europe and the Byzantine empire and images from paganism and Christianity. The materials include gold from the eastern Mediterranean set, in *cloisonné* technique, with garnets from eastern Europe and South Asia.

Mr Fern said that the Sutton Hoo and Staffordshire treasures reflected an influx of gold from the Byzantine empire to Britain that may have been generated by the sale of slaves taken in warfare between kingdoms. During the 7th century kingdoms now commonly identified as Anglo-Saxon fought each other and British kingdoms to the west.

In addition to the Staffordshire items on loan from Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, the exhibition will include Sutton Hoo artefacts such as gold shoulder clasps and a gold sword belt buckle usually kept at the British Museum.

Mr Fern said: "It is wonderful to see these objects, the pinnacle of craftsmanship in their day, astounding in their artistic genius, returned to the kingdom of East Anglia. Through them we can glimpse a time when warriors and kings in widespread regional kingdoms fought for supremacy in an age of gold and of the coming of Christianity."

Letters, page 26



The Staffordshire hoard items would have belonged to elite warriors and include hilt and scabbard decorations, a gold cross and seahorse pendant

Vatican to lend Becket's death robe

Tom Whipple

The sanctity of the church had been broken and the assassins were upon Thomas Becket. There was nothing left for him to do but to incline his neck to the blade. Then, an eyewitness wrote, a knight put a foot on the "precious martyr, and, horrible to say, scattered his brain and blood".

Now the vestment Becket is believed to have worn as he lay dead on the altar step of Canterbury Cathedral is returning to the scene of one of medieval Europe's most notorious crimes. It is to be loaned by the Vatican to the cathedral this summer to mark the 850th anniversary of his murder. Organisers of Canterbury's Becket2020 programme hope that its display will be a reminder of religious persecution.

Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was killed in 1170 after falling out with Henry II over the balance of power between church and state. So the legend goes, Henry had exclaimed, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" With a murder that shocked Christendom, he had his answer.

Becket was canonised and his tomb became a place of pilgrimage for centuries until the destruction of the monasteries by Henry VIII. After that Becket's best-preserved relics were kept abroad. One of those, supposedly his vestments, was held by the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.

Max Kramer, the precentor at Canterbury Cathedral, said: "Thomas has something to teach us about what integrity means: what it means to stand up for something we really believe in, despite the cost. That is very relevant for our own time. Death at the hands of government is not something limited to the medieval period."



The Becket robe kept in the Vatican



© 2019 Disney. Toy Story © 2019 Disney/Pixar. © 2019 Home Box Office, Inc. All rights reserved. HBO® and all related programs are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. © Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. CPI increase each March. See bt.com/prices. New customers. Prices and content may change. £45.99 from month 25. Pay by direct debit. 91% UK coverage. 24 month min term for BT TV, 30 day term for packs and bolt-ons. Separate contracts apply to BT TV, Sport & Broadband. Packs and bolt-ons renew unless cancelled. BT retains ownership of the equipment. Compatible line required otherwise £49.99 connection charge may apply. Terms apply.

News

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



At ease The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards wait to receive ceremonial leeks as part of the St David's Day parade at Combermere barracks in Windsor yesterday

Third of separated parents are avoiding child payments

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

Almost a third of separated parents who agree to contribute towards their children's upbringing are refusing to pay anything under the redesigned child maintenance system.

A charity representing single parents warned that the government risked repeating some of the failures of the Child Support Agency (CSA) by failing to take tougher action against absent parents who refused to pay or disguised their earnings or wealth.

The latest figures show that 32 per cent of separated parents make a maintenance contribution under an arrangement calculated by the Child Maintenance Service (CMS), which replaced the CSA in 2012. This excludes cases in which the absent parent failed to give the full amount or paid a token sum.

The rate of compliance with maintenance agreements has been rising. In 2015 45 per cent refused to pay anything. However, a growing number of families are being supported by payments through the service, meaning that more children are missing out.

The number of children living in households that received no maintenance payments has grown from 83,600 three years ago to 106,400 last year, when the figures were released.

The CMS manages 501,000 cases in which separated parents are unable to agree child maintenance between themselves. In about two thirds of these families the CMS calculates how much maintenance the absent parent must pay but leaves the collection arrangements to the parents.

In the remainder of cases, where the parents cannot agree or one refuses to pay, the CMS is supposed to collect and manage the payments under a service called Collect and Pay. The parent caring for the child incurs a 4 per cent charge and the paying parent is charged a 20 per cent collection fee in addition to their maintenance.

When a parent misses a payment the service should contact them and arrange to recover the money by deducting it from their earnings or a bank account or by taking them to court. It can also seize their driving licence and bar them from holding a passport.

To date 49,700 orders to make deductions from earnings have been sought or implemented, and there have been 13,100 other enforcement actions. Gingerbread, a charity for single-parent families, said that the CMS was often too slow to act or that the process took so long that children suffered unnecessarily. It added that parents, especially middle-class fathers, found it easy to hide other sources of income or wealth.

Joe Richardson, policy officer at the charity, said: "The Department for Work and Pensions needs to take a long, hard look at this issue. It isn't right that children are financially disadvantaged by their parents separating."

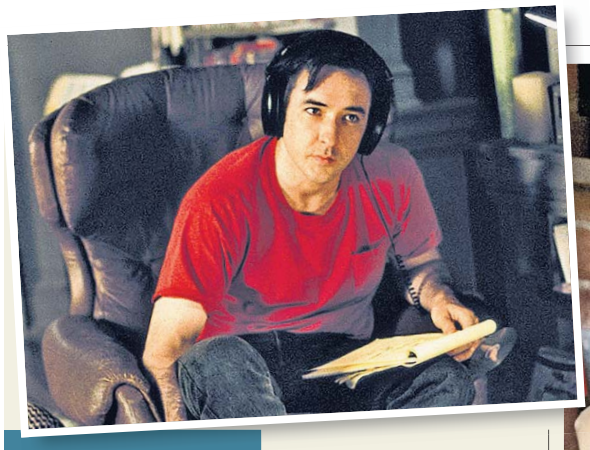
A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman said: "The amount of money being paid through the Child Maintenance Service is higher than ever before and compliance is increasing. There should be no doubt that we will, and do, use our tougher powers to tackle those parents who do not pay."

Case study

When Alison and her husband divorced after ten years of marriage they made a maintenance settlement through the courts (Greg Hurst writes). He earned a six-figure salary but when he was made redundant switched their arrangement to the Child Maintenance Service. Alison (not her real name), in her late 40s, who lives in north London, believes he did so for "tactical" reasons. He received a £110,000 payoff but she and their three children, aged between 12 and 16, were not entitled to a share as the CMS did not treat this as income. Alison said: "The CMS prolongs toxic relationships because there are loopholes that are exploited."



Based on fastest weekday train between Cardiff Central and London Paddington in Jan 2020 (departing 12:54, arriving 14:41). Saving based on comparison with fastest equivalent journey in Jan 2019 (departing 06:56, arriving 08:55). Based on 2019/20 Winter timetable. Correct as of 7/1/2020. Journey times may vary due to unforeseen disruptions. Visit GWR.com for full terms and conditions.



Hornby defends TV show's gender swap

Nick Hornby was never meant to be involved in a new TV adaptation of his novel *High Fidelity* after having sold the rights more than 20 years ago, but he has been drawn back after striking up an unlikely friendship with its female star (Jack Malvern writes). The author, whose book was about a man who retreats into his musical obsession as a substitute for dealing with his emotions, is acting as chief defender of the producers' decision to swap the character's gender.

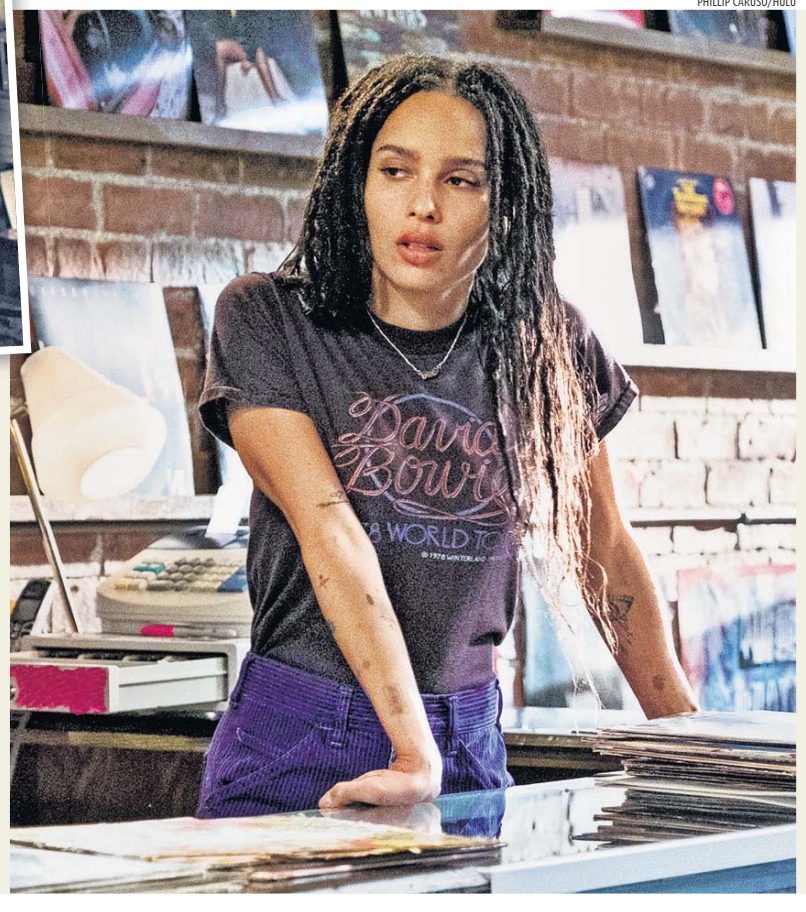
Hornby, 62, was drafted in as an executive producer for the American series after he was recruited by Zoë Kravitz, 31, who plays the central character. She charmed Hornby by sending him a playlist of songs in the manner of the character, who regards creating mixtapes as the cornerstone of a relationship. In return he sent her "tons of playlists" while they worked together on the series, which was released on the Hulu streaming service in the United States on February 14. It is not yet scheduled for release in Britain.

Although Hornby's novel is infused with masculine views of relationships, he believes that the story is equally valid told from a woman's perspective. He wrote an article in *Rolling Stone* magazine to pre-empt criticism that the gender flip was a betrayal of the book's values. "If I catch anyone saying it's self-consciously 'woke' … I will come round to your house and put you back to sleep," he wrote. "*High Fidelity* isn't just about you. It's about people who aren't like you, too."

Kravitz is a producer on the show as well as a female incarnation of the character played by John Cusack in the film adaptation in 2000. Her father is the rock musician Lenny Kravitz and her mother, Lisa Bonet, appeared in the film.

She contacted Hornby because she wanted to ensure that the series stayed close to its source material. "I got in touch with Nick and we hit it off," she told the news website Vulture. "I really wanted his blessing and ended up getting a lot more than that."

PHILLIP CARUSO/HULU



Zoë Kravitz appears in the television version of High Fidelity as the character who was played in the film by John Cusack, far left

Boy, 16, stabbed to death at house party

Tom Knowles

A 16-year-old boy has been stabbed to death in the street after a house party got out of hand.

The police have opened a murder investigation after Ramani Morgan, from Erdington, Birmingham, died in hospital. He was found collapsed in Clay Lane, Coventry, with multiple stab wounds on Saturday night after "an altercation" with others at the party at nearby Chandos Street in the Stoke area of the city, according to the police.

Two 17-year-old boys, both from Coventry, were arrested on suspicion of murder and are in police custody.

Chief Superintendent Mike O'Hara said: "I think it's really important not to demonise young people: 99 per cent of young people in and around Coventry and the region and nationally are good kids getting on with their lives. It's just unfortunate we have a very small proportion of young people who still have a propensity to carry weapons."

It is the second fatal stabbing in the city in the past month after the death of Babacar Diagne, 15. Three teenagers, two aged 15 and one 17, have been charged with his murder.

Mr O'Hara said of the latest death: "We don't believe this is linked [to other Coventry stabbings]. We don't believe this is a gang-related issue. We think this is simply a party that has got out of hand."

The police are appealing for anyone who was at the party or any witnesses to contact them. Detective Inspector Michelle Allen said: "This is simply tragic. My thoughts remain with the young man's family and friends at this heartbreaking time. They are being supported by our specially trained family liaison officers. I'm still keen to hear from anyone who was at the party or anyone who has any information about what has happened … to get in touch as soon as possible."

In London the father of a newborn baby was stabbed to death on his way to a night shift on Saturday night. The police were called to Hendon, north-west London, after a silver VW Polo collided with a parked car. The 24-year-old victim, from Edgware, was found inside the Polo suffering from stab injuries. He had been attacked in a car park minutes before the crash, the police said. No arrests have yet been made.

Last week a 36-year-old racing car fan died in Greater Manchester after being attacked by a man wielding an axe in an incident described by the police as a "horrific attack". Ryan Lowry was chased down the street and attacked in Partington shortly before midnight on Thursday. Greater Manchester police said that the 31-year-old man who was arrested on suspicion of the murder had been detained under the Mental Health Act. He had known Mr Lowry, the police added.



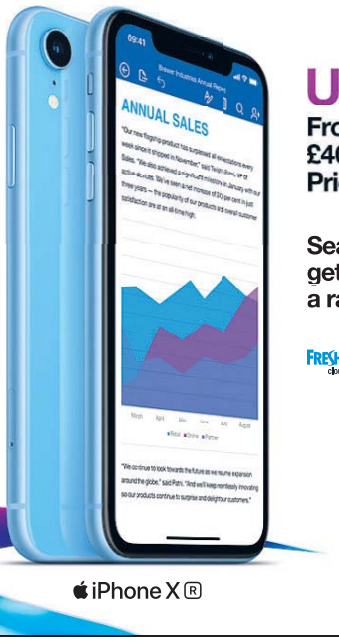
Two teenagers have been arrested over the death of Ramani Morgan

In a statement paying tribute to him, Mr Lowry's family asked for donations to a mental health charity to be made in his memory. They said: "It's hard to believe how something like this can happen to someone like Ryan, who did not have a bad bone in his body.

"All he ever did was to be there, in whatever way he could, for those that needed help. Ryan loved motor cars and motor racing and was co-founder of the Calm All Porsche Trophy series, raising awareness and money for mental health."

Police forces in England and Wales recorded more than 44,000 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to June, a record and up 7 per cent on the previous year.

Love your work



Unlimited data
From £35.83 a month
£40.83 upfront
Price excludes VAT

Search Three Means Business and get the amazing iPhone XR and enjoy a range of benefits from our partners.

FRESHBOOKS cloud accounting MOO wework WIX.com

3 Means Business

Price available on Apple iPhone XR 64GB on our 24 month unlimited data business plan, with Three Means Business benefits. For details and terms of Three Means Business see three.co.uk/business. Price includes £5 monthly discount for paying by a recurring method, such as direct debit. Each May your monthly package price will increase by an amount up to the RPI rate, published in the February that year. See three.co.uk/terms for full T&Cs.

News

Don't leave marriage proposals to men, says Sandberg

Tom Knowles Technology Correspondent

More women should help to organise their own marriage proposals, the Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg has said, after revealing that she and her partner had planned the moment in detail.

The chief operating officer of the world's biggest social media platform announced her engagement to Tom Bernthal, the founder of the marketing agency Kelton, last month, five years after the death of her husband.

Ms Sandberg, 50, said that rather than waiting for Mr Bernthal to propose she had planned the event with him, picked the ring together and booked a weekend away.

In a podcast interview with NBC she encouraged more women to do the same, saying: "I look at all these amazing young women I talked to, these amazing women, and they're totally strong and they take charge of their education, they take charge of their career. And then in a relationship, they're like, 'Yeah, I want to get married. I hope he brings it up.' And that's setting up a relationship that's not going to be equal.

"This is the biggest decision you could make in your personal life. I'm a fully formed adult partner making that decision."

Her first marriage, in 1993 to a businessman from her native Washington, ended in divorce a year later. In 2004 she married Dave Goldberg, the former chief executive of Survey Monkey, and the couple went on to have a son and daughter. Goldberg died suddenly while exercising in 2015.



The Facebook boss said traditions were outdated

Ms Sandberg also criticised men who asked the woman's father for their daughter's hand in marriage. She said: "You know, there's also this tradition that's still alive and well of men [asking] a father for a hand. That's still happening. Like, really?"

In the same interview Ms Sandberg rejected her portrayal in a new book about Facebook, arguing that women were described as too ruthless in the workplace simply for raising their voices.

In *Facebook: The Inside Story*, by the veteran technology journalist Steven Levy, Ms Sandberg is described as micromanaging, calculating and more fixated with saving her own image than with addressing the company's problems. Levy writes: "Sandberg could be a challenge to work with. Despite her public persona as a corporate goddess of sympathy, she was prone to yelling at subordinates when they did not live up to her considerable demands.

"She could be obsessed with her public image. When Facebook came under scrutiny after the election, Sandberg became even more conscious of her image."

Ms Sandberg implied that such criticism showed the continual inbuilt sexism in the workplace, with men in senior positions rarely being criticised for shouting at staff. She said: "For you to say a man is yelling at the workplace, he has to be Steve Jobs, Steve Ballmer [the chief executive of Microsoft from 2000 to 2014]. He has to, like, scream. For someone to say a woman is yelling, you have to raise your voice or sound tense. It's a very different thing."

Jobs, the co-founder of Apple who died aged 56 in 2011, and Mr Ballmer, 63, were known for their tantrums and bullying management skills.

Mark Zuckerberg hired Ms Sandberg, a graduate of Harvard and its business school, to take control of Facebook policy in 2008 and be the "adult in the room". This followed a career at Google during which she had helped to develop the search giant's advert-supported business strategy. She is best known beyond her work at Facebook for writing the bestselling book *Lean In* in 2013, which encourages self-empowering feminism and discusses the lack of women in government and business leadership positions.

Ms Sandberg was once floated as a potential Democratic president but her image was badly damaged over Facebook's poor handling of Russian interference on its platforms during the 2016 US presidential elections.

Unlock tax-free cash from your home

with the UK's No.1 equity release advisor*

- Tax-free cash to spend as you wish ✓
- No monthly repayments required ✓
- Maintain 100% home ownership[1] ✓

Age Partnership is proud to be rated as an accredited broker of equity release by Times Money Mentor experts.

Speak to one of our advisors for your free, no obligation quotation and to find out how much tax-free cash you can access to spend as you wish. They will explain how equity release could affect the amount of inheritance you can leave and if your entitlement to means-tested benefits could be affected now or in the future.

REQUEST YOUR FREE GUIDE

Equity release may involve a home reversion plan or a lifetime mortgage which is secured against your property. To understand the features and risks ask for your personalised illustration. Equity release requires paying off any existing mortgage. Any money released, plus accrued interest, would be repaid upon death or moving into long-term care. Only if your case completes would a typical fee of 1.95% of the amount released be payable (minimum £1,495).

[1]You only continue to own your own home with a lifetime mortgage. *UK's No1, based on volume of plans, source: Touchstone data Jan 2018 - Sept 2019.

THE TIMES money mentor ACCREDITED BROKER Equity Release Spring 2019

Age Partnership
The Over 50s Money Experts

To find out how much cash you could release and to request your FREE guide
Freephone 0808 5001 536

Age Partnership Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA registered number 425432. Company registered in England and Wales No. 5265969. Company address: Age Partnership Limited, 2200 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB. VAT registration number 162 9355 92.

Tn25x4

I would like my free guide to equity release

Please return this coupon to Freepost Age Partnership

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

We may contact you via telephone regarding your enquiry.

Times_Tn_03.20



Enjoy magnificent scenery and four unique steam experiences on this special Scottish break

This wonderful four-day holiday starts near Britain's highest mountain - Ben Nevis, passes its deepest freshwater loch – Loch Morar, shortest river – River Morar and finally arrives next to the deepest seawater loch in Europe – Loch Nevis.

You'll ride on the famous Jacobite from Fort William to Mallaig, a 42-mile steam-hauled journey, and cross Robert McAlpine's 21-arch Glenfinnan viaduct.

It's hoped that in 2020 the historic PS Waverley will return to service and you will enjoy a voyage on the Firth of Clyde aboard this elegant paddle steamer. If the Waverley is not available you'll take a boat trip on Loch Lomond and visit Inveraray Castle. You'll also sail on the screw steamer S.S. Sir Walter Scott and take a ride on the pioneering Falkirk Wheel.

*Prices correct at time of going to press. Based on twin/double share, single supplement of £90 applies. August travel supplement: £50pp. Castle room supplement: £60pp. Flights from other airports and/or overnight accommodation before/after the tour available on request and at a supplement. Brightwater Holidays are operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Brightwater Holidays, a company wholly independent of News UK. Brightwater Holidays Ltd, Eden Park House, Cupar, KY15 4HS. ATOL 4498; ABTOT bonded.

Four days from **£1,025*** per person for all readers

Departures **July 3 and August 21, 2020**

NO-FLY DISCOUNT

Book without flights and save £100pp (discount not included in the price listed). Call for details.

Price Includes

- ✓ Three-night stay at the four-star Airth Castle Hotel and Spa, with breakfast and dinner with wine
- ✓ Return flights from London Stansted, other airports on request and coach travel
- ✓ Steam activities and excursions as detailed in the itinerary online
- ✓ Services of a Brightwater Holidays tour manager

CALL TODAY ON
0133 444 1830
QUOTE F0203

thetimes.co.uk/scottishsteam

Second home owners are fuelling global warming
Catrina Davies
Page 24

Comment

We're too selfish to stop the virus spreading

The 'me' generation can't be relied on to self-isolate so the government should be willing to take more draconian steps



Clare Foges
@CLAREFOGES

Where is the needle flickering on your coronavirus-o-meter: horizontally relaxed? Mild concern? End-of-days panic? Last week I was snorting at a Mumsnet user's list of the essentials she was stockpiling in case of a long period in isolation: "olive oil, hummus, body lotion, Pringles …" By the weekend I was eyeing the tinned goods aisle in Sainsbury's. The World Health Organisation says the window of opportunity to contain the virus is narrowing. Mecca is closed to foreign pilgrims, Venice has pulled the carnival, Iran cancelled Friday prayers. There are 36 cases here at the time of writing. I am reassured by friends' predictions that this will be another here today, gone tomorrow Sars or swine flu; then I remember they know as much about pandemics as I do about quantum computing.

My central concern about our response to coronavirus is not that the NHS will be overstretched, or that researchers will take too long finding a vaccine. It is that we, the general population, are not inclined to follow orders any more. To contain this virus governments around the world must rely on citizens doing as they are told: "Avoid large gatherings", "Don't travel unless essential", "Self-isolate". My fear is that our safety net is the willingness of other people to respect authority whether it suits them or not; to place the common good over their own busy agenda. In the age of entitlement, the age of the individual, the age of anti-establishment populism, this seems a very flimsy safety net indeed.

Decades ago governments could depend on a largely obedient public. Wartime public information campaigns resounded with Old Testament authority: Dig for Victory! Make Do and Mend! The people listened: 1.4 million allotments sprang up during the Second World War; the elimination of waste became a moral crusade. Lord Beaverbrook's promise to "turn your pots and pans into Spitfires and Hurricanes" led to a huge national scrap drive, cupboards ransacked for colanders and kettles to stick it to Hitler. The civilian effort was underpinned by trust in authority.

Respect for our 'betters' was smashed by the MPs' expenses scandal

The man in Whitehall really did know best and when he spoke people listened. "Elders and betters" was not a laughable anachronism but a genuine description.

Then came the decline of deference, the rise of satire, Sixties liberalism, 21st-century narcissism, the "me" generation who ask not what they can do for their country but what their country can do for them. What small reserves of respect our "betters" still held were smashed away by the one-two punch of the financial crisis and the MPs' expenses scandal. Brexit was a great "screw you" to the so-called establishment, a signal that the days of dependably obedient citizens were gone. Now that trust and respect in politicians runs so low, now that decades of individualism have encouraged us to believe that we as unique individuals are what matters over the herd, are enough people going to follow inconvenient orders for the common good — especially when those orders come from ministers who many think are inept or corrupt anyway?

We have already seen the danger that disobedient citizens pose to public health. Across the land there are anti-vaxxers and their idiot acolytes who believe they know better than medical authorities because they have watched a few videos on YouTube. Still, though, their own little darlings are likely to be protected whether they had the vaccine or not, thanks to all the other children who have been jabbed. The I'm-all-right-Jack anti-vaxxers embody the selfish conclusion of individualism: a disinclination to suffer any sacrifice for the sake of the herd.

This is not to tarnish us all with the brush of selfishness, but it only takes a small number to spread the virus and already we are seeing how some find a certain level of inconvenience intolerable. In the Tenerife hotel where scores of Britons are stuck in their rooms waiting the quarantine out, several people have been photographed flouting the lockdown, stretched out beside the pool in facemask and bikini. "There may be a pandemic, Graham, but I'm not going home whiter than a milk bottle!"

Last month Alla Ilyina, a Russian citizen, escaped a coronavirus quarantine in St Petersburg and posted a video about her getaway on Instagram in which she declared: "I have a right to my freedom …" Ilyina could not understand why, having tested negative for the virus, she was being forced to stay in isolation for a further two weeks; the opinion of medical professionals that she was still a potential risk to others could not outweigh her desire for liberty.



Matt Raw celebrates as he leaves the virus quarantine facility in the Wirral

The case has echoes of the US nurse Kaci Hickox, who worked in Sierra Leone during the ebola outbreak of 2014. Returning home via Newark airport she was found to have a fever, and so was held in quarantine for three days. Hickox complained of "inhumane" treatment (which included internet access and takeaway food) and sued the governor of New Jersey for violating her civil rights. The case was settled in her favour.

How long before someone who is quarantined here makes a civil rights moment out of it? I noticed that one of the men leaving the isolation facility in the Wirral raised his fist to the sky like Nelson Mandela leaving Robben Island. Cry freedom!

The proliferation of rights and conveniences has made many of us rather self-indulgent creatures. We think we are entitled to travel on planes whatever the dangers; we think we will self-isolate after we've run those vital errands; we think the advice to stay home if we're feeling flu-like symptoms applies to everyone else; we think we should get a second opinion in A&E; we think we know best.

For these reasons the government must quickly open the box of measures which some will call draconian: close schools and other public services if necessary, ban large gatherings such as sporting events, be prepared to quarantine whole towns and cities — as they did in China. Yes, this will be pounced upon by Liberty and civil rights groups and football fans and parents and media commentators crying that "the Blitz didn't stop us, did it?" But the government must show some mettle. However puny the death rate sounds, we must remember that this statistic means people ripped from the heart of their families before time; black grief that might have been avoided.

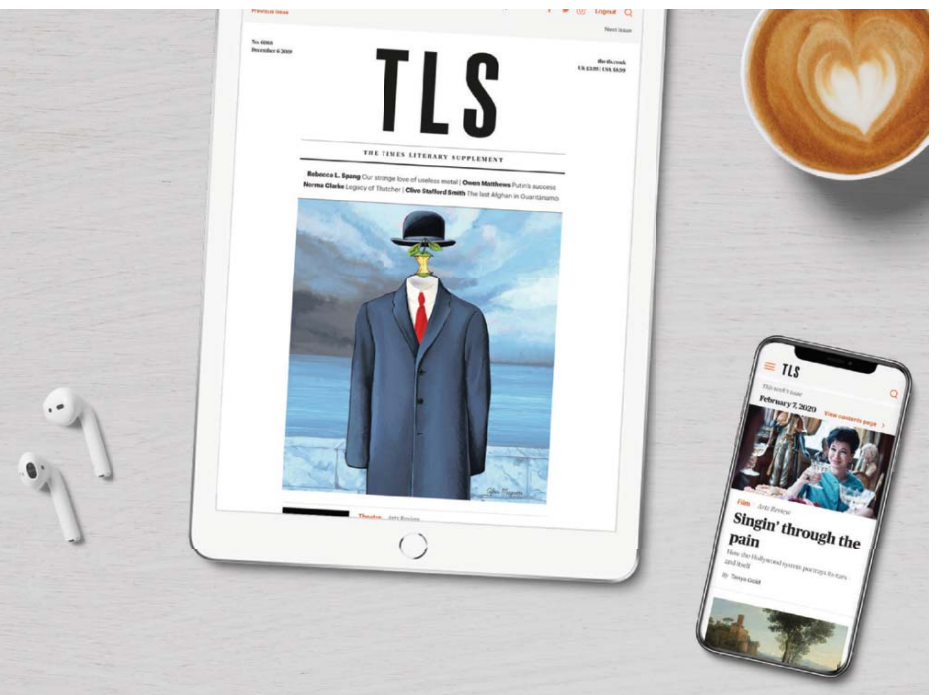
"Keep Calm and Carry On" might have worked in the days of a more obedient public, but in this individualistic age the government must be prepared to take forceful measures to slow the spread of coronavirus. It is better for us all to be safe — though inconvenienced — than sorry.

RED BOX
For the best analysis and commentary on the political landscape
thetimes.co.uk

Digital sale
6 weeks for £6

Is it a good time to be a black writer? What does the burqa actually mean? Discuss, decipher and delve into it all with a TLS digital subscription. And get access to 118 years of leading ideas, updated every week.

Visit the-tls.co.uk/subscribe or call 0800 028 5355



Visit the-tls.co.uk/terms-conditions for full T&Cs. Offer ends March 15, 2020.

Comment

Stamping out corruption is a losing battle

East European kleptocracies can only be tackled with a focus on prevention rather than cure



Edward Lucas

@EDWARDLUCAS

Tomorrow I will be acting as a tourist guide on a bus journey around London. The Kleptocracy Tour, organised by a Russian activist called Roman Borisovich, visits the hotspots of our capital's shameful money-laundering and influence-peddling industry. As a witness to the still-unpublished Intelligence and Security Committee report on Russia, I will be outlining, safely out of earshot of libel lawyers, the grip that foreign plutocrats and their local cronies have on our financial and political system.

Few would have anticipated this 30 years ago. After the fall of the Iron Curtain the ex-communist countries had huge amounts of outside help. Their populations are well educated and their economies are growing but progress on corruption has been modest. According to rankings published by Transparency International, a lobbying and research outfit, the former Soviet empire and ex-Yugoslavia are beaten only by sub-Saharan Africa.

This is not because sleaze is popular. In Slovakia's general election on Saturday, Ordinary People, a new anti-corruption party, won a thumping victory. Voters are still incensed by the murder two years ago of a journalist, Jan Kuciak, and his fiancée, Martina Kusnirova, both 27. Kuciak had been investigating ties between leading Slovak business and political figures and the Italian 'Ndrangheta mafia. Last year Slovaks elected Zuzana Caputova, an admirable anti-corruption lawyer, as president.

The puzzle is that neither voting for sleazebusting politicians, nor the strenuous efforts of international do-gooders, seems to have much effect. A leading expert on this issue is Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, a Romania-born academic now living in Berlin. Her book *Europe's Burden* should be compulsory reading for decision-makers everywhere and particularly in Brussels and Washington DC. She starts by highlighting Switzerland. The Alpine confederation is a byword for good government, having solved the "state-building challenge

> China, like Russia, has no interest in curbing these corrupt practices

of our time" with an impartial public administration that balances the interests of linguistic, ethnic, regional and economic interests to promote the general good.

This popular conception is of course bunk. Eighteenth-century Switzerland was a byword for strife and corruption, where public offices were routinely sold and embezzlement was not a crime. There were no useable roads, schools or hospitals, because nobody wanted to pay for them. The state's only source of income was arbitrary fines. What changed then was not a national awakening but Napoleon. He used French occupation to install a constitution, known as the Act of Mediation, which established a workable federal structure and civic freedoms, shaping the prosperous future of the country.

The big puzzle is why such Napoleonic rule-setting interventions have worked so rarely since. Outside involvement, paradoxically, seems to make matters worse. Western experts usually recommend creating a powerful anti-corruption agency. But in many countries it becomes a magnet for malpractice. These agencies typically have special powers of surveillance, arrest and confiscation; such rights to cut corners are lucrative. They easily become politicised. Critics and opposition figures are penalised, cronies left untouched. Making western aid conditional on vigorous prosecution of corruption has failed too. Greedy politicians and officials become expert in gaming the system. The misuse of EU agricultural subsidies and infrastructure funds in some east European countries is scandalous: investigating such issues cost Jan Kuciak his life. Warnings about this to paymasters in Brussels have fallen on deaf ears for too long.

Political competition works surprisingly badly too. Voters, given the choice, will opt for politicians who proclaim their honesty. But the lesson of the past 30 years in eastern Europe is that incoming elites are either ineffective or actively aim to inherit the privileges of the kleptocrats they displace. The victor of the Slovak election, Igor Matovic, is an eccentric tycoon who runs his party as a one-man band. That does not inspire confidence.

The key to the problem, says Mungiu-Pippidi, is to focus on prevention rather than cure. Prosecuting the givers and takers of bribes is time-consuming, costly and prone to failure. Rich people hire good lawyers and finding incontrovertible proof is hard. Much better to re-engineer the system so as to reduce opportunities for corruption. The real index of progress is not who gets prosecuted for bribery but who in the civil service gets fired for not running the system properly. Removing administrative privileges and concessions in the economy cuts off a big source of corruption. Transparency helps too. Public tendering for contracts shows who gets what. So does putting budgets for public services online so everyone can see where the money is spent.

This has worked in Estonia and, despite some recent backsliding, Georgia. It could work elsewhere too. Once corruption becomes the exception rather than the rule it is easier to deal with. But Mungiu-Pippidi and I are not optimistic. The role of western companies in paying bribes, and western banks in recycling them, has blunted the moral force of our strictures. Worse, we are no longer the only rule-setter. China, like Russia, has no interest in curbing corruption. On the contrary, these countries stoke it: murk enables them to advance their geopolitical interests. And not only in emerging countries, as my bus trip will highlight.

Sathnam Sanghera Notebook

Don't laugh, but I used to say the 't' in mortgage

I was between meetings the other day when I received a series of panicked messages from my middle niece. "This is urgent," they began. "Can you send me a voice note, telling me how you pronounce 'scarce'." I didn't understand the urgency, but did as instructed and eventually discovered the reason for her distress: she had given a presentation at university in which she had repeatedly mispronounced "scarce" as "sc-arse".

Initially, I almost forgot to offer consolation, so caught up did I become in my own horrific memories of similar mistakes — pronouncing the j in "fajita", for instance, and the t in "mortgage". But I remembered my duties as an uncle and told her what I had learnt about such errors: they were simply a reflection of the fact the person had learnt the words through reading rather than hearing. More often than not such errors are a symptom of social mobility and a subsequent discussion on Twitter confirmed the fact.

Caitlin Moran recalled pronouncing "autodidact" as "autodidiact" until she was 19 — because she'd only ever read it in books. The comedian Jenny Colgan said she still burnt with shame at having talked of eating "pissa" 40 years ago, while the DJ Bobby Friction said he pronounced "Svengali" "Swen-anjooly" for years until his wife corrected him in his thirties. Meanwhile, others offered memories of pronouncing "womb" to rhyme with "bomb", "awry" as "or-ry", "subsididence" instead of "subsidence" and, my favourite, "Julian Lasagne" instead of "Julian Assange". I hope that, by the end of the list, my niece was no longer feeling apologetic about her mistake — or as someone out there is probably mispronouncing it, "apologletic".



Road rage

A study has found that owners of more expensive vehicles are less considerate drivers. Apparently, people with flash cars are, among other things, less likely to stop at zebra crossings — possibly, researchers speculate, because they tend to be less capable of empathy. But having driven more than my share of supercars in the course of work, I don't believe a word of it. In my experience, drivers of posh cars are more careful than most: when you're driving a Rolls-Royce worth more than the average house, you're more than aware that the slightest graze could cost tens of thousands.

Moreover, I think I understand how this study arrived at its absurd conclusion: when you're driving a flash car, people often assume the worst of you. I remember driving through Woodstock in a Ferrari I was test driving for a magazine when a parent with a pram started shouting at me for speeding. I wasn't: I was doing about seven miles an hour. It's just that the bright red colour scheme and the ferocious engine made it look and sound like I was doing 120mph.

Seat grief

I expected to loathe the Globe's new production of the 1657 play *Women Beware Women*. I have unhappy memories of studying the plays of Thomas Middleton at school, the plot is about as comprehensible as an anecdote told by a toddler and it looked like it would be the wokest of productions: women playing men, black men somehow having blonde nieces, the whole thing seemingly set in the foyer of Trump Tower. But it was excellent: the performances really brought the text alive, and a seemingly insane story about incest, rape and power felt relevant to an age in which the US president has made lascivious comments about his own daughter ("Don't you think my daughter's hot? She's hot, right?") and the Weinstein case has shown how rape victims can feel pressured into keeping on social terms with their attackers.

My only complaint: the seats. Sitting for two hours on wooden benches, built making use of 17th-century plans for a theatre, with no back support, proved more tormenting than the spin class I tried in January. If directors are going to set Jacobean plays in the modern age then how about this for a deal: they ensure the seating is modern too.

Prize tweet

Tweet of the month from @MooseAllain: "Apparently there's a prize for non-fiction. You couldn't make it up!"

THUNDERER

Owners of second homes are fuelling global warming

Catrina Davies

Second homes are bad. We know this. It's why there's such a thing as the Cornwall Community Foundation, a charity set up by second home owners to make them feel better about destroying communities, perpetuating gross economic inequality and contributing to the housing crisis. But there's something missing from this guilt list, something rarely mentioned in the context of housing: climate change.

Second home ownership has risen by almost a third in 20 years. In 2018 two thirds of all the houses sold around Padstow (David Cameron's occasional abode) were bought for second homes. The Resolution Foundation has estimated that one in ten Britons owns a second home while four in ten own no property at all. In some parts of Pembrokeshire 70 per cent of the houses are second homes. No coincidence, perhaps, that Cornwall and west Wales are the two most economically deprived regions in northern Europe.

So far, so depressing, but what's it got to do with climate change? First, wasted energy. I grew up in west Cornwall, working as an author, musician and occasional gardener and cleaner but I can only afford to stay there as an adult by living in a shed with no insulation and no central heating. I found it deeply dispiriting therefore when I went to clean someone's second home on a Saturday morning in December to find the five-bed house, which has been empty for four months, 15C warmer than my own place.

I found that the oil-fired boiler was linked to a thermostat which was set to 19C. Walking home I noticed the vents belonging to all the empty houses on the cliff chuffing out steam like Thomas the Tank Engine. I assume it's because granite cottages smell damp if they're not lived in.

I don't have a fridge, partly because they cost a lot in electricity and partly because HFCs, the chemicals used in fridges and air conditioning, are up to 9,000 times more warming for the atmosphere than CO_2. Yet all the empty houses have family-sized fridge freezers and I've only ever had one client turn theirs off when the house is empty. Most second homes have lights that come on automatically every night and winking burglar alarms.

Incredibly, 6,650 of Cornwall's 8,808 registered holiday lets pay zero towards local services. The most recent study in July 2018 estimates that Cornwall council loses £13 million in tax revenue because of second homes. Set this against the council's projected budget deficit of £17.3 million by 2023-24. Factor in a promise to spend £16 million tackling climate change, and weep.

Catrina Davies is the author of Homesick: Why I Live in a Shed, published by Riverrun



Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.co.uk or call 020 7711 7826

Giving up a career is a choice not a sacrifice

A judge's decision to award an extra £400,000 to a divorcée because she opted out of work sends a depressing message

Libby Purves



@LIB_THINKS

Always good to learn a new legal concept: this week it is "relationship-generated disadvantage". Maybe we should call it RGD. In what may become a landmark divorce case, a wife and mother married for ten years was awarded not only an equal share of the couple's assets (nearly £10 million) but an extra £400,000. This, her lawyer said, was because she "sacrificed a potentially lucrative career for her family and to care for children".

Both the partners were London solicitors, now in their forties. He carried on, earning well; she, a Cambridge graduate, did not. At no point has anybody suggested coercion was involved. Nor can we know, despite the high family income, exactly how much home help this particular mother had or how much her unsolicitorly life pained her.

The judge, Mr Justice Moor, accepted the idea of a sacrifice and used the RGD phrase. He accepted it was unusual to pay for it but took the view that in such circumstances the principle of compensation does exist in family law as well as the usual principles of fair sharing, child maintenance and future needs. "In theory, this would apply to whichever partner steps back in their career, putting family ahead of ambition and earning power," the woman's lawyer said afterwards.

The judge did caution that the award should not open the floodgates for "relationship-generated disadvantage" claims. I bet it will, even though not every career is as predictably an upward slant as that of a Cambridge-educated solicitor. Other partners will step forward in

> A strong theme of our century is that women empower themselves

the miserable tangle of divorce, pointing out what they have lost, or might have, as a result of being part of a family. Stretch it a bit and we all could. Only a few years ago there was another case where the word "sacrifice" was used of a wife's career: this one was between a former finance director and her accountant husband, a high-flying tax specialist. Lord Justice Ryder said then that the woman should be "compensated" for losing a career, but there's a crucial difference: that couple had married as long ago as 1983. This new case falls well within our century, in which a strong theme has been insistence on the right of women to empower ourselves and make free choices. And, the unspoken coda adds, to take the consequences.

There were differences between being a bride in 1983 and in 2010. Different opportunities, stronger public role models, adjusted husbandly expectations. If the man's career takes precedence today it is assumed to be by agreement. Same the other way round. If a single income is good enough to support you all, it is not unreasonable for one parent to choose a period of "economic inactivity" or part-time work to raise children or indeed to support a partner's stressful career (I never forget the wife of a former Bank of England governor explaining to me what that support role was like. It definitely sounded like work).

The court's ruling felt like another poke in the ribs for our sense of individual independence and responsibility. Firstly, it takes without questioning the corrosive modern belief that money is the only measure. This creed pops up everywhere: in arguments about graduate salaries, in the obscenity of inflated CEO salaries even in charities and universities, and in the charlatanism of the modern art Damien Hirst-osphere where an object's sale price is far more interesting than itself.

Thus in a saner society "relationship-generated disadvantage" could be reversed. You could argue that the partner in a long-hours job, commuting, dealing with troublesome clients and bringing work home, makes a sacrifice of

> You could argue that a partner in a long-hours job is losing out more

parenthood and domesticity: a disadvantage. Some genuinely relish being a breadwinner with prestige and interesting work, but others feel the strain and pain more than is generally admitted. Though they may be near their sixties with children gone before it hits them.

Meanwhile the spouse who lawyers say "sacrificed" being a solicitor may actually have led a rather charming decade. There's fun in watching children grow up in a nice home without financial worries. There may be lazy coffee meetings and school-gate friendships, time for Pilates and community and haircuts and a degree of control over your day not always enjoyed by high-flyers. As for the frustrating sense of captivity and untapped potential which all mothers — and presumably househusbands — feel at times, if we're honest we have to admit that in a smallish family that purdah doesn't last for many years. Possibly not enough to earn us £400,000.

The second reason the ruling depresses me is embedded in the old marriage service: for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health. We all know it may not last till death but the attempt is clear. On that flowery day you are taking on not only a delightful individual in the present, but that person in the future. Hoping for relationship-related advantages you tacitly admit that there could be illness, poverty and whatever else you interpret as "for worse". Fortunately, these days you can get out if it is unbearable. But the intention is there.

And, in a companionate 21st-century marriage, so is the presumption that you both have choices. If one gets a surprise distant job offer which will torpedo yours, it has to be discussed. If childrearing becomes unexpectedly tricky and there's enough money for one to step down a bit, it has to be discussed. There will be sacrifices because no living partnership is without them. It's not up to lawyers to monetise them.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Cost of alcohol

Sir, Today is a cause for celebration as minimum unit pricing (MUP) is introduced in Wales. One in 20 deaths in Wales is linked to alcohol and the introduction of this targeted measure will go a long way to save lives. Yet in England the government continues to drag its feet in the battle to tackle alcohol harm. The latest NHS England figures reveal that alcohol-related hospital admissions have risen 60 per cent in a decade.

Despite these alarming statistics, Westminster chooses to ignore this mounting crisis. Meanwhile Scotland, which introduced MUP almost two years ago, is already seeing a slowdown in alcohol consumption, meaning that fewer lives will be lost to drink.

Introducing MUP in England is predicted to save 525 lives annually, yet Westminster continues to stall in taking this very easy first step in fighting alcohol harm.

Professor Sir Ian Gilmore
Chairman, Alcohol Health Alliance

Got the needle

Sir, We have no sources to tell us who made the Bayeux Tapestry. However, most scholars agree that it was made in Norman England, probably by Anglo-Saxon embroiderers. As part of the EU negotiations ("We will not be blackmailed for sake of trade deal, French warn Boris Johnson", Times online, Feb 25) I trust the UK will insist on this being returned to us.

Keith Atkinson
Teddington

Tough choice

Sir, Reading "One in ten parents admits having a favourite child" (Feb 29) reminded me of how clever my parents were. After their deaths, reminiscences established that each of the three of us believed that they were the favourite child. I'm certain my two brothers were wrong.

Sue Guest
Hapsford, Cheshire

Corrections and clarifications

● Benjamin Pogrund has asked us to clarify that he did not, as we stated, keep the tapes of his interview with Harold Strachan (obituary, Feb 17) about South African prison conditions as "a souvenir". They were retained on the instructions of the chief legal adviser of the *Rand Daily Mail*. The "key exhibit" in Strachan's trial was not the tapes, but a combination of the transcripts and the published interview.

IPSO Regulated

***The Times* takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent by email to feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF**

Priti Patel and anger at the Home Office

Sir, It comes as little surprise that Sir Philip Rutnam has resigned as permanent secretary at the Home Office. Officials there have consistently obstructed the aims of the government in getting us out of the EU and prevented the government from introducing stricter immigration rules. I know this because I was tasked in 2006 with bringing in a points-based system by Sir Mark Sedwill, now the cabinet secretary. It's taken a mere 14 years for officialdom to wake up to the need for controlled immigration. Some of them still don't get it. Civil servants exist to do their political masters' bidding. To obstruct and obfuscate is not on.

Christopher Wilton
Former ambassador to Kuwait and consul-general to Dubai

Sir, I spent the first half of the Eighties as an official and the second half as a minister. While I was an official (special adviser and chairman of the Manpower Services Commission) I was under no illusion that my role was to provide advice to my minister, who could accept or reject it. Occasionally, while I was a secretary of state (for employment and at the Department of Trade and Industry) an official would come to tell me that I couldn't do something I wanted and I would invariably reply "What a pity, could we meet this time tomorrow and you can tell me how we can?" And they always did. Officials often have their own ideas and try it on with their minister (I know I did) but in the end it is the minister's sole responsibility. No matter what officials may think, it is not their decision.

Lord Young of Graffham
House of Lords

Sir, The circumstance of the departure of the Home Office permanent secretary echoes a similar situation that arose after the arrival of the Blair government in 1997. Then, as now, a new government took power with a large majority and a radical agenda. But at that time the focus of dissatisfaction among new ministers with their departments, at least publicly, was on media handling. Within a short time nearly a dozen Whitehall heads of information left their jobs. Key aspects of their work were taken over by special advisers, party zealots parachuted in to the civil service. This of course clashed with civil service ethos, which is to advise upon, explain and implement government policy but not to sell it or criticise those who disagree with it. This time round it is a permanent secretary who is first to go so the ramifications will be greater. But the underlying issue remains the same. Perhaps, at last, this is the moment to address it and find a solution.

Dermod Hill
Salisbury

Sir, I found in my working career that "upwards appraisal" where staff gave anonymous but measured critiques of superiors without fear of retaliation, resulted in improved working environments, even if it is derided as a sop to political correctness. Good managers took notice of their perceived shortcomings or arranged meetings to resolve misapprehensions about their approach. Poor managers were asked to review their stance to staff and the recalcitrant ones were often eased out. I wonder whether such a useful system is employed at the Home Office.

Terence Davison
Ash Vale, Surrey

Sir, The top civil servant at the Home Office has accused Priti Patel of creating a climate of fear. Good luck to him but Sir Philip Rutnam was willing enough to implement the Conservatives' "hostile environment" when the target was immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It's clearly not so much fun when you're the one forced to live in a hostile environment.

Sasha Simic
London N16

Defending dean

Sir, As a member of Christ Church's governing body, I write to correct two misleading points made to Andrew Billen by our formal representatives ("The Oxford college, the assault, and the dean who was suspended", *Magazine*, Feb 29).

First, the cause of our civil war is presented as Martyn Percy's "request for a sizeable salary increase" over and above his current "six-figure sum". The implication of a greedy motive by the dean is untrue. The relevant correspondence, confirmed by the impartial judgment of Sir Andrew Smith, makes it abundantly clear that Dr Percy was seeking an explanation as to why the office of Christ Church's dean, the only Oxbridge head with dual responsibility for both a cathedral and a college, was among the more poorly remunerated. For six months Dr Percy sought a decent explanation, but in vain.

Second, Christ Church's representatives say that there is "no link between safeguarding and the pay dispute". That is also untrue. There is documentary evidence that Dr Percy's insistence on proper safeguarding (and job descriptions) was perceived as problematic by some of his colleagues.

Christ Church is an iconic national institution that needs to flourish. But if it is ever to do so, its governing body must be persuaded to take an unsparing look at its own conduct. The dean is not the problem, and getting rid of him won't solve it.

Nigel Biggar
Christ Church, Oxford

Sir, Christ Church college was not the only Oxford institution that Evelyn Waugh satirised. In *Decline and Fall* he satirised the Bullingdon Club under the name of the Bollinger Club. The dons gave tacit approval to the Bollinger's acts of vandalism because the fines that the dons then exacted paid for Founder's port, to be drunk at high table.

Robert Rhodes, QC
Outer Temple Chambers

Wrong message to send to the young

Sir, While I admire the dedication of Extinction Rebellion, I also worry when I see an adult holding up a placard saying "At this point education is pointless" ("Police roll out green carpet for Greta to address school strikers", Feb 29.) No wonder so many children are scared witless about the future. Instead of being told endlessly that grown-ups have stolen their future, it might help children more if they were given a positive message that they could train as scientists and environmentalists to work with those who are already dedicating their lives to finding solutions to help save the planet.

Jill Hazell
Bristol

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

DOWNTRODDEN AMERICAN MEN

FROM THE TIMES MARCH 2, 1920

The women of America are undergoing the novel experience of being criticized for their acceptance of servile homage from man, their extravagance and their political irresponsibility. Leo Tolstoy, the grandson of the Russian sage, tells them that their attitude towards life provoked the spirit which led to the war in Europe. Senior Vicente Blasco Ibanez, the Spanish novelist, after three months' residence informs them that they have made slaves of their husbands; while Mr A Mitchell Palmer, the United States Attorney-General, has imperilled his prospects as a Presidential candidate by bluntly lecturing a fashionable audience of New York ladies on their prodigality in the matter of clothes.

Senor Ibanez, at Philadelphia yesterday, made the following observations to the men of the University Club: "Every American man is a coward before woman. The conditions under which American men live and labour are almost the same as in prehistoric days, when men were warriors and hunters, going out to chase the boar and other animals for food, while their women stayed at home minding the kitchen and the children. The only differences now are that the American man chases dollars instead of wild animals, and his wife does not mind the household, but goes shopping or to a matinee instead. If the American man is poor he comes home at night after a hard day of dollar chasing and has to be housekeeper as well; he cooks the food, and washes the dishes." The chorus of protests raised by his auditors did not deter Senor Ibanez, who proceeded: "As a Spaniard, let me tell you American men something. What your country needs is a second emancipator; your women are tired of excessive adulation. I have dined with them many times in Paris; they would give dinners in my honour, and I would be the only man present. At dessert I would say: 'Ladies, there's no one to hear us. Tell me frankly, do you like all this bowing and scraping? Aren't you sick of it?' Wholeheartedly they would answer: 'Si, Senor, we are disgusted with it. We should like to be dominated for a change."

Senor Ibanez ended his daring tirade by advising American men to "treat them a little roughly once in a while."

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Keeping calm

Sir, Philip Aldrick brings a welcome dose of common sense and perspective to the coronavirus threat ("It's not coronavirus we should fear but the sense of panic that it causes", Business online, Feb 29). He enjoins readers to not panic. Far worse things have afflicted the human race. I am old enough to remember wartime advice to keep alert, not panic and continue as normal, advice I intend to follow during a Rome visit next week. I doubt today's virus will ever be as grave a crisis as then faced. I do, however, feel that appropriate gestures by our political leaders might help. Just as his hero Winston Churchill raised morale by visits to bomb sites, so might Boris Johnson act appropriately to raise spirits. The same might be said of the US president, who plays down the seriousness of the threat.

John Kidd
Brisbane, Australia

Sir, One of the unfortunate outcomes of coronavirus is likely to be the discouragement and eventual ban of the polite handshake. On the upside, it will mean that the unpleasant lunge to give a "man hug" will also disappear, hopefully never to return.

Robin Hay
Newmarket

Sir, My self-isolation will commence on March 5 to coincide with the publication of Hilary Mantel's third volume on the life of Thomas Cromwell (912 pages). Could Johanna Thomas-Carr (Book review, *Times* online, Feb 25) please confirm whether 14 days will be sufficient?

Rachel Bond
Norwich

Detecting foul play

Sir, the idea of metal detectorists who "plunder" historic sites (News, Feb 28) is anathema to those, like myself and my fellow club members, who follow a very strict code of conduct in the pursuit of our hobby and would never leave holes unrepaired. The holes featured in your article would appear to be made by animals, not detectorists, given their shape and size. These nighthawkers are no more than treasure hunters of the Indiana Jones variety and we would distance ourselves from them immediately. However, we might identify with the characters portrayed in the television programme *The Detectorists*, written by and featuring Mackenzie Crook.

Gordon Tyerman
Discoverers Metal Detecting Club
Guildford

Gently does it

Sir, Ann Treneman's definition of a villanelle (Notebook, Feb 28) was accurate but perhaps a little dry. To bring it to life, I recommend a reading of Dylan Thomas's address to his ailing father *Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night*. It is a form of poem that I think suits the English language well, especially in hands as dextrous as Thomas's.

Stephen Moon
Bedford

Name that storm

Sir, May we hope, in view of our departure from the EU, that in future we can name our own storms? Relying on the Irish or Spanish met offices hardly seems in keeping with our newfound freedom.

Bob Clark
Rickinghall, Suffolk

Daily Universal Register

UK: Boris Johnson chairs a Cobra meeting about the coronavirus outbreak.
Belgium: UK and EU officials begin trade negotiations in Brussels.

Nature notes



March sees wrens coming out of the brambles and bracken and other undergrowth where they spent the winter. They now begin to sit and sing their loud, impassioned refrain of clear, sharp notes and rapid trills from higher, much more visible song posts, such as the top of a wall. They generally end a burst of song with a noticeably long trill. Now you can get good views of the wren's plump, barred, reddish-brown body, its cocked tail and its white eye stripe. It will sometimes challenge another wren in a song duel, waving its wings at it, then chasing it wildly through the air. Two wrens will also fight each other with their beaks, up among the branches. After the mild winter they are doing well, and there may be eight million spring breeding territories. DERWENT MAY

Birthdays today



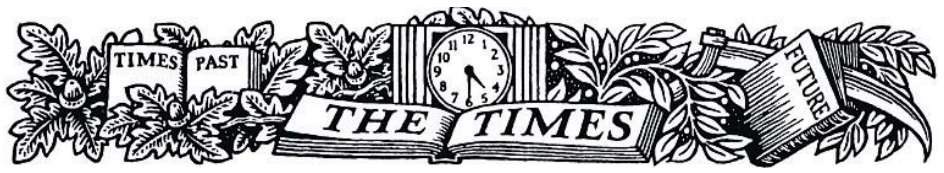
Mikhail Gorbachev, *pictured*, president of the Soviet Union (1990-91), 89; **Alexander Armstrong**, comedian, actor, TV presenter, *Pointless* (since 2009), 50; **Pat Arrowsmith**, peace campaigner and poet (*Dark Light*, 2009), 90; **Daniel Craig**, actor, *Spectre* (2015), 52; **Kevin Curren**, tennis player who lost to Boris Becker in the 1985 Wimbledon men's singles final, 62; **Nathalie Emmanuel**, actress, *Game of Thrones* (2013-17), 31; **Laird Hamilton**, big-wave surfer, co-inventor of tow-in surfing, 56; **John Irving**, novelist, *The Cider House Rules* (1985), 78; **Elizabeth Jagger**, model, 36; **Dame Naomi James**, author and yachtswoman, the first woman to sail solo around the world via Cape Horn, 71; **Jon Bon Jovi**, rock singer, *Livin' on a Prayer* (1986), 58; **Ricardo Lagos**, president of Chile (2000-06), 82; **George Layton**, actor, *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* (1974-75), 77; **Chris Martin**, singer, Coldplay, *A Head Full of Dreams* (2015), 43; **Stephen Parry**, swimmer, Olympic bronze medallist (2004), 43; **Sir John Peace**, lord-lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, chairman of Burberry (2002-18), 71; **Prof Philip Plowden**, vice-chancellor and chief executive, Birmingham City University, 59; **Mauricio Pochettino**, footballer, Argentina (1992-2002), and football manager, Tottenham Hotspur, 48; **Lord (Mark) Price**, minister for trade policy (2016-17), deputy chairman, John Lewis Partnership (2013-16), 59; **James Purnell**, director, BBC radio and education, and former Labour cabinet minister, 50; **Harry Redknapp**, football manager, Queens Park Rangers (2012-15), 73; **Sir Andrew Strauss**, England cricket captain (2009-12) and managing director, England Cricket (2015-18), 43; **Sir John Tusa**, broadcaster, managing director, Barbican Centre (1995-2007), 84; **JPR Williams**, rugby union player, Wales (1969-81), and surgeon, 71; **Chris Woakes**, cricketer, Warwickshire and England, 31; **Ian Woosnam**, golfer, 62.

On this day

In **1958** the British Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs, completed the first surface crossing of Antarctica.

The last word

"Don't buy into the idea that women aren't strong enough to do anything they want on their own." Cher, singer and actress, *You* magazine interview (2010).



Get a Grip

The debacle at the Home Office is symptomatic of a government that is spread too thin. It needs to establish clear priorities and work with existing institutions

The government has been quick to circle the wagons around Priti Patel after the resignation of the top Home Office official at the weekend. It has sought to dismiss the allegations by Sir Philip Rutnam that the home secretary had bullied him and other officials as the complaints of an incompetent official who was implicated in the Windrush scandal and whose lack of grip had already cost the job of one Tory home secretary. Whether this is right and the department needed a shake-up, or whether Ms Patel is in fact a serial bully with a record of falling out with officials at previous departments, will now be up to the courts to decide as Sir Philip pursues his claim for constructive dismissal. It will also be up to Sir Mark Sedwill, the cabinet secretary, to investigate whether Ms Patel's behaviour towards officials breaches the ministerial code.

But to see the discord at the Home Office as simply a clash of personalities would be a mistake. It also raises troubling questions for the government about its approach to the historic challenges with which it is grappling. A government with an overwhelming majority may rightly think that it has a mandate for change. It is to be expected that such a government will be ambitious about the scale and speed of the transformation that it wants to effect. But the risk is that a regime in a hurry will go too far and try to do too much and so end up achieving much less than it could.

At least in part this appears to be lie behind recent events at the Home Office. This is a department that is charged with introducing a new points-based migration system by the end of the year, overseeing a radical overhaul of the UK Border Force, which is to double in size with the addition of 50,000 officers, overseeing the registration system for EU citizens to maintain their residency rights, and a reform of Britain's counterterrorism and security strategy. Any one of these dossiers would be a big undertaking for a government department in normal times. Sir Philip's falling out with Ms Patel stems in part from his warnings of the challenges of trying to do all at once and to such a tight timetable. The relationship further deteriorated when the two clashed over the Appeal Court's judgment halting the deportation of some foreign-born criminals.

Yet the Home Office's workload is just the tip of a vast iceberg of change with which this government must grapple. Much of that change is driven by Britain's exit from the European Union, which it is clear will have far-reaching consequences for almost every sector of Britain's economy, particularly as it seems possible the government may fail to secure a trade deal before the close of the transition period at the end of the year. Then there is the legally binding commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which in economic terms has the potential to be an even bigger shock than Brexit. As last week's Appeal Court judgment overturning the planning permission for Heathrow's third runway showed, this challenge must be confronted and can no longer be kicked into the long grass. Finally there is the government's levelling-up agenda by which it hopes to reduce regional inequalities. All of this may have to be delivered against the backdrop of a global health crisis that is rapidly becoming a global economic crisis.

There are already troubling signs that Boris Johnson and his colleagues may be stretching themselves too thinly. The prime minister needs to establish clear priorities and a realistic plan for tackling them. The existing institutions of state and the established machinery of the law may be sources of frustration to politicians determined to develop new ideas. But there is more to be gained by working with the civil service and through existing legal frameworks than by wasting energy trying to overthrow them all at once. Otherwise the Home Office debacle will not be the last.

Hasty Retreat

America should not rush to pull its troops out of Afghanistan

The end of any war, particularly one that has lasted as long as the conflict in Afghanistan, should be a moment if not of celebration then at least of optimism. But it is hard to find much to welcome in the "peace deal" agreed this weekend between the US and the Taliban after 18 years of fighting. The conflict which started after the September 11 attacks in 2001 has killed tens of thousands and cost more than $2 trillion. On Saturday, after a week of partial truce, the two sides signed a peace settlement that President Trump is determined will enable America to start bringing troops home before the election in November. Yet he should beware of rushing the process. That contains huge risks.

Under the terms of the deal, the US has agreed to withdraw its forces within 14 months if the Taliban stick to their commitments. That will start with a drawdown of American troops over 135 days, bringing them from about 12,000 to 8,000. In exchange the Taliban have promised to never again give shelter to terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda. They have also agreed to peace talks with Afghan politicians and community groups about how the country should be run. The pact further calls for prisoner swaps, including the release of some 1,000 Afghans in return for 5,000 Taliban fighters.

Mr Trump's wish to pull out his troops is understandable. The war has soaked up billions in cash and claimed more than 2,400 American lives. But, in his haste to meet the demands of the electoral cycle, the president may have conceded too much ground. He was not able, for example, to force the Taliban to end hostilities altogether before the deal was signed. Instead the group agreed only to a "significant" reduction in violence. That does not bode well for a future ceasefire. The outcome of the inter-Afghan talks is uncertain, too. The aim is a powersharing agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government. Yet that will be difficult, given that the Taliban reject the government's legitimacy.

A further risk is that the Taliban will simply renege on their commitments the minute American forces are out of the way. After all the organisation has few incentives to stick to a peace deal. In reward for escalating violence against their foes, the Taliban are now stronger than at any point since the conflict began. Besides, their central commanders may not even be able to control their disparate fighters. Even should the Taliban intend to keep their promises, their regional strongmen may have other ideas. The country's recent history, moreover, contains warnings. Last Saturday marked the anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989. The Moscow-backed government lasted just three years before it was toppled by mujahidin fighters. Civil war followed.

There are other dangers. Should the Taliban return to full power, they could reimpose Sharia as they did in the Nineties. That led to women being banned from employment and being publicly flogged or executed for breaking the Taliban's laws. Since US troops entered the country the number of Afghan children attending school has risen from one million to nine million. That progress risks being reversed.

Meanwhile Islamic State lurks in the background, waiting for a chance to increase its strength. Mr Trump has long blamed President Obama and his rushed withdrawal from Iraq in 2011 for the rise of the jihadists. He should beware of making similar mistakes.

Glass Half Full

Clarets that have been unaffordable for years may be about to get cheaper

Britain's love affair with claret goes back many centuries. Indeed this country has a good claim to have created the wine industry centred on Bordeaux thanks to the enthusiastic patronage of English kings, dating from Henry Plantagenet's marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine. England has remained one of the main export markets for claret ever since, with only brief interruptions for the occasional war, and sometimes not even then.

Yet over recent decades the world's finest wines have gone the way of central London property, becoming accessible almost exclusively to investors and to the global super-rich. The very finest châteaux will always be able to name their price, but there is no doubt that too many lesser producers, carried away by greed, have sought to emulate them. The result is that wines that would once have been drunk in middle-class homes now languish untasted in investors' vaults.

But can one dare to hope that this might soon change? We report today on the difficulties facing the Bordeaux wine trade. President Trump's 25 per cent tariffs on French wines have had a damaging effect on exports to the US. Chinese demand had been falling for several years even before the outbreak of the coronavirus. One château owner tells *The Times* that he has 70,000 unsold bottles in his cellar. When President Macron visited Bordeaux last week he was greeted by demands from winemakers for €300 million of state aid. Meanwhile one leading wine merchant argues that the châteaux need to cut their prices, perhaps by as much as 30 per cent, or face being pushed out of the market.

No one welcomes trade wars, economic downturn or coronavirus. But if falling prices allow us to console ourselves with wines that most British drinkers haven't been able to afford for many years, that will be some compensation.

World

Assad's jets shot down as Erdogan threatens invasion

Syria

Richard Spencer Beirut

Dogfights raged in the skies over northwest Syria yesterday, with two Assad regime fighter jets shot down by Turkey and three Turkish drones attacked in return.

President Erdogan threatened a full-blown invasion of Syria and indicated that he was determined to set up a Turkish-run "safe zone", after trying earlier to involve Europe and Nato by sending thousands of refugees to the border with Greece, where many became trapped in no-man's land.

Turkish armed forces, which have established bases across rebel-held Idlib, struck deep into regime territory in a series of attacks at the weekend. Last night 19 Syrian troops were killed when Turkish drones attacked their base near Maaret al-Numan city, Idlib, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The violence has escalated since 34 Turkish troops were killed in an airstrike on Thursday; Turkey responded with drone and artillery attacks, killing scores of Assad regime fighters and destroying at least two airfields. According to Ankara, a chemical weapons research facility near Aleppo was hit and two regime generals were killed.

The Assad regime confirmed yesterday that two of its Sukhoi Su-24 jets had been shot down by the Turkish air force, which is equipped with US-made F-16s. Russia is thought to have taken a decision to ground its warplanes in the area to allow Turkey to "regain face" and retaliate for Thursday's losses.

A key question last night, however, was how long President Putin would allow the regime to take punishment.

Under the cover of Turkey's strikes, rebel fighters and jihadists have staged a series of counter-attacks in recent days, reclaiming some of the ground lost to the regime offensive in Idlib. The Russian defence ministry said late last night that it "cannot guarantee the safety of Turkish flights in Syrian skies", but did not outright threaten retaliation. A Kremlin spokesman had said earlier that Mr Putin had finally agreed to meet President Erdogan this week.

There have been regular reports of Russian jets attacking Turkish positions and suspicions that they were behind Thursday's airstrikes. Ankara insisted that it had no grievance with Moscow. "We have neither the intention nor the notion to face Russia," Hulusi Akar, the defence minister, said. "Our only intention is for the regime to end the massacre and thereby prevent radicalisation and migration." He claimed that his troops had destroyed more than a hundred regime tanks, along with artillery and air defences. He called the incursion Operation Spring Shield, the aim of which could be to establish an area in northwestern Syria to keep Idlib's millions of civilians safe and stop them crossing the border.

Deepening Turkish involvement on the side of the rebels in Idlib, their last stronghold in Syria, has brought Ankara to its most dangerous confrontation with Moscow since November 2015, when a Russian jet was shot down as it crossed briefly into Turkish air space.

Mr Erdogan and Mr Putin agreed at that time to co-operate over Syria. Over the next three years they engineered several ceasefires; gradually the regime has retaken rebel-held, non-Kurdish territory, squeezing rebels and 3.5 million civilians into Idlib.

Mr Erdogan decided to take action in recent weeks as a million more refugees headed towards the border, acting on an earlier threat that if the regime did not withdraw to the 2018 ceasefire lines by March he would send in troops.

A counterattack by rebels, under the protection of Turkish drones, has retaken key towns, including Nayrab and Saraqeb. Regime air bases at Nayrab and Kweiris were hit by Turkish strikes.

The losses to regime forces have been significant: in Lebanon videos showed streams of minibuses bringing dead and injured Hezbollah fighters over the border and into the Bekaa valley. The militia group, an ally of the Assad regime, said yesterday that eight of its troops had been killed in the Turkish attacks. Five were buried with military honours in south Beirut yesterday afternoon.

Iran, which oversees the involvement of Hezbollah as well as Iraqi, Pakistani and Afghan Shia militias, warned Turkey yesterday through its "consultative centre in Syria", the first acknowledgement of such a body. It said that its fighters were under orders not to retaliate, but that could change: a reminder that Turkey's observation bases there are surrounded by regime forces.

Editor detained in Istanbul

Tensions between Ankara and Moscow spiked yesterday after an editor at a Kremlin-funded news agency was detained by the Turkish police.

Mahir Boztepe, editor-in-chief in Turkey of Sputnik, was taken into custody by police officers who also searched the news agency's office in Istanbul.

Mr Boztepe, a Turkish citizen, is being investigated on charges of "degrading the Turkish people, the Turkish state and state institutions", Turkish state media said.

He was arrested after protesters chanting nationalist slogans broke into an apartment in Ankara where three Sputnik journalists, all Turkish citizens, are based, the Russian foreign ministry said. They were unharmed and the police are investigating the incident.

Mr Boztepe was released from custody after Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, spoke to Mevlut Cavusoglu, his Turkish counterpart, by telephone.

Sputnik, citing diplomatic sources, said that Moscow would take retaliatory measures against Turkish media operating in Russia. It gave no other details.

Analysis

The tango that presidents Putin and Erdogan were performing over Syria was never very joyful, but over the weekend it became a veritable danse macabre (Richard Spencer writes). Scores of pro-Assad fighters died as the two men adjusted their clumsy military footwork.

After Turkey shot down a Russian warplane in 2015, the men shrank from full-blown combat against each other. They decided to pretend to be friends and that they were dealing in a grown-up manner with a shared problem in Syria.

Russia had to retain its influence in Assad-run Syria, Turkey to be protected from Syria's Kurds and to maintain the rebel position in the northwest.

Whenever either side has felt that balance was out of kilter, some Russians and Turks have died, but it has largely been Syrians who have paid the price.

Most recently, Assad's forces appeared to be on an unstoppable run towards the Turkish border, prompting a Turkish intervention. A raid on Turkish positions that killed 34 soldiers on Thursday accelerated that retaliation. Scores of pro-Assad fighters died while Russia stood back.

Mr Erdogan's goal is a buffer zone along the border to house 3.5 million civilians. That almost certainly includes the provincial capital, Idlib. A provincial capital is a prize President Assad is unlikely to relinquish lightly. His presence is where hopes for any swift, peaceful outcome to this latest round of fighting break down.



Migrants were forced to flee after Greek border guards deployed tear gas and

Athens orders troops

Greece

Anthee Carassava Athens
Hannah Lucinda Smith Samos

Greece sent more than a thousand soldiers to its border yesterday and accused Turkey of orchestrating a migrant crisis, as security forces clashed with hundreds of refugees trying to cross from Turkey.

The troops were deployed to the northeast to help contain the thousands of migrants who have massed there since President Erdogan cancelled a deal with the EU as he sought to leverage European backing for his escalating conflict against the Syrian regime of President Assad.

Around the town of Kastanies, security forces yesterday fired tear gas and water cannon at migrants trying to cross into Greece, who replied with volleys of sticks and stones. Local officials accused Turkey of aiding an "invasion" of refugees. "The pressure we are facing is unbearable," Panagiotis Karelas, head of the border guards in the area, said. "The other side is guiding these flows to the area and they are doing everything to help them push through."

Stelios Petsas, spokesman for the Greek government, said that the situation was "an active, serious, severe and asymmetrical threat to the national security of the country", adding: "These … people are being used by Turkey as pawns to exert diplomatic pressure."

Greece said that it had prevented nearly 10,000 people from entering over the weekend, but admitted that it was unable to stop all who had tried — 73 had managed to cross despite the restrictions, among them asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia. None were from Syria.

Stavros Tziamalidis, head of the Kastanies town council, said the migrants were being aided by the Turkish military. "We're seeing Turkish soldiers escorting them across, prying open barbed fences and guiding them along smugglers' trails, to cross the Evros

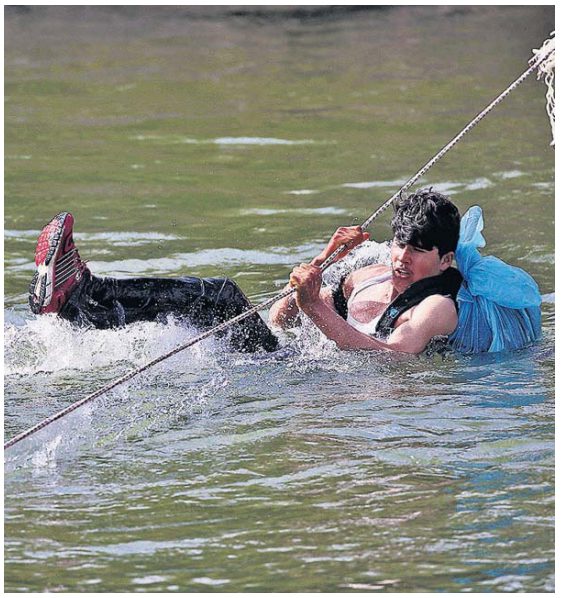


The World at Five
The nationalist tensions that threaten to destabilise Europe
In depth and online today at 5pm
thetimes.co.uk

ANADOLU AGENCY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; EPA







water cannon; a man uses a makeshift safety line to cross the Evros river; and, top, a Turkish airstrike on regime positions

Taliban accuse Kabul of breaking peace deal terms

Afghanistan

Hugh Tomlinson, Haroon Janjua

A Taliban commander has hit out at the Afghan government for refusing to hand over prisoners within a day of a landmark peace deal between the terror group and Washington.

It is hoped that the agreement will bring to an end America's longest war.

"This is a Taliban victory and face-saving for the Americans. It is a historic day that has given global legitimacy to the Taliban," one Taliban commander told *The Times*. "Our fighters will remain alert. We have seen that the puppet Kabul government has already refused to release Taliban prisoners. The Taliban will not support the current Kabul regime and will defend ourselves if there is any violation of the agreement."

As the US struck the peace deal that aims to end the 18-year conflict in Afghanistan, President Trump announced he would soon meet the Taliban leaders personally.

American troops and 1,100 British soldiers stationed in Afghanistan could be home by spring next year under the terms of the agreement signed in the Gulf state of Qatar on Saturday. The US withdrawal, which will begin within days, will open the way for talks between the Taliban and Afghan government to end the war that began with the American invasion after the attacks on the Twin Towers in 2001, cost $2 trillion (£1.5 trillion) and which has left tens of thousands dead.

Mr Trump hailed the deal. He said: "It's time for us to come home … We can't be the policeman for the world."

The Taliban will now demand a place in a power-sharing government in Kabul. The prospect of the Islamists returning to power, almost two decades after they were ousted in 2001, has left many in the US and Afghanistan uneasy. The Taliban government of the 1990s provided shelter for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda to plan the 9/11 attacks, and imposed a strict Islamic code that banned television, music and education for women.

Under the deal the insurgents have agreed to sever ties with al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. They will open talks this month with the Afghan government, which they have previously dismissed as an American puppet.

"This victory is the collective victory of the entire Muslim and Mujahid nation — of our fellow brothers and sisters who made … extraordinary sacrifices of life and wealth for nearly two decades," the group said yesterday.

"I really believe the Taliban wants to do something to show we're not all wasting time," Mr Trump said. "If bad things happen, we'll go back with a force like no one's ever seen."

However, President Ghani yesterday rejected a key component of the deal calling for the release of some 5,000 Taliban prisoners. The insurgents would in turn free about 1,000 hostages, most of them Afghans.

"There is no commitment to releasing 5,000 prisoners," Mr Ghani told a press conference in Kabul yesterday. "It could be included in the agenda of the intra-Afghan talks, but cannot be a prerequisite for talks."

There was sharp criticism of the deal in Washington. John Bolton, Mr Trump's former national security adviser, tweeted: "Signing this agreement with Taliban is an unacceptable risk to America's civilian population. This is an Obama-style deal. Legitimising Taliban sends the wrong signal to Isis and al-Qaeda terrorists, and to America's enemies generally."

However, Mr Trump said: "He had his chance, he didn't do it. He was very much in favour of going in — we should never have gone in in the first place."

Leading article, page 27

Behind the story

The Taliban built many legends as they emerged from the southern Kandahar region of Afghanistan in 1994 (Hugh Tomlinson writes).

Their founder, Mullah Omar, spoke of a new Islamic order imposing pious social justice. He is said to have had a child rapist hanged from a Soviet tank barrel.

The seeds, however, were sown 15 years earlier when Russia invaded, beginning 40 years of conflict. Most Taliban leaders were veterans of the mujahidin, the militia backed by the US, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as proxies to fight the Soviet Union, whom they drove out a decade later. The mujahidin would also spawn al-Qaeda under a fateful alliance with Osama bin Laden that changed the world in 2001.

After seizing Kandahar from warlords, they swept into Kabul in 1996 and imposed a cruel Islamic code. Music and television were outlawed, women banned from education and work and adulterers stoned to death. In the capital, executions took place in a football stadium. In 2001, to global outrage, the group blew up the Buddhas of Bamyan.

Under Taliban protection Bin Laden stepped up the range and ambition of al-Qaeda's strikes on the West, culminating in the 9/11 attacks. When Mullah Omar refused to give him up, the US-led coalition invaded, sparking an 18-year insurgency that would kill more than 3,500 American and coalition troops and tens of thousands of Afghans.

Even when faced with more than 100,000 US troops the Taliban refused to buckle. As the American public wearied of conflict and resolve faltered in Washington, the jihadists swept back across the country and are now poised for an extraordinary return to power. The upshot bears out what a captured fighter is reputed to have said more than a decade ago: "You have the watches, but we have the time."

to turn back migrants at frontier



[river] and enter the country. There are several blind spots along the border. It is very difficult to seal every crossing."

Several Turkish municipalities are believed to have organised the free buses that transported the migrants to the border area at the weekend. Hundreds of people crossed into no-man's land on Saturday and found themselves unable to go any farther. Many spent the night sleeping in the open, in freezing conditions. Undeterred, thousands more travelled from Istanbul to the border yesterday. More than 13,000 refugees are now in the Turkish border city of Edirne, adjacent to Kastanies, staging protests and hurling projectiles at Greek border guards in an attempt to break police cordons.

The number of migrants arriving by boat on various Greek islands in the eastern Aegean sea — the route into Europe for more than a million people in 2015 and 2016 — also rose sharply yesterday, as storms before eased. At least 500 reached Lesbos, Samos and Chios on dinghies and rafts.

Islanders on Lesbos, which is already struggling to cope with more than 25,000 refugees, gathered at the seafront to shout at the newcomers to go back. A people smuggler in the Turkish town of Ayvacik, across the water from Lesbos, told Turkish television that Mr Erdogan "gave his permission" for him to increase his business. In Athens, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the prime minister, held a national security council meeting late yesterday to address the migrant crisis. Separately, the EU's border protection agency, Frontex, announced plans to offer additional support to Greece.

Mr Erdogan had warned repeatedly that he would break the deal he struck with the EU in 2016 to prevent migrants entering the bloc unless he received greater support for his military operations in Syria. His decision to finally do so came in retaliation for the killing of 34 Turkish soldiers during an airstrike on Thursday in Idlib.

The €6 billion deal was signed by EU leaders with Mr Erdogan after more than a million migrants had flooded into Europe the year before. He has frequently threatened to allow refugees into the continent unless more international support is provided.

Turkey already hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees, as well as many others from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

World

SERGEI GRIT/AP



Just warming up A boy firing blanks from a Kalashnikov in Minsk, Belarus, during a celebration of Maslenitsa, the traditional Russian holiday marking the end of winter

Arab minority holds key to fate of Netanyahu in third election

Israel

Anshel Pfeffer Jerusalem

Israelis vote today in their third election in less than a year and two weeks before Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, goes on trial for corruption.

Israel has been in political limbo since December 2018, when parliament was dissolved. The right-wing and religious parties that support Mr Netanyahu, 70, failed in last year's two elections to muster a majority in the Knesset, but the opposition was too split to form an alternative government.

Benny Gantz, 60, the former general and leader of the centrist Blue and White party, won more votes than Mr Netanyahu in September's poll but could not convince enough parties to back his attempt to become prime minister.

One of the decisive factors will be the turnout among Israel's Arabs, who make up 20 per cent of the population and uniformly vote for opposition parties. The biggest obstacle, however, may be voter fatigue. "People are fed up. They think, 'We're doomed to another gridlock, so what's the point of voting?'," Guy Ben-Porat, chairman of the department of politics and government at Ben-Gurion University, said.



Binyamin Netanyahu's trial in 15 days looms over the third poll in 11 months

Mr Netanyahu has accused Mr Gantz of intending to form a government with the Arab-dominated Joint List party, portraying the Arab politicians as supporters of Palestinian terrorism and disloyal to Israel.

On Saturday Mr Netanyahu said in a television interview that "Gantz cannot be prime minister without the Joint List. They'll say to him, 'Do you want to attack in Gaza? You won't be prime minister. Do you want to attack in Iran? You won't be prime minister'."

Mr Gantz, a former army chief of staff, accused his rival yesterday of using the coronavirus outbreak to suppress the vote of the opposition parties. "Netanyahu is planning to disrupt the election day and spread fake news in every area where Blue and White is strong to leave our voters at home," he tweeted.

A Likud spokesman denied the claim, saying that Mr Gantz was "talking rubbish. They will find an antidote for coronavirus before Gantz will find a way to form a government with Ahmad Tibi [a prominent Arab politician]."

Mr Tibi, 61, said: "There are now two viruses: the virus of incitement and racism, which is in the prime minister's residence, and the coronavirus."

Mr Netanyahu will stand trial from March 17 on charges of receiving improper gifts and offering a media mogul lucrative regulatory changes in exchange for favourable coverage. Mr Gantz has focused his campaign on Mr Netanyahu's character, saying a man accused of serious crimes is unfit to lead.

The last polls published in the media before the weekend's purdah gave Mr Netanyahu's Likud party a small momentum, gaining a couple of seats, but his coalition is short of a majority. Mr Gantz does not appear to have a path to forming a government.

Unless the polls are wrong, Israel could be facing further political deadlock. "It's uncharted territory," Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank, said. "If we judge it based on what we learnt in the previous cycle the deadlock would mean a fourth election."

Living history is washed away by Turkish dam project

Turkey

Hannah Lucinda Smith

The destruction of Ridvan Ayhan's house was decades in the making, but he was still unprepared when the waters of the Tigris rose around it in Hasankeyf, southeastern Turkey, after the completion of a huge hydro-electric dam.

Successive governments in Ankara had been proposing the project since the 1950s and it was added to the state's official construction programme in 1997. The town appeared to have won a reprieve in 2000, when a number of European countries including the UK withdrew funding for the project owing to strong local opposition.

Construction began in 2006, however, under President Erdogan's AKP government. Repeatedly delayed by financing problems and attacks from the PKK militia, the final works were completed last summer and the new Ilisu dam started filling, beginning a process that will eventually displace more than 70,000 people.

It will produce 3,800 gigawatt hours of power per year, about 1 per cent of Turkey's total energy use in 2018.

Hasankeyf's most precious monuments and all of its residents have been moved to New Hasankeyf, three miles



away, where a museum tells the story of the old town, but campaigners say that the development has wiped out a unique living history. There is evidence that people were living in caves in the sandstone hills around the town 12,000 years ago and one man tried to register one as an official dwelling in 2018.

There were ancient churches and a bustling bazaar, and a wonderland of gorges and trails. For Mr Ayhan, 58, it is a personal loss. "My childhood passed in the caves of Hasankeyf castle … No word is enough to tell you how I am suffering," he told *The Times*. "Twelve-thousand-year-old historical walls are being submerged and no one gives due reaction to that. This breaks my heart."

He added: "Everyone lived together without any problem in old Hasankeyf but in New Hasankeyf everyone is like strangers to each other. It is as if they have never met before."

Iraqi protests continue as appointed PM quits

Iraq Mohammed Allawi, the prime minister-designate, withdrew his candidacy for the post yesterday after parliament failed for the second time in a week to approve his cabinet. His appointment was meant to ease a crisis caused by mass protests that broke out in October and brought down the prime minister, Abdul Mahdi, who has stayed on only as a caretaker. President Salih must choose a new candidate within 15 days. Security concerns were reinforced when one person was killed and 24 wounded at an anti-government protest in Baghdad yesterday, and early this morning two blasts were heard in the city. *(Reuters)*

Anti-corruption party takes lead in Slovakia

Slovakia A centre-right party promising "zero tolerance for corruption" is on course to form Slovakia's next government. Olano galvanised outrage at the murder of the journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée, allegedly ordered by a businessman with links to politicians. The party won 53 seats in the election and will start talks to form a coalition. *(AFP)* **Edward Lucas, page 24**

Houthi rebels 'make exceptional advance'

Yemen Houthi rebels have seized control of al-Hazm, capital of the northern province of al-Jawf, in a victory analysts say could change the course of the five-year war. The capture threatens the oil-rich neighbouring province of Marib, a government official said. Maged al-Madhaji, of the Sanaa Centre, a Yemeni think tank, said that the Houthis' "exceptional advance" was a "game-changer". *(AFP)*

New PM for Malaysia after week of turmoil

Mayalsia Muhyiddin Yassin, 72, a Malay nationalist backed by a corruption-tainted former ruling party, has been sworn in as prime minister after the resignation of his 94-year-old predecessor who had dominated politics for decades. A week of turmoil had begun with Mahathir Mohamad quitting in an apparent attempt to consolidate power, but ended with him complaining of betrayal.

President quits in fear after two days in office

Guinea-Bissau Cipriano Cassama has stepped down as interim president less than two days after being nominated for the post. "My life and that of my family is in danger. I have no security," he said, adding that soldiers had come for his bodyguards on Friday. The country has had four coups and sixteen attempted coups since achieving independence in 1974. *(AFP)*

Steven Spielberg's daughter arrested

United States A daughter of the film director Steven Spielberg has been arrested after a domestic incident involving her boyfriend. Mikaela Spielberg, 23, and her boyfriend were in an argument after returning from a bar in Nashville, Tennessee, when she allegedly threw objects at him, injuring his hand and wrist. A court hearing has been scheduled for March 9. *(AP)*

Bloomberg seeks women's help in row over 'sexism'

United States

Henry Zeffman McLean, Virginia

Michael Bloomberg spent the weekend wooing female voters as he tried to end a row over past non-disclosure agreements with women and resist Joe Biden's surge.

The billionaire former mayor of New York City faces his first electoral test in 14 states tomorrow, having charged into the top tier of Democratic presidential candidates without taking part in any of the first four contests.

But his momentum has been badly checked, first by a brutal debate debut where he was criticised for signing the agreements with departing female employees and then by the revival of Mr Biden's campaign. As South Carolinians went to the polls in large numbers for Mr Biden, 77, on Saturday, Mr Bloomberg, 78, was in northern Virginia at a "Women for Mike" rally.

"Good morning Women for Mike, I'm Mike for women," he told the crowd of about 800 at a hotel in McLean, one of the most affluent parts of the Washington suburbs. The usual red, white and blue placards were supplemented with pink as Mr Bloomberg adapted his usual attacks on President Trump to incorporate women's issues.

"One thing is as true as today as ever before," Mr Bloomberg said. "All of my success, everything I've done is thanks to the strong women that I've been lucky enough to have around."

He added: "It is the least I can do for the people who made my world so much better and that's exactly why I decided to run for president . . . under this president, so many values I hold dear are at risk because President Trump has attacked women and women's rights from the moment he swore the oath of office, and he threatens women's health and women's safety through his policies and his judicial appointments. We cannot let it continue."



Michael Bloomberg tried to rebut claims that he fostered a sexist culture by thanking "strong women" who helped him

He said that as president he would "protect the health and rights of all women" with the "long overdue" step of writing Roe v Wade into law. The 1973 Supreme Court ruling decreed that women had a right to choose whether to have an abortion.

Mr Bloomberg needs a strong performance on Super Tuesday to answer moderate Democratic critics who say that his campaign is only hurting the cause of stopping Bernie Sanders, the left-wing candidate.

The FiveThirtyEight website, led by the polling expert Nate Silver, has projected that Mr Bloomberg will clear the 15 per cent support threshold required to win delegates in nine of the 14 states. However, he is barely above the line in many of the contests, leaving him vulnerable to any momentum gained by Mr Biden with his victory in South Carolina.

At the event Mr Bloomberg, who is often criticised for a cold persona, spoke emotionally about his mother, "the most important female influence in my life", saying his two daughters inherited her "smarts" and "toughness".

Though never explicitly addressed from the stage, the row over Mr Bloomberg's treatment of women in his business career loomed over the event. He was introduced by Fatima Shama, a former employee at New York City Hall, who said that "under Mike's leadership" she had been able to combine bringing up three children with a high-pressured job. "His respect for us as professionals was unquestionable."

She was joined by about a dozen women who said how long they had worked for Mr Bloomberg. "I've worked with Mike for 15 years," said one, to huge cheers. "I've worked with Mike for 20 years," said the next. The microphone was passed down the line in a thinly-veiled rebuttal to the allegations, weaponised by the Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren, that Mr Bloomberg fostered a sexist workplace.

TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY



Flying the flag **President Trump shows his affection for the Stars and Stripes after speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland**

Buttigieg quits race for Democratic nomination

David Charter Washington

Pete Buttigieg, the former small city mayor who rose to win the Iowa caucus last month, became the first significant victim of the Democratic primary contest when he dropped his bid to become US president.

He folded after a fourth-place finish in the South Carolina primary at the weekend, which was won overwhelmingly by Joe Biden, a rival for the moderate vote.

Mr Buttigieg, 38, the first openly gay candidate to compete in the party's primary contest, attracted an enthusiastic following but could not win round black voters who make up such a key part of the Democratic electorate.

The former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, pulled out less than 48 hours before Super Tuesday, when 14 states hold primary contests. The sheer size of Mr Biden's victory in South Carolina convinced him that there was no viable path to win the centrist vote. He would have also had to overcome the strong campaign being run by Bernie Sanders, the left-wing senator who beat him to second place in New Hampshire.

Mr Biden, the former vice-president, put his fourth-place finish in Iowa and fifth in New Hampshire behind him when he took 48.4 per cent of the vote in the first southern state in the contest. Mr Sanders, 77, was second on 19.9 per cent. It was a bad night for Elizabeth Warren, 70, on 7.1 per cent. Mr Buttigieg won 8.2 per cent and his fellow moderate Amy Klobuchar, 59, won 3.1 per cent.

Mr Biden's win reflected his appeal to South Carolina's electorate, who are mostly black, after eight years at President Obama's side. It also rewarded his intensive focus on the state, at the expense of the 14 others that vote tomorrow where he has little infrastructure.

This could be most telling in California, which has the highest number of delegates to the party's July convention. The nomination will go to the first candidate who can amass 1,991 delegates, with 415 available in California, 228 in Texas and 110 in North Carolina, the three biggest Super Tuesday states.

In Texas the race is tighter, with Mr Sanders, polling in the lead but both Mr Biden and Michael Bloomberg on course to exceed 15 per cent and gain a share of delegates. In North Carolina Mr Biden is polling narrowly ahead of Mr Sanders followed by Mr Bloomberg.

Mafioso, 103, laid to rest in Brooklyn

Will Pavia New York

A mobster regarded as one of the last giants of the mafia era has been buried on Long Island after a funeral filled with delicate allusions to his long career of extortion, murder and lengthy spells in prison.

Sonny Franzese, who was second in command in the Colombo crime family, was known as a ruthless operator. He amassed great wealth and held parties for Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr while publicly identifying himself only as the owner of a dry cleaners.

He was also known as one of the last mobsters to adhere to the omerta, the mafia vow of silence, serving decades in prison while apparently refusing to strike a deal with the FBI.

In his final prison term, which began after one of his own sons testified against him, he turned 100 and became the oldest inmate in the federal prison system. He was released in 2017 and died just over a week ago, aged 103.

Monsignor David Cassato, who officiated at his funeral at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, told mourners that Franzese referred to his jail stints as being "away at college". Not long after that, "lo and behold, he went away to school again!" the monsignor said.

He also recalled Franzese quoting Benjamin Franklin's aphorism that nothing was certain except death and taxes, though the mobster had also advised him that "if you're smart … you can avoid some of those taxes".

Franzese was born in 1917, the nineteenth child of Italian immigrants to Brooklyn. He was drafted into the US army in 1942, only to be discharged as a "psychoneurotic with pronounced homicidal tendencies". He would later say that this diagnosis was based on his eagerness for combat duty where he could kill enemy soldiers.

Back in Brooklyn, his abilities as a street brawler caught the eye of a mafia family that inducted him and promoted him quickly through its ranks.

The government accused him of involvement in as many as 50 murders and in 2006 Franzese assured an informant wearing a wire that: "I killed a lot of guys".

Though he officially denied killing anyone and would not acknowledge the existence of the omerta, he spoke of not co-operating because of "my principle" and was said to have looked over a lengthy charge sheet against him with a chuckling familiarity, like a man looking at his old school year book.

Trump backers open shop to make Americano great again

Will Pavia

Whenever Cliff Gerhart stepped into a Starbucks wearing his red "Make America Great Again" hat, he thought he could see people sneering.

He believed that liberal control of American coffee went further: progressive politics prevailed at Dunkin' Donuts and Panera Bread too, he said.

"I hear the comments under the breath," he told the *Tampa Bay Times*. To get around the issue, Mr Gerhart and other right-leaning latte drinkers have founded a coffee shop that seeks to give Trump supporters a safe environment, "where those who believe in traditional America" can sip their espressos in safety.

The opening of Conservative Grounds, in Largo, Florida, coincided with the opening of another conservative café in Rockland, Maine. Covfefe Coffee and Gifts is named after an ambiguous midnight tweet by Mr Trump in 2017, which complained of an "endless negative press covfefe".

"There should be a spot where people can come and support Trump and not feel like they're strange or different," Jestin Merchant, the Maine shop's founder, told the *Bangor Daily News*. The café is supplied by a company in Georgia which sells a "MAGA Blend" for people tired of "liberal coffee".

Conservatives have long harboured suspicions about Starbucks, which was founded in the liberal city of Seattle and features on its logo a mermaid who is said to look like a hippy.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

One family's story covers the history of Russia from blood-soaked Stalinist purges to Putin's faux democracy

Tom Parfitt



Not long ago, on top of the postboxes in the stairwell of the apartment block where I live in Moscow, I found a pile of manila envelopes.

They were addressed to the flat above mine and were sent from an origami association in Japan. One envelope had split at the corner to reveal a magazine with designs of paper flowers and spiders. The sight immediately took me back to my first months living in the building in 2004 — and an encounter with an extraordinary family whose story resonates through the city, right from the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia.

When I moved in, I met the elderly neighbours who occupied the flat above, Mikhail and his wife, Flora. The once-grand, 15-storey block on the Frunzenskaya embankment was at that time still full of former Soviet officials and their relatives.

Mikhail was a retired mathematician and engineer. He was also the son of two unusual people. His father, Maxim Litvinov, was people's commissar for foreign affairs in the 1930s, a Bolshevik of Jewish roots who became increasingly disillusioned with Stalin's regime and slept with a Browning under his pillow during the purges.



Maxim Litvinov, commissar for foreign affairs, and his English wife, Ivy Low

And Mikhail's mother was Ivy Low, a vigorous Englishwoman who met her husband in London and moved with him to the Soviet Union. Ivy Litvinova, as she became, had outspoken views and her husband had to stop taking her to Kremlin dinners in case she got them in trouble.

She lived until the late 1970s, and Mikhail spoke to me in the precise English she had taught him. His flat was lined with books and hung with his origami models, twizzling on bits of thread.

Mikhail and Flora were cherished fixtures of Moscow's intelligentsia. A foreign correspondent visiting their flat in the late 1980s had recalled a couple, "dazzling in their kindnesses and the unassuming way they seemed to know everyone and everything going on in Moscow".

Mikhail died in 2006 at the age of 89. The magazines still arriving for him 14 years later are, I assume, the result of a lifetime subscription, never cancelled. Flora, now 102, lives elsewhere.

I had not thought of Mikhail for some time, but the origami images brought back the atmosphere of his flat, and reminded me that he and Flora had a distinguished son whom I never met.

That son, Pavel Litvinov, was one of the eight dissidents who came out on to Red Square in August 1968 to decry the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. As punishment he was exiled to Siberia for five years. But his name went down in history for one of the bravest acts of protest in the 20th century.

Pavel Litvinov left the Soviet Union for the US in 1974, under pressure from the KGB. Russian dissidents die hard and I found him easily enough, still expressing forthright views at 79 — on Facebook.

On Saturday we spoke on the phone. I was interested to know how had my acquaintance Mikhail navigated between his role as the son of a Stalinist commissar, and the father of a prominent dissident?

"My grandfather was a true socialist revolutionary who was very disappointed in Stalin's regime," Mr Litvinov said. "He brought up my father with ideas of fairness and equality, and my parents always supported me when I became a dissident.

"My father was a self-restrained person. He knew how to be cautious and not say the wrong things to the wrong people. He brought samizdat [banned literature] to me in exile, at his own risk."

The Litvinov spirit lives on. Pavel Litvinov's son is a Greenpeace activist. In Russia his sister, in her seventies, attends trials against Kremlin critics.

"Putin is an authoritarian ruler," Mr Litvinov said. "The little democracy that appeared under Gorbachev and Yeltsin is almost gone. Elections became a joke."

Yet he sees some hope. "Then, we had no chance. Now I believe Russia will gradually change."

Luxembourg scraps public transport fares

Luxembourg
Charles Bremner

Luxembourg has become the first nation to offer free public transport to everyone in an attempt to entice the EU's wealthiest citizens to leave their cars at home.

The country of 620,000 people, which has the same area as Northamptonshire, stopped selling tickets on its trams, buses and trains on Saturday. Musicians strolled through trains and played at stations to mark the attempt to relieve choked roads. Annual season tickets had cost up to €450.

Other cities in Europe, including Tallinn, the Estonian capital, which has a population of 430,000, have held experiments in free transport. Hasselt, in Belgium, had a 12-fold rise in passengers after it abolished charges in 1997. Luxembourg, however, is the first nation to go completely free of charge.

The move affects the 40 per cent of households that use public transport and is estimated to save each one about €100 a year.

Taxpayers will fund the system, which was already 92 per cent subsidised, at a cost of an extra €41 million. "If we want to remain an attractive country and keep a dynamic economy without losing our quality of life, there is no other choice but to make a big effort to have high-quality public transport," Lydie Polfer, the mayor of Luxembourg City, said.

Luxembourg is the EU's richest member per capita and is the home of several of the bloc's institutions, as well as of high finance. Its large expatriate population strongly backs the measures to unclog the roads. Residents have more cars per capita than any other EU state and they use them more to commute than in most others.

Cross-country train fares from the neighbouring states of Belgium, Germany and France have been reduced with the removal of the Luxembourg component.

HECTOR ADOLFO QUINTANAR PEREZ/ZUMA WIRE/REX



Uncommon herd Visitors wear horned masks for the bull carnival in Almolonga, Mexico, one of the oldest in the region

Outrage at Polanski's César victory

France
Charles Bremner Paris

The French film establishment is facing calls to revolutionise its awards system after honouring Roman Polanski's new film with three Césars.

Government ministers, actors and feminists have voiced their outrage at the film academy's decision to name Polanski, who was convicted of the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl in 1977, as best director for his film *An Officer and a Spy*. It also won the awards for best book adaptation and costume design.

Leading actresses walked out of the ceremony in Paris on Friday night and Florence Foresti, the host, refused to continue. The film, adapted from a book by Robert Harris, recounts the Dreyfus affair, which divided France at the end of the 19th century.

Several stars defended Polanski, but the enduring image was that of Adèle Haenel, known as the face of the French MeToo movement. She shouted "Shame" and "Long live paedophilia, bravo paedophilia", then stormed out.

Franck Riester, the culture minister, denounced as unacceptable the industry's argument that the award honoured the film, rather than the man who made it. "Celebrating the man is a negative signal," he said.



Adèle Haenel was one of many who stormed out of the ceremony in Paris

Marlène Schiappa, minister for gender equality, voiced contempt for the academy, whose board of mainly white men beyond middle age resigned a month ago. An overhaul was urgent, she said, adding: "Think of the victims. Believe them. Support them."

Polanski, 86, and his team did not attend the ceremony, saying they feared a "public lynching".

Mild winter ruins German icewine crop

Germany
Bruno Waterfield

There will be no icewine produced in Germany after an unusually mild winter caused the harvest to fail for the first time.

Climate change is blamed for the first break in a wine-making tradition that dates back more than 200 years and relies on cold winters.

Eiswein is a sweet dessert wine made from grapes that have been frozen on the vine at temperatures below a minimum of minus 7C before picking.

"The 2019 vintage will go down in history here in Germany as the first year in which the ice harvest has failed nationwide," Ernst Büscher from the German Wine Institute in Bodenheim told *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

"If the warm winters accumulate, icewines from the German wine regions will soon become even more of a rarity than they already are," he said

A German legend claims that icewine was discovered by an 18th-century winemaker in Franken who found his grapes frozen on the vine during a hard winter. He pressed the frozen grapes, resulting in a highly concentrated and sweet must that after fermentation produced the first ice wine.

The most common grapes used for icewine are Riesling, Vidal, Gewürztraminer and Grüner Veltliner, Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc.

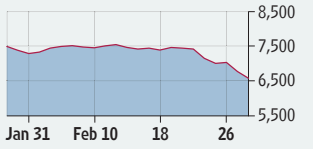
German icewines are sought after by connoisseurs and a lucrative export to Japan, China, Scandinavia and the US. However, Canada, with its more reliably cold climate, is now the world's main producer of icewine.

None of Germany's 13 wine-growing regions has reported a harvest of frozen grapes after a mild winter, and last summer's higher temperatures upset the rhythm of production by ripening grapes too early. "The period of time that the grapes have to survive in a healthy state before a possible ice harvest is becoming longer," Mr Büscher said.

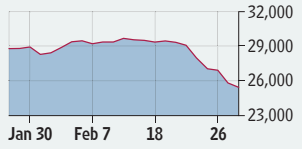
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close, change on the week)

FTSE 100
6,580.61 (-823.31) ▼

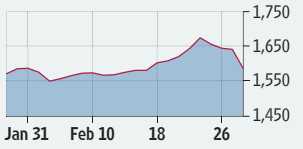


Dow Jones
25,409.36 (-3,563.05) ▼

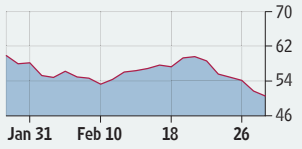


COMMODITIES

Gold
$1,584.84 (-58.57) ▼

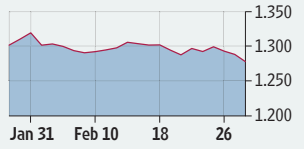


Brent crude (6pm)
$50.51 (-8.02) ▼

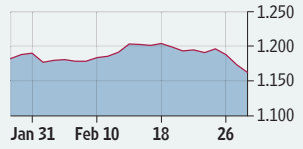


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2775 (- 0.0192) ▼



£/€
€1.1618 (-0.0327) ▼



Global stock markets warned to brace for more coronavirus havoc

Philip Aldrick, Gurpreet Narwan

Traders and investors should prepare for more coronavirus-related havoc in markets worldwide after last week's "rude awakening", the Bank for International Settlements has said.

Almost $6 trillion was wiped off global stocks last week, leaving indices nursing their largest weekly falls since the 2008 financial crisis. "One thing is sure," Claudio Borio, head of the bank's monetary and economic affairs department, said. "Markets will continue to dance to the tune of news about the virus and of the authorities' response."

The warning from the "central bank of central banks" came as:

- Italy said that it would inject €3.6 billion into the economy in tax credits for business, tax cuts and cash for the country's health system to mitigate the economic impact of the virus;
- South Korea, the country second hardest hit by the outbreak, said that daily exports had dropped 11.7 per cent last month as demand in China fell;
- Shares in Saudi Aramco fell to their lowest level since they floated amid a falling oil price and fears of a downturn;
- Last month UK consumer confidence dropped for the first time in five months;
- The Ceraweek energy conference for oil ministers and senior executives in Houston, Texas, was cancelled;
- Gabriel Makhlouf, governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, said that trade tensions, changes to international tax rules and coronavirus could disrupt its economy.

Markets are expected to open lower today after more covid-19 cases were confirmed across Europe, America and Asia, including the first reported death in the United States. Economists say the crisis is far worse than originally thought. Capital Economics has cut its global growth forecast by 0.4 percentage points to 2.5 per cent for this year, a level the International Monetary Fund qualifies as the cusp of recession.

Today the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is expected to downgrade its forecasts on the impact of coronavirus. Laurence Boone, its chief economist, also will make policy recommendations for governments. In November, it forecast

Continued on page 36, column 1

Treasury to pocket £5bn from Rock

Shareholders in collapsed bank demand payout

Philip Aldrick Economics Editor

Thousands of former Northern Rock shareholders are planning to restart their fight for compensation after the nationalised bank was left with £5 billion in surplus equity having repaid its government loans in full.

Dennis Grainger, chairman of the Northern Rock Small Shareholder Action Group, said that he would be writing to the prime minister and to the chancellor to recover the excess profits made by the Treasury from the bank's 2008 nationalisation.

Northern Rock became a symbol of the financial crisis after depositors queued around the block to withdraw their savings in September 2007 in the first British bank run since 1886.

Initially propped up by loans from the Bank of England, the lender was nationalised in February 2008. Shareholders were paid nothing, unlike the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds bailouts, when the state injected cash without wiping out existing equity holders.

At its peak, the government provided Northern Rock with £37 billion of funds, but that was down to just over £20 billion by 2010. The final loan was repaid in April last year and Northern Rock Asset Management, the company created to manage the run-off, handed a £2.7 billion dividend to the Treasury.

Its 2019 accounts show total equity in March 2019 of £5.13 billion, suggesting the state can expect a further £2.4 billion. At book value, NRAM would have been a FTSE 100 company last year.

"It is demonstrably unfair that the government should get back all the loans it made and then expect to pocket the billions of profits over and above that," Mr Grainger said. "Those profits result from the inherent strength of Northern Rock assets that were seized from ordinary people who suffered badly. This is clearly a case of unjust enrichment of the government."

Many of the 150,000 shareholders who lost out are widowers, pensioners and former staff from the bank's home in Newcastle. Several lost their life savings.

The decision not to compensate shareholders was justified by a government-commissioned review in 2010, which concluded that the shares were worthless at the time of nationalisation. Shareholders argued that the terms of the review had been rigged.

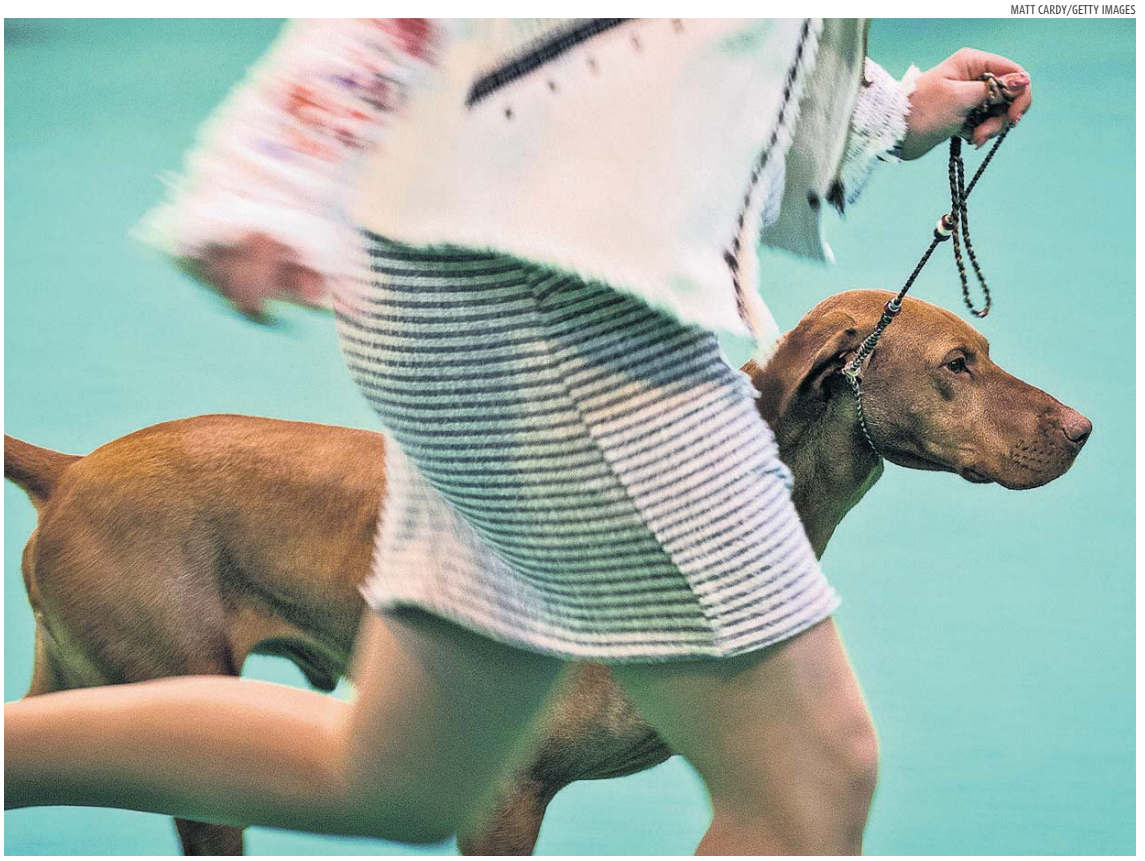
The Treasury said that it made nothing once the financing costs of its loan and a £400 million loss on the sale of the good part of Northern Rock in 2012 were taken into account. The Treasury refused to set out the "exchequer financing" costs for NRAM.

NRAM has paid about £2 billion in interest and fees to the Treasury on top of its loan repayments and dividend. The Treasury loan was charged at 1 per cent above base rate since 2012.

Treasury figures show that since 2010 the total cost of financing its £44 billion loan to NRAM and Bradford & Bingley, which was nationalised in 2008, was £12.1 billion in March 2019.

That suggests it used an interest rate of about 3 per cent and assumed no loans were repaid at all. Even under that assumption, the state made a profit of £400 million from NRAM and B&B.

MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES



Dog gone An insolvency firm that has worked for a company involved in Crufts is being pursued for £3 million in tax Page 35

Anger as banking app locks accounts

James Hurley Enterprise Editor

A company backed by Sir Alex Ferguson and Jon Moulton, the venture capitalist, that provides financial services to vulnerable people has been hit by complaints and questions about why its accounts are five months late.

Pockit, which has 500,000 customers, has been criticised by clients who say that they cannot get to their money and struggle to pay bills.

The company has issued guidance on why some accounts have been "temporarily restricted", saying that it is following anti-money laundering and terrorism rules and has to freeze transactions if it detects suspicious activity.

Similar issues have affected other financial technology companies, including Revolut. Some Pockit customers have complained about disruption to its phone lines and payment systems.

Pockit was launched in 2014 with a pre-paid debit card for people who could not get a bank account. It now has an app-based account. It is led by Virraj Jatania, whose family is said to have made $190 million when they sold Lornamead, a cosmetics company.

Pockit said that its accounts were late because its "audit process this year has been more involved than usual" as it is preparing to take more control over its services from third-party providers. Grant Thornton is conducting the audit and the overdue accounts are expected to be filed this month.

Mr Jatania said: "Apart from this slight oversight, it remains business as usual and we are excited for what 2020 holds for Pockit." In December a charge over its assets was registered in favour of the pension scheme of one of its backers, David Walter. The loan is repayable on demand. Pockit said that it was a form of venture debt that was more efficient than equity finance.

The account freezing issue is said to affect only a small proportion of customers. Mr Jatania said: "When Pockit detects certain forms of suspicious activity, we have a legal obligation to restrict the account in order to protect customers and their money."

It is understood that downtime on payments processing had been brief and was due to issues with a third-party provider. Phone lines were disrupted when it moved its call centre.

Business

Need to know

1 Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, has been warned that he will have to re-assess his budget plans in the wake of the economic disruption caused by the coronavirus. The Office of Budget Responsibility, the government's economic watchdog, is expected to revise its economic forecasts in wake of worldwide falling stock markets. **Pages 1, 6-7, 33, 36**

2 Thousands of former Northern Rock shareholders are planning to restart their fight for compensation after the nationalised bank was left with £5 billion in surplus equity having repaid its government loans in full. **Page 33**

3 Pockit, a company backed by Sir Alex Ferguson and Jon Moulton, the venture capitalist, that provides financial services to vulnerable people has been hit by complaints and questions about why its accounts are five months late. It has 500,000 customers. **Page 33**

4 About 500 staff and 20 partners are leaving KPMG in a £200 million leveraged buyout of its pension consulting business, to be announced today. The move involving the pensions division, which has advised a third of FTSE 100 companies in recent years, is being backed by Exponent, a private equity group.

5 The directors of Wilson Field, an insolvency firm that says it can help struggling businesses to "write off company debt and start again", are being pursued for £3 million said to be owed in tax.

6 Entrepreneurs and an employers' group have demanded that the chancellor reconsiders an "incredibly damaging" plan to scrap a relief that allows people to cut their tax bills when they sell their companies. **Page 36**

7 Debentures may be a dirty word among older members of Wentworth, but they appear to be doing wonders for the finances of the golf club in Virginia Water, Surrey. It is set to report a fall in operating losses last year to £2 million, compared with a loss of £5.8 million in 2018, encouraging its Chinese owner to convert it to a debenture-only club. **Page 36**

8 The British Motor Show, which fell foul of the global financial crisis a decade ago, will rise again this summer for the first time since 2008, to be held in August at Farnborough, best known for its air show. **Page 39**

9 The Competition and Markets Authority is expected to come under fire again this week as JD Sports kicks back against its findings over its £90 million deal for Footasylum and its suggestion that it might reverse the takeover. **Page 40**

10 A forthcoming change to tax rules, which means it will be the responsibility of medium-sized or large employers to determine the status of the contractors they hire, has enraged the freelance community, has caused confusion among businesses and has led some skilled contractors to threaten to leave the country. **Page 41**



Big Brother joins in the family shop at Amazon

Ashley Armstrong Retail Editor

"Just walk out." That's Amazon's message to customers who nervously fear being accused of shoplifting at its new cashier-free grocery store in Seattle.

Two years after opening its first Go store to the public, the giant American online retailer is being even bolder with a larger supermarket that has most of the requirements for a weekly food shop and no checkout lines.

In some ways, the new venture is like something from an Orwellian dystopia, with cameras trained on shoppers to monitor the products they put in their baskets before Amazon's artificial intelligence rings up their bill and emails a receipt.

Yet there's a growing acceptance of technology's encroachment on daily life, with voice assistants being installed in homes and the fact that most people in developed cities are already used to being under surveillance.

"It is Big Brother shopping," according to Clive Black, an analyst at Shore Capital, the consultancy, "but in a way customers are already being watched and have signed over most of their personal data to Amazon before they enter the store." Visitors to the Go Grocery store on Pike Street, near Amazon's headquarters, pass through an automated gate before scanning their smartphones and opening the Amazon Go app, which gives them a unique code that electronic systems can read.

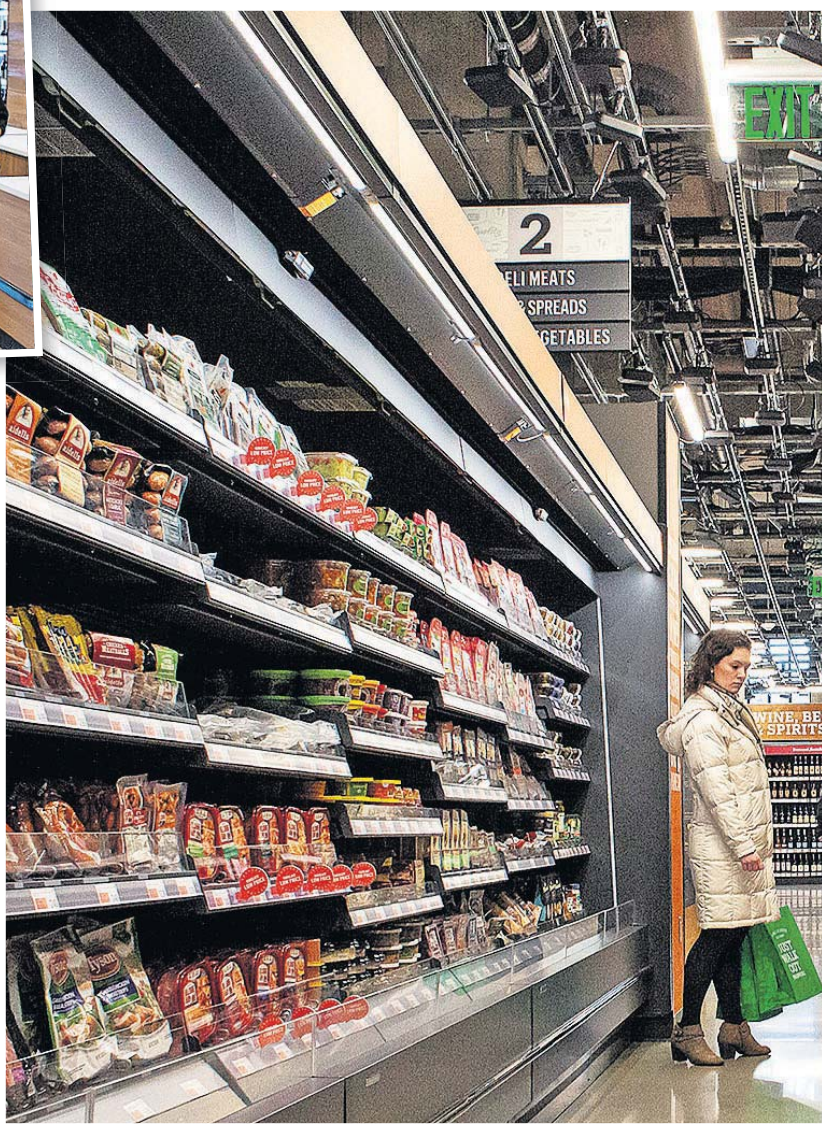
The store's ceiling is a grid of cameras that follow shoppers in the store, while sensors identify whether a customer is adding a melon or mung beans to their virtual shopping basket. "Take what you want, bag as you shop and that's it," Amazon says.

In theory, the use of fewer shopworkers is meant to make the stores more economical, allowing Amazon to undercut its rivals.

However, analysts say there's little evidence that the retail goliath, valued at almost $940 billion, is achieving a return on its investment. That's because of the heavy outlay in technology and kit such as cameras and sensors that each store requires.

"The technology is still costing far more than it should, but it's okay for Amazon, which has the combination of technology and a big balance sheet," John Ryan, managing director of New Stores, a retail information service, said. "It's trickier to make the economics work for anyone other than Amazon."

The company stunned the retail market with its $13.7 billion takeover of Whole Foods in 2017, but it hasn't made the immediate assault on bricks and mortar that many feared. As well as the 450 Whole Foods, it has 25 smaller cashierless convenience stores in Seattle, San Francisco, New York and Chicago. Reports suggest that Amazon



Shoppers at Amazon's Go grocery stores are monitored by cameras and sensors as

Putting speed before service

In the middle of High Holborn, red, white and blue balloons form an arch in the entrance of Tesco's first cashless store (Ashley Armstrong writes). It's designed for workers dashing in for small purchases and prioritises speed over service. The central London store has fourteen tills, only two of which are staffed, to approve purchases of cigarettes and alcohol.

There are concerns about what an increasingly cashless society could mean for poorer shoppers and those without a bank account. However, the move was met with a shrug by most customers and analysts, who reason that City workers are used to paying with cards and contactless devices.

Richard Hyman, a retail expert, said that the store was a sign that supermarkets were racing to the bottom in service as they prioritise technology. "There's much more room to add value and differentiate yourself from the discounters with service," he said.

KPMG staff buy out pension division

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

About 500 staff and 20 partners are leaving KPMG in a £200 million leveraged buyout of its pension consulting business that will be announced today.

The move involving the pensions division, which has advised a third of FTSE 100 companies in recent years, is being backed by Exponent, a private equity group.

It was prompted by concerns about potential conflicts of interest. Pension trustee clients were unhappy in cases where either the pension fund or the sponsoring employer was also audited by KPMG. The division, to be renamed Isio, is understood to bring in £50 million to £100 million per year.

The 20 partners are investing their own money in the business and Exponent is putting up equity. The buyout is also being part-funded with debt.

Exponent specialises in mid-sized buyouts and its recent deals include Dennis Publishing, the group behind *Viz* and *Auto Express*, and HSS Hire, the tool business.

The KPMG operation has eight regional offices and its services range from providing actuarial advice through to investment expertise and the administration of pension schemes. Its clients own assets of £90 billion.

The business is led by Andrew Coles, who said that acquisitions and an eventual flotation were possible outcomes. The chairman is Roger Siddle, a former Bain & Co management consultant who went on to head BPP, the professional services training group.

KPMG UK said that it would reinvest the proceeds of the sale in the business. In 2018 KPMG decided it would not provide non-audit services to FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 audit clients or to pension schemes sponsored by audit clients. The Financial Reporting Council is to crack down on providing non-audit services to audit clients.

Mr Coles said that the split from KPMG suited both sides. "It's very much a mutual decision," he said, adding that he hoped to use new technology for modelling to help trustees to come to better decisions.

Most of Isio's business comes from advising on defined-benefit pension schemes. While almost all of these are closed to new accrual, they will continue to dominate the pensions landscape for decades.

KPMG has 16,000 staff in the UK.

NMC calls in debt experts

NMC Health, the Gulf hospitals group embroiled in a Financial Conduct Authority inquiry, has hired Moelis, the investment bank, to advise on an emergency restructuring of its debts (Alistair Osborne writes).

The move is the latest attempt by the company to get a handle on its finances after a week in which its shares were suspended, it admitted "discrepancies and inconsistencies" in its accounts and sacked its chief executive.

Shares in NMC, founded by Bavaguthu Raghuram Shetty, have fallen by almost two thirds since an attack in December by Muddy Waters, a short-seller, which caused the unravelling of the FTSE 100 firm. NMC would not comment on the appointment of Moelis.



they collect their items and leave. A bill is sent by email and is paid via an app

is considering opening up to 3,000 new Go stores in the next few years, though that would suggest a significant acceleration of its present strategy.

Miya Knights, head of industry insight at Eagle Eye Solutions, a digital promotions company, said: "Amazon has said it wants to build its presence in food and therefore it needed to get offline, because it was missing out on the bulk of the market and learning how shoppers browse and buy their groceries." Amazon also is said to be exploring systems that would allow it to pick online orders from shop shelves and deliver to customers.

Meanwhile, the consequences of what cashierless stores could mean for retail workers and low-income households threaten to be a political touchpaper.

The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union is pushing to make its concerns a campaign issue in elections in the United States in November, intent on highlighting the issue of supporting employment against Amazon's perceived destruction of jobs.

In Britain Amazon has been stealthily building a team of former big supermarket property experts as it looks at opening stores in London.

If an Amazon Go store opens, it undoubtedly will boost Morrisons' prospects as the natural grocery provider, given its relationship with Prime. It also would be a way for the Bradford-based supermarket to gain a bigger foothold in the capital.

Nevertheless, not all systems are go in this emerging sector. Last year Sainsbury's ended up reversing its decision not to accept cash after protests from campaigners and it scrapped its trial of a cash-till-free shop after realising that customers weren't ready for it. British social etiquette could be an unexpected challenge for Amazon should it wish to bring Go stores to these shores.

Lancashire tycoons add fuel to Asda bid rumours

James Hurley, Ashley Armstrong

Two brothers who built a petrol station empire from an industrial estate in Blackburn are among potential bidders vying with global buyout firms for a majority stake in Asda.

Zuber and Mohsin Issa, the billionaire founders of EG Group, are said to be considering a bid for the supermarket, which is owned by Walmart, the giant American retail group. Walmart has hired Rothschild to advise on a sale of a stake in the chain or a stock market flotation.

EG Group, which has 5,200 sites and annual sales of £12 billion, is likely to face competition from private equity firms including Apollo and TDR Capital, as well as from Lone Star Funds, an American buyout firm that buys distressed and property-focused businesses.

However, *The Times* understands that some of the world's biggest private equity firms are unlikely to bid. KKR, the Carlyle Group, Advent International, CVC, Blackstone and Permira are among firms poised to pass on the opportunity to control one of Britain's biggest grocers.

Despite the attractions of Asda's ownership of the freehold on its stores, they are reluctant to buy what they view as a declining physical retailer and prefer to focus on online models.

Asda was founded in 1949 and has been owned by Walmart since 1999 after a £6.7 billion deal to take the chain private. It has 633 stores and is the third biggest British grocer behind Tesco and J Sainsbury.

The company has been challenged by the rise of Aldi and Lidl, the discounters, whose growth has contributed to weaker sales for Asda. Its like-for-like sales fell by 1.3 per cent in the three months to the end of December.

Walmart is considering selling its stake after a tie-up between Sainsbury's and Asda, valuing the business at £7.6 billion, was blocked by competition regulators last year.

Last year, Apollo doubled the size of its investment in a fund that it runs with Alteri Investors that is hunting for distressed and underperforming European retailers.

The Issa brothers' interest in Asda was first reported by *The Sunday Telegraph*. TDR, Lone Star and Apollo declined to comment. EG Group did not respond to an invitation to comment.

Insolvency bosses 'owe taxman £3m'

James Hurley Enterprise Editor

The directors of an insolvency firm that says it can help struggling businesses to "write off company debt and start again" are being pursued for £3 million said to be owed to the taxman.

Concerns have been raised about how Wilson Field, based in Sheffield, closed one of its own companies, leaving "no assets" to pay its debts.

The directors are likely to be sued by liquidators from Grant Thornton on behalf of creditors for transactions involving Wilson Field Limited. Its assets were acquired by Wilson Field Financial Solutions Limited, for £3.7 million in 2014. After the sale Wilson Field Limited declared dividends of almost £3.1 million and then fell dormant, entering insolvency in December 2015. It also had made £3.7 million of contributions to "employee-funded retirement schemes", which HM Revenue & Customs has ruled as "ineffective", giving rise to a £4 million tax bill that Wilson Field Limited has no funds to pay.

Companies House filings show that Grant Thornton said that legal advice was that "there were good claims against the directors in respect of losses … arising from the operation of the schemes, the sale of the business and the payment of dividends". Grant Thornton it was "likely that it will be necessary" to sue to recover money owed to the taxman.

The directors, understood to be Nicholas Wilson, Julie Fantom and Lisa Hogg, have denied any liability.

Wilson Field describes itself as a specialist in business finance, business turnaround and insolvency. Cases the company has worked on include the National Videogame Arcade, ARB, an events company whose clients included Crufts, Tour of Britain and the London Marathon, and L'Etranger, a London restaurant. There is no suggestion of wrongdoing by these companies.

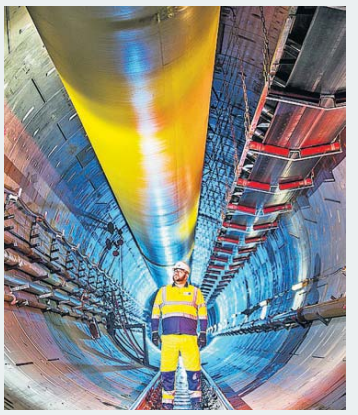
Wilson Field's website has guides for directors about how to "reuse my company name after liquidation" and advice on selling "my company assets before liquidation". Ms Hogg's name appears next to an article on the website entitled *Can't pay my HMRC bill*, in which it said that "struggling with an unpaid HMRC bill can be a common problem for businesses".

Wilson Field said that the liquidators' claims were disputed.

The week ahead

Tomorrow is D-Day for Sirius Minerals, the North Yorkshire fertiliser mine developer. The company's 5½p-a-share takeover by Anglo American, which Sirius says is the only viable option to stave off administration, will be voted on by shareholders. Approval requires at least 50 per cent of shareholders that vote in favour, representing at least 75 per cent of the votes by share value. The rescue deal might seem like a no-brainer when the alternative is administration, yet many in Sirius's retail shareholder base — estimated to number 85,000 as of 2018 — are staunchly opposed.

The Times revealed on Saturday that the majority of retail shareholders voting through the Hargreaves Lansdown investment platform had voted against. These votes will be aggregated into one "yes" and one "no" vote, so won't matter from the point of view of hitting the 50 per cent threshold. But if they are indicative of the voting trends among the estimated 7,000 retail shareholders who hold their shares directly and can vote individually, the deal would be in serious trouble. Some may be gambling that Anglo will sweeten the deal. They will be in for a rude awakening if the FTSE 100 group allows the deal to fail and buys Sirius out of administration instead.



Sirius Minerals will find out after a vote tomorrow if it has been rescued

miles.costello@thetimes.co.uk

TOMORROW

Greggs, the bakery chain, roared into life in the past 12 months on the back of its vegan sausage rolls and steak bakes. Analysts have been pencilling in pre-tax profits of £113 million, up by 36 per cent.
Economy: Construction PMIs, Treasury committee (if appointed)
Interims: Ashtead, Craneware, DX
Finals: 4imprint, Aggreko, Apax Global Alpha, Cairn Homes, Direct Line Insurance Group, Fresnillo, Goco Group, Greggs, Huntsworth, Hutchison China Meditech, Ibstock, Intertek, IWG, John Laing, Keller, Robert Walters, Rotork, Signature Aviation, Travis Perkins, XP Power
AGMs/EGMs: Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust, Schroder European REIT, Summit Properties

WEDNESDAY

Analysts are expecting Legal & General to report big new wins in the pensions transfer market, as well as inflows to its cheap tracker funds. The consensus for 2019 operating profit is £1.99 billion, up 5 per cent.
Economy: CIPS/Markit services PMIs, Treasury committee
Interims: Alfa Financial Allergy Therapeutics
Finals: Attraqt Group, BATM Advanced Communications, Devro, Elementis, Hill & Smith, Hostelworld, Legal & General, Mpac Group, Polymetal International, TT Electronics, Vivo Energy
AGMs/EGMs: Chemring, Inland Homes
Trading statements: Chemring Group, Biffa

THURSDAY

The only certainty about John Lewis Partnership is that the annual results will be painful. At the start of the year John Lewis warned that profits would be substantially lower than the £160 million reported last year. Analysts expect there to be no staff bonus for the first time since the Second World War. The industry will be watching for what tweaks Dame Sharon White, right, its new chairman, will make to her predecessor's radical restructuring plan.

ITV's annual results are expected to reflect the stagnant backdrop as the coronavirus threatens to dampen marketing spending. Revenues are expected to be flat at £3.2 billion and pre-tax profits down.
Economy: UK car registrations (Feb)
Interims: Kier
Finals: Admiral, Aviva Capita, Capital & Regional, CLS Holdings, Coats, Dairy Farm Int Holdings, Domino's Pizza, Franchise Brands, Gresham House, GVC Holdings, Headlam, Hong Kong Land Holdings, Indigovision, Intu Properties, ITV, Jardine Matheson Holdings, Jardine Strategic Holdings, John Lewis Partnership, Mandarin Oriental Int, Melrose Ind, Page Gr, Premier Oil, Schroders, Spire Healthcare, Spirent Comms, Synthomer, Tyman
AGMs/EGMs: Shoe Zone



FRIDAY

America's monthly jobs report is expected to show continued strength in the labour market, which has grown for more than a decade. Capital Economics, a consultancy, estimates that non-farm employers added 230,000 jobs to their payrolls in February, which would be well above the 100,000 needed to sustain growth in the workforce. In January, non-farm payroll growth was a healthy 225,000. Economists see the unemployment rate edging back to a 50-year low of 3.5 per cent in February, from 3.6 per cent the previous month. Wages, which rose by 0.2 per cent in January month-on-month, are expected to have grown by the same proportion in February. The Labor Department's report is scheduled for release at 1.30pm UK time.
Economy: Halifax house price index, Bank of England external business statistics

Business

‘Don’t scrap entrepreneurs’ tax relief’

James Hurley Enterprise Editor

Entrepreneurs and an employers’ group have demanded that Rishi Sunak reconsiders an “incredibly damaging” plan to scrap a relief that allows people to cut their tax bills when they sell their companies.

The new chancellor is on a collision course with business over entrepreneurs’ relief, with the Treasury said to want to abolish the £2.7 billion tax break in order to fund pay for nurses and police officers and projects that could help to “level up” regional economies.

The relief allows business people to pay a 10 per cent rate of capital gains tax when they sell qualifying assets, compared with the usual 20 per cent. It was introduced in 2008 by Alistair Darling amid concerns that changes to capital gains tax would harm small business owners. It was intended to encourage people to start or back new companies.

The cost of the relief has risen from £427 million in 2008-09 to £2.7 billion in 2018-19. Last week, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the economic researcher, said that axing the relief would make the tax system “more equitable and more efficient”. It has said previously that the relief has done little to encourage business investment.

However, the Federation of Small Businesses said that the tax break was being misrepresented. The employers’ group said that the vast majority of the 38,000 people who benefited from the relief each year were “everyday entrepreneurs” rather than wealthy tycoons.

“Only around 10 per cent of people who claim this relief are selling businesses worth more than £1 million,” Mike Cherry, national chairman of the federation, said, adding that it helped “those who see their business as their retirement plan”. He said that they would lose an average of £15,000 each if it was scrapped.

Lord Leigh of Hurley, the Conservative peer, has organised a letter to Mr Sunak signed by more than 150 entrepreneurs warning that ending the tax break would mean that people may consider starting their new businesses overseas. The letter’s signatories include Carrie Longton, co-founder of Mumsnet, the parents’ website, Rob Law, founder of Trunki, a children’s luggage company, and Sean Ramsden, founder of Ramsden International, which exports tens of thousands of British product lines to more than 130 countries.

“Many entrepreneurs have deprived themselves of salary, and more importantly pension payments, on the assumption that the exit of their business will yield a gain and have based their plans on a 10 per cent rate up to £10 million,” it reads. Mr Sunak is urged to conduct a review of the relief rather than making “drastic changes” at this month’s budget.

Mr Sunak has decided to scrap the tax break because it mostly benefits rich business people in the south of England, *The Sunday Times* reported. However, research from Boodle Hatfield, a law firm, found that its use was growing twice as quickly in the north of England as the south.

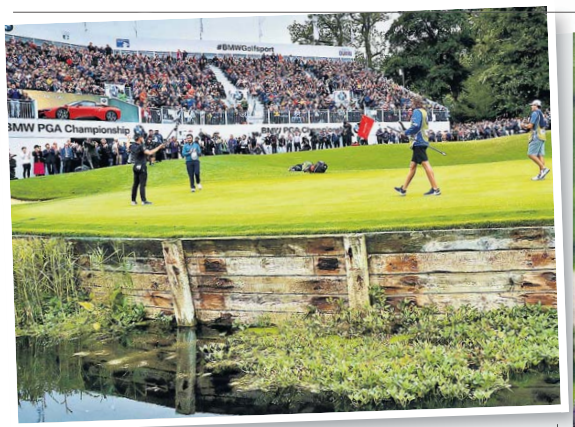
Before Mr Sunak’s appointment, Boris Johnson said that the relief was merely making already “staggeringly rich” people even wealthier and that the Treasury was “fulminating against it”.

Companies demand business rates cut

Fifty large hospitality businesses, including Greene King, Wagamama and JD Wetherspoon, have called for an immediate cut to business rates, the commercial property tax (James Hurley writes).

In a letter to Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, the companies said that rates must be cut by 10 per cent in this month’s budget to tackle a “broken and archaic tax that penalises meeting places and social hubs”.

UK Hospitality, a trade body, claimed that hospitality businesses “overpay on rates by £2.4 billion” relative to their economic activity, as the industry contributes 11 per cent of the total tax, despite representing only 2.5 per cent of business activity. The tax brings in about £30 billion a year, making it the sixth biggest contributor to Treasury coffers, and is viewed by the government as easy to collect and hard to avoid. Rates are a key source of funding for local authorities.



TIM OCKENDEN/PA



Michael Parkinson, at a charity event in 1998, still plays at the club that hosts the BMW championship

Wentworth debenture sales right on course

Debentures may be a dirty word among older members of Wentworth, but they appear to be doing wonders for the finances of the golf club in Virginia Water, Surrey (Dominic Walsh writes).

Today the venue, home of the BMW PGA championship, will report a fall in operating losses last year to £2 million, compared with a loss of £5.8 million in 2018, encouraging its Chinese owner to press ahead with plans to convert it to a debenture-only club.

When Reignwood, based in Beijing, acquired Wentworth for £135 million in 2014, there were concerns over its intentions and those fears appeared to be realised in 2016 when it unveiled plans to introduce £100,000 debentures and to double annual fees to £16,000.

Members, including Sir Michael Parkinson, had accused the owner of trying to create a club for the super-rich in a move designed to cull the membership from 4,000 to fewer than 900.

Three years on, the debentures now cost £150,000 and the club says that it has sold 400 and is confident of hitting its target of 550 sales within the next 24 to 30 months, putting it on course to break even within two years.

Neil Coulson, 45, the club’s general manager, said: “When the announcement was made, it was a bit of a step into the unknown for many of the members. There were new owners and a lot of change going on at the club. Since then Reignwood have invested significantly to upgrade the clubhouse and golf courses and really backed up what they said about improving the members’ experience. And I think they can all see that and are appreciative of it. Going forward, I think the sentiment is very positive.”

Since it opened in 1924, the club has twice hosted the Ryder Cup and has been home to the PGA championship since 1984, as well as hosting the world match play championship.

Reignwood, founded by Chanchai Ruayrungruang, 65, bought the venue from Richard Caring, the leisure tycoon. Although the club did a partial U-turn after the initial furore and said that existing members could join a “non-debenture membership” category, Mr Coulson said that only about 200 such members remained and that it was “pushing forward with plans to become a debenture-only members club”.

He said that the £150,000 price was “very reasonable when compared with many private clubs around the world”. The debentures will become tradeable from 2022.

Sir Michael is still a “very active member” of the club, but Mr Coulson did not know whether he was interested in a debenture.

Markets brace for turmoil

Continued from page 33

global growth of 2.94 per cent. Ireland’s central bank boss told the *Financial Times* that the country’s economy was likely to be hit by the outbreak.

Companies have pulled back as they try to stop its spread. Hyundai, Samsung and LG all closed plants in South Korea after staff tested positive for the coronavirus. American Airlines has suspended flights to Milan in northern Italy.

Despite last week’s equity sell-off last week, the Bank for International Settlements said that markets were functioning resiliently and there was little sign that the virus would cause a financial crisis. “The post-crisis regulatory reforms aimed at strengthening financial institutions are bearing fruit,” Mr Borio said. He added that traders acknowledged that “the expectation of a rapid V-shaped recovery now appeared grossly unrealistic”.

In Britain, coronavirus is sapping confidence, undoing some of the positive post-election bounce. The consumer confidence index published by YouGov and the Centre for Economics and Business Research fell by 0.5 per cent to 107.1. The 100 figure separates positive and negative sentiment.

Nina Skero, the centre’s chief executive, said that recent flooding and the spread of coronavirus “have shown that external and unpredictable factors could quickly derail the fragile recovery”.

Cash injection to combat virus in Italy

Philip Aldrick

Italy is taking emergency measures to support businesses and the country’s health service as it fights to shore up the economy against the coronavirus outbreak.

The government will inject €3.6 billion into the economy on top of a €900 million fighting fund for the hardest-hit region. The stimulus package, which amounts to 0.2 per cent of GDP, will include tax credits for companies that report a 25 per cent drop in revenues, tax cuts and money for the health system.

“I want to reassure Italians that we are well aware of the problems and dangers,” Roberto Gualtieri, the economy minister, told the newspaper *La Repubblica*. Rome also will apply to Brussels for approval to increase the budget deficit this year in case more funds are needed. Mr Gualtieri suggested that more help could come at a European level.

34
Death toll from coronavirus in Italy
Source: Italian government

Italy is at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak in Europe. The death toll rose to 34 yesterday from a total of 1,694 cases. Eleven towns and their 50,000 residents have been quarantined in the north of the country.

Europe’s third largest economy is not well-placed to withstand a shock. It is barely growing and has the largest debt in the eurozone after Greece. Today figures are expected to show that it ran a budget deficit of about 1.7 per cent of GDP last year.

GDP had been forecast to grow by 0.5 per cent his year, but economists are now saying that a recession looks inevitable. The northern region, where activity is grinding to a halt, is the country’s growth engine, and tourism, which accounts for an estimated 13 per cent of GDP, has been hit hard.

Opposition politicians said that the government’s stimulus was too limited.

Paul Johnson

Too many students take courses that don't benefit them or the economy



In May the government published a comprehensive report into the funding and organisation of post-18 education. Led by Philip Augar, it was the culmination of long and detailed analysis and consultation. Some of its main proposals focused on the need to increase funding for technical and vocational education. It was symptomatic of the problem it was setting out to address that most of the press coverage ignored that part of the report and majored on proposed changes to university funding.

We'll come back to the non-university bit. The key propositions on university funding went like this: "There is a misalignment at the margin between England's otherwise outstanding system of higher education and the country's economic requirements. A 20-year market in lightly regulated higher education has greatly expanded the number of skilled graduates bringing considerable social and economic benefits and wider participation for students from lower socioeconomic groups. However, for a small but significant minority of degree students doing certain courses at certain institutions, the university experience leads to disappointment. We make recommendations intended to encourage universities to bear down on low-value degrees and to incentivise them to increase the provision of courses better aligned with the economy's needs."

To put it crudely, universities have a big financial incentive to get as many bums on seats as they can — they get £9,250 per student per year for doing so, almost no questions asked. Students themselves don't face an up-front cost, at least in terms of fees. And if they don't end up earning much, even the long-term cost to them is limited by the way the loan repayment system works. The large majority won't come close to paying off their student loans and low earners will pay back very little. The result is that the general taxpayer remains on the hook for about half the cost of undergraduate education.

The basic incentive problem is clear enough. Universities don't bear the cost of failure. They get paid irrespective of the economic value of the education they provide. At the same time, graduates are insured against bad outcomes.

Analysis of data on degree courses and graduate earnings, published this weekend by my colleagues at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, provides more evidence on the extent to which this might be a real problem.

First the good news. Even after taking account of the fact that those who go on to university are, on average, better qualified than those who don't, doing a degree on average adds significantly to earnings over a lifetime. Male graduates can expect to earn about £240,000 more and females about £140,000 more than if they hadn't gone to university. Once student loan repayments and extra taxes are taken into account, this translates to lifetime benefits of about £130,000 for men and £100,000 for women. The higher earnings of graduates also means that, despite the considerable up-front costs, sending about half of young people to university is a good deal overall for the taxpayer. On average, the additional tax paid as a result of these higher earnings more than pays for the cost of delivering an undergraduate education.

The difference a degree makes, however, varies enormously between graduates. A minority, maybe 3 per cent, will make an extra £500,000 or more during their lifetime. A typical student can expect to gain about £70,000 from their degree. At the bottom, though, one in five students, about 70,000 every year, is likely to lose money as a result of going to university. For most of this group, this is because they will actually earn less than if they hadn't gone to university. For others, student loan repayments combined with extra taxes outweigh the increase in earnings they enjoy.



A typical student will earn an extra £70,000 from having a degree

One thing that really matters in determining whether, and how much, you gain in terms of income from going to university is choice of subject. Those studying the likes of medicine, economics, law, maths, business and engineering do well on average. Those studying creative arts, things like graphic design and drama, end up making losses on average relative to what they might have earned if they hadn't gone to university at all.

There are twice as many creative arts students at English universities as there are engineering students. On average, each student of the creative arts ends up earning rather little and costs the taxpayer a considerable sum. On average, each student of engineering earns rather more and benefits the taxpayer. I could keep throwing around statistics like this. The question is, what to do about it?

It is, of course, perfectly reasonable to argue that a university education is good in itself or that it has much wider social benefits than can be measured in purely financial terms. But such truths hardly render these findings irrelevant. Governments need to make choices over how they spend their limited resources. The economy needs people with the skills and education required to maintain prosperity and young people themselves need routes through education into decent, well-paid, secure employment. And the truth is we do not have an education and training system that provides those routes into good employment for enough young people.

Which takes me back to the start. The key finding of the Augar review was that we need to get much better at providing technical and vocational education for a much wider group of young people and that we need good and effective alternatives to the traditional university route. While decent alternatives to university remain too few and too hard to access, too many school leavers will be funnelled into higher education courses that leave them disappointed, the economy poorer and the taxpayer out of pocket.

Paul Johnson is director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Follow him on @PJTheEconomist

Philip Rodney

Even when you have a great idea, don't be afraid to pull the plug

The Pages folder of my Apple MacBook contains drafts of a number of columns that I have started, worked on but then abandoned. The reasons I've stopped vary. Many were self-indulgent, some irrelevant, others just plain boring and a number a toxic combination of all three. The point is that it doesn't matter how smart I think any piece is, unless you are going to read it *The Times* could easily find something better to fill these words.

My mentor once advised me that a good leader gets it right seven times out of ten. If you get it right every time, you are being too cautious and aren't trying enough new things. Last week, I found out from a friend that the word "risk" derives from the early Italian verb *risicare*, which means "to dare". Risk, therefore, is not about fate. It's about weighing up the potential rewards against the dangers, calculating the odds and making an active choice.

> 'When developing a new product, one needs to be prepared to ask the right questions and listen to the answers'

New ideas, though, no matter how brilliant, are not enough. They are merely a starting point. Idea generation often requires genius — but its boring first cousin, idea screening, is just as necessary.

One rarely knows from the get-go whether a new product or service will work. Often, the initial attempt fails, but you need to push on. Apple's first try at a mobile phone, the Rokr E1, was a failure. More than 2.2 billion iPhones later, their decision to have another go was obviously the right one.

Yet sometimes the right conclusion is to retreat rather than to invest heavily and create an unnecessary distraction from other, more successful parts of your business. Sir James Dyson provides a good example of how to take these hard decisions. His company had committed substantial investment to developing an electric car, with the first vehicles scheduled to go on sale in 2021. On paper, it looked like a very clever play. The company has an enviable track record of success through commercialising radical design and there's a potentially enormous market for upmarket EVs. Three years into the project he concluded that the sums didn't add up and (excuse the pun) he pulled the plug on Dyson Automotive.

However, he didn't regard the project as a failure. What was learnt from the battery technology that had been developed will benefit the company in other ways. He told staff: "Our investment appetite is undiminished … This is not the first project that has changed direction and it will not be the last." In that statement, he was underlining that his company's success over nearly 30 years comes from a culture of daring to try new things, but also being prepared to pivot when the commercials don't stack up.

In England and Wales last year, 2,349 individuals and 330 companies entered some form of insolvency each week. That's a lot. For many, it's because they failed to take steps to keep in touch with the market. But with some, lack of success comes despite having clever ideas; they made the wrong call in identifying a new product and then failed or refused to see that.

According to an analysis by the Stage-Gate International consultancy, 28 per cent to 34 per cent of new product projects are failures and a further 20 per cent to 21 per cent get killed prior to launch. It should come as no surprise that research demonstrates that most products fail because there was just not any need.

That may be because the product was an attempt to fix a non-existent problem, the wrong customers were targeted or the pricing was incorrect. When developing a new product, one needs to be prepared to ask the right questions and, even more importantly, listen to the answers.

However, while the testing process undoubtedly is key, that's not what moves the world on. As Del Boy put it in *Only Fools and Horses*, "He who dares, Rodney, he who dares." I've never received better or more personalised advice.

Philip Rodney is a consultant, columnist and non-executive director
Graham Ruddick is away

Subscribe and save up to 35%

Stay well informed on all the stories that matter with a subscription to The Times and The Sunday Times.
Get seven days of papers and web access, plus many exclusive events, offers and competitions with Times+.

Subscribe now at thetimes.co.uk/subcribe/print or call 0800 028 5066

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

New subscribers only. UK residents aged 18+ only. Save 35% on the retail price of a 7-day subscription. Minimum term of 12 months. Visit thetimes.co.uk/subscribe/print for full T&Cs.



BRITISH AIRWAYS · MADE BY BRITAIN

Book by 17 March at ba.com/luxurysale

Book by 17 March 2020. Subject to availability. Booking fees may apply. Advertised flight and holiday sale prices discounted from lowest price available in the 21 days before 27 February 2020. Selected destinations and travel periods apply. Other restrictions may apply, full terms and conditions apply, see ba.com/luxurysale Holiday packages are protected under British Airways Holidays Ltd by the Civil Aviation Authority, ATOL number 5985. British Airways and British Airways Holidays standard terms and conditions and conditions of carriage apply: please refer to ba.com Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Promoter is British Airways Plc, Waterside, PO Box 365, Harmondsworth, UB7 0GB. Registered No. 1777777 England.

Veteran aims to get motor show on the road again



Classic cars drive through London to mark the 2006 British Motor Show held in the capital in an attempt to revive the good old days of the event of 1963, below, and the debut of the Hillman Imp

Coronavirus may have done for Geneva, Europe's premier motor show, but new life is about to breathed into the British Motor Show (Robert Lea writes).

Unresuscitated since it fell foul of the global financial crisis a decade ago, the British Motor Show will rise again this summer for the first time since 2008, to be held in August at Farnborough, best known for its biennial air show.

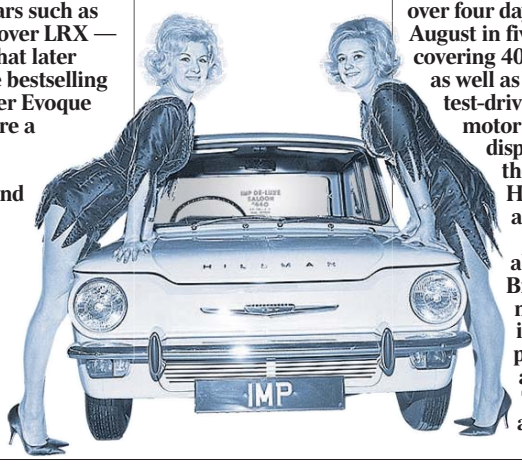
It dates back to the dawn of the automotive era, first taking place in 1903 at the Crystal Palace in south London. After the Second World War it became an annual event, running from 1948, initially at Earls Court in west London. The show moved to the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in 1978 and became a biennial event, with a ten-year hiatus in the late 1980s and 1990s when the British motor industry was imploding.

It limped on to the Excel centre in east London, which gave debuts to cars such as the Land Rover LRX — a concept that later became the bestselling Range Rover Evoque — and where a strange Californian electric brand — Tesla — hit the UK. Within a couple of outings it closed down, seemingly forever.

The new show is the brainchild of Andy Entwistle, an industry veteran who moved from an earlier career selling cars for Mercedes-Benz and Sir Richard Branson's shortlived Virgin Cars retail brand, into the marketing and events side of the business.

It is also a risk. The surviving giant car fairs of western Europe, the likes of Geneva and the biennial Frankfurt and Paris shows, are in decline. Thirteen leading marques including Jaguar Land Rover and Nissan were already steering clear of Geneva this year as companies count the cost of the multimillion-pound investment in attending these fairs when a new launch or concept can be drowned out by dozens of others. Increasingly the big manufacturers are doing their own thing at a time of their own choosing, when they can ensure the attention of both social and mainstream media.

"We will be doing something different," Mr Entwistle said. "It won't be just a bunch of cars in a hall, but something that the marketing people call 'experiential'." Almost the anti-Geneva, indeed, "not somewhere that you fleece the motor industry for £10 million a time to show their wares, but somewhere where manufacturers re-engage with the public, something the big motor shows maybe have forgotten about".



It will take strands from CES, the big Los Angeles-based electronic devices show that is increasingly about automotive gadgetry; from the annual Birmingham classic car show; and Car Fest, a summer festival mixing cars, food and music. He hopes to attract as many as 70,000 people over four days in August in five halls covering 40,000 sq m, as well as outside test-driving and motor sport display space at the Hampshire aerodrome.

"It will be about the British motor industry past, present and future. Two halls, already booked out, for classic cars and owners' clubs. Two halls for a conventional motor show displays, where we are hoping for a couple of world firsts. And the biggest hall as a tech hall, where we can really get into helping educate people about, for instance, electric vehicles."

The event is effectively a joint venture between Farnborough, an as yet unnamed sponsor and Mr Entwistle, 50. He acquired the rights to "British Motor Show" as they had never been properly registered and the name was in reality shorthand for what was officially called the British International Motor Fair.

"British industry is well ahead in the world in a lot of emerging automotive technologies," he said. "We want the British Motor Show to be the top automotive technology show in the world."

It's a sweet offer as honey company heads to market

Philip Aldrick

A Cotswold-based honey maker that has branched into infused spirits will list on the NEX growth market today.

The British Honey Company will raise £1.5 million in the listing, which will value the business at about £10 million. It plans to use the funds to consolidate smaller drinks rivals and to expand to the United States.

It was founded in 2014 by Michael Williams, 77, a software entrepreneur who set up Freecom.net in the 1990s in the early days of ecommerce. He later listed the business.

He stepped back in 2002, after which he developed his interest in beekeeping. In 2014, he turned his hobby into a business and began to trade honey. Three years later, he branched into gin distilling.

The company, now based in Worminghall, Buckinghamshire, has 275 hives and a 1,000-litre still that can produce 1.5 million bottles a year. It is expected to achieve revenues of £1 million this year.

Mr Williams has brought in Sir Hugo Swire, 60, a former Tory minister as chairman. Wafic Saïd, 80, the billionaire businessman who made his fortune broking defence deals between Britain and Saudi Arabia in the 1980s, was an early backer.

BHC recently bought the assets of the London Distillery Company, which owns the Dodds and Kew Gardens spirit brands sold in Waitrose, Harvey Nichols and Fortnum and Mason.

GETLINK

ROBUST 2019 ANNUAL RESULTS

Strong growth of
20% in net profit

€1.085Bn
Revenue

€560M
EBITDA
in line with
announced objectives

€159M
Net profit

€0.41/Share*
Dividend

€1.4Bn
Total return to shareholders
since 2008

GETLINK

www.getlinkgroup.com

Getlink is listed in Paris and London

*Proposed at the 2020 General Meeting

Business

JD Sports to step up attack on regulator

Ashley Armstrong Retail Editor

The competition watchdog is expected to come under fire again this week as JD Sports kicks back against its findings over its £90 million deal for Footasylum.

Last month the Competition and Markets Authority said that it was considering reversing JD Sport's takeover of Footasylum because of concerns that shoppers could receive fewer discounts, a worse service and less choice in stores and online.

The authority is facing mounting criticism from companies amid its increasingly interventionist approach to mergers and acquisitions, with 12 of the 17 takeovers subjected to in-depth inquiries last year being killed off by the watchdog.

£195m
Annual sales for Footasylum, the sportswear retailer
Source: Footasylum

Peter Cowgill, chief executive of JD Sports, has already lambasted the CMA for its "fundamentally flawed" analysis and this week he will deliver a detailed dossier on how, in the retailer's view, the watchdog has got its analysis wrong.

It is expected that JD Sports will claim that the CMA has contradicted itself in claiming that direct-to-consumer offers by the likes of Nike and Adidas are becoming bigger while also saying that there is a lack of evidence that it would be a constraint on the business.


The American singer Miley Cyrus modeling Converse footwear for Footasylum

The sportswear retailer will also highlight how Sports Direct, Mike Ashley's rival business, changed its market share figures during the CMA's investigation to exclude a large number of products from calculations on the grounds that they were not "sports-inspired". That resulted in the business, which has a turnover of £2 billion, apparently having a smaller market share than Footasylum, which made only £195 million annual sales in its last accounts.

Last week Sports Direct's submission to the CMA appeared to suggest that it should be lined up as the natural buyer of Footasylum in the event of a disposal, because a private equity buyer would not have the same relationships with brands or experience of the industry.

Under the guise of "company A", Sports Direct, now renamed Frasers Group, said that any acquirer of Footasylum should be independent of JD Sports, capable of competing in the relevant markets and should not give rise to further competition.

JD Sports believes that the competition authority is using an excessively narrow definition of the market by assessing rivals individually rather than the competitive nature of the market as a whole. The sportswear business has argued, too, that premium products typically follow the recommended retail price set by brands, with discounting happening only when stock has been overbought, and that in reality retailers are fighting for more product ranges from Nike and Adidas rather than the other way around.

JD Sports is also expected to argue that its takeover deal was motivated in part by a desire to improve Footasylum's range to customers, as the smaller business often had struggled to get the same level of premium products as JD Sports while its finances came under pressure.

Non-white workers at record high

Gurpreet Narwan

Black, Asian and minority ethnic Britons are entering work in record numbers but are still twice as likely to be unemployed as white people.

According to government figures, there are 3.9 million ethnic minority workers in Britain, a quarter more than ten years ago, and the increase has lifted their employment rate to 66.2 per cent.

Non-white workers tend to have below average employment rates, but progress has been made in closing the gap. However, the employment rate for ethnic minorities is still below the national average of 76.5 per cent.

There are also variations between ethnic groups. The Indian community has an employment rate of at 75.6 per cent, but this falls to 57.1 per cent for Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers.

Mims Davies, the employment minister, said that employers needed to "dig deeper" to improve the ethnic diversity of the workforce.

At 6.8 per cent, the unemployment rate for ethnic minorities has fallen by more than half in the past decade.

However, the rate is still almost double the 3.8 per cent UK-wide unemployment rate. Non-white workers are also more likely to be in lower-quality work. According to the TUC, ethnic minorities are twice as likely to be on zero-hours contracts and in agency work.

KPMG

Great customer experiences are built on trust.

Together we can put customer expectations at the heart of your business.

When you understand what your customers really value, you can unite every part of your organisation around delivering it. We'll help you apply the right insight and design processes that deliver personalised experiences across every touchpoint, from first interaction through all the steps in between. You can turn the creation of customer value and trust into profitable growth.

See more at kpmg.co.uk/changingfutures

Anticipate tomorrow. Deliver today.

© 2020 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved. The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

Freelancers cry ‘foul’ over tax change

New rules over the taxation of contractors have been met by a chorus of disapproval, reports **James Hurley**

ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK



Lorraine Kelly, the ITV presenter, won an appeal over her tax status, but some contractors are said to be considering quitting Britain because of the new rules

If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, you can hazard a guess at the species of the bird in question. If only sorting employees from freelancers was equally straightforward.

On the face of it, a forthcoming change to tax rules — one that means it will be the responsibility of medium-sized or large employers to determine the status of contractors they hire — sounds benign. Yet the policy has the freelance community up in arms, has caused confusion among businesses and has some skilled contractors threatening to leave the country. “Disastrous,” is the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed’s assessment.

The government is understandably keen that those who work like employees are taxed like them, too. It has had off-payroll working rules, known as IR35, for 20 years to prevent people avoiding paying their dues. The latest legislation is meant to tackle so-called disguised employment — the term for those who provide freelance services through personal service companies to reduce their tax bills, but who the tax authorities believe should be treated as employees and thus be taxed at source through the payroll. From April 6, private sector employers will have to work out which is which.

In response to an outcry over the switch, the government commissioned a fast-track review, but last week it dashed hopes of a delay or rethink, saying that it would press ahead, albeit with a promise that there would be a lenient approach from HM Revenue & Customs while the changes bed in.

At the heart of the disquiet is the complexity involved in working out whether contractors are genuinely self-employed or not, and therefore who is “inside” and “outside” IR35 for tax purposes. HM Revenue & Customs says that it has a tool, called CEST, to help businesses to achieve this, but it is not trusted.

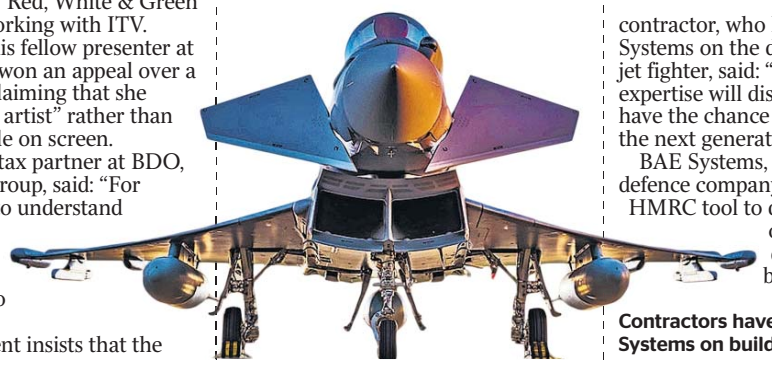
According to James Poyser, chief executive of Inniaccounts, an accountancy business: “We expected the government to announce further updates to the tool, but they have done nothing to resuscitate its reputation. It’s a root cause of so much of the harm being done. It’s a shambles.”

The confusion is underlined by two famous IR35 cases: Eamonn Holmes, the television personality, is facing a hefty tax bill after losing an appeal in his legal battle over the use of his limited company Red, White & Green Limited while working with ITV. Lorraine Kelly, his fellow presenter at the broadcaster, won an appeal over a similar case by claiming that she was a “theatrical artist” rather than her true self while on screen.

Paul Falvey, a tax partner at BDO, the accounting group, said: “For many, it is hard to understand why it appears that a totally different set of tax rules apply to similar cases.”

The government insists that the rules should not harm genuine freelancers; businesses remain free to engage off-payroll contractors, but must satisfy themselves that their use does not amount to disguised employment. Yet contractors report that the response of their clients to the looming change has been to cull their off-payroll workforces, thus avoiding the risk of getting the complex determination wrong and ending up with an enormous tax bill. Barclays, Lloyds and HSBC are among those to say that they will no longer directly engage off-payroll contractors, regardless of whether they are inside or outside IR35.

There are reports of engineering and defence contractors doing the same. A project manager in the defence industry said: “Clients are burying their heads in the sand. Mine has done a blanket ban on contracting with private limited companies.” The contractor, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that he would not renew his present contract, which meant that his client was set to lose more than three decades of defence industry experience. “The [payroll] staff who have to pick up the projects are going to be overworked. It will impact their ability in the immediate future to deliver major projects.” Another contractor, who has worked for BAE Systems on the development of a new jet fighter, said: “The engineering expertise will disappear and will not have the chance to be passed on to the next generation.”



Contractors have worked with BAE Systems on building new fighter jets

BAE Systems, Britain’s largest defence company, says it uses the HMRC tool to determine the status of contractors and does not take a blanket approach. Yet some of its IR35 contractors complain that they are being classed as “inside” IR35 when they believe that they are genuinely self-employed.

The Treasury has estimated that two thirds of people working through their own company are genuinely self-employed and therefore are not affected by the IR35 rules. Representatives of contractors argue that there would be a fraction of the fuss over the rule changes if only one in three contractors was truly being captured.

Offpayroll.org.uk, a site that tracks employers’ treatment of IR35, said that in a poll of more than 2,800 contractors it had found that fewer than one in six had been assessed as outside IR35. About one in three said that their status was still being considered.

Mr Poyser said that many contractors would rather leave the country and seek work overseas rather than accept an “inside” IR35 role.

David Brear, chief executive of 11Fs, a financial services consultancy, fears that IR35, when combined with wider concerns over Brexit, will mean that consultants in his industry will choose work in the European Union. 11FS, which employs 183 people, said that it would hire more permanent staff to adjust for an anticipated shortage of contractors. He said that was not an issue for a company of 11FS’s size, but smaller businesses may take a cashflow hit from reduced access to a flexible source of labour.

“From our office, you can chuck a stone and hit Starling, Monzo, UBS, RBS, Icap,” he said. “London became a global powerhouse because of the mix of talent. Anything that might mean we risk losing that would be terrible.”

Contractors will be forced to consider whether reduced income in the form of higher taxes is a price worth paying for flexibility; after all, should people without employment rights and benefits such as sick and holiday pay, notice periods and a company pension scheme be inside the same tax regime as the employees who have them? Some, no doubt, will take the hit and will go “inside” IR35; others may look for opportunities overseas; but plenty are likely to conclude that they will have to take a conventional job. That’s an outcome that may secretly delight the Treasury.

‘We don’t do the same job’

The government says that disguised employment could cost the public purse £1.3 billion a year by 2024 and may perpetuate “an unfairness between two individuals working in the same way, but paying different levels of tax” (James Hurley writes).

Tony, a contractor who works in the defence industry, argues that those who are being assessed as “inside” IR35 tax rules and are said to be pseudo-employees are often nothing of the sort. “The reality,” he said, “is we don’t do the same job.”

He said that clients paid more for contractors because they wanted skilled, flexible workers who could be let go easily when work dropped off. “They pay a premium for that. You get more pay one week, but that’s at the risk you could be out of work the next through no fault of your own. There’s no holiday or sick pay and the work itself can be different. There’s a lot of work away from home.”

Tony — not his real name — began contracting six years ago. He has always hired an IR35 expert to advise him that he is safely outside the legislation, but his latest client has taken a different view.

“The clients I’m working at, and the majority of the ones I’d normally work for, will say they are doing an IR35 determination, but they are not really. They just produce a statement, ‘You are inside IR35’. They think it means they won’t be chased by HMRC.”

He said that he was reluctant to take an inside IR35 role for fear of a tax investigation. “It is such a big risk to stay at the same client but move from outside IR35 to inside. It’s like putting a target on your back for HMRC.”

The tax authority has said that intelligence arising from the changes would not be used to open investigations over previous years, unless fraud was suspected. Tony is not convinced: “There’s no legal obligation to stick to that promise.”

He is considering moving to Switzerland to work in Europe. “We are having conversations about selling the house and emigrating.”

Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
770.65	Aston Martin Lagonda	338	-63½	...	-5.0

Banking & finance

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
24.47	1PM♦	27½	-1	3.3	4.1
6,202.66	**Admiral**	2112	-163	4.2	15.2
3.98	ADVFN♦	15½	-2½	...	-9.6
176.13	Amryt Pharma♦	114	-14½	...	-1.9
37,185.78	Aon Corpn	16057¼	-2067⅝	0.8	33.4
104.35	Appreciate Group♦‡	56	-5¾	5.7	11.4
154.10	Arbuthnot Bkg♦	1035	-40	3.3	21.3
15.50	Arc Minerals♦	2	-½	...	-0.6
4.07	Arden Partners♦	14	...	7.1	-1.9
9.55	Argo Group♦	24½	...	...	15.6
3,294.29	Ashmore Gp	462⅛	-95¾	3.6	18.4
35,547.37	Aus New Z	1253¼	-111	6.9	10.7
13,757.43	**Aviva**	350¾	-53¼	8.5	6.0
47,507.04	Banco Santander	285⅞	-33½	5.1	10.1
798.81	Bank of Georgia	1692	-36	4.0	6.3
25,769.68	**Barclays**‡	148⅝	-30⅞	4.7	13.8
2,831.48	Beazley‡	534½	-44½	2.2	22.7
3.19	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	1.4
85.60	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	229	-36	2.0	7.0
2.67	Braveheart Inv♦	9½	-½	5.2	-1.2
923.65	Brewin Dolphin	304½	-56⅛	5.3	18.3
3.31	Carador	21⅞	-¾	17.6	-3.4
9.78	Catena Group♦	27½	...	...	...
30.33	Cenkos Secs♦	53½	-11	8.4	17.2
145.59	Charles Stanley	286	-51	3.0	12.7
417.92	Chesnara	278½	-44½	7.4	7.4
50.95	City of Lon Gp♦	127½	...	...	-9.6
110.23	City Lon Inv Gp	415	-37½	6.5	12.1
1.23	Clear Leisure♦	⅛	...	...	-0.3
1,941.41	Close Bros	1283	-157	4.9	9.6
433.68	CMC Markets	150	-15¾	1.3	17.2
5,612.27	Commerzbk	448⅛	-112½	...	7.8
14,004.00	Deutsche Bk	677½	-141⅜	1.4	-3.5
4,221.25	Direct Line Ins	307	-28⅝	6.8	9.8
98.96	Downing ONE VCT‡	69	...	7.2	-9.5
607.77	EFG-Hermes Hldg	158⅛	...	4.1	9.0
5.05	EIH♦	7¾	...	...	-2.6
1.30	Energiser Inv♦	1	...	...	-1.3
63.44	EPE Special Opps♦	193	-5	...	3.1
363.91	FBD	757⅝	...	5.9	5.1
6.90	Fiske♦	59	...	...	...
28.33	Frenkel Topping♦	37½	-3½	3.4	26.9
270.74	Georgia Capital	674	-101	...	...
14.26	GLI Finance♦	4½	-⅛	...	-0.7
162.42	Gresham House♦	582½	-100	0.5	...
40.84	Gresh Hse Strat♦	1165	-160	1.7	...
89.40	Gulf Invest	96⅝	-5⅜	2.4	6.7
130.34	H&T Group♦	328	-27	3.3	10.7
51.38	Hansard Global	37¼	-10⅝	11.9	11.3
7,287.91	**Hargreaves L**‡	1536½	-173½	2.1	29.5
1,077.84	Hastings Gp	163	-21⅛	8.2	11.2
22.92	Helios Under♦	127½	-5	...	20.6
1.78	Highway Capital#	15½	...	...	-5.0
3,538.05	Hiscox	1226	-106	2.6	35.7
106,423.32	**HSBC**‡	523⅞	-38¼	7.8	10.0
2,488.54	IG Group	673½	-19	6.9	15.7
451.89	Impax♦‡	346½	-47	1.3	28.6
4,623.75	Intermediate Cap	1592	-285	2.8	22.5
325.68	IPF	145½	-27⅜	8.5	4.8
2,596.60	Intl Public Pntshp	161⅛	-8⅜	4.3	15.0
2,729.34	Investec	392	-54	6.2	8.1
15.89	Investment Co	333	-14	5.4	...
705.39	IP Group	66½	-9	...	...
0.19	IRF Euro Fin Inv	⅛	...	...	...
50.16	Jarvis Securities♦‡	459	-12	5.6	13.4
1,373.10	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	300	-90½	5.7	10.3
751.47	Just Group	72½	-10½	...	...
1,470.31	Lancashire Hdgs	724½	-82½	1.6	...
3.82	Leeds Group♦	14	-3½	...	-2.9
15,510.13	**Legal & Gen**	260	-53⅞	6.3	8.2
1,334.74	Liberty Group	466¼	-52½	8.2	8.3
614.94	Liontrust	1110	-210	2.0	34.1
73.42	Livermore Invs♦	42	...	...	10.6
35,283.25	**Lloyds Bkg Gp**	50⅛	-5⅛	6.4	16.7
30.19	LMS Capital	37⅜	-1	...	-6.5
4.71	Location Sciences♦	1¼	-½	...	-0.9
26,496.51	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	7576	-846	0.8	55.7
5,168.61	**M&G**	198¾	-45¾	...	3.3
2,217.24	Man	146½	-12	6.2	10.2
12.13	Manx Fin♦	9¼	-¼	...	5.9
0.45	Marechale Cap♦	¾	...	...	-2.5
40,941.38	Marsh McLn	8124⅞	-984	1.7	34.0
227.23	Mattioli Woods♦‡	845	-7½	2.1	27.5
20.55	Metal Tiger♦	1¼	-¼	...	2.7
288.80	Metro Bank	167½	-39⅞	...	...
37,342.57	Nat Aust Bk	1266⅞	-116	7.8	13.2
268.36	Numis♦	252	-38	4.7	31.1
1,788.90	Onesavings Bank	401½	-34⅜	3.6	7.5
0.45	Origo Partners♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
1,166.88	Paragon	455	-55½	4.5	9.4
567.38	PayPoint‡	830	-114	4.7	13.1
72.56	PCF Group♦	29	-6½	1.0	12.1
4,987.13	**Phoenix Gp**	691⅛	-97½	6.6	9.1
0.59	Plutus PowerGen♦	...	...	...	-0.3
10.01	Polo Resources♦	2¾	-¼	...	-2.6
1,018.08	Provident	401¾	-64¼	2.4	17.1
32,958.69	**Prudential**	1267	-222	3.9	12.4
24.20	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	2⅜	...	...	-7.2
2,777.29	Quilter PLC	146	-25¾	2.2	19.2
311.70	Randall & Quilter♦	155	-12	3.6	7.1
935.86	Rathbone Brs	1660	-336	3.9	38.0
2,136.72	Robeco N/V	2670⅞	...	...	...
1,359.65	Rolinco N/V	2489¾	...	...	...
21,605.77	**Ryl Bk Scot**	178⅝	-25⅜	3.0	10.8
5,352.21	**RSA Ins**	518¾	-50⅛	4.0	20.5
266.64	S & U‡	2200	-210	5.3	9.3
251.74	Schroder REIT‡	48½	-6¾	5.3	24.2
7,704.46	**Schroders**	2854	-522	3.9	17.1
7,704.46	Schroders N/V	2220	-345	5.1	13.3
238.37	Secure Trust Bk	1280	-220	6.4	7.9
46.69	Share♦	32½	-1	1.6	...
91.78	Sigma Cap♦	102½	-13	1.9	8.5
24.84	Sosander♦	15¼	-2½	...	-4.4
5,433.00	**St James Place**	1015½	-150½	4.7	36.2
17,981.89	**Stand Chart**	562½	-64⅜	2.9	45.3
6,439.87	**Strd Life Aber**	276⅜	-46½	8.1	...
2.38	Starvest♦	4¼	-½	...	3.0
15.45	STM Group♦	26	-1½	7.6	3.1
19,885.22	Sun Life Can	3382⅝	-421⅝	3.7	13.3
713.72	TBC Bank Group	1294	-42	4.2	5.1
0.01	Tiger Res Plc♦	¼	...	...	-0.8
2,180.94	Virgin Money UK	151¾	-29⅞	2.0	-8.4
21.09	Volvere♦	1150	-110	...	...
27.76	WH Ireland♦	57	...	...	-1.8
10.86	Walker Crips Grp	25½	-1½	3.5	16.4
135,178.31	Wells Fargo	3196⅛	-538⅛	4.6	8.4
43,097.77	Westpac	1193¼	-103⅜	8.6	11.5
6.94	Worsley Investors Ltd	29⅝	+⅛	...	63.0
32.65	Zoltav Resource♦	23	-6	...	...
44,881.27	Zurich Fincl	29999⅛	-4966⅛	5.0	14.3

Investment companies

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Forecast Yld%	P/E
9,807.93	**3I Group**	1008	-163	4.3	21.5
2,643.10	3i Infrastructure	296½	-13½	3.7	23.6
332.95	Abrdn Div I&G	104	-7	4.2	-9.4
1,097.68	Aberforth Smlr	1226	-196	2.5	-5.0
2,464.70	Alliance	749	-113	1.5	-4.0
498.24	Asia Dragon Tr	390	-23	1.0	-12.1
4.21	Athelney Trust	195	-40	3.3	-18.8
758.90	AVI Global Trust	695	-62	1.9	-9.7
293.38	Baillie Gifford Euro Gr	810	-136	3.3	-6.2
623.87	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	675	-77	0.4	-5.3
397.00	Baillie Gifford SN	142	-15¾	...	-3.3
274.70	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	182½	-17	1.4	-6.1
1,150.93	Bankers	903	-113	2.1	-0.1
297.03	BH Global	1495	-22½	...	-5.9
379.82	BH Macro	2650	+10	...	1.3
354.21	Biotech Growth	896	-98	...	-7.1
63.54	BlckRck Com Inc	56	-10⅛	5.5	-12.1
253.91	BlckRck Fro Inv	105	-13	5.0	-2.2
319.58	BlckRck Grt Euro	379	-49	1.4	-2.2
40.20	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	176	-27	3.4	-3.0
161.75	BlckRck Latin Am	412	-67	5.2	-8.2
134.80	BlckRck N Amer Inc	166	-26	4.4	-1.9
724.63	BlckRck Smlr	1484	-292	1.8	-2.0
472.44	BlckRck Throgmorton	590	-126	1.4	-1.4
555.31	BlckRck Wld Min	319½	-57	5.2	-14.9
18.06	Blue Plan Int Fn	36½	...	5.4	-26.9
327.37	BMO Cap&Inc	316	-40	3.3	-2.5
778.58	BMO Comm Prop	97⅜	-10¾	4.6	-22.8
763.77	BMO Glbl Smaller	126	-18	1.1	-5.3
261.75	BMO Priv Eq Ord	354	-56	3.8	2.3
185.82	BMO Real Estate	77⅛	-5¾	4.8	-21.8
75.61	BMO UK HIT	88	-11	4.8	-10.2
27.46	BMO UK HIT B	89	-12	...	-8.8
113.14	BMO UK HIT UNIT	353	-44	3.5	-7.3
347.52	Brunner	814	-106	2.1	-5.3
1,576.56	Caledonia Inv	2875	-220	1.6	-20.7
181.76	City Merch Hi Yld	179	-19	5.2	0.4
1,542.21	City of Lon IT	382	-49½	4.5	2.1
91.14	Crystal Amber Fd♦	97½	-9	3.3	-30.9
63.58	Dunedin Entp	308	-57	0.4	-26.2
922.33	Edinburgh IT	528	-73	4.1	-11.9
569.40	Edin Wwide	184½	-33	...	1.2
127.29	Electra Pte Eq	332½	-46½	...	-32.6
110.19	EP Global Opp	272	-33	2.1	-7.6
333.34	European Assets	92½	-12⅞	1.4	-9.1
3,646.41	F&C Investment Tr	672	-102	1.5	-3.0
264.53	Fidlty Asian Val	350	-36½	2.3	-3.0
1,217.57	Fidelity China Sp	224	-18	1.6	-12.4
987.52	Fidlty Euro Val	240	-30	3.2	-8.0
194.73	Fidlty Jap Tru	146½	-16½	...	-10.2
661.56	Fidlty Spec Val	230	-36½	2.8	-0.6
1,656.59	Fins Gwth & Inc	795	-117	1.8	-1.1
1,032.61	GCP Infrastructure	117½	-6	5.2	8.6
861.81	GCP Student Living	189⅜	-23	3.5	11.1
872.13	Gen Emer Mkts	718	-65	...	-12.7
16.48	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	28⅞	-4¼	...	-20.7
2,127.59	Greencoat UK	140⅛	-4¾	4.3	16.4
208.32	Hansa Investment	173½	-15¼	1.3	-34.8
210.00	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	175	-14½	1.3	-35.4
1,287.38	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	1612	-252	...	-17.0
246.16	Hend Euro Foc	1145	-150	2.2	-10.2
207.04	Hend High Inc	161	-24½	5.2	-2.1
664.85	Hend Smlr	890	-172	2.1	-8.4
908.63	Herald	1354	-120	...	-11.1
973.75	HgCapital Trust	239	-31½	1.9	-0.4
3,205.47	HICL Infra	172	-9⅛	5.2	10.3
44.86	Highbridge Tactical	194¼	-2¼	...	-9.5
599.23	ICG Ent Tr	870	-104	1.9	-20.2
707.61	Impax Env Mkts	318	-37	0.9	8.3
177.16	Invesco Asia Tr	265	-21	2.0	-11.8
161.60	Invesco Inc&Gr	276	-27	3.5	-8.3
7.59	IPST Bal	144	-1½	...	1.3
57.00	IPST Gbl Eq	193	-21	3.3	1.4
2.64	IPST Managed	103	...	0.7	-2.4
53.46	IPST UK Eq	165½	-20	3.5	4.3
125.70	IP Enhanced Inc	72⅜	-5⅜	6.7	0.5
175.90	IP UKSmallerCos	520	-104	1.8	-0.1
925.50	JPM American	444½	-70½	1.2	-8.3
339.63	JPM Asia	361	-35	4.1	-6.4
22.13	JPM Brazil	66	-10	0.9	-13.9
236.29	JPM Chinese	325	-29	0.6	-15.0
384.45	JPM Claverhs	676	-91	3.7	-5.2
5.04	JPM Elect Mg C	102½	...	0.3	-0.8
247.44	JPM Elect Mg G	817½	-100	1.7	-4.1
77.53	JPM Elect Mg I	92½	-17	4.2	-3.8
1,127.01	JPM Em Mkts	936	-102	1.3	-9.9
178.39	JPM Eur IT Gth	259½	-39½	2.6	-15.5
141.90	JPM Eur IT Inc	142	-17	3.8	-13.0
569.28	JPM Euro Smlr	357	-46	1.5	-14.2
358.17	JPM GEMI	120½	-14	3.7	-3.6
471.79	JPM GG&I	340	-26	3.7	-1.9
656.73	JPM Indian	628	-92	...	-16.0
189.70	JPM Jap Sml Co	348	-45	3.8	-13.9
617.58	JPM Japan	383	-44½	1.0	-14.5
286.29	JPM Mid Cap	1207½	-215	2.1	-0.2
81.45	JPM Mlti-Ass	94½	-11⅞	3.7	-7.1
290.27	JPM Russian	632	-119	3.8	-15.4
208.40	JPM Smllr Co	267	-53	1.7	-9.0
177.43	JPM US Sml	302	-68	0.7	-1.8
873.66	Jupiter Euro Opps	774	-138	0.6	-5.8
39.66	Jupiter UK Gr Inv	255	-49⅞	2.8	-1.0
135.17	Jupiter US Smlr	1022½	-162½	...	-7.4
195.29	Keystone IT	305	-41	3.0	-10.8
670.31	Law Debenture	566	-54	2.8	-17.4
327.60	Lowland	1212½	-170	4.0	-5.5
107.38	Majedie	202½	-29½	4.1	-18.8
240.97	M Currie Port	287½	-41½	1.3	2.4
54.81	Marwyn Val In	90	-7	...	-42.5
1,875.91	Mercantile IT	237	-40½	2.4	-5.4
535.57	Merchants	473	-65	5.0	1.4
265.18	Mid Wynd	566	-66	1.0	3.2
1,989.69	Monks Inv Tst	896	-114	0.2	4.2
169.59	Montanaro Eur Sml	1013½	-164	0.8	-8.0
548.72	Murray Income Trust	830	-100	3.6	-1.3
1,366.59	Murray Int	1056	-140	4.6	-2.4
351.64	Nb Global Floating	87¾	-3	4.8	-4.2
290.30	Pacific Assets	240	-23	1.0	-10.3
1,168.33	Pantheon Int	2160	-305	...	-19.1
607.09	Perpetual In&Gr	282½	-41	4.0	-13.0
2,722.80	Pershing Square	1340	-680	1.5	-27.2
1,139.82	Personal Assets	41200	-2700	1.3	0.9
1,977.93	Polar Cap Tech	1478	-226	...	-3.7
642.72	Pollen Street	866	+40	5.0	-9.6
23.42	Prem Glb & Inf	129½	-15	7.1	-7.3
2,193.00	Renewables Inf	134	-3	5.8	16.6
2,958.15	RIT Cap Ptnr	1886	-199	...	-1.2
249.28	Riverstone	312	-98	...	-58.9
325.01	Schroder TotRt	332	-34	1.7	-4.5
715.94	Schrd Asia Pac	427½	-36½	1.9	-11.2
182.02	Schrod Inc Gwth	265	-45	4.0	-2.6
212.51	Schrod Jap Gwth	170	-15	2.1	-15.3
189.54	Schrod UKMid	536	-118	2.7	-8.0
569.21	Scot American	384	-48	2.9	4.3
527.91	Scot IT	715	-75	3.4	-9.5
8,152.79	**Scot Mtge**	561	-79	0.5	-2.1
197.81	Secs Tst Scot	189	-24	3.1	2.7
1,572.65	Sequoia Eco	113⅜	-1⅜	5.8	4.4
797.12	Temple Bar	1192	-170	3.9	-1.2
1,815.12	Tplton Emg Mkt	747	-89	2.1	-11.8
1,374.13	TR Property	433	-62½	2.9	-5.5
4.21	Tritax EuroBox EUR	1	-108½	2.9	-12.2
252.90	Troy Inc&Gth	76½	-9¾	3.3	0.7
1,034.33	UK Comm Prop REIT	79½	-7½	4.1	-8.1
175.32	Utilico Ord	204	-28	2.2	-36.4
464.84	Utilico Emerging Mkt	204	-28	2.9	-12.8
59.28	UtilFin RdZDP 2020	152	...	...	2.8
66.25	UtilFin RdZDP 2022	132½	...	...	5.9
880.97	Vietnam Ent Inv	404	-42	...	-17.6
1,695.06	Witan	196	-31½	2.2	-2.5
194.38	Witan Pacific	318	-26	1.9	-8.2
245.33	Schroder UK PP Tr	27	-4½	...	-46.3
1,554.94	Ww Health	2905	-375	0.8	1.0

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

FIND the answers to all of your travel needs

First & Business Class Holidays & Flights 020 7368 1400
Corporate Travel 020 7368 1499
Worldwide Holidays & Flights 020 7368 1200
Cruise Trailfinders 020 7368 1300
Private Bespoke Touring 020 7368 1500
European Travel 020 7937 1234
Group Travel 020 7938 3858
Honeymoons & Wishlist 020 7408 9008
Visa & Passport Service 020 7368 1504
Travel Insurance 020 7408 9005

Trustpilot
Trailfinders is Trustpilot's No.1 rated travel company
"Truly excellent: patient, friendly, helpful and a mine of knowledge, tips and advice."

Awards 2019 Which? Travel Brand of the Year
TRAVEL BRAND OF THE YEAR

VOTED FOR BY THE PUBLIC
BEST TOUR OPERATOR
Readers of The Times, The Sunday Times & The Sunday Times Travel Magazine for 7 consecutive years
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS
Readers of National Geographic Traveller
MOST TRUSTED TRAVEL BRAND
Readers of The Guardian & Observer
TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR
Readers of Food & Travel Magazine

50 1970-2020 ANNIVERSARY
ATOL PROTECTED 1458 IATA TRAILFINDERS FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

Construction & property

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
277.31	Abbey♦	1320	-30	1.3	7.9
37.22	Alumasc♦	103	-25½	7.1	51.5
68.45	Aseana Props	34⅜	...	...	...
0.83	Ashley Hse♦	1¼	-1	...	-0.2
1,778.56	Assura Grp	73⅝	-7½	3.7	21.6
3.72	Aukett Fitz Rob♦	2¼	-½	...	-2.3
1,698.78	Balfour Beatty	246⅛	-32⅜	1.9	15.2
7,710.47	**Barratt Devs**	757⅛	-106	3.6	10.4
4,586.52	Bellway	3723	-574	3.9	8.5
5,984.58	**Berkeley**	4754	-716	0.5	11.8
1,781.70	Big Yellow Group	1066	-174	3.1	11.0
47.21	Billington Hldgs♦	365	-66	3.5	9.4
404.84	Boot (Henry)	304	-24	2.9	11.4
1,450.70	Breedon Group♦	86⅛	-8⅞	...	19.6
4,642.62	**Br Land**	501	-55⅛	6.2	-7.3
21.80	Caledonian Tst♦	185	+5	...	10.5
1,691.51	Cap & Count Prop	198	-44⅝	0.7	...
192.70	Cap & Regnl	185½	-14½	1.3	...
21.32	Cardiff Prop	1725	...	0.9	14.0
79.44	Carecapital♦	32½	-7½	...	-2.6
46.07	Clarke T	107	-21½	3.7	7.1
1,002.19	CLS Hldgs	246	-30	2.8	7.1
2,115.90	Countryside Prop	470⅛	-70¼	2.6	12.6
99.86	Countrywide	304¾	-35⅜	...	0.1
9.56	Craven House♦	313⅛	-46⅞	...	-5.4
1,161.28	Crest Nicholson	452	-66	7.3	8.5
20,733.55	**CRH**	2639	-265	2.4	15.2
1,300.37	Daejan‡	7980	-40	1.3	21.7
4,381.51	Derwent London	3920	-362	1.6	19.9
34.01	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	-⅛	...	-1.3
12.03	Dragon-Ukra Prop♦	11	...	...	7.0
6.46	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-0.4
42.50	First Prop♦	38½	-2½	4.3	7.3
3.96	Fletcher King♦	43	-2	4.0	18.9
219.81	Foxtons Group	79⅞	-14¼	...	...
171.71	Galliford Try	154½	-20⅞	46.5	1.9
512.42	Gleeson (MJ)	926	-58	3.7	15.3
2,056.91	Grafton Gp Uts	862	-114½	2.0	13.5
1,996.23	Grainger	296⅜	-41½	1.7	14.9
2,139.09	Gr Portland	842½	-115½	1.4	37.2
1,598.49	Hammerson	208½	-13⅜	12.4	-2.5
400.78	Harworth Gp	124½	-23	0.7	9.2
7.35	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	290	...	4.2	10.2
564.49	Helical Bar	470½	-44½	2.1	18.6
48.06	Highcroft Invs	930	-15	5.2	15.1
8,971.71	HK Land	384⅜	-44⅝	4.5	6.5
1,120.55	Ibstock	273¾	-46	3.4	16.2
164.71	Intu Properties	12⅛	-1⅜	37.8	-0.1
1,089.53	James Halstead♦	486	-64	2.8	26.7
1,654.29	John Laing Group	336⅜	-23½	1.6	10.7
467.74	Keller	649	-176	5.5	...
9,007.08	Kingspan Group	4927⅝	-576⅛	0.7	28.1
6,188.27	**Land Sec**	834½	-126½	5.4	...
15.36	Lon & Assoc	18	-2½	0.9	-3.3
1,743.58	LondonMetric Property Plc	207⅛	-26½	4.0	46.0
76.74	Low & Bonar	11⅛	-⅝	11.9	-0.7
59.98	Macau Prop Op	97	-10½	...	-2.4
1,454.38	Marshalls	727	-100½	1.6	25.9
720.08	McCarthy & Stone	134	-22½	4.0	17.6
245.09	McKay Secs	260	-6	3.9	20.5
108.24	Michelmersh♦	115½	-7½	2.7	18.2
797.92	Morgan Sindall	1754	-216	3.0	11.8
3.43	Mountfield Gp♦	1¼	-¼	...	5.0
446.44	Mountview‡	11450	-1300	3.4	15.2
476.37	NewRiver REIT	155½	-35⅜	13.8	-7.7
47.82	NMCN	460	-60	3.9	8.9
1.47	Pac All China Land♦	55½	...	...	-0.3
136.65	Palace Capital	296½	-18	6.4	...
56.59	Panther Securities♦	320	-30	4.0	...
1.99	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅝	-⅛	...	-2.8
9,054.11	**Persimmon**	2839	-443	8.2	10.2
1.53	Pires Investments♦	2¼	-¼	...	1.1
2.23	Plaza Cent	32½	-5	...	...
0.77	PME African Infra♦	3⅛	...	...	-0.7
1,074.33	Polypipe Group	534½	-73	2.1	21.6
1,762.17	Primary Hlth	144¾	-16¾	3.8	...
220.39	Raven Property	45	-2⅜	...	-4.2
1,710.88	Raven Property Group‡	129½	-6	...	...
236.84	Raven R CNV Pref	119½	...	...	...
...	Raven Russia Wnts	21	...	...	...
432.04	RDI REIT	113½	-15¾	9.4	-5.2
95.07	Real Estate Invs♦	51	-5	7.1	20.6
2,627.34	Redrow	746	-98	4.0	8.1
1,665.62	Safestore	791½	-75½	2.0	13.1
1,547.88	Savills	1082	-147	1.4	20.1
9.85	Secure Property♦	7⅝	-½	...	-6.0
9,006.10	**SEGRO**	821⅛	-100⅛	2.2	9.4
373.27	SIG	63	-23¼	5.9	90.1
106.57	SigmaRoc♦	42	-8	...	24.1
52.86	Smart (J)	123	-1½	2.5	7.9
1,066.30	St Modwen Prp	479½	-36½	1.4	17.6
60.23	Steppe Cement♦	27½	-7½	10.8	6.4
6,639.28	**Taylor Wimpey**	202⅛	-30⅛	3.0	10.1
110.58	Town Centre	208	-20	5.6	-8.8
3,683.82	Travis Perkins	1461	-237	3.2	49.5
2,219.07	Tritax Big Box REIT	130	-15⅝	5.1	9.3
476.03	Tyman	242½	-40½	4.9	19.5
4,119.52	Unite Group	1133	-206	2.5	12.5
508.13	Urban&Civic plc	350	-25	1.0	11.4
2,784.94	Vistry Group‡	1279	-178	4.4	11.7
264.28	Warehouse REIT♦‡	110	-5½	5.4	13.2
2,046.04	Workspace Grp	1132	-136	2.9	15.4
16.95	Wynnstay Props♦	625	...	3.0	7.0

Consumer goods

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1.16	Agriterra♦#	5⅜	...	...	-0.5
15.92	Airea♦	38½	-4	9.7	5.2
210.28	Anglo-Eastern	526	-54	0.4	...
116.21	Animalcare♦	193½	-4	2.2	...
17,852.25	**AB Foods**	2255	-328	2.0	20.3
638.53	Bakkavor Group	110⅛	-27⅛	5.4	14.5
599.35	Barr (AG)	535	-69	3.1	18.9
14.69	Bidstack Group♦	6	-⅝	...	-2.9
70,250.35	**Brit Amer Tob**	3062½	-290	6.5	11.4
2,268.05	Britvic	852½	-75½	3.3	28.1
6,673.00	**Burberry Grp**	1649	-221½	2.5	19.0
1,017.88	C&C Grp	328	-48½	4.2	14.9
124.75	Carr's Grp	135	-10½	3.4	10.5
55.46	Character Grp♦	260	-30	8.8	5.3
178.57	Churchill China♦	1630	-350	1.7	22.7
8,990.06	**Coca Cola HBC**	2474	-324	2.0	24.0
38.62	Colefax♦	428	...	1.1	10.8
1,736.16	Cranswick	3330	-510	1.6	23.4
250.42	Devro	150	-15	6.0	16.4
64,628.21	**Diageo**‡	2765½	-334	2.4	21.2
4.14	Distil PLC♦	¾	...	...	82.5
1.34	Equat Palm Oil♦	⅜	...	...	-0.1
117.34	Finsbury Food♦	90	-10½	3.7	12.8
2,058.51	Games Workshop‡	6300	-815	2.4	31.3
2,655.41	Glanbia	896⅞	-27½	2.4	13.5
933.73	Greencore‡	209¼	-42	2.7	27.1
428.77	Headlam	505	-24	4.9	12.7
0.86	Hidong Estate	50	...	...	34.4
843.40	Hilton Food	1032	-22	2.0	27.8
43.93	Hornby♦	34½	-4	...	-8.9
14,714.75	**Imperial Brands**‡	1554¾	-174⅛	12.4	14.7
0.93	J Lewis Hford♦	½	...	...	-3.1
17,396.20	Kerry Gp	9855¼	-851⅜	0.6	35.2
124.12	McBride	67⅞	+1⅞	4.1	10.4
145.69	Mulberry Group♦	242½	-48½	2.0	...
479.67	Nichols♦	1297½	-127½	2.9	18.5
170.60	Norcros	212	-45½	3.9	9.8
332.13	Origin Ents♦	264⅜	-40¾	7.2	6.9
9.44	Pittards♦	68	-2	...	-5.0
67.44	Portmeirion♦	620	-145	6.0	10.8
10.30	Provexis♦	½	...	...	...
242.00	PureCircle#	131⅛	...	...	...
775.99	PZ Cussons‡	181	-16⅛	4.5	29.0
50.39	REA	115	-37½	...	-1.4
4.33	Real Gd Fd♦	4¼	-¼	...	-0.2
5.09	RiverFort Global Opps♦	...	...	...	...
382.40	Stock Spirits	191⅛	-25¾	4.0	15.2
9.05	Tandem♦	180	-40	2.3	4.2
19.58	Tern♦	7¼	-1¼	...	...
270.77	Treatt‡	450	-88	1.1	27.3
5.57	Two Shields♦	...	...	...	-0.9
1.13	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2¾	+⅛	...	2.6
59,813.28	Unilever (NV)	4094¾	-542⅛	3.4	12.9
109,598.04	**Unilever**‡	4170	-423	3.3	13.2
433.88	Victoria♦	346	-49	...	...
0.21	Walcom Group♦	¼	...	...	-0.6
21.76	Worthington Gp#	87	...	...	...

Engineering

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
54.48	Amiad Water Syst♦	240	...	...	43.6
0.31	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-0.2
846.94	Avon Rubber‡	2730	-50	0.6	58.7
2,242.32	Babcock	443½	-54	6.7	11.2
19,505.14	**BAE SYS**	608⅜	-60½	3.6	14.7
1,462.73	Bodycote	764	-86	2.4	14.5
2.85	Bould Opportunities♦#	...	...	...	-0.3
25.20	Braime A N/V♦	1750	...	0.6	11.6
25.20	Braime Group♦	1750	...	0.6	11.6
11.52	Caffyns	400	...	5.6	...
11.40	Cap XX Ld♦	2½	-⅝	...	-5.2
161.87	Castings	371	-61	3.9	13.1
1.71	Chamberlin♦	21½	-2½	...	-0.2
22.95	Checkit♦	37	-4	...	23.1
244.94	Cohort♦	598	-81	1.5	33.5
13.64	Croma Security♦	91½	-2½	1.8	11.7
87.45	Dewhurst♦	1040	-75	1.2	20.9
69.63	Dialight	214	-76	...	41.1
4,722.10	Electrolux 'B'	1570⅛	-185¼	4.4	15.6
4.37	Feedback♦	¾	...	...	-2.7
297.99	Gooch Hsego♦‡	1190	-170	0.9	79.3
198.81	Goodwin	2700	-560	3.5	18.5
7,323.36	**Halma**	1929	-298	0.8	40.6
1,061.96	Hill & Smith	1337	-122	2.3	20.5
1.90	Holders Tech♦	45	...	1.6	12.2
2.32	Image Scan♦	1⅝	-½	...	-5.3
2,738.42	IMI	1006	-94	4.0	16.1
0.96	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.9
303.56	Judges Scientific♦	4860	-770	0.8	28.3
13.42	LPA♦‡	106	-9½	2.7	18.4
4,214.38	**Meggitt**	542	-73¾	3.0	29.3
10,173.19	**Melrose**	209⅜	-35⅛	2.2	...
793.33	Morgan Advanced	278	-21⅛	3.9	13.7
52.45	Mpac PLC♦	260	-92½	...	...
23.45	MS Intl♦	140	-22	5.8	25.9
34.87	Northbrdg Ind♦	125	-15½	...	...
798.16	Oxford Inst	1390	-220	1.0	23.6
29,859.83	Philips El nv	3329¾	-474⅝	2.2	25.7
1.74	PipeHawk♦	5	-1¾	...	6.9
24.17	Pressure Tech♦	130	-13½	...	...
4.84	PV Crystalox Solar	66½	+½	...	4.3
2,543.23	Renishaw	3494	-416	1.7	27.5
25.64	Renold♦	11⅜	-1¾	...	3.5
11,972.17	**Rolls-Royce**	620	-25½	1.8	-4.9
3.28	Ross Gp	1½	...	...	...
2,457.28	Rotork	281½	-30½	2.1	27.0
59.18	SDI Group♦	60⅝	-21⅛	...	26.7
592.22	Senior	141⅛	-16½	5.2	13.1
256.98	Severfield	84	-9	3.3	15.8
13.22	Six Hundred♦	11¼	+¼	6.7	3.7
5,737.09	SKF B	1356⅝	-155⅜	3.6	11.3
0.65	Slingsby (HC)♦	65	...	...	-0.8
6,073.83	**Smiths**	1533	-212½	2.9	43.6
41.85	Solid State♦	490	-112½	2.5	11.8
127.91	Somero Enter♦	227	-43½	6.5	8.7
3,150.81	Spectris	2716	-289	2.2	66.4
6,184.31	**Spirax-Sarco**	8395	-970	1.1	28.0
31.30	Surface Trsfms♦	23	-4½	...	...
4.64	Tex Hldgs#	73	...	3.4	-4.9
342.01	Thorpe FW♦	294	-25	1.8	21.2
47.72	TP Group♦	6⅛	-⅞	...	3.1
9.46	Transense Tech♦	58	-6½	...	-5.2
5.17	Tricorn♦	10½	-½	1.9	6.1
1,380.23	Ultra Electrncs	1945	-191	2.6	29.0
1,146.15	Vesuvius	422½	-19¾	4.6	9.1
410.34	Vitec	900	-96	4.1	14.0
173.85	Volex♦	116	-22½	...	15.5
3,389.24	Weir	1305½	-27½	3.5	55.0
583.04	XP Power	3030	-310	2.8	22.8
22.46	Zytronic♦	140	-35	16.2	8.3

Health

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
545.82	AdvancedMedical♦	254	-24	0.5	26.4
68.39	Allergy Therap♦	10¾	-1⅛	...	20.6
400.29	Allnce Pharma♦	75½	-11	1.9	18.6
105.41	Angle♦	61	-10	...	-9.3
80.52	Anpario♦	348	-2	1.9	18.5
11.38	Aortech Int♦	77½	-18½	...	...
58.93	Aqua Bounty♦	662½	...	...	...
89,150.02	**AstraZeneca**‡	6794	-896	3.3	52.1
28.70	Brand Architekts♦	167½	-18½	3.7	19.9
135.03	Cello Health♦	127	-21½	3.0	17.9
74.29	Circassia Phm♦	19¾	-6	...	-1.2
499.80	Consort Med	1005	...	2.1	...
4,066.20	Convatec Group	205	-10¾	2.2	32.6
26.87	Creighton	41½	-13	0.9	9.9
2,721.86	Dechra Pharma	2646	-154	1.0	87.9
6.29	Deltex Medical♦	1⅛	...	...	...
16.77	e-Therapeutics♦	5⅛	-1	...	-4.4
138.47	Eco Animal Hlth♦	205	-44	7.3	15.3
135.09	EKF Diagnostics♦	29¾	-5¾	...	13.1
27.63	Futura Medical♦	11¼	-2¼	...	-2.2
2,055.22	Genus	3158	-136	0.8	...
78,366.41	**GlaxoSmKline**‡	1562⅛	-96	5.1	17.1
0.63	Gunsynd♦	...	...	...	-0.9
4,332.84	**Hikma Pharms**	1788	-139½	1.6	15.2
2,430.82	Hutchison CM♦	352	-46	...	14.1
63.33	Immunodiag Sys♦	220	-1	0.3	57.8
21.92	ImmuPharma♦	13	-2⅞	...	-2.5
316.47	Indivior	43¼	+5¾	...	1.8

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
26.14	IXICO♦	55½	-19½	...	60.3
12.51	LiDCO♦	5⅛	-½	...	-8.2
2,499.15	Mediclinic Int	339	-51	2.3	19.8
2.94	N4 Pharma♦	2⅞	-¼	...	-2.3
1,958.48	**NMC Health#**	938⅜	+83⅛	1.9	9.2
CHF205.35	Novartis	CHF81.25	-13.15	3.6	27.0
18.20	Omega Diags♦	12	-1½	...	...
485.06	Oxford Biomedica	631	-54	...	...
1.58	Physiomics♦	2⅛	-¼	...	...
5.91	Premier Veterinary	38½	-1	...	-1.8
9.27	Proteome Scies♦	3⅛	-⅜	...	...
40,604.91	**Reckitt Benck**	5721	-693	2.9	17.8
9.67	Sareum Hldgs♦	¼	...	...	-6.3
326.02	Silence Therap♦	416	-52	...	...
15,209.28	**Smith & Neph**	1739	-185	1.6	27.7
463.65	Spire Hcare	115½	-17	3.2	28.9
17.89	Synairgen♦	16¼	+1¼	...	-4.7
10.25	Tissue Regenix♦	⅞	...	...	-1.3
34.85	Tiziana Life♦	25½	-8½	...	-5.3
203.27	Tristel♦	452½	+57½	1.1	51.0
1,756.89	UDG Healthcare	701½	-76	1.8	37.7
1.00	ValiRx♦	...	...	...	-0.1
532.21	Vectura Grp	87⅝	-6¾	...	-6.9
57.93	Verona Pharma♦	55	-10	...	-2.1

Industrials

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
153.52	Accsys Tech	94½	-8⅝	...	...
41,926.48	BASF	4564¾	-658⅝	6.2	19.0
55,093.65	Bayer DM50	5607⅞	-763⅝	4.4	...
6.72	Biome Tech♦	240	-30	...	...
16.29	Byotrol♦	3⅝	+¾	...	21.7
6.64	Camb Gbl Timber♦	9	-¼	...	...
41.90	Cloudcall Group♦	90½	-3	...	-7.6
858.54	Coats Grp	59⅜	-11⅝	2.2	15.5
5,869.59	**Croda**	4554	-461	1.9	24.8
107.97	Cropper (James)♦	1130	-180	1.1	2.6
15.84	DeepMatter Gp♦	2⅛	...	...	-5.0
588.65	Elementis	101⅜	-20¾	6.3	12.5
359.34	Evans (M.P.)♦	660	-24	2.7	...
29.21	Hardide♦	55	-6½	...	...
26.48	Inspiration Health♦	69	-4	...	20.0
31,214.38	Jardine Math	4258⅞	-281¾	3.1	12.1
24,907.60	Jardine Strat	2247⅝	-206⅝	1.1	10.0
4,859.62	**Johnson Math**	2511	-198	3.4	12.5
7,584.35	**Mondi**	1562	-155	4.3	9.0
10.47	Robinson♦	63	-13½	8.7	10.8
261.74	Scapa♦	168½	-27⅜	1.7	...
4,312.09	**Smith (DS)**	314⅛	-41¾	5.1	14.1
6,383.86	Swire Pacific	705⅛	-35⅛	4.2	5.8
22.95	Symph Environ♦	13½	+5¼	...	...
31,730.27	Syngenta	34274	+105¾	...	39.2
1,196.38	Synthomer	281½	-48⅜	4.3	13.1
43,054.11	Takeda Pharm	2731⅛	-290¼	4.9	...
21.32	Velocys♦	3⅞	-2⅜	...	-1.5
1,813.96	Victrex	2096	-184	2.8	19.6
54.22	Wynnstay Group♦	272½	-12½	4.9	7.6
152.63	Zotefoams	316	-74	1.9	18.3

Leisure

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
419.92	888 Hldgs	114	-15½	7.0	9.0
127.17	Accesso Tech♦	460	-150	...	...
36.10	Best of the Best♦	385	-45	0.3	9.9
17,251.66	**Carnival‡**	2435	-575	6.7	6.6
8.72	Cathay Intl	2¼	-½	...	-0.4
131.06	Celtic♦	139	-8½	...	20.5
2,128.58	Cineworld	155⅛	-26½	9.4	9.9
1,368.20	Domino's Pizza	296	-26½	3.2	35.2
1,247.56	EI Group	284½	...	...	-6.1
6,476.17	**Flutter Ent**	8266	-786	2.4	35.2
469.15	Fullr Sm A	848	-66	2.3	38.7
18.70	Gaming Realms♦	6½	-1¾	...	-3.6
4,601.31	GVC Holdings	789½	-73⅛	4.0	...
22.43	Heavitree♦	425	...	1.8	15.1
11.61	Heavitree A♦	220	...	3.6	7.8
1.40	Hermes Pacific♦	60	...	...	...
7,831.07	**Intercont Htls**	4302	-720	2.1	23.1
1,621.88	Mandarin Orntl	128⅜	-8½	1.8	64.3
594.66	Marston's	90	-16⅝	8.3	...
5.00	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	-⅜	...	-0.7
1,437.79	Mitch & Butlers	335	-82½	...	10.0
424.09	On The Beach	323⅛	-108¾	1.0	27.1
738.79	PPHE Hotels	1740	-380	2.0	27.1
2.66	Prospex♦	...	...	...	1.9
1,031.40	Rank Grp‡	264	-58½	2.8	37.1
520.99	Restaurant Gp	106	-22½	6.0	-6.2
26.05	Rotala♦	52	-3	5.1	10.0
54.27	Sportech	28¾	-3	...	-9.2
2,268.10	SSP Group	507	-159	2.1	19.3
1.29	St James House♦	41½	+2½	...	...
4.87	Tasty♦	3⅜	...	...	-1.6
3,533.51	**TUI**	600	-251	10.6	9.5
5.70	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	-¼	...	-7.6
1,406.88	Wetherspoon JD	1344	-161	0.8	19.4
5,232.26	**Whitbread**	3894	-875	2.6	16.3
1,301.23	William Hill	148¾	-43½	8.0	53.1
784.58	Young & Co - A♦	1600	-57½	1.3	26.6
583.53	Young & Co - N/V♦	1190	-50	1.7	19.8

Media

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
9.23	7digital Gp♦	⅜	...	...	-0.1
2.90	Aeorema Comms♦	32	-3½	2.3	10.1
24.95	Altitude Group♦	36	-9	...	-8.2
22.85	Arcontech Grp♦	173	-41	0.7	20.7
1,377.81	Ascential	341¾	-12⅛	1.7	56.0
4,779.31	**Auto Trader**	519½	-50⅛	1.2	23.3
184.55	Bloomsbury Pub	245	-27	3.2	20.5
12.88	Bonhill Group♦	26½	-½	...	...
13.36	Catalyst Media♦	63½	-1½	91.3	...
0.59	Catenae♦	½	...	...	-0.1
57.78	Centaur Media	40	-1½	7.5	-3.7
1,557.31	Daily Mail	740	-71	3.1	19.5
5.72	DCD Media♦	225	...	...	...
18.07	Dods Gp♦	3¼	-⅜	...	-1.8
27.33	Ebiquity♦	36	-3	1.9	-2.7
2.38	Edenville Energy♦	...	...	...	-0.2
1,179.89	Euromoney In Inv	1080	-84	3.0	58.3
1,133.05	Future	1156	-246	...	...
1,419.64	GlobalData♦	1200	-90	0.9	...
343.64	Gocompare.com	82	-11	1.9	17.4
630.60	Hyve Group	77¼	-12⅜	2.5	...
703.48	IG Design Grp♦	730	+6	1.1	40.1
2.91	Immedia Grp♦	20	...	...	...
8,542.27	**Informa**	682⅜	-93⅜	3.2	28.4
4,691.61	**ITV**	116½	-14	6.8	10.5
3.74	Jaywing♦	4	-¼	...	-1.9
5,881.92	Just Eat#	861	...	...	...
12.34	Live Company Gp♦	15½	-3¾	...	-2.4
80.82	M&C Saatchi♦	86¾	-1⅛	12.6	5.2
0.56	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-1.2
12.03	Mirada♦	135	...	...	1.6
65.68	Mission Group♦	77	-27½	2.4	11.8
1,666.18	Moneysupermarket	310½	-41½	3.5	17.7
3,652.68	News Corp A	939¾	-182¾	1.7	...
1,936.44	News Corp B	970	-187⅞	1.6	...
414.25	Next 15 Comms♦	478	-7	1.5	54.9
4,390.87	**Pearson**	557½	-3¾	3.3	9.7
315.26	Photo-Me	83⅜	-5	10.1	9.3
3.99	Primorus Inv♦	2¾	-⅛	...	...
26.78	Quarto	65½	-6	...	6.0
38.36	Reabold Resources♦	½	...	...	-7.1
439.33	Reach	146¾	-27¾	4.1	10.3
2.91	REACT Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-1.2
36,107.20	**RELX PLC**	1867½	-204½	2.2	24.2
5,429.36	**Rightmove**	619	-69	1.0	32.9
1.85	SpaceandPeople♦	9½	-¼	5.2	-2.9
164.61	STV Group	420	-27	4.7	12.3
23.56	System1 Group♦	187	-33	4.0	16.2
22.32	Totally♦‡	12¼	-2⅝	...	-4.1
8,390.07	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2433¼	-384⅜	1.5	12.4
6,308.02	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2407⅜	-371⅞	1.5	12.3
1.29	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	-0.4
1.05	Vintana♦	1¼	-¼	...	-0.9
197.88	Wilmington	226	-11	3.9	17.8
9,315.24	**WPP**	752¾	-215⅜	7.9	13.5
715.91	YouGov PLC♦	665	-93	0.4	50.3
6.43	Zinc Media♦	81	-1	...	...

Natural resources

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2.65	ADM Energy♦	4¼	-⅛	...	3.3
96.74	AFC Energy♦	20⅞	-5½	...	...
3.56	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	...
1.92	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-0.9
2,820.12	Alumina	97⅞	-13⅝	17.6	6.2
30.17	Aminex	¾	...	...	-0.7
13.70	Amur Mins Corp♦	1½	-⅛	...	-6.6
3.12	Andalas Energy♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
14,056.45	Anglo Amer Plat	5212⅛	-1682⅜	1.2	20.6
24,459.03	**Ang Am**	1791¾	-333⅛	4.3	7.1
136.13	Anglo Asian Mng♦	119	-30	4.5	9.6
7,413.64	**Antofagasta**	752	-108⅛	4.5	15.2
28.61	Ariana Res♦	2⅝	-¾	...	6.9
1.79	Arkle Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-5.0
9.75	Armadale Cap♦	2⅜	-½	...	...
17.39	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1⅞	-¼	...	-1.4
221.12	Atalaya Mine♦	161	-12½	...	7.2
2.74	Avocet#	13	...	...	-0.2
2.80	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	-0.6
28.31	Beowulf Mining♦	4⅝	-¾	...	...
1.90	Bezant Res♦	⅛	...	...	-1.8
71,729.51	**BHP Group**	1418⅜	-243⅛	5.6	10.8
6.37	Border & Sthn Pet♦	1¼	-¼	...	-4.0
44.54	Bougainville	11	-2¼	...	...
20.65	BowLeven♦	6⅛	...	...	-0.3
80,233.36	**BP‡**	396⅛	-57⅜	8.3	20.8
4.48	Cadence Min♦	4¼	-¾	...	-0.4
11.20	Cadogan Petrol	4¾	...	...	3.5
820.07	Cairn Energy	139	-28½	...	-1.8
86.94	Caledonia Mining♦	755	-75	2.9	2.4
93.19	Caspian Sunrise♦	4⅞	-1¼	...	...
1,490.60	Centamin	128⅞	-24⅛	3.3	35.7
325.65	Cent Asia Metals♦	185	-24	7.9	7.9
157.50	Chaarat Gold♦	33½	-2⅞	...	-6.8
9.08	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	2⅜	-½	...	-0.7
37.09	China Nonferrous Gold Ltd♦	9⅝	-1⅛	...	-4.4
5.20	Clontarf Energy♦	⅝	-⅛	...	...
18.77	Columbus Energy♦	2⅛	-¼	...	-6.7
23.19	Condor Gld♦	24½	+1½	...	...
435.87	DRDGOLD	50⅜	-4⅝	...	78.6
3.38	ECR Minerals♦	¾	...	...	-4.1
25.51	Empyrean Energy♦	5⅝	-1½	...	78.0
339.16	EnQuest	20	-5⅜	...	2.6
196.18	Eurasia Mining♦#	7⅛	...	...	...
5.89	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1¼	-¼	...	-7.7
4,737.57	**Evraz**	326¼	-61	25.5	3.7
66.54	Exillon Energy#	41⅛	...	...	1.8
760.80	Ferrexpo	129¼	-27	6.0	2.1
1.90	Firestone Dmds♦	¼	-⅝	...	...
4,449.36	Fresnillo	603¾	-108⅜	3.5	29.6
16.54	G3 Exploration	10½	-½	...	-0.9
3.07	Galantas Gold♦	⅞	...	...	-1.5
13.76	GCM Resources♦	12¼	-¼	...	-2.0
75.33	Gem Diamonds	54⅛	-9⅝	...	16.7
6.39	GETECH♦	17	-3	...	13.2
25,750.57	**Glencore**	193¼	-31	8.1	35.1
2.84	Global Petrol♦	1⅜	...	...	-2.0
4,054.02	Gold Fields	458⅞	-106⅜	0.4	53.1
9.38	Goldplat♦	5½	-1½	...	-4.2
5.25	Goldstone Res♦	2	-¼	...	-8.9
150.24	Greatld Gld♦	4⅛	-⅝	...	...
89.85	Griffin Mining♦	52	-9½	...	9.3
316.43	Gulf Keystone	148⅛	-33½	3.8	5.8
769.17	Highlnd Gd Mn♦	211⅜	-18⅛	6.4	14.0
825.96	Hochschild	159⅝	-41¼	1.9	67.7
41.22	Horizonte Minrls♦	2¾	-⅜	...	...
78.80	Hummingbird Res♦	22¼	-5¾	...	-5.7
530.87	Hunting	318	+13⅛	2.2	8.0
1.84	Hydrodec♦	6½	-½	...	-0.2
36.28	Ilika♦	36	-5½	...	...
7.65	Independ Res♦	1	-¼	...	-0.2
508.67	Indus Gas♦	278	+3	...	14.8
10.56	Infrastrata♦	¼	...	...	-3.0
4.26	Ironveld♦	⅝	-⅛	...	-6.5
469.44	ITM Power♦	99½	-41⅞	...	...
34.52	JKX Oil & Gas	20	-7⅜	...	3.8
67.08	Jubilee Metals♦	3¼	-⅞	...	7.0
1.23	Karel Diamd Res♦	2¾	-⅜	...	-2.9
1,936.52	Kaz Minerals	409⅞	-83½	2.3	5.2
14.41	Kefi Minerals♦	1	-½	...	-1.8
242.34	Kenmare Res	221	-41	...	6.7
98.42	Lamprell	28¾	-5	...	-1.2
9.08	Landore Res♦	⅝	...	...	-2.2
3.99	Lansdowne O&G♦	½	-⅛	...	...
21.87	MC Mining♦	15½	-4	...	-0.8
21.23	Metals Explorn♦	1	-⅛	...	-0.1
1.08	Nostra Terra♦	½	...	...	-1.1
21.30	Nostrum O&G	11½	-1½	...	-0.2
1.28	Nu-Oil and Gas♦	...	...	...	-0.1
4,225.39	Oil Search	277	-44⅞	2.9	12.6
4.97	Oilex♦	⅛	...	...	-2.0
2.14	Oriole Resources♦	¼	...	...	-1.6
2.84	Ormonde Mining♦	½	...	...	-1.3
4.41	Orosur Mining♦	2¾	...	...	-3.5
8.28	Ovoca Bio♦	10⅛	-½	...	-4.5
237.18	Pan African Res♦	12¼	-¼	...	7.9
60.08	Pantheon Res♦	11⅞	-4½	...	-4.8
39.30	Parkmead Grp♦	36⅛	-4¾	...	14.9
35.92	Petra Diamonds	4⅛	-2	...	-0.2
15.74	Petrel Resources♦	7⅜	-2⅛	...	...
21.21	Petro Matad♦	3⅛	...	...	-1.6
1,101.04	Petrofac	318¼	-51⅞	9.2	6.3
8.50	Petroneft Res♦	1	...	...	-1.1
612.39	Petropavlovsk	18½	-1¾	...	9.8
121.64	Pharos Energy	30½	-4⅜	17.8	...
313.32	Phoenix Global♦	11¼	-2⅞	...	-7.1
26.11	Plexus Holdings♦	26	-½	3.8	-8.3
5,614.55	**Polymetal Intl‡**	1194	-150	3.1	20.5
308.47	Porvair	670	-52	0.6	28.3
650.23	Premier Oil	77⅝	-25	...	6.9
181.33	Proton Motor Power Systems♦	27	-16½	...	-0.4
16.44	Providence Res♦	2½	-¼	...	-2.1
20.74	Rambler Met&Min♦	1½	-¼	...	-0.7
1.86	Red Rock Res♦	¼	...	...	-0.9
1.86	Regency Mines♦	2	-⅝	...	...
1.08	Richland Res♦	...	...	...	-3.3
16,352.69	Rio Tinto Ltd	4405⅛	-548⅝	5.4	7.1
45,308.68	**Rio Tinto**	3608	-594½	6.6	5.8
59.51	Rockhopper Expln♦	13	-4	...	-4.6
2.80	Rose Petroleum♦	⅞	...	...	-1.8
123,775.13	**Ryl Dtch Sh A‡**	1661⅜	-226⅜	9.1	8.1
123,939.04	**Ryl Dtch Sh B‡**	1663½	-222¾	9.1	8.1
112.93	San Leon Energy♦	25	-½	...	...
28,691.81	Schlumberger	2072¼	-541¾	7.8	-4.2
45.36	Serabi Gold♦	77	-13½	...	...
261.66	Serica Energy♦	97⅞	-9¼	...	2.8
73.44	Shanta Gold♦	9¼	-3	...	...
311.98	Sirius Minerals	4⅜	-¾	...	3.6
15.32	Solo Oil♦#	2⅜	...	...	-6.3
17.72	Sound Energy♦	1½	...	...	-0.8
0.52	Spitfire Oil♦	2	-¼	...	-1.0
19.58	Sterling Energy♦	8⅞	-¼	...	...
3.30	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	-2.7
2.31	Tertiary Minerals♦	¼	...	...	-0.4
2.80	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-2.6
84,640.99	Total SA	3276⅞	-514⅜	7.1	11.2
4.69	Tower Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.2
13.56	Tri-Star Res♦	14¼	-¼	...	...
474.50	Tullow Oil	33⅝	-6¾	11.3	4.6
0.98	URU Metals♦	125	-40	...	-0.5
21.57	Vast Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.6
8.89	Victoria Oil&Gas♦	3⅜	-1¼	...	-0.6
21.82	Volga Gas♦	27	-3	36.3	10.7
17.20	W Resources♦	¼	...	...	-5.1
13.73	Westmount Engy♦	12½	-1½	...	8.8
2,508.25	Wood Grp (J)	366⅛	-55⅜	7.5	54.2
26.78	Woodbois♦	5⅝	...	...	...
3.43	Xtract Resources♦	¾	-⅛	...	-4.4

Professional & support services

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
777.97	4imprint Grp	2770	-560	1.9	26.1
270.25	AA	43¾	-4¼	4.5	5.1
1,734.50	Aggreko	677⅛	-96	4.0	13.9
238.29	Andrews Sykes♦	565	-52½	4.2	15.9
10,773.91	**Ashtead**	2389	-352	1.6	13.4
50.57	Asimilar Group♦#	48	-3	...	...
41.52	AssetCo♦	340	-45	...	31.5
29.92	Avisen♦	27	-3	...	...
91.31	Begbies Traynor♦	71½	-13¼	3.6	22.3
5.03	Billing Services♦	3	-⅛	...	-0.8
169.57	Blancco Tech♦	225	-1	...	...
6,298.05	**Bunzl**	1870	-78½	2.6	18.8
2,157.63	Capita	129¼	-22¼	...	9.0
61.10	Carillion#	14⅛	...	129.9	...
5.53	CEPS♦	32½	...	...	-6.9
28.65	Christie Group♦	108	-10	2.7	13.1
27,163.89	**Compass**	1710½	-242½	2.2	24.4
67.87	Connect Gp	27⅜	-4	...	-2.1
190.74	CPL Resources♦‡	695	...	1.9	10.0
5,443.30	**DCC**	5532	-720	2.5	22.8
144.76	De La Rue	139⅛	+26⅛	17.9	46.4
286.82	Dignity	573½	+18½	4.2	23.3
2,128.90	Diploma	1880	-232	1.4	34.3
455.95	Discoverie PLC	514	-54	1.8	24.0
28.96	Driver Group♦‡	55½	-13	1.8	11.5
427.21	DWF	133⅝	-7¼	0.7	39.2
2,705.25	Electrocompnts	606⅛	-79	2.4	18.5
731.99	Equiniti Group	200¾	-16¾	2.6	29.5
943.76	Essentra	358½	-41¾	5.7	23.7
23,533.14	**Experian**	2591	-272	1.4	40.0
15,196.49	**Ferguson**	6740	-826	2.3	18.0
38.26	FIH Group♦	306	-15	1.6	13.0
2,655.55	G4S	171⅛	-29⅛	5.6	68.4
24.08	Gattaca♦	74½	-11¼	...	15.2
9.08	Grafenia♦	8	-½	...	-2.4
85.18	Hargeaves Serv♦‡	264	-36	2.7	...
2,029.13	Hays	138¼	-20½	2.7	12.6
14.91	HML Hldgs♦	32½	-¾	1.4	12.0
3,958.72	Homeserve	1183	-117	1.8	36.1
147.08	Impellam Grp♦	316	+9	...	22.4
27.28	Ince G♦	39¾	-5½	15.0	-1.7
8,505.42	**Intertek**	5270	-574	1.8	29.4
3,101.03	IWG	351⅝	-92¾	1.7	29.5
676.66	Johnson Srvce♦	183	-29	1.6	24.7
5.31	JOURNEO♦	64½	-8½	...	-6.1
181.41	Kier Gp	111⅞	-30¼	44.7	-0.7
171.15	Latham (J)♦	860	-90	2.0	14.3
173.12	Lok'n Store♦	585	-140	1.9	50.8
272.20	Lon Security♦	2220	...	3.6	16.7
328.10	LSL Prop Services	315	-26	3.4	33.1
148.34	Macfarlane	94	-18½	2.4	16.4
34.80	Maintel Hldgs♦	243	-15	14.2	8.9
1.16	Malvern Intl♦	⅜	...	...	-0.7
16.68	Management Cns	1	...	...	...
309.37	Mears Group	280	-15	4.4	12.9
244.49	Menzies (John)	290	-120½	7.0	...
511.59	MITIE Gp	139¾	+7⅝	2.8	15.8
3.45	MobilityOne♦	3¼	...	...	6.9
0.65	Nakama Gp♦	½	...	...	-5.5
6.80	Newmark Sec♦	1⅜	-⅛	...	34.5
25.56	Norish♦	85	...	1.7	14.4
4.04	Norm Broadbent♦	7½	...	...	-8.8
13.07	Northern Bear♦	70	-5	4.6	5.6
615.23	Northgate	250	-35½	7.3	7.0
78.00	NWF Grp♦	160	-30	3.9	11.5
1,335.45	PageGroup	406⅜	-49¾	3.2	12.0
16.81	PCI-PAL♦	39½	-4⅛	...	-3.8
4.89	Petards♦	8½	...	...	5.9
1.69	PHSC♦‡	11½	...	8.7	...
19.69	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅞	-½	...	-8.1
8.86	Prime People♦	72	-23½	7.2	6.0
64.69	Record	32½	-4	7.0	11.0
10.23	RedT Energy♦#	1	...	...	-0.8
388.06	Renew Hldgs♦‡	494	-62	2.0	17.1
288.05	Renewi	36	-7¼	3.9	-2.9
8,950.77	**Rentokil Itl**	484	-24⅜	0.9	...
569.53	Restore♦	456	-36	1.3	27.8
351.41	Ricardo	658	-122	3.1	17.8
418.32	Robert Walters	550	-44	2.6	11.8
1,624.50	Royal Mail	162⅜	-15⅞	15.3	5.0
279.97	RPS Group	123⅛	-23	8.0	11.9
9.45	RTC Group♦	64½	-11	5.9	7.3
1,444.74	RWS Hldgs♦	525	-53	1.4	39.1
97.33	Science Group♦	234	-5	1.9	21.8
1,866.88	Serco Gp	152½	-4¾	...	33.6
6,180.59	**Smurfit Kappa**	2598	-232	3.3	...
23.11	Staffline Gp♦	33½	-7⅝	31.4	-0.3
421.68	SThree	317½	-42½	4.5	11.2
26.69	Synectics♦	150	-8½	3.1	16.1
2.70	Tanfield♦	1⅝	...	...	...
29.82	Thruvision Group♦	20½	-4¼	...	...
138.71	Tribal♦	69½	-2¼	1.5	30.2
12.94	Universe Grp♦	4⅞	-1⅜	...	14.2
38.51	Vianet♦	133	-20½	4.2	15.1
399.94	Vp	996	-34	3.0	15.8
13.15	Westminster♦	8¼	-2½	...	...

Retailing

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
293.93	AO World	61½	-12⅝	...	...
2,516.25	ASOS♦	2997	-290	...	...
3,332.94	B&M European	333	-33½	2.2	25.4
163.96	Brown (N)	57½	-12⅜	12.3	-8.9
65.00	Cambria Auto♦	65	-5	1.5	6.5
268.80	Card Factory	78⅝	-8⅛	11.8	5.6
30.52	CPPGroup♦	3½	+⅛	...	...
753.18	CVS Group♦	1066	-130	0.4	91.9
5,083.35	Dairy Farm Intl	375¾	-28⅞	4.3	70.1
518.88	DFS Furn	244	-32	...	29.0
2,199.95	Dunelm	1088	-188	2.4	21.8
2,002.13	Frasers Group	383¾	-108	...	15.4
18.55	French Conn	19⅛	-3⅛	...	17.4
2,114.16	Greggs	2090	-350	1.7	28.0
298.67	Halfords	150	-7⅜	12.3	7.2
3,807.40	Howden Join	636	-96	1.8	19.5
2,303.00	Inchcape	577	-55½	4.6	44.7
4.60	IQ-AI	3⅛	-¼	...	...
7,172.73	**JD Sports**	737	-141¾	0.2	27.7
3,995.53	**Kingfisher**	189¼	-29⅝	5.7	21.7
176.54	Lookers	45¼	-6	9.0	6.3
3,088.89	Marks Spencer	158⅜	-24⅞	8.5	34.4
4,118.48	**Morrison (W)**	171¼	-14⅝	3.8	13.3
17.16	Moss Bros	17	-2⅞	8.8	-4.0
47.15	Mothercare	12½	-1¾	...	-0.5
151.58	Naked Wines♦	208	-10	0.9	...
8,085.97	**Next**	6082	-996	2.7	13.5
7,565.82	**Ocado Gp**	1064	-71½	...	...
167.63	Pendragon	12	-¾	12.5	-0.8
1,287.00	Pets at Home	257⅜	-47½	2.9	26.0
362.41	Saga	32¼	-12½	12.3	-1.7
4,331.71	**Sainsbury J**	195¾	-14⅞	5.6	...
2,217.20	Smith WH	1927	-473	2.8	19.8
2,160.56	Sothebys	4635	...	...	35.9
9.61	Stanley Gbbns♦	2¼	-⅝	...	-3.6
181.53	Studio Retail Group	210	-20	...	14.0
129.51	Ted Baker	290½	-19⅛	20.1	...
22,378.14	**Tesco**	228½	-27⅛	2.5	17.0
114.72	Topps Tiles	58⅜	-22½	5.8	11.3
427.32	Total Produce♦	110	...	2.7	9.2
3.05	Utd Carpets♦	3¾	-¾	11.2	7.0

Technology

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
38.89	Access Intell♦	51	...	...	...
252.00	Alfa Financial	84	-5½	...	16.1
77.42	Allied Minds	32	-6¼	...	1.8
96.94	Amino Techs♦	127½	-17	5.9	11.2
268.17	Aptitude Software Group	477	-43	1.5	18.2
7,087.00	**AVEVA Grp**	4388	-482	0.9	...
62.56	Bango♦	88½	-15	...	...
206.93	BATM Adv Coms	47	+3½	...	...
22.62	Berkeley Res	8¾	-1¼	...	1.6
41.90	Blackbird♦	12½	-3½	...	...
31.69	BSD Crown	24½	...	...	13.9
4.46	CloudCoCo Group♦	⅞	...	...	-0.4
56.70	CML Micro	332	-32	2.3	37.3
1,886.75	Computacenter	1653	-224	1.8	23.0
64.36	Concurrent Tech♦	88½	-25½	2.6	15.0
26.85	Corero♦	5⅜	...	...	-4.6
508.36	Craneware♦	1895	-120	1.3	43.8
9.61	Crimson Tide♦	2	-⅜	...	72.4
4.48	CyanConn Hldgs♦	2⅜	-½	...	-1.0
73.54	D4t4 Solutions♦	182½	-32	1.6	22.9
5.80	Dillistone Group♦	29½	-5	...	...
59.21	Elecosoft♦	72	-6	0.9	26.6
940.10	FDM Group	861	-138	3.4	24.4
19.67	Filtronic♦	9¼	-2¼	...	...
750.70	First Derivts♦	2765	-270	0.9	54.8
1,252.49	GB Group♦	645	-53	0.4	74.1
90.44	GreshamTech	132½	-17½	0.3	...
14.82	IndigoVision♦	202	-15	...	15.6
11.46	Ingenta♦	68	-3	2.2	...
26.63	Intercede♦	52¾	-1¾	...	52.7
379.30	Iomart♦	348	-38	2.1	27.6
382.16	IQE♦	48	-8⅛	...	...
56.90	K3 Business Tch♦	132½	-7	1.1	...
2,847.67	LG Electronics‡	790⅝	-31¼	3.3	4.6
2,469.62	Micro Focus Intl	740⅝	-49	11.8	4.4
27.25	MTI Wireless♦	31	-9	3.9	11.7
61.82	Nanoco Gp	21½	-3⅞	...	...
52.43	Netcall♦	36½	-1	1.4	89.0
16.54	Northamber♦	60½	-7	0.3	...
1.04	Online Blockchain♦	12	+1	...	-1.5
128.78	Oxford Metrics♦‡	102½	-23	1.4	31.6
8.08	Parity♦	7⅞	-¾	...	-9.8
26.54	Pennant Intl♦	73½	-½	...	...
759.48	Playtech	250	-97⅛	8.6	30.7
43.95	Proactis Hldgs♦	46	-5½	3.2	-1.6
1,953.79	QinetiQ	344	-43¾	1.9	15.5
221.43	RM	264	-26	2.8	11.9
7,440.44	**Sage Gp‡**	681¾	-92	2.4	28.0
123.67	Seeing Machines♦	3⅝	-⅜	...	-3.9
50.40	Shearwater Grp♦	228	-35	...	...
3.43	SimiGon♦	6¾	-¼	...	-4.3
7.06	Smartspace Software♦	25	-4	...	-1.6
2,097.13	Softcat	1056	-134	1.2	30.7
2,866.14	Sophos Gp	580⅜	+10⅛	0.7	...
1,284.66	Spirent Comms	210	-39½	1.6	28.4
60.39	SRT Marine♦	39	-8¾	...	16.6
11.51	Tavistock♦	2	...	0.5	...
19,024.49	Tele. Ericsson	619⅛	-81⅛	1.3	...
181.79	Telit Comms♦	137	-16½	...	11.3
3.52	Touchstar♦	41½	-15½	...	-4.0
229.12	Tracsis♦	795	-35	0.2	46.0
7.50	TRAKm8 Hldgs♦	15	-3½	...	-4.0
5.35	Triad Grp	33½	-4½	8.9	...
42.67	UK Oil & Gas♦	½	...	...	-1.7
61.75	Wameja♦	5	-⅞	...	-4.1
256.65	WANdisco♦	532	-38	...	...
46.90	Water Intel♦	277½	-40	...	37.5
29.57	Xaar	37¾	-10⅛	2.6	-0.4
86.11	Yourgene♦	14⅜	-2⅝	...	8.9
34.66	Zoo Digital♦	46½	-9½	...	20.6

Telecoms

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
78.34	AdEPT Technology Group♦	313	-9	3.1	55.6
13,995.18	**BT Group**	141½	-14⅝	10.8	6.5
1,414.59	Dixons Carphone	121⅝	-12½	...	5.7
59.50	EVR Holdings♦	4⅛	-⅝	...	-3.8
0.55	Mobile Streams♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.2
10.82	Mobile Tornado♦	2¾	-¼	...	-8.6
33.94	MXC Capl♦	50½	-7¼	...	...
1,259.45	TalkTalk	109⅞	-7¾	2.2	34.3
1,048.11	Telecom Plus	1334	-212	3.9	30.9
35,969.77	**Vodafone Gp**	134¼	-20½	5.9	...

Transport

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
37.90	Air Partner	70¾	-2⅝	7.9	12.0
47.83	Braemar Ship	151	-20½	9.9	...
756.26	Clarkson	2490	-360	3.0	24.3
1,830.01	Dart♦	1229	-669	0.8	12.0
4,368.99	**easyJet‡**	1100½	-408	5.3	12.5
6.08	FastJet♦	⅛	...	...	...
1,431.78	FirstGroup	117¾	-14⅝	...	-6.1
926.15	Fisher (James)	1840	-134	1.7	20.9
841.53	Go-Ahead	1949	-211	5.2	14.2
9,369.99	**Intl Cons Air**	472	-151	5.8	4.9
607.64	Irish Cont Uts	324⅛	-75⅜	3.5	13.0
2,167.72	Natl Express	423½	-15½	3.5	15.3
305.89	Ocean Wilson	865	-125	6.1	12.4
11,560.55	Ryanair	1053⅞	-261¾	...	14.9
2,314.13	Signature Aviation	279½	-35	4.9	28.4
715.79	Stagecoach‡	130	-11⅜	5.9	6.4
288.48	Stobart Gp Ord	77	-12⅝	11.6	-4.8
26.67	Sutton Harbour♦	23	-1½	...	13.6
330.04	Wincanton	265	-16	4.1	8.1
3,509.68	Wizz Air Hldgs	3415	-992	...	10.4

Utilities

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
4,197.36	**Centrica**	72	-7¼	16.6	-6.8
1,173.75	ContourGlobal	175	-8⅛	7.6	74.2
1,070.91	Drax Group	270	-7⅜	5.2	39.1
45.73	IGas Energy♦	37¼	-1⅜	...	-2.3
136.35	Jersey Electricity‡	445	-18	3.3	11.5
3.94	KSK Power Vent#	2¼	...	...	...
3.27	Modern Water♦	⅝	-⅛	...	-0.3
34,479.28	**Natl Grid**	982¾	-81	4.8	23.0
61.11	OPG Power♦	15¼	-3	...	3.5
4,538.46	Pennon‡	1078	-114½	3.8	19.4
3.23	Rurelec♦	½	-⅛	...	-1.4
5,865.49	**Severn Trent**	2465	-229	3.7	19.7
15,758.26	**SSE‡**	1529	-157	6.3	9.1
6,438.39	**Utd Utilities**	944⅛	-113¾	4.2	17.7

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

We are all living longer these days.

Enjoy it more by staying in the home you love.



Approved Service
Which? Trusted traders
Stannah Installation Services

Recommended Provider
Which?
Stairlift Suppliers May 2019

Perhaps you've stopped a hobby because you are not as mobile as you once were. Or you are worn out because you find everyday tasks difficult at home.

If you are struggling with the stairs, a Stannah stairlift will help you do the things you want to do.

It will bring a new lease of life and help you get around with ease. Which means you can save your energy for the more enjoyable things in life, like looking after your garden or playing with the grandchildren.

Don't let life stop or worry about having to move home. If you've decided it's time for a stairlift, here's why you should call Stannah today.

Why choose Stannah?

Known the world over, we have installed more than 700,000 stairlifts over the past 40 years. But over that time, we've heard the same thing; customers wishing they had contacted us sooner.

We are a British, family-owned business.

With over 150 years of lift expertise, our company is run by fifth generation family members, who uphold our values and ethos of putting the customer first.

We are a company you can rely on.

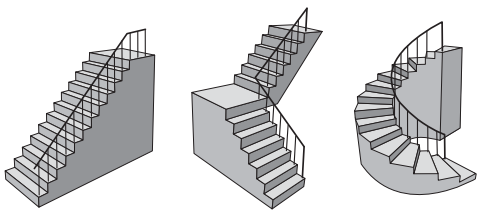
We will never cold call or try to push a hard sell. We make all of our stairlifts right here in the UK and rigorously test them to make sure they meet the highest standards of quality, comfort and safety.

We give superior support and servicing.

We like to look after you every step of the way and once your stairlift is installed we provide nationwide aftercare 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And when you call Stannah, you will speak to an advisor based in our head office in Hampshire.

We make stairlifts in different shapes and sizes.

Our designs include a wide choice of fabrics, colours and trims to blend in perfectly with your home and can be installed within just a few hours. They also fit all types of staircase, whether straight, narrow or curved.



We provide peace of mind.

New stairlifts come with a 2 year warranty and 2 free services as standard. And whether you rent or buy, new or reconditioned, all come with a 14 day satisfaction guarantee. Don't put it off any longer, give us a call today.

For your FREE no-obligation quote

Freephone

0800 028 6320

stannah.co.uk

Terms and conditions apply. Excludes purchases via third parties.



Stannah

☐ **Please send me a free stairlift brochure** ☐ **Please send me homelift information**

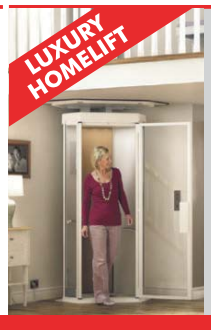
We would like to give you a call to discuss your enquiry, if you're happy for us to do this please provide your telephone number below:

Telephone _____ Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Send to: Freepost RTLC-BGUS-UJYH, Stannah Lift Services Ltd, Dept. 2666, Watt Close, ANDOVER, SP10 3SD



If a stairlift isn't for you...

You can travel between floors effortlessly, with the Salise homelift.

- No major structural changes needed
- Compact, safe and easy to operate
- Elegantly styled with a range of luxury options

Call for homelift information.



Lancaster gunner bombed by RAF in fatal accident
Ken Johnson
Page 46

Obituaries

Peregrine Pollen

Insatiably curious collector and auctioneer who took Sotheby's to New York, kept an alcoholic parrot and spent time in a Chilean prison

Peregrine Pollen's position as president of Sotheby Parke-Bernet in New York involved livening up the stuffy world of the auction house. On one occasion, after a beachcomber in Florida spotted a gold necklace that turned out to be from a ship sunk in a storm in 1715, the company held a "Treasure of the Spanish Main" sale. Before bidding started Pollen dimmed the lights and silhouettes of the stricken fleet, flung about by a wrathful sea, were projected on to an enormous screen behind the podium.

Among the haul was a trunk of gold coins that were offered for sale only to children, who were formally addressed by the auctioneer as "sir" or "madam". Behind him a large scarlet macaw named Julius, acquired by Pollen for the occasion, screeched: "Pieces of eight! Get your pieces of eight!" Once the sale was complete Julius retired to the Pollens' ninth-floor apartment on Park Avenue, where on meeting Patricia, Pollen's wife, he cried: "Lift up your skirt, lift up your skirt."

Julius was eventually dispatched to an unlicensed pet dealer in Queens, but shortly afterwards Pollen came home from a business trip with Papagoya, a South American caique that he claimed to have smuggled into the US by sedating it with vodka and hiding the comatose bird inside his coat. Papagoya duly became addicted to alcohol. It also took to roosting on Pollen's shoulder, chewing devotedly on his ear lobes, and they would take walks together in Central Park.

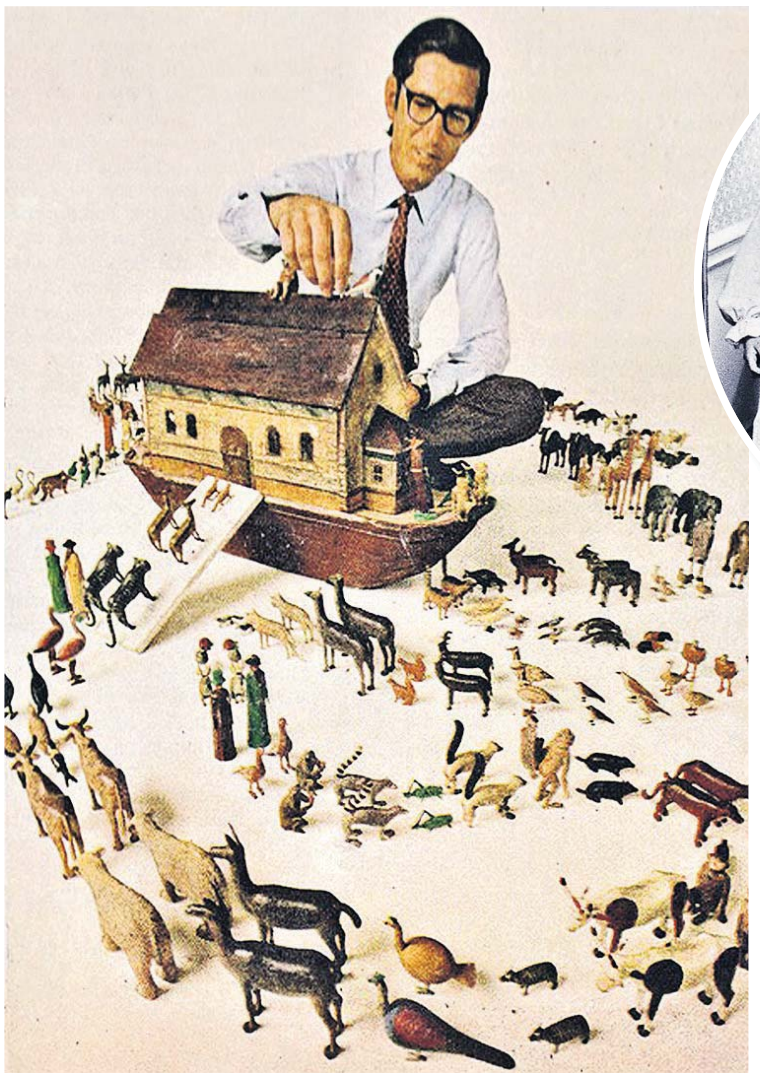
On another occasion Pollen, a flamboyant character whose business attire in New York included cowboy boots and a coat that once belonged to his grandfather, smuggled four impressionist paintings out of Buenos Aires rolled up in a Beatles poster.

Pollen's work entailed hosting a lot of cocktail parties and sometimes his young children would be roped in as additional waiting staff. Once a guest remarked to his young daughter Bella, "Goodness, child, you've got tall", to which she blurted back, "and you're fat". As she recalled half a century later: "Both statements were equally true, but I'm pretty sure Mr Whipstein's didn't cost him a week's pocket money and the mortification of an apology."

Peregrine Michael Hungerford Pollen was born in Oxford in 1931, the son of Captain Sir Walter Pollen, an industrialist who was awarded the Military Cross during the First World War, and his wife Rosalind (née Benson); he had a sister, Pandora, who was principal of Hatherop Castle School in Gloucestershire, from where she once expelled the rebellious Bella.

"We were very spoilt as a family," Pollen told *The Sunday Times* in 2017. "My grandfather was a banker and he had a wonderful collection of Italian paintings, which he sold in the 1920s. The money ran out in the 1950s, but we still have some nice pictures and a small estate in Gloucestershire." Another family collection had belonged to his great-uncle Sir George Holford and included four Rembrandts that ended up in the US. "Every once in a while, chasing round the States after some client, I run across an odd piece from the Holford collection," he said.

He was educated at Eton, did National Service with the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and read classics at Christ Church, Oxford, where once he ran a mile, rode a mile and rowed a mile, all within 14 minutes. From 1955 to 1957 he served as ADC to Sir Evelyn Baring, governor of Kenya. Along the way he was a petrol pump attendant, warehouse man in Los Angeles, aluminium worker in British Columbia, psychiatric hospital attendant in Australia, organist in a Chicago nightclub, and pantry boy on the London-Las Palmas shipping route. He also taught Latin.





Peregrine Pollen with a hand-painted 19th-century German Noah's Ark set at Sotheby Parke-Bernet. Top, with his children in the mid-1960s. Below, at work

In 1958 he married Patricia Barry, who worked for the security services and was later a teacher in Harlem. They had three children: Susannah, who is an art adviser; Bella, an author; and Marcus, who runs a steelworks. They divorced in 1972 but remarried six years later, by which time he had two more children, Josh, a scientific cook, and Lally, a mature student, with Amanda Willis. "In the end he was smart enough to recognise that my mother equalled home, and he always came back," wrote Bella. Patricia died in September 2016 and he is survived by his five children and 11 grandchildren.

He insisted on refusing paintings if there was doubt about authenticity

Before joining Sotheby's Pollen applied for work at Christie's in London, where his cousin was head of Old Master paintings. "But I got a hugely pompous letter back when I wrote to him asking for a job, so I gave up on them," he recalled. Instead he followed the suggestion of a friend whose father was a director at Sotheby's. "Don't ask for a job, just walk in and ask what you should do," he was told. "If you're any good you'll become indispensable; if not, they'll sack you."

It was good advice. He was sent first to the Old Master department and then became personal assistant to Peter Wilson, the chairman. However, he soon got bored and in his free time tried to start a helicopter commuting service into London that never quite took off. In 1960 Sotheby's sent him to open an office in New York, where he took a stand at a trade fair, furnishing it with black-and-white photos of recent sales, prompting one passer-by to remark: "I always thought Rubens painted in colour." The exercise won him the chance to sell surplus stock from the Guggenheim collections.

Four years later he learnt that Parke-Bernet Galleries, the largest auction house in America, was for sale. He convinced the Sotheby's board that they should acquire it, giving the company its first overseas saleroom. Within five years he had tripled their combined turnover despite insisting that they should refuse any impressionist or later painting if there was any doubt about its authenticity.

As president of the merged company Pollen recruited bright young experts in specialised categories of art. He opened offices in Los Angeles and other US cities before moving south to Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo. The company also opened PB-84, a discount saleroom in New York.

Behind the scenes his office was a mishmash of utilitarian contemporary laden with a tired sofa, metal bookcases and a "stop smoking" sign. "Within two minutes, you know the sign hasn't worked," recalled a visitor from *Home Furnishings Daily* in 1969. "Peregrine Pollen buzzes the intercom and asks someone to bring him a cigarette." Occasionally he would "bunk off" work, round up his children and take them to see a film.

In 1972 the family returned to London, where he was executive vice-chairman of Sotheby's, reinforcing its international operations. However, he was passed over for the chairmanship and retired in 1982. Thereafter he maintained his involvement with the art world, particularly British drawings. He was an instinctive collector and his pursuit of objects that fascinated him bordered on obsession. His curiosity and brilliant eye resulted in an extraordinary range of collections in fields as diverse as minerals, shells, natural history specimens and tribal art.



He was a trustee of Westonbirt, the national arboretum created by Robert Holford, his great-grandfather, and would travel widely, collecting, propagating and planting seeds as well as corresponding with experts around the world. He established woods of native trees to replace losses from diseases such as Dutch elm and ash dieback, planting between 6,000 and 8,000 trees and recording them all. To these he added rare trees, transforming over 40 years the landscape of Norton Hall, the family home in Gloucestershire. There he would shoot pigeons, drive the tractor and build 20ft bonfires.

Pollen was an insatiably curious man with a genuine fascination for people, places and things. He was tall, slim and bespectacled, with the long fingers of a pianist; he was a fine amateur player and taught his children the instrument. When interested in something he would take off his heavy, black-rimmed glasses and pinch the bridge of his nose between his thumb and forefinger. As a young man he played tennis in cowboy boots, with a cigarette dangling from his mouth; in later years he would travel by train to Paddington with a plastic bag containing his newspaper hooked to one finger and a toothbrush poking from his jacket pocket. He would sleep on his back with his hands crossed, benediction-style, over his chest.

He was told, 'Don't ask for a job, just walk in and ask what you should do'

Colleagues recalled the fur collars on his coat, which they described as "a well-worn fibre doormat" or "a collage of a shredded wheat". He enjoyed white food, such as soft smelly cheeses and Mother's Pride bread, hot dogs and shellfish. He would never drink water: not in a restaurant, not in a desert, not if his life depended on it.

While in New York this tall, sophisticated Englishman with an easy grasp of American idioms spent about ten days a month pursuing auction spoils across the US, finding that doors opened with ease. "There are extraordinary collections here, and extraordinary collecting; nothing like in England," he told *The New York Times* in 1966. Other times he would be taking bids at auctions, visiting collectors or, as Bella recalled, "serving time in a Chilean prison for a crime nobody has ever quite got to the bottom of".

Peregrine Pollen, auctioneer, was born on January 24, 1931. He died after being struck by a lorry on February 18, 2020, aged 89

Register

Ken Johnson

Lancaster gunner who could only watch as bombs dropped on them from another RAF aircraft, causing a fatal disaster

Ken Johnson never forgot the daylight raid over St Cyr near Versailles when his Lancaster bomber was seriously damaged by bombs from another Lancaster, killing his friend Jack Foy.

The raid in July 1944 was aimed at a series of caves where the Wehrmacht was assembling unmanned V1 rockets, known in Britain as doodlebugs, which the Nazis were using to terrorise London and the southeast of England.

Johnson, then aged 20, was flying as mid-upper gunner in the Lancaster in an unheated perspex pod on the top of the fuselage behind the wings.

Seeing the plane immediately above their own with its bomb doors open revealing two rows of rusty projectiles, Johnson remembered warning his skipper, Flying Officer Harry Watkins, that they were in imminent danger.

Watkins dismissed his concerns, saying the pilot above would see them. He then ordered silence on the intercom as the crew concentrated on delivering their own bombs on the target. It was just after the bomb-aimer had called "bombs gone" that the plane above started releasing its own load.

Johnson had a grandstand view as the bombs flipped from horizontal to vertical in the first few seconds of flight and started falling around his fuselage. One struck the starboard rudder in the tail section and removed the starboard fin. Another took about four feet off the starboard wingtip which dangled in the slipstream and then detached completely.

With the intercom dead and the plane bucking around as Watkins fought to keep control, Johnson realised that there was no longer any movement in the rear turret where his friend, the Canadian rear air gunner, Flight Sergeant Foy, had only days before helped to destroy an attacking Messerschmitt. Looking backwards through the fuselage he saw only a gaping hole where Foy had been.

Somehow Watkins managed to wrestle the stricken plane back across the English Channel and, after being diverted from their base at RAF Skellingthorpe near Lincoln because another plane had crash-landed on the runway, he made a perfect touchdown at an airfield near Newark.

Many years later Johnson recalled the deathly hush as the surviving six crew members slowly exited the plane. "The silence was unbelievable, no one spoke," he said. "No words were exchanged, they seemed to feel the tension. The skipper was last to leave. He flew in shirt sleeves, unlike the two gunners who were wearing a lot of extra clothing to try to keep warm. The skipper's shirt was soaked in sweat. He had fought all the way home with little more than half the controls."

Johnson took part in 44 operations altogether in the months after D-Day, many of them against German targets in France as the Allied push across northern Europe gathered pace.

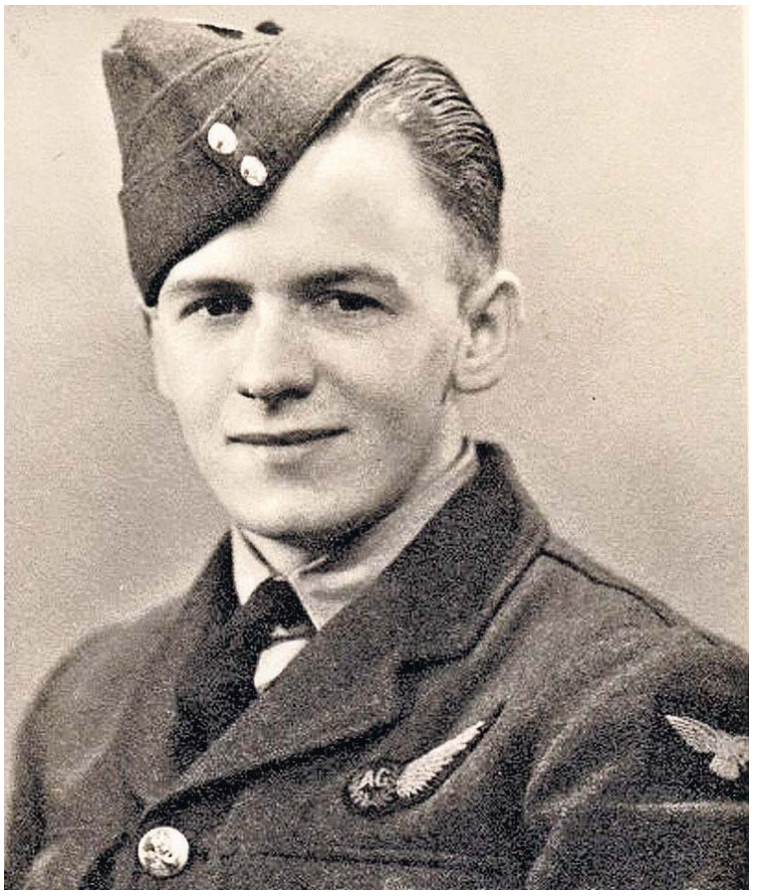
The Lancaster's skipper fought all the way home with half the controls

Among his last sorties, in April 1945, was a big raid against Hitler's mountain retreat — the Eagle's Nest near Berchtesgaden.

Johnson's crew were carrying a 12,000lb Tallboy bomb, which they dropped on an SS barracks lower down the mountain. The 359 Lancasters inflicted severe damage on the Berghof area, but did not destroy the Eagle's Nest itself.

Kenneth Alfred Johnson was born in February 1924 in Doncaster, the eldest of three boys of Alfred and Ethel Johnson (née Salter). He attended primary school in Hexthorpe and then secondary school in Doncaster's Hyde Park area. Johnson tried to join the RAF at 17 but was sent instead to the British Ropes factory near home. There he worked 12-hour shifts, six days a week as a machine operator making wire cables for barrage balloons.

He was 19 before he was released and enlisted in the RAF in September 1943 at the Sheffield United football ground. After completing gunnery training, Johnson joined 61 Squadron at RAF Skellingthorpe.



Johnson went on to take part in an attack on Hitler's retreat in the Bavarian Alps

On completion of his active tour with 61 Squadron, he volunteered for a second tour with No 9 Specialist Squadron based at RAF Marham in Norfolk. With the onset of peace, Johnson was posted as a warrant officer to Heliopolis near Cairo and took command of a motor transport division at Alexandria docks. This was a difficult time, and Johnson vividly recalled Egyptian nationalists attacking British forces.

On returning to the UK, Johnson was demobbed after just under five years' service. He was astonished how quickly he was thrust back into civvy street. "We were taken to a large warehouse. There all the RAF gear was taken from us; there were racks of civvy suits in various colours to choose from and a hat, which I can never remember wearing, discharge papers and ration books. Everything was going at speed," he said, "no one had time to say: 'Thank you, you are now a civilian.'" After demobilisation, Johnson briefly joined the Observer Corps, helping to man a post near Finningley airport in Doncaster in the early days of the Cold War. The reality of serving in an atomic bomb shelter was not to his liking, however. "In case of a raid we had to seal ourselves in until the all-clear. The idea of leaving my family in these situations was out of the question," he recalled.

Johnson went on to work in his father's engineering business. He then became a machinist working for International Harvester in Doncaster and then a local mining supplies company, from which he retired in 1983. In retirement he was a keen ornithologist and regularly took school groups out with him on birdwatching trips. He also enjoyed snooker and darts.

He met Joan Martin at a dance in Doncaster during the war and they married in September 1945. She had a daughter, Wendy, from a previous relationship, who died in 2000. Together they had one daughter, Beverly, who worked in retail and survives him. Joan died in 2007.

Johnson was always a strong supporter of the role of Bomber Command during the war and in recent years enjoyed representing the last survivors of that epoch at commemorations, air shows and squadron get-togethers.

He always kept in touch with Foy's sister in Canada. In 2016, along with other survivors of the Normandy campaign, he was awarded the Légion d'honneur, France's highest military honour.

He reflected then on his war service. "Despite the horrors and deaths I experienced, it was the best time of my life," he said. "I am the last of my crew; we are a diminishing generation. I consider myself a very, very lucky man. I did my bit and I'm proud that I did so."

Warrant Officer Ken Johnson, RAF bomber crew, was born on February 17, 1924. He died on January 2, 2020, aged 95

Zara Steiner

Historian of interwar Europe who crisply characterised the era's key players and made her husband, George, carry her books

The historian Zara Steiner was never one for narrowly focused subjects. She tackled the greatest question of 20th-century European and global history — how the world descended twice into catastrophic conflict.

While she was noted for her formidable ability to master sources, archives and arguments, and analyse them from a range of perspectives — political, economic, military, cultural — her focus remained unfashionably on the people whose decisions led to crucial events.

"It is with Hitler and Hitler's intentions," she argued in *The Triumph of the Dark*, "that any student of European international history must start." He had been "an opportunist who knew where he was going". She went on to show not only how Hitler's pursuit of bloodshed had led to the outbreak of war in 1939, but also how the failure of other contemporary leaders such as Neville Chamberlain to understand Hitler's character had mattered so much. She saw Chamberlain as a "stiff, controlled, and stubborn man" who "could not imagine that anyone in his right mind … would actually want war".

That ambitious volume was the sequel to *The Lights That Failed: European International History, 1919-1933*. Both were parts of *The Oxford History of Modern Europe*. The earlier work

MICHAEL DERRINGER



Zara Steiner at Cambridge in 2005

charted the attempt to rebuild a stable international system after the trauma of the First World War, and, like its sequel, featured a vividly drawn cast of characters. Steiner described Woodrow Wilson as "tall, prim … inclined to sermonise", and Lloyd George as a "quick, ingenious, persuasive" man who "thrived on difficulties".

While describing powerfully the challenges faced by these leaders, Steiner was keen to warn historians not to read later events back into their accounts — by assuming, for example, that the world of 1919 was predestined to end in that of 1939.

Where necessary she could shift from analysis of individuals and their character to address broader themes — such as the state of military preparedness of Germany and its future opponents in the run-up to 1939. Her writing style combined the use of substantial sources and analysis with pithy comments and colourful asides that made the argument truly memorable.

She was born Zara Alice Shakow in 1928 in New York, where her father ran a store selling clothing and supplies to, among others, polar explorers. After attending Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania she won a scholarship to study at St Anne's College, Oxford. An enterprising tutor at Swarthmore arranged for her to be taught by some of Oxford's stars, such as the philosopher Isaiah Berlin and the historians Hugh Trevor-Roper and Hugh Seton-Watson.

She was subsequently awarded a doctorate at Harvard and began researching diplomatic history — soon focusing on Britain, to which she had returned by the 1960s, basing herself at New Hall in Cambridge (now Murray Edwards College). Steiner published *The Foreign Office and Foreign Policy 1898-1914*, based on painstaking research in government archives, attempting to show what shaped the attitudes of key figures, such as the foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey, towards German intentions. This was followed by a more specific study of Britain's role in the period approaching the outbreak of the First World War. Her expertise in diplomacy was evinced by her editorship of *The Times Survey of Foreign Ministries of the World*.

She lived in Cambridge with her husband, the academic and critic George Steiner, who predeceased her by just a few days (obituary, February 5). They had been persuaded to meet in London for tea by two Harvard professorial matchmakers who had taught them and believed they would be well suited.

He was a brilliant, flamboyant and combative intellectual — different in temperament to his wife, who grew used to responding with an affectionate but concerned "George!" to his more provocative statements. She teased him about his efforts to carry around the heavy volumes she needed for her diplomatic research, to add to the mountain of paperwork spread across her study. While George's output ranged between books, popular lectures, journalism and a novel, she apologised wryly to him that her weighty works had "failed again to fulfil the hopes of producing a bestseller".

They bonded over a sense of rejection by the British academic establishment. She did not receive the promotion her historical achievements merited and faced Oxbridge misogyny and the persistence of hostility towards women working in the diplomatic sphere. Her husband, for his part, felt many in Britain remained insensitive to his attempts to come to terms with the cultural enormity of the Holocaust. He taught for long periods abroad, including in Geneva, but it was a long and successful marriage, sustained by a love of cooking and fine wine. They had two children: David, director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy, and Deborah, professor of classics at Columbia University in New York.

As she watched some of the international dramas of recent decades unfold, Steiner quietly counselled political leaders to listen more to their foreign policy experts. Her historical study had given her special insight into what could happen if individuals, buffeted by bad advice or challenging circumstances, led countries towards disaster.

Zara Steiner, historian, was born on November 6, 1928. She died on February 13, 2020, aged 91

Bernard Tyson

First black chief executive of Kaiser Permanente health group

Not many chief executives are followed around stores by suspicious security guards, nor do they have to put up with a restaurant waiter explaining how tipping works. But not many chief executives are black. Those were among the many day-to-day humiliations suffered by Bernard Tyson, head of Kaiser Permanente, America's largest combined health insurance and hospitals group.

In his six years as chief executive, from 2013, and five as chairman, from 2014, the number of Kaiser's policyholders increased by a third to 12 million, the workforce grew by a quarter and annual revenue rose from $53 billion (£40 billion) to $84 billion.

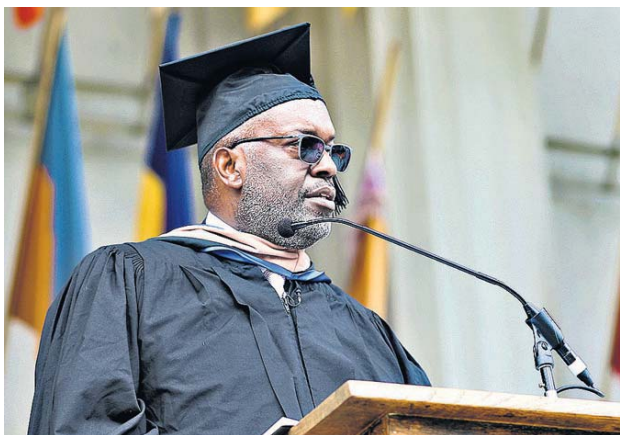
Those numbers were boosted by President Obama's 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare. Tyson, Kaiser's first black chief executive, sold Kaiser health plans on the act's exchanges in California and elsewhere while many commercial health insurers held back.

In 2019 he shared a platform with Prince William at the World Economic Forum in Davos, urging global leaders to reduce the stigma of mental illness, tackle inequity in mental health care, focus on prevention of illness and integrate mental health services into primary care systems.

As well as a new Kaiser medical school in Pasadena, southern California, Tyson had also sanctioned a $200 million investment in affordable housing in the San Francisco Bay Area, part of a plan to reach beyond mainstream healthcare to underlying causes such as homelessness and gun violence.

"In terms of social determinants of health," said Tyson, "the way we think about it at Kaiser Permanente is that about 40 per cent of a person's health is determined by social behaviours. What you eat, smoke, drink — all the things we have the freedom of choice to do. About 20 per cent is based on genetics. Another 20 per cent, we project, is based on where you live. And then the last 10 per cent is based on healthcare. Why should we just stay in the lane of healthcare, when that has a very limited impact on a person's health?" Kaiser runs farmer's markets and, where communities lack grocery stores, it promotes fresh fruit and vegetables.

That approach was a natural outcrop of Tyson's views on racial inequality, notably voiced in a 2014 Linkedin post in the wake of an incident in the town of Ferguson, Missouri, in which a white police officer shot dead Michael Brown, a black man suspected of stealing.



Bernard Tyson tried to address underlying causes of ill health

In the article Tyson recounted his own experiences, and said: "The first step in changing negative behaviour is to understand the underlying imagery of the black male, which doesn't represent reality. When you see a black man killed, the imagery is more complicated than one might think. For example, words used by the white police officer to describe Michael Brown included adjectives such as hulking and demonic — words that bring up images going back to the days of slavery."

He endorsed police wearing cameras, called for community activists to work with police, called for the government and businesses to work together in different ways, and supported school and church leaders talking to young people and adults to make neighbourhoods safer.

However, Tyson's biggest concern was trigger-happy police. In another Linkedin post in 2016 he said: "Criminals must be held accountable, yet I question the use of deadly force in non-violent situations. A police force that is seen as a paramilitary organisation with an adversarial relationship with communities of colour is neither effective nor what's needed to move our society forward."

Bernard James Tyson was born in Vallejo, California, 30 miles north of San Francisco, the eldest of seven children. His father, Moses, was a carpenter and pastor while his mother, Billie, raised him, his two brothers and four sisters.

"The community was the family," Bernard said. "I had multiple 'moms' who raised me as a child. The community came together and offered a support system that you could rely on, that was in your corner."

Billie had diabetes, which meant that Bernard saw for himself how much she relied on the healthcare system.

After attending Vallejo High School he read health service management at Golden Gate University, near Union Square in San Francisco, going on to gain a master of business administration in health service administration there. He also earned a leadership certificate from Harvard University.

Tyson had two years' experience as an administrative analyst at Vallejo General Hospital before joining Kaiser Permanente's medical centre in San Francisco as an assistant administrator in 1987. Five years later he became chief executive of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Santa Rosa, northern California.

From there he moved on to management jobs at Kaiser's divisional and group levels before being appointed president and chief operating officer in 2010. He had open-heart surgery in 2000.

In 2009 Tyson married Denise Bradley, an ecommerce entrepreneur he met when they were fundraising for the African American Museum and Library in Oakland, near San Francisco. He had three sons, Bernard, Alexander and Charles, from an earlier 20-year marriage to Carla. Bernard works for the accountants Ernst & Young, Alexander is in sales and marketing with the Atlanta Hawks basketball team and Charles is in his final year at school. "I've had 'that talk' with each of my sons about what to do if you're stopped by a police officer," said Tyson.

His passions were travel and basketball, regularly taking the family to watch the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco. Last year Kaiser was believed to have offered to pay $295 million for the naming rights to the Warriors' new arena, to be called Thrive City, because "thrive" is Kaiser's key word in advertising.

He would take Denise to South Africa for Christmas holidays, and last August they celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary with a trip to Italy. "We found a few places that we loved," said Denise, "and we did a deep dive into those, rather than travelling to new destinations all the time. We went to the Venice Biennale, because we loved the food, the culture, the people."

Despite his $16 million-a-year lifestyle, he never lost touch with the basics of healthcare. "I still do hospital visits," he said, "and I can tell how well a hospital is run in a couple of minutes. How clean are the floors? How does the staff respond? What's the vibe?"

Bernard Tyson, chairman and chief executive of Kaiser Permanente, was born on January 20, 1959. He died in his sleep on November 10, 2019, aged 60

Court Circular

St James's Palace
29th February, 2020
The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, this morning attended The Royal Corps of Signals' Centenary Service in Salisbury Cathedral and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire (Mrs Peter Troughton).

Births, Marriages and Deaths

newsukadvertising.co.uk ● 020 7782 7553

THE Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1.14 (NIV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

BALMER On 26th February 2020 to Camilla (née Keppie) and Tom, a son, Jack William Malcolm, brother to Oliver and Henry

Deaths

AVISS Llewellyn Milton (Llew) died at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, on 20th February 2020, aged 74. Beloved husband of Cheryl and much loved father, grandfather, brother and friend. Business leader, rugby fanatic, bridge enthusiast, bon viveur - a life well lived. Service to be held on Friday, 6th March at 12 noon at Warriston Crematorium, Lorimer Chapel, Edinburgh, EH7 4HW.

DAVIES Mona (née Wallace) died peacefully aged 91. Much loved wife of Philip, adored mother to Jackie and Jane, Granny to hugely loved grandchildren Jessica, Hugo and Oliver. Funeral Service at 3pm on the 10th March at the Church of St John the Baptist, Hindon, Wilts. No flowers please but donations would be welcome and may be made to The Army Benevolent Fund.

GIFFARD Charles Sydney Rycroft died on 21st February 2020, aged 93 Sydney, much loved husband of Hazel and father of Ben and Theresa died peacefully at home. We will be holding a funeral service to celebrate his life on Monday 30th March at 2:30pm. St Michael and All Angels church, West Overton, Nr Marlborough, Wilts SN8 4ES. Followed by tea in the Kennet Valley Village Hall, SN8 4EL. All are welcome. Family flowers only please. There will be a charitable collection on the day.

HALL Anthony (Tony) John. FRCS. died peacefully on 17th February 2020, aged 81 A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Saturday 4th April at 2pm at Heckfield Church, Church Lane, Heckfield, Hook RG27 0LG and afterwards at Heckfield Hall. Retiring collection or donations, if wished, to St Micheal's Hospice (North Hampshire).

WATSON Kathleen Alice Joan (née Dines) died peacefully on 20th February 2020, aged 94 at Darent Valley Hospital, surrounded by her family. Much loved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

WEDELL Eberhard George Emeritus Professor of the University of Manchester, died peacefully on 23rd February 2020 at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Much loved husband of Rosemarie, father of Martin, Crispin, Philip and Rebekka, and grandfather of Thomas, Chanya, Emily and Lina Funeral Service at St Paul's Church, Withington, Manchester, on Tuesday 17th March at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only Donations to Medecins sans Frontieres https://www.msf.org.uk/médecins-sans/frontières For further information contact Owen Baker Funeral Directors, 0161 446 1006

THE TIMES
The simple way to place your announcement in The Times. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
thetimes.co.uk/announce



Charity Appeals

nowzad
Winning the War for Animals



In a war ravaged country, there are many forgotten victims...



The life of a dog or cat in Afghanistan is a desperate one and we are their one chance. Nowzad relieves the suffering of stray and abandoned animals and is the only recognised animal shelter and clinic in the whole of Afghanistan but we need your support to help the animals with no voice but ours.



We won't forget them – will you?

Donate online or send cheques payable to 'Nowzad Dogs'
The Meriel Suite, Hartnoll Farm Business Centre, Post Hill, Tiverton, Devon EX164NG
Registered Charity: 1119185

DONATE BY TEXT NOWZAD £5 70085

www.nowzad.com/donate



Claudia has never known a life without pain.

Claudia is living with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) – a painful genetic skin blistering condition which makes her skin as fragile as a butterfly's wing.

To learn more about butterfly children like Claudia go to **butterflychildren.org.uk**

Please help butterfly children today. To donate £5 text CURE to 70500

Or send a Cheque/Postal Order/CAF Voucher made out to: DEBRA

__ £10 __ £15 __ £25

Other £ *I want to help butterfly children*

Full Name _____
Address _____
_____
_____
Postcode _____
Email _____

giftaid it ☐ I want all donations I have made to DEBRA in the last 4 years & all future donations to be gift aided until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008. You may cancel this declaration at any time. Please contact our Gift Aid Team on 01344 771961 if you no longer pay sufficient tax, change your name or home address.

☐ DEBRA fully complies with the Data Protection Act (1998). We respect your privacy and will not pass your details on to any third party. We would like to keep you updated on our work. If you would rather not be contacted, please tick this box.

DEBRA will receive 100% of your donation. You will be charged for one standard text message plus your donation. By using this service, you agree that we may contact you in the future about our work. If you'd rather we didn't, add the words NO INFO when texting your donation. DEBRA is a registered charity, numbers 1084958 and SC039654. Text service provider Vir2 Mobile's helpline 0330 660 0425

Please send this form with your gift to:
Freepost RTJJ-AKBR-UHGY, DEBRA, Unit 13, Wellington Business Park, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne RG45 6LS

MPATT14CLP

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
To place notices for these sections please call: 020 7481 4000
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion.



The Gtech Pro K9: a more hygienic, harder working cordless vacuum for busy homes

Cordless convenience

The Gtech Pro K9 is our first ever bagged cordless stick pet hair vacuum. With no cords holding you back, and no need to change plug sockets while moving around your home, the Pro K9 lets you roam free. The Gtech Pro K9 has a choice of 2 modes - use 'Max' mode for up to 20 minutes* for stubborn pet hair or 'Eco' mode for up to 40 minutes* of normal cleaning requirements. The 22V Lithium-ion battery can be fully charged in just 4 hours.

Impressive performance & easy to use

Our cordless stick pet hair vacuum is specially designed to clean your home from floor to ceiling, the Pro K9 vacuum features a full set of attachments, with the flexibility to glide effortlessly from carpet to hard floors without having to change settings. Weighing just 1.4kg when in handheld mode**, and 2.4kg when in floor cleaning mode**, the Gtech Pro K9 is easy to move around while you clean. Our unique AirLOC systemΔ lifts large debris as well as embedded dust and hair.

Why choose a bagged vacuum cleaner?

This bagged pet vacuum is designed to deal with the added mess and stress that owning pets can put on your home. The airflow from the vacuum compresses the dirt and continually pushes it down, giving each bag increased capacity. Each bag features an origami design that offers optimised surface area and dust capacity.



"Perfect! I have a very hairy labrador and am forever sweeping and vacuuming around the house - my new Gtech has made these chores so much easier!" Anthony B.

"I really love the K9 it's the best stick style vacuum cleaner I have owned, powerful pickup, lightweight easy to use." Stephen H.

4.7 out of 5

★★★★★

Powered by yotpo.com

Amazing offer: ~~£249.99~~ **Order today** for just **£169.99**

Visit **www.gtech.co.uk/prok9** and use code **HP35**

or call **0800 030 86 40** (24 hour freephone information and sales line)

Tracked free delivery and 2-year warranty

Your product will be delivered to your home next business day by award winning courier DPD. You will receive a text enabling you to track your delivery, which will be within a 1 hour slot. Your product will automatically be registered for Gtech's 2-year warranty and you'll enjoy the support of our UK head office customer service line, email service, web chat and self service web portal.

Offer only available directly from Gtech. Offer ends 31.03.2020 or while stocks last. Δ AirLOC technology is patent-pending – WO2017/144922. *Runtimes quoted may vary depending on surfaces cleaned. **Weight = 1.4kg when used with nozzle; 2.4kg in upright mode. Weight varies according to the attachment being used. Limited 2-year manufacturers guarantee. See www.gtech.co.uk for full details.

CPN4128

Today Early rain or sleet clearing the southeast. Wintry showers across western areas. Max 8C (46F), min -9C (16F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr* yesterday
Aberdeen	6	C	2.2	3.3
Aberporth	7	PC	0.0	4.1
Anglesey	7	PC	0.0	5.4
Aviemore	3	PC	6.0	2.3
Barnstaple	8	PC	2.8	**
Bedford	7	PC	0.0	**
Belfast	6	PC	4.6	2.5
Birmingham	7	C	0.4	**
Bournemouth	10	PC	1.2	5.5
Bridlington	8	C	0.4	**
Bristol	8	PC	2.8	4.3
Camborne	8	PC	1.6	6.2
Cardiff	8	S	5.4	4.0
Edinburgh	4	SH	16.8	4.0
Eskdalemuir	4	B	31.4	1.9
Glasgow	6	PC	24.4	2.8
Hereford	8	PC	1.0	**
Herstmonceux	8	C	5.4	4.0
Ipswich	8	C	0.0	4.1
Isle of Man	7	PC	0.8	4.1
Isle of Wight	9	S	1.0	**
Jersey	9	PC	6.8	4.6
Keswick	7	PC	9.6	**
Kinloss	6	S	2.2	3.4
Leeds	5	B	9.4	**
Lerwick	6	B	5.2	0.0
Leuchars	6	DU	2.4	3.1
Lincoln	7	C	0.2	3.4
Liverpool	7	PC	1.4	**
London	10	S	0.0	3.2
Lyneham	6	PC	3.2	3.4
Manchester	8	PC	2.0	5.1
Margate	9	S	0.0	3.4
Milford Haven	8	S	0.6	**
Newcastle	6	PC	3.6	**
Nottingham	8	PC	0.2	3.0
Orkney	5	B	15.4	0.7
Oxford	8	PC	0.0	**
Plymouth	9	S	5.0	**
Portland	8	PC	3.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	9	PC	1.4	**
Shoreham	9	PC	1.0	2.9
Shrewsbury	7	PC	4.0	3.3
Snowdonia	5	PC	2.8	**
Southend	9	PC	0.0	3.9
South Uist	6	PC	8.0	**
Stornoway	7	PC	0.6	5.0
Tiree	5	SH	11.2	2.1
Whitehaven	5	PC	37.4	1.1
Wick	6	PC	1.8	**
Yeovilton	7	SH	2.0	5.9

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	20	PC	Madeira	20	PC
Amsterdam	9	PC	Madrid	12	B
Athens	15	S	Mallorca	19	PC
Auckland	26	S	Malaga	21	PC
Bahrain	24	S	Malta	18	S
Bangkok	32	PC	Melbourne	30	S
Barbados	26	SH	Mexico City	25	S
Barcelona	19	PC	Miami	21	B
Beijing	9	S	Milan	9	B
Beirut	15	PC	Mombasa	34	PC
Belgrade	16	S	Montreal	-10	B
Berlin	10	PC	Moscow	4	S
Bermuda	20	SH	Mumbai	30	S
Bordeaux	13	B	Munich	11	PC
Brussels	8	PC	Nairobi	28	B
Bucharest	10	S	Naples	17	B
Budapest	11	S	New Orleans	21	S
Buenos Aires	31	S	New York	1	B
Cairo	17	PC	Nice	13	B
Calcutta	28	S	Nicosia	20	PC
Canberra	29	S	Oslo	0	SN
Cape Town	26	S	Paris	8	R
Chicago	1	PC	Perth	26	B
Copenhagen	6	B	Prague	10	PC
Corfu	14	B	Reykjavik	3	SH
Delhi	24	S	Riga	8	B
Dubai	27	S	Rio de Janeiro	26	B
Dublin	5	PC	Riyadh	29	S
Faro	18	B	Rome	15	PC
Florence	15	R	San Francisco	13	PC
Frankfurt	11	PC	Santiago	31	S
Geneva	12	B	São Paulo	22	B
Gibraltar	19	B	Seoul	7	DU
Harare	**	**	Seychelles	31	PC
Helsinki	0	SN	Singapore	31	B
Hong Kong	24	PC	St Petersburg	1	B
Honolulu	27	PC	Stockholm	4	C
Istanbul	10	PC	Sydney	29	B
Jerusalem	18	PC	Tel Aviv	18	PC
Johannesburg	17	B	Tenerife	22	S
Kuala Lumpur	34	PC	Tokyo	14	PC
Lanzarote	20	PC	Vancouver	8	PC
Las Palmas	20	PC	Venice	8	R
Lima	23	B	Vienna	8	PC
Lisbon	16	B	Warsaw	10	PC
Los Angeles	22	PC	Washington	1	B
Luxor	22	S	Zurich	12	PC

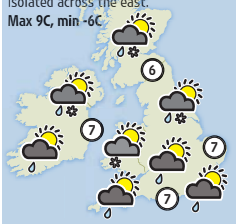
Five days ahead

Drier over the next few days with scattered showers and the risk of overnight frosts

Tomorrow

Cloudy along the south coast with light rain or patchy drizzle. A mixture of sunny spells and showers elsewhere, most likely in the afternoon, but more isolated across the east.

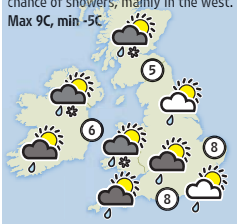
Max 9C, min -6C



Wednesday

A bright and frosty start across much of the British Isles. Areas of cloud developing through the day and, while there will be sunny spells, there is the chance of showers, mainly in the west.

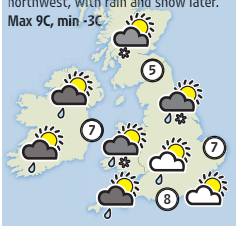
Max 9C, min -5C



Thursday

Another cold, sunny, but frosty start for many southern and eastern areas, with a few showers possible later. Showers more widespread in the northwest, with rain and snow later.

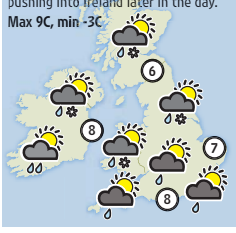
Max 9C, min -3C



Friday

Turning more unsettled again by Friday with rain clearing central and eastern areas during the morning, falling as snow over high ground. Further rain pushing into Ireland later in the day.

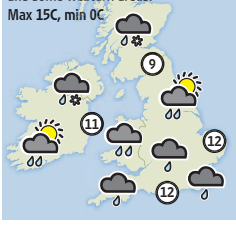
Max 9C, min -3C



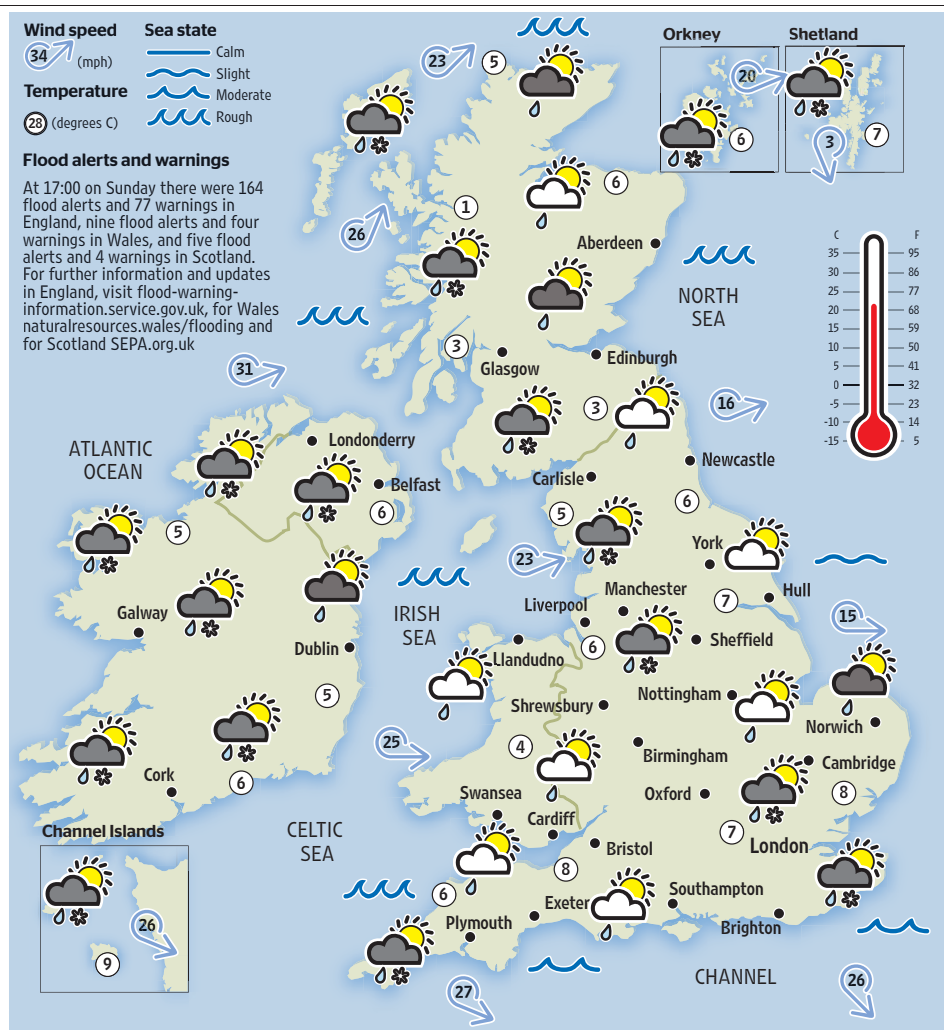
Saturday

A mild and breezy day, with rain in the east during the morning. Turning drier in the south later, but remaining cloudy. Rain persisting across northern and some western areas.

Max 15C, min 0C



The Times weather page is provided by Weatherquest



Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Sunday there were 164 flood alerts and 77 warnings in England, nine flood alerts and four warnings in Wales, and five flood alerts and 4 warnings in Scotland. For further information and updates in England, visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Early rain and snow in the southeast clearing to leave a sunny afternoon. Scattered wintry and blustery showers across the west.

SW Eng, Channel Is, Midlands, Wales, NW Eng, Lake District, IoM: Sunshine and a few odd showers, particularly later when they may be heavy. Moderate westerly winds. Maximum 8C (46F), minimum -1C (30F).

Cen S Eng, SE Eng, London, E Anglia: A cloudy start with outbreaks of rain, sleet and perhaps snow over higher ground areas. Sunny for the afternoon, with just a few isolated blustery showers possible. Light to moderate westerly winds. Maximum 8C (46F), minimum -1C (30F).

Cen N Eng, E Eng, Edinburgh & Dundee, NE Eng, Borders, NE Scotland, N Isles, Moray Firth, Aberdeen: Most places will have a dry day with plenty of sunny spells, but a few odd showers may spread from the west. Light to moderate westerly winds. Maximum 7C (45F), minimum -3C (27F).

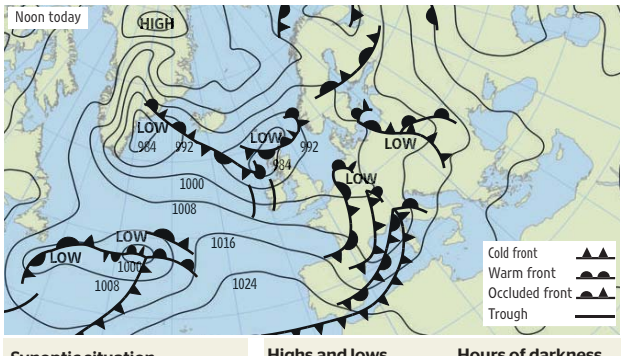
NW Scotland, Cen Highland, Glasgow, Argyll, SW Scotland: Generally cloudy with wintry showers, perhaps merging to longer spells of rain or snow over the Highlands. Moderate to fresh southwesterly winds. Maximum 5C (41F), minimum -9C (16F).

N Ireland, Republic of Ireland: Sunny spells with wintry, blustery showers. with a longer spell of rain possible later. Chilly around showers. Moderate to fresh westerly winds. Maximum 7C (45F), minimum 1C (34F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	06:00	3.4	18:18	3.5
Avonmouth	11:25	10.8	23:46	10.5
Belfast	03:47	3.0	15:58	3.0
Cardiff	11:08	9.9	23:32	9.6
Devonport	09:56	4.5	22:21	4.4
Dover	02:56	6.0	15:18	5.6
Dublin	04:13	3.3	16:38	3.3
Falmouth	09:04	4.3	21:36	4.1
Greenock	04:50	3.1	17:16	3.0
Harwich	04:02	3.5	16:39	3.4
Holyhead	02:36	4.6	15:02	4.6
Hull	10:43	6.2	23:07	6.2
Leith	07:20	4.5	19:34	4.5
Liverpool	03:31	7.8	16:01	7.8
London Bridge	06:01	6.3	18:24	6.0
Lowestoft	01:48	2.3	14:22	2.1
Milford Haven	10:36	5.6	22:55	5.4
Morecambe	03:24	7.7	15:51	7.7
Newhaven	03:08	5.7	15:32	5.3
Newquay	09:32	5.6	21:51	5.4
Oban	09:57	3.1	22:10	3.0
Penzance	08:58	4.5	21:21	4.4
Portsmouth	03:52	4.1	16:12	3.9
Shoreham	03:11	5.3	15:34	5.1
Southampton	02:59	4.0	15:16	3.8
Swansea	10:36	7.6	22:56	7.4
Tees	08:26	4.3	20:41	4.4
Weymouth	10:41	1.5	23:03	1.5



Synoptic situation

A small area of low pressure will bring early cloud, rain and patchy snow to parts of southeastern England, but this will clear to the east to leave a generally sunny afternoon. Another area of low pressure centred to the north of Scotland will drive a blustery westerly flow, with scattered wintry showers in the west, becoming more isolated farther east.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Kew Gardens, 10.6C
Coldest: Cairngorm, -6.0C
Wettest: Shap, Cumbria, 37.4mm
Sunniest: Camborne, Cornwall, 6.2hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.41
Sun sets: 17.42
Moon rises: 09.59
Moon sets: 02.08 Tue
Full moon: March 9

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	18:13-06:24
Belfast	18:32-06:36
Birmingham	18:18-06:18
Cardiff	18:25-06:22
Exeter	18:27-06:22
Glasgow	18:23-06:31
Liverpool	18:22-06:23
London	18:12-06:10
Manchester	18:18-06:20
Newcastle	18:14-06:19
Norwich	18:05-06:05
Penzance	18:36-06:30
Sheffield	18:15-06:17

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



It probably came as no great surprise that last month was the UK's wettest February since at least 1884, according to the Met Office. And at the end of a curious seven-day cycle of stormy weather, this weekend there was yet another foul bout of wind, heavy rain and snow as Storm Jorge swept through the UK. On Saturday gusts reached 90mph at the Needles, on the Isle of Wight. There was 35mm rainfall in Cardiff and about 100 flood warnings were issued.

Storm Jorge moved north yesterday, the first day of March, which is supposed to be the beginning of the meteorological spring. These early days of the new month look like carrying on much like February, however: windy, wet and cold. It is a reminder that March has a stormy reputation, straddling winter and spring, which 19th-century writers were keenly aware of. As the English writer William Howitt described in about 1830, "March is a rude, and sometimes boisterous month, possessing many of the characteristics of winter, yet awakening sensations perhaps more delicious than the following two spring months." Charles Dickens wrote something similar in *Great Expectations*: "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

Small wonder that the stormy nature of March captured the imagination of poets. In *March: An Ode*, the Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburne paid tribute to "March, master of winds, bright minstrel and marshal of storms that enkindle the season they smite."

John Clare, the son of a farm labourer in Northamptonshire, was a particularly keen observer of the weather and in *Shepherd's Calendar*, published in 1827, he described the dark side of March. "March, month of 'many weathers' wildly comes/ In hail, and snow, and rain, and threatening hums,/ And floods: while often at his cottage door/ The shepherd stands, to hear the distant roar."

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 77 76 75

8am to 6pm daily (calls charged at £1.50 per minute plus network extras)

weatherquest

For more information on the services we can provide, visit our website: **www.weatherquest.co.uk**

The Blue Danube – Vienna, Budapest and Salzburg CRUISE

WITH AN EXPERIENCED CRUISE DIRECTOR AND CONCIERGE



EIGHT DAYS FROM **£1,449** PER PERSON

Guided tours of Vienna, Salzburg and Budapest

Visits to Bratislava, Melk Abbey, Dürnstein and Esztergom

Return flights, plus seven nights on board in your choice of cabin or suite

Unwind on our magical river cruise and enjoy an escorted tour to imperial Budapest, the Pearl of the Danube. See Bratislava, Esztergom, Melk, Salzburg and unforgettable Vienna. Soak up all that Europe's most cultured river has to offer, with its wealth of grand baroque architecture, medieval cities, picture perfect towns and the sights that inspired Strauss and Mozart.

Departures from April to October, 2020.

Call **0330 160 5108** and quote **K0719**

thetimes.co.uk/riviera-rcd

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

Prices based on two people sharing and are correct at time of print. *Up to £200 per person lowered price applies to selected cruises and is available on selected departure dates. Single rooms available at a supplement. Additional entrance costs may apply. Travel insurance is not included but is strongly recommended. This holiday is operated by and subject to booking conditions of Riviera Travel, ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430 protected, a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd. Subject to availability. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. For further information please write to Riviera Travel, New Manor, 328 Wetmore Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE14 1SP quoting The Times. K0719.

It doesn't grow on trees.



But it can thrive with the right investment plan.

At Times Money Mentor, our experts can give you help and guidance to choose the right plan for you. We all know a bit about money, but for the important decisions you need a mentor on your side.

THE TIMES money mentor

Get Money Mentored at thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor

35,000

The number of feet in the air you can still read The Times and The Sunday Times with a subscription. Download your edition via the app to read our award-winning journalism whenever and wherever you want.

To find out more about this benefit and many more visit thetimes.co.uk/benefits or call 0800 092 2709



Sport

First woman in charge of the National

Rebecca Myers talks to Sulekha Varma, who is tasked with ensuring all goes smoothly on Aintree's big day



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER





Grand National
Saturday, April 4
Aintree Racecourse
Live on ITV

Varma, 34, has become the first female clerk of the course at Aintree, having succeeded Tulloch last month, and has already immersed herself in plans for the race watched by 600 million people, above

Sulekha Varma is eating a sandwich in an empty executive box at Aintree racecourse. The stands are silent and the turf stretches out below, crisp and clear in the brilliant February sunshine. "It is amazing," she says with a smile.

It is her kingdom now. Last month, Varma became clerk of the course at Aintree, succeeding Andrew Tulloch, who had been in the post for 24 years. She is the first woman to hold the position and, on April 4, will become the first to take charge of one of the world's most famous horse races, the Grand National.

"In terms of the entries we've got at the moment, this is potentially the highest-quality Grand National we've ever seen," she says. "To keep it up there would be very important, to make sure we are still attracting the very best horses we can."

It is only one part of her job at Aintree but, for the next month, it will be her sole focus, as she leads one of the biggest organisational efforts in horse racing. She describes her role on the day itself as like the conductor of the orchestra: "By the time you get to race day, all your players should be in position, you should have everybody ready but you're making sure everything comes together, runs to time and runs smoothly."

She will arrive at the course by about 5.30 in the morning. "It's already coming together. There's probably an element of trepidation because the owners, trainers, jockeys are coming to your racecourse and want their horses to perform to the very best — and you want that to happen as well — but it's largely excitement. It all comes down to those days."

This may be the 34-year-old's first year in charge but it is her tenth working at the Grand National, as the Jockey Club drafts in clerks and groundsmen from all around the country to help pull together an event that is watched by about 600 million people worldwide. For the past few years, she has directly assisted her predecessor, Tulloch, watching and learning how it all comes together. The best advice he gave her, she says, was about delegation: "Making sure you've got the best team you can in place and putting the right people in the right spot to do a certain job is very important — and trusting them to do it."

The race day is her time to shine, her biggest strength in a role that ranges from detailed and impressively scientific knowledge about grass growth to overseeing onsite refurbishments and cultivating strong relationships with trainers and jockeys. This is the fifth course she has clerked in her career. "I've got quite a logistical mind so, if there's a problem, I'm already trying to work out the solution," she says.

It is hard to overstate the platform that Varma has: last year's coverage of the race on ITV reached a peak viewership of 9.6 million people. Cheltenham's Gold Cup drew 1.64 million viewers. "It's a huge responsibility and one we take very seriously as a sport and as Aintree racecourse," Varma says. "When I got this job, I was telling my friends where I play tennis. Most of them know nothing about racing but they knew what this job was. It meant something to them. That's the beauty of the race here but it's a real challenge to create new fans for the sport.

"The battle for the leisure pound, the battle for people's attention is probably one of the biggest [challenges]. The large majority of people who come are once-a-year racegoers."

Animal welfare is an even bigger challenge and one Varma is particularly passionate about. "Racing cares for its horses very, very well and I think we need to be more open and tell the world that," she says. "You need to remember that a horse is an athlete and, in order for an athlete to perform to their full ability, they have to be healthy, they have to be well-fed, with balanced nutrition and the right kind of exercise. Most of the horses have horse masseurs who come in — the comparison to a human athlete is so close. It is in racing's interest for these horses to be cared for to the highest possible standard, and we do."

She is, first and foremost, a horse lover. Neither of Varma's parents had a particular interest in horse racing; her father, who grew up in Kerala, India, was a neurosurgeon and her mother was a nurse. She won them over, she says, by "pure pester power". There is a photo of the first time Varma sat on a horse, aged six on holiday in Italy, "like a pea on a drum," as she puts it. "I made up my mind I wanted to sit on a horse but they had no small ponies whatsoever. It turned out he was absolutely huge — about 17 hands."

Her determination succeeded: she soon owned her first horse, Bimbo — "an unfortunate name but I was nine at the time" — and competed in show jumping and dressage throughout her childhood.

As a teenager, she work did experience at the yard of Lucinda Russell, the trainer of 2017 Grand National winner One For Arthur, and later took the British Horseracing Authority's graduate scheme and worked at *The Racing Post*, before her clerking qualification.

No one, she says, has ever been surprised to see a woman in her role. "Not at all. There was a period briefly where every single clerk of the course of the five courses in Scotland was female."

It is a meritocratic system, she says, driven by passion. "Something racing does very well, not through any construct or plan, is that people are very good at mentoring others and helping them on their way, because of that shared love of the horse and the sport."

There is plenty of work to do before Varma can enjoy the race itself, and she can reel off an extensive to-do list that would make even a seasoned events planner break out into a sweat: co-ordinating ground staff in fence preparation, positioning and cleaning the rails, laying new rubber walkways for the horses, completing the refurbishment of the stable-staff hostel.

She must keep an eye on the turf, remember to invite retired horses who won the race in the past to the parade, ensure they are all ready to travel. "Crikey, what else is on the list?," she laughs. "There's a lot."



Booed Folau has the last word

Rugby league

Daniel Weinberg

After all the excitement surrounding Israel Folau in his recent tryscoring debut for Catalans Dragons, the controversial cross-code player concerned himself largely with the prosaic in the French team's 34-29 win away to Hull FC yesterday.

The 30-year-old centre, sacked by Rugby Australia last May after posting on Instagram that "hell awaits" homosexuals, had scored with his first touch in the Dragons' home win over Castleford Tigers a fortnight ago.

He was rather more subdued on his first appearance for his new club on English soil but still, cometh the hour, cometh the man.

After Marc Sneyd's drop-goal had put Hull 29-28 ahead inside the 77th minute, Folau made his first and only meaningful contribution of the Super League game.

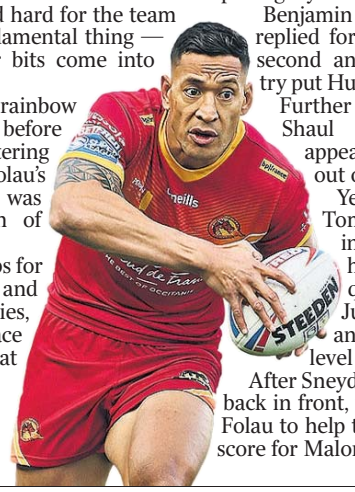
He caught James Maloney's short kick-off one-handed and the ball was then worked to Maloney, who claimed the match-winning try.

The Dragons coach Steve McNamara said: "It was a special play and a special catch but I thought we underused Izzy. If we use him better, his influence will grow throughout the season, without a doubt. He has the talent.

"But we never got him into any space today. We never got the chance to see him run and we never kicked the ball to him. Yet he worked hard for the team and that's the fundamental thing — then all the other bits come into play."

A handful of rainbow flags were waved before kick-off and a smattering of boos greeted Folau's first touch, but it was hardly a cauldron of hate.

Folau won 73 caps for the Wallabies and scored 37 tries, including a brace against England at Twickenham in his final appearance for them in November 2018.



Folau helped to set up the winning try

After his rugby union career ended in disgrace last year, he was barred from returning to rugby league in the NRL.

Folau has remained in excellent physical condition, although he conceded a penalty which led to an opening try for Hull's Mahe Fonua.

Benjamin Jullien and Fouad Yaha replied for Catalans but Fonua's second and Carlos Tuimavave's try put Hull 16-10 up at the break.

Further scores from Jamie Shaul and Manu Ma'u appeared to have put them out of sight at 28-10.

Yet the outstanding Sam Tomkins was instrumental in a fightback that harvested three quickfire scores for Jullien, Josh Drinkwater and Samisoni Langi to level matters at 28-28.

After Sneyd's one-pointer put Hull back in front, there was still time for Folau to help to conjure the winning score for Maloney.

SWPIX.COM/REX



Barker's win cannot hide alarming GB slump

Elinor Barker rode to the rescue of British track cycling yesterday, landing the team's first gold on the final day of the World Championships in Berlin. But despite her win in the points race, it was a poor four days for Britain, who finished seventh in the medals table. Performance director Stephen Park said that some coaches would have holidays cut short as a result.

Wolverhampton

Rob Wright

4.45 Temujin
5.15 Amor Fati
5.45 Johnny Reb (nb)
6.15 Sky Defender
6.45 Unforgiving Minute
7.15 Dear Power
7.45 Van Dijk

Going: standard **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: 5f-7f, low numbers best

4.45 Handicap
(Div I: £2,782: 1m 1f 104yd) (10 runners)

1 (5) 002-4 **CREATIVE TALENT** 18 (CD) A Carroll 8-9-8 **T Marquand**
2 (10) 0-050 **ALLUX BOY** 10 (P,T,CD) N Tinkler 6-9-7 **F McManoman (5)**
3 (2) 220-0 **TEMUJIN** 18 M Appleby 4-9-6 **George Rooke (5)**
4 (6) 350-4 **CAFE SYDNEY** 21 A Carroll 4-9-4 **G Downing**
5 (3) 53365 **THAWRY** 7 (P) A Brittain 5-9-3 **C Hardie**
6 (4) 31545 **SEAFORTH** 10 (CD) A Wintle 8-9-2 **F Marsh (3)**
7 (8) -3264 **PIKE CORNER CROSS** 10 (T,V,CD) P Evans 8-8-13 **C Shepherd**
8 (9) 06-00 **PADURA BRAVE** 44 (H,P) M Usher 4-8-7 **D Probert**
9 (1) 004-0 **FINAL ATTACK** 42 (P,CD) Sarah Hollinshead 9-8-7 **JP Sullivan**
10 (7) 0000- **MOON ARTIST** 80 M Blanshard 4-8-7 **D Keenan (3)**

11-4 Creative Talent, 5-1 Thawry, 6-1 Seaforth, Cafe Sydney, 7-1 Pike Corner Cross, 8-1 Temujin, 10-1 Allux Boy, 14-1 others.

Rob Wright's choice: Temujin will strip fitter for a recent run at Chelmsford **Dangers:** Thawry, Seaforth

5.15 Handicap
(Div II: £2,782: 1m 1f 104yd) (9)

1 (3) 0-101 **TRAVELLER** 10 (T,V,CD) A Brittain 6-9-9 **C Hardie**
2 (2) 50/00 **AL THOORAYAH** 11 D M Simcock 4-9-7 **J P Spencer**
3 (8) 2-442 **CHEEKY RASCAL** 7 (V) Tom Ward 5-9-7 **T Marquand**
4 (1) 03002 **AMOR FATI** 10 (CD) P Evans 5-9-4 **A Kirby**
5 (9) 04664 **DECORATION OF WAR** 4 (P,T,CD) M Appleby 5-9-4 **A Rawlinson**
6 (4) 6000- **CORMIER** 118 B Ellison 4-9-2 **T Eaves**
7 (7) 0-406 **LYRICAL BALLAD** 14 (B) N Mulholland 4-8-11 **S W Kelly**
8 (6) /000- **GOLD STANDARD** J37 A Carroll 4-8-8 **Elisha Whittington (7)**
9 (5) 3-300 **VALENTINE MIST** 28 James Grassick 8-8-7 **Sophie Ralston (5)**

5-2 Traveller, 11-4 Cheeky Rascal, 3-1 Amor Fati, 10-1 Decoration Of War, 14-1 Cormier, Al Thoorayah, 16-1 Valentine Mist, Lyrical Ballad, 25-1 Gold Standard.

Wright choice: Amor Fati will benefit from the booking of Adam Kirby **Dangers:** Cheeky Rascal, Lyrical Ballad

5.45 Handicap (£3,429: 6f) (9)

1 (6) -0312 **TABAAHY** 7 (C) D O'Meara 5-9-8 **D Nolan**
2 (8) 43/1- **SLOWMO** 399 (CD) A Brittain 4-9-7 **C Hardie**
3 (7) 0-620 **BIG LACHIE** 16 (CD) M Loughnane 6-9-6 **Hollie Doyle**
4 (3) 5-561 **JOHNNY REB** 19 (B) James Ferguson 4-9-5 **D Muscutt**
5 (1) 55-14 **BUGLER BOB** 14 (V,D) J J Quinn 4-9-5 **J Hart**
6 (4) 23-30 **DESERT LAND** 27 (H) J Boyle 4-9-3 **T Marquand**
7 (5) 13-50 **CALIN'S LAD** 16 B Haslam 5-9-0 **A Mullen**
8 (9) 00-04 **MADRINHO** 13 (CD) A Carroll 7-8-13 **B Curtis**
9 (2) -4505 **ISABELLA RUBY** 19 (H,P,CD) Mrs L Williamson 5-8-7 **Elisha Whittington (7)**

7-4 Johnny Reb, 11-4 Tabaahy, 5-1 Big Lachie, 5-1 Madrinho, 8-1 Bugler Bob, 12-1 Slowmo, 14-1 Desert Land, 16-1 Calin's Lad, 25-1 Isabella Ruby.

Wright choice: Johnny Reb drops in trip after showing a good turn of foot at Kempton **Dangers:** Big Lachie, Tabaahy

6.15 Handicap (£11,828: 1m 4f) (5)

1 (3) 0-121 **SKY DEFENDER** 15 (D) M Johnston 4-9-9 **J Fanning**
2 (2) 03-34 **DEAL A DOLLAR** 15 (B,D) D M Simcock 4-9-7 **J P Spencer**
3 (5) 2-023 **ORIGINAL CHOICE** 11 (B,C,D) N Littmoden 6-9-4 **Hollie Doyle**
4 (4) 0005- **COSMEAPOLITAN** 104 (T,D) A King 7-9-2 **M Harley**
5 (1) 1214- **KODIAC HARBOUR** 247 (BF) R Brisland 5-8-11 **L Morris**

6-4 Sky Defender, 3-1 Original Choice, 7-2 Deal A Dollar, 5-1 Cosmeapolitan, 14-1 Kodiac Harbour.

Wright choice: Sky Defender will be tough to pass if allowed to dominate early on **Danger:** Deal A Dollar

6.45 Claiming Stakes (£2,782: 1m 1f) (7)

1 (3) -5660 **SCOFFLAW** 9 (B,CD) P Evans 6-9-10 **Laura Pearson (7)**
2 (7) 11-31 **UNFORGIVING MINUTE** 31 (C) S Curran 9-9-10 **A Kirby**
3 (4) /500- **BAZOOKA** 133 (B,T,D) D Flood 9-9-4 **D Probert**
4 (6) 0000- **SUNVISOR** 137 Grace Harris 4-8-12 **J Fahy**
5 (5) -0523 **VIPIN** 3 (P) W Muir 5-8-12 **T Marquand**
6 (1) /114- **LADY RESET** 280 (BF) P Evans 4-8-11 **Gina Mangan (7)**
7 (2) 02200 **ROCKESBURY** 10 (B,C) David Loughnane 5-8-8 **L Morris**

11-8 Unforgiving Minute, 5-2 Lady Reset, 5-1 Scofflaw, 10-1 Vipin, 12-1 Rockesbury, 14-1 Bazooka, 25-1 Sunvisor.

Wright choice: Unforgiving Minute won easily in this grade at Lingfield and can follow up **Danger:** Lady Reset

7.15 Novice Stakes (£3,429: 6f) (11)

1 (3) 5-0 **WILDMOUNTAINTHYME** 46 Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-11 **C Hardie**
2 (9) 10- **DEAR POWER** 179 (D) R Varian 3-9-4 **S De Sousa**
3 (7) 4 **BURSEA LADY** 15 K Burke 3-8-11 **M Stainton**
4 (4) 5-4 **COCK A HOOP** 45 B Haslam 3-8-11 **J P Spencer**
5 (2) 0 **KYLLA LOOKS** 44 Mike Murphy 3-8-11 **S W Kelly**
6 (1) **LITTLE RED SOCKS** K Burke 3-8-11 **B Curtis**
7 (5) 3 **LOVERS CRY** 31 R Fahey 3-8-11 **P J McDonald**
8 (6) **LUCKY FACE** J Butler 3-8-11 **D Keenan (3)**
9 (8) 65- **MACHO TOUCH** 290 K Burke 3-8-11 **C Lee**
10 (11) **MIDNITE BRIDE** K Ryan 3-8-11 **T Eaves**
11 (10) 5 **MY SISTER JO** 25 R Fahey 3-8-11 **S P Davis (3)**

5-4 Dear Power, 3-1 Macho Touch, 7-1 Lovers Cry, 8-1 Little Red Socks, 10-1 Midnite Bride, 14-1 My Sister Jo, 20-1 Cock A Hoop, Bursea Lady.

Wright choice: Dear Power drops in class after struggling in group three company **Dangers:** Macho Touch, Lovers Cry

7.45 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,429: 6f) (9)

1 (4) 350-1 **BOWLING RUSSIAN** 14 (P,D) G Baker 9-11 **George Rooke (5)**
2 (6) -2323 **YUKON MISSION** 14 (B) J J Quinn 9-7 **J Hart**
3 (9) -5115 **LORD P** 14 (D) R Hannon 9-7 **T Hammer Hansen (5)**
4 (5) 26-64 **LAKEVIEW** 21 (T,BF) David Loughnane 9-5 **S De Sousa**
5 (7) 053- **WITH VIRTUE** 226 (P) J Tate 9-3 **P J McDonald**
6 (3) 0-635 **FEEL GOOD FACTOR** 5 M Appleby 9-1 **B Curtis**
7 (1) 50-01 **EGOTISTIC** 35 (CD) J Butler 8-12 **J Haynes**
8 (2) 000-2 **VAN DIJK** 26 A Brittain 8-11 **C Hardie**
9 (8) 30-30 **LILI WEN FACH** 21 R J Price 8-10 **Hollie Doyle**

7-2 Bowling Russian, 4-1 Yukon Mission, 6-1 Lord P, Van Dijk, 7-1 With Virtue, Lakeview, 8-1 Feel Good Factor, 12-1 Egotistic, 25-1 Lili Wen Fach.

Wright choice: Van Dijk, an unlucky second here last time, can make amends **Dangers:** Lakeview, Bowling Russian

Wetherby

Rob Wright

2.00 Accordingtogino
2.35 The Crazed Moon
3.10 Diodorus
3.40 Maxed Out King
4.15 Main Fact (nap)
4.45 Sigurd

Going: heavy, soft in places **Racing TV**
8am inspection

2.00 Maiden Hurdle (£3,508: 3m) (3)

1 -3233 **ACCORDINGTOGINO** 62 (BF) D Skelton 7-11-3 **H Skelton**
2 20-04 **BLUEFORTYTWO** 43 J Ewart 7-11-3 **B Hughes**
3 1/15 **LE CHEVAL NOIR** 86 Mrs R Dobbin 6-11-3 **Craig Nichol**

4-6 Accordingtogino, 9-4 Bluefortytwo, 11-2 Le Cheval Noir.

2.35 Novices' Handicap Chase
(£4,809: 1m 7f) (8)

1 44P02 **THE CRAZED MOON** 27 (P,T) M Scudamore 8-11-12 **B J Powell**
2 /3P-4 **RELKADAM** 28 T Easterby 6-11-12 **W Easterby (5)**
3 5U000 **STEEL YARD** 11 Oliver Greenall 5-11-7 **H Brooke**
4 5-006 **SNOUGAR** 36 (W) D McCain 7-11-4 **B Hughes**
5 -5406 **GOING MOBILE** 78 (W,T) Sam England 5-10-13 **J England**
6 666-P **TAKEMEBACK** 295 (W,H,T) T Symonds 8-10-9 **B Poste**
7 6-444 **CARLINGFORD PRINCE** 34 T Reed 11-10-2 **H Reed (3)**
8 6-240 **ANGEL'S ENVY** 182 Laura Morgan 8-10-0 **Ross Chapman**

5-2 The Crazed Moon, 4-1 Snougar, 5-1 Relkadam, 6-1 Takemeback, 8-1 Going Mobile, 10-1 Angel's Envy, Steel Yard, 12-1 Carlingford Prince.

3.10 Novices' Hurdle (£4,159: 2m) (5)

1 -2016 **THOR DE CERISY** 77 (W,D) M Scudamore 6-11-8 **B J Powell**
2 2 **DIODORUS** 14 Tristan Davidson 6-11-1 **H Reed (3)**
3 -1550 **MCGARRY** 25 P Kirby 6-11-1 **T Dowson**
4 -2623 **YOUNG LIEUTENANT** 35 W Greatrex 6-11-1 **R Johnson**
5 6F **ELLA NUTRARGILE** 191 (H) S G West 6-10-8 **J Kington**

11-8 Young Lieutenant, 9-4 Thor De Cerisy, 7-2 Diodorus, 7-1 Mcgarry, 33-1 Ella Nutrargile.

3.40 Handicap Chase (£4,809: 2m 3f) (7)

1 -552U **MORTENS LEAM** 67 M Hawker 8-11-12 **P K Donovan (7)**
2 4U01P **WELL SMITTEN** 25 (P,D) Sam England 8-11-9 **J England**
3 50231 **CASUAL CAVALIER** 31 (P,D) Tristan Davidson 12-11-7 **H Reed (3)**
4 62/45 **UN GUET APENS** 60 (B) J Ewart 12-11-7 **B Hughes**
5 6-P90 **ENVOL DE LA COUR** 27 M Scudamore 6-11-0 **B J Powell**
6 61332 **MAXED OUT KING** 42 (D) Mrs S Smith 12-10-13 **D Cook**
7 34332 **FRANKIE BALLOU** 11 (T,V) Miss J Foster 11-10-0 **S Quinlan**

5-2 Casual Cavalier, 3-1 Maxed Out King, 5-1 Well Smitten, 6-1 Mortens Leam, 7-1 Un Guet Apens, 8-1 Frankie Ballou, 16-1 Envol De La Cour.

4.15 Handicap Hurdle (£6,758: 2m) (9)

1 -55P3 **KHAGE** 30 (D) H Whittington 7-11-12 **G Sheehan**
2 16-61 **SECRETE STREAM** 30 (CD) Ruth Jefferson 11-11-11 **J Hamilton**
3 -FPUU **ZIZANEUR** 44 P Hobbs 5-11-5 **D Maxwell (3)**
4 13-20 **FLEGMATIK** 23 (CD) D Skelton 5-11-5 **H Skelton**
5 40-12 **MCGOWAN'S PASS** 35 (D) A M Thomson 9-11-2 **R Mania**
6 064-6 **KEYBOARD GANGSTER** 121 (T,D) D Whillans 9-11-1 **C Whillans (3)**
7 -3113 **BARACALU** 12 (P,D) C Pogson 9-11-1 **C Todd (5)**
8 41431 **GENNADY** 58 (D) Sam England 6-11-0 **J England**
9 /3111 **MAIN FACT** 32 (C,D) D Pipe 7-11-0 **F Gillard (7)**

15-8 Main Fact, 5-1 Gennady, 6-1 Secrete Stream, 7-1 Khage, 8-1 Zizaneur, 10-1 Flegmatik, Baracalu, 16-1 Mcgowan's Pass, 20-1 Keyboard Gangster.

4.45 Handicap Chase (£3,509: 3m) (11)

1 5-504 **ALBERTO'S DREAM** 24 (D) Katy Price 11-12-1 **B Poste**
2 0P50P **NEWBERRY NEW** 39 (P,C) William Bethell 8-11-12 **D Cook**
3 3/3P4 **SMUGGLER'S STASH** 60 (V,D) Mrs R Dobbin 10-11-6 **Craig Nichol**
4 12-P5 **PURPLE HARRY** 51 (P,T) Miss T Jackson 12-11-5 **Ross Chapman**
5 45401 **SPIRIT OF HALE** 11 (T,V,D) Jennie Candlish 9-11-2 **S Quinlan**
6 3413P **SIGURD** 23 (T,V,CD) Miss J Foster 8-11-0 **J Hamilton**
7 P105P **TRIMMERS LANE** 28 M Hammond 10-10-11 **A Cawley**
8 2-P65 **THE DAWN MAN** 73 M Scudamore 9-10-10 **B J Powell**
9 63544 **ROLLERBALL ROCCO** 23 (B,D) C Pogson 8-10-6 **C Hammond (3)**
10 F0263 **ECTOR** 23 (P) W Greatrex 6-10-4 **G Sheehan**
11 0545P **WESTERNER OCEAN** 41 (P) Alexandra Dunn 8-10-0 **A Wedge**

11-8 Spirit Of Hale, 6-1 Ector, 7-1 Alberto's Dream, 8-1 Smuggler's Stash, 12-1 Sigurd, Rollerball Rocco, 14-1 others.

Blinkered first time: Wolverhampton 5.15 Lyrical Ballad.

Course specialists

Wetherby: Trainers D Skelton, 40 winners from 142 runners, 28.2%; N Twiston-Davies, 16 from 72, 22.2%; P Kirby, 29 from 176, 16.5%. **Jockeys** H Skelton, 34 winners from 114 rides, 29.8%; R Johnson, 18 from 77, 23.4%.

Wolverhampton: Trainers T Dascombe, 53 from 336, 15.8%; M Johnson, 53 from 404, 13.1%; P Evans, 65 from 577, 11.3%, M Appleby 56 from 560, 10.0%. **Jockeys** O Murphy, 61 from 260, 23.5%; A Kirby, 86 from 408, 21.1%.

Yesterday's racing results

Huntingdon

Going: soft (heavy in places)

2.20 (1m 7f 171yd hdle) 1, **Petrastar** (Kielan Woods, 9-1); 2, Imperial Icon (7-2); 3, De Barley Basket (16-1). 5 ran. NR: Isolate, Jenny Ren, Shareef Star. 14l, 11l. D J Jeffreys.

2.50 (3m 1f 10yd hdle) 1, **Little Red Lion** (Mr Fergus Gillard, 5-1); 2, Little Boy Boru (16-1); 3, Another Frontier (20-1); 4, Out The Glen (4-1 fav). 17 ran. NR: Ninth Wave. Sh hd, 8½l. D Pipe.

3.25 (2m 7f 129yd ch) 1, **Equus Secretus** (D Bass, 11-10 fav); 2, Lies About Milan (2-1); 3, Royale Pagaille (11-4). Hd, 19l. B Pauling.

3.55 (2m 3f 189yd ch) 1, **Canelo** (Tom Cannon, 14-1); 2, Ibleo (3-1 fav); 3, Mr Mcgo (9-1). 9 ran. NR: Baby King, Cougar's Gold, Outofthisworld, Royal Magic. 4¾l, 6l. A King.

4.30 (1m 7f 171yd hdle) 1, **Tegerek** (Jonjo O'Neill Jr, 2-1 fav); 2, Blazing Saddles (4-1); 3, Bon Calvados (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Golconda Prince. 10l, 7l. Jonjo O'Neill.

5.00 (2m 3f 137yd hdle) 1, **Granny's Secret** (Nico de Boinville, 9-4); 2, Thats The Truth (5-4 fav); 3, Tuscan Pearl (40-1). 8 ran. NR: Eton Pride. 5l, 13l. B Pauling.

5.30 (1m 7f 171yd Flat) 1, **Martinhal** (T Scudamore, 6-5 fav); 2, Gumbo Flyer (14-1); 3, Fortunate Fred (11-8). 7 ran. NR: Irish Sovereign. 3l, 6½l. D Pipe.

Placepot: £167.30. **Quadpot: £11.10.**

Sedgefield

Going: heavy

2.10 (2m 178yd hdle) 1, **Roxyfet** (Emma Smith-Chaston, 9-4 fav); 2, Oxwich Bay (3-1); 3, Snowed In (9-1). 7 ran. ½l, 17l. Micky Hammond.

2.40 (2m 3f 188yd hdle) 1, **Baron De Midleton** (B S Hughes, 4-1); 2, Strong Glance (1-5 fav); 3, Jour A La Plage (33-1). 4 ran. 32l, 26l. B Ellison.

3.15 (3m 2f 59yd ch) 1, **Rock On Fruity** (R P McLernon, 20-1); 2, Justforjames (10-1); 3, Abolitionist (11-2). 6 ran. 4¾l, 22l. B Haslam.

3.45 (3m 3f 9yd hdle) 1, **Aniknam** (Thomas Dowson, 2-1 fav); 2, King Gypsy (14-1); 3, Shocona's Joy (22-1). 9 ran. NR: Duty Girl. 37l, 26l. P Kirby.

4.20 (2m 5f 28yd ch) 1, **Flowery** (C O'Farrell, 7-2); 2, Bollin Ace (13-2); 3, The Paddy Pie (5-2 fav). 9 ran. 2½l, 7½l. I Jardine.

4.50 (2m 3f 188yd hdle) 1, **Federici** (Miss A McCain, 33-1); 2, Rare Clouds (5-4 fav); 3, Cedar Hill (10-1). 6 ran. 2l, 7l. D McCain Jr.

Placepot: £1,066.50. **Quadpot: £119.90.**

Results

Basketball

BBL Championship London Lions 99 Leicester 65; Manchester 90 Plymouth 96 (OT).

Cricket

Second Test
New Zealand v India

Christchurch (second day of five): India, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 97 runs ahead of New Zealand

New Zealand First Innings (overnight 63-0)

T W M Latham b Shami	52
T A Blundell lbw b Yadav	30
*K S Williamson c Pant b Bumrah	3
L R P Taylor c Yadav b Jadeja	15
H M Nicholls c Kohli b Shami	14
†B J Watling c Jadeja b Bumrah	0
C de Grandhomme b Jadeja	26
T G Southee c Pant b Bumrah	0
K A Jamieson c Pant b Shami	49
N Wagner c Jadeja b Shami	21
T A Boult not out	1
Extras (b 20, lb 4)	24
Total (73.1 overs)	**235**

Fall of wickets 1-66 2-69 3-109 4-130 5-133 6-153 7-153 8-177 9-228.

Bowling Bumrah 22-5-62-3; Yadav 18-2-46-1; Shami 23.1-3-81-4; Jadeja 10-2-22-2.

India First Innings 242 (G H Vihari 55, C A Pujara 54, P P Shaw 54; K A Jamieson 5 for 45)

Second Innings

P P Shaw c Latham b Southee	14
M A Agarwal lbw b Boult	3
C A Pujara b Boult	24
*V Kohli lbw b De Grandhomme	14
A M Rahane b Wagner	9
U T Yadav b Boult	1
G H Vihari not out	5
†R R Pant not out	1
Extras (b 9, lb 10)	19
Total 6 wkts (36 overs)	**90**

R A Jadeja, Mohammed Shami and J J Bumrah to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-8, 2-26, 3-51, 4-72, 5-84, 6-89.

Bowling Southee 6-2-20-1; Boult 9-3-12-3; Jamieson 8-4-18-0; De Grandhomme 5-3-3-1; Wagner 8-1-18-1.

Umpires R A Kettleborough (England) and M A Gough (England).

Third one-day international
Sri Lanka v West Indies

Pallekele (Sri Lanka won toss): Sri Lanka beat West Indies by six runs

Sri Lanka	(balls)	
W I A Fernando c Hope b Joseph	29	(34)
*F D M Karunaratne c and b Chase	44	(54)
†M D K J Perera c Hope b Pollard	44	(55)
B K G Mendis c Pollard b Joseph	55	(48)
A D Mathews b Cottrell	12	(17)
D M de Silva c Pollard b Joseph	51	(47)
N L T C Perera c sub b Joseph	38	(31)
P W H De Silva b Holder	16	(9)
I U Tillakaratna c Pollard b Holder	2	(4)
P A D L R Sandakan run out	0	(1)
A N P R Fernando not out	0	(0)
Extras (lb 9, w 7)	16	
Total (50 overs)	**307**	

Fall of wickets 1-60, 2-88, 3-177, 4-185, 5-214, 6-278, 7-293, 8-306, 9-306.

Bowling Cottrell 10-1-58-1; Holder 10-0-68-2; Joseph 10-0-65-4; Chase 10-0-51-1; Walsh 3-0-20-0; Pollard 7-0-36-1.

West Indies	(balls)	
†S D Hope c Mendis b Tillakaratna	72	(88)
S W Ambris b P W H De Silva	60	(60)
N Pooran c sub b Mathews	50	(61)
*K A Pollard c Tillakaratna b Mathews	49	(50)
D M Bravo run out	8	(12)
J O Holder c Mendis b Mathews	8	(6)
F A Allen c Mendis b Mathews	37	(15)
H R Walsh run out	2	(3)
R L Chase run out	0	(0)
A S Joseph not out	0	(2)
S S Cottrell not out	1	(3)
Extras (b 3, lb 2, w 9)	14	
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	**301**	

Fall of wickets 1-111, 2-171, 3-218, 4-240, 5-253, 6-275, 7-287, 8-294, 9-299.

Bowling Fernando 4.3-1-22-0; Perera 7.3-0-54-0; Tillakaratna 10-0-76-1; Mathews 10-0-59-4; Sandakan 3-0-31-0; P W H De Silva 10-0-41-1; D M De Silva 5-0-13-0.

Umpires P Wilson (Australia) and R R Wimalasiri (Sri Lanka).

● Sri Lanka won three-match series 3-0

Women's T20 World Cup

Sydney: Group B South Africa 136-6 (L Wolvaardt 53 not out); Pakistan 119-5. South Africa (2pts) won by 17 runs. ● Table on page 56

Golf

European Tour Oman Open

Alb Mouj GC, Muscat: Leading final scores: 275 B Stone (SA) 67, 71, 67, 70; S Valimaki (Fin) 74, 67, 64, 70 (Valimaki won play-off at third extra hole). **276** A Saddier (Fr) 72, 68, 67, 69. **277** G Migliozzi (It) 66, 72, 68, 71; M Korhonen (Fin) 73, 67, 65, 72. **279** A Cañizares (Sp) 70, 69, 72, 68; J Smith (GB) 70, 70, 67, 72; R Hojgaard (Den) 67, 68, 70, 74; G Coetzee (SA) 68, 73, 72, 66.

US PGA Tour Honda Classic

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **205** T Fleetwood (GB) 70, 68, 67. **206** B Steele 68, 67, 71. **207** L Donald (GB) 70, 66, 71; L Westwood (GB) 67, 69, 71. **208** D Berger 69, 70, 69; C Schwartzel (SA) 69, 69, 70; Im Sungjae (S Kor) 72, 66, 70. **209** J T Poston 67, 69, 73; R Sabbatini (Slovakia) 71, 69, 69; R Shelton 70, 69, 70; R Henley 70, 69, 70; M Hubbard 69, 71, 69; M Hughes (Can) 71, 72, 66.

Ice hockey

Elite League Cardiff 6 Dundee 2; Guildford 5 Sheffield 4; Manchester 0 Glasgow 2; Nottingham 3 Coventry 4 (shoot-out). **Saturday** Belfast 4 Guildford 5 (OT); Coventry 7 Glasgow 3; Dundee 3 Manchester 1; Nottingham 7 Cardiff 3; Sheffield 8 Fife 2.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League Huddersfield 10 Wigan 42; Hull 29 Catalans Dragons 34; Salford 12 Wakefield 22. **Saturday** Toronto 0 St Helens 32.

Betfred Championship Batley 18 Sheffield 19; Dewsbury 20 Widnes 8; Halifax 28 York 4; London Broncos 10 Featherstone 34; Oldham 12 Bradford 26; Whitehaven 4 Toulouse 40. **League One** Coventry 8 Newcastle 28; Doncaster 22 Barrow 32; West Wales 10 Hunslet 50; Workington 24 Keighley 6; London Skolars 16 North Wales 40.

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership Bath 13 Bristol 19; London Irish 26 Wasps 36. **Saturday** Harlequins 34 Exeter Chiefs 30; Leicester Tigers 14 Worcester Warriors 8; Northampton 21 Saracens 27.

● Table on page 57

Greene King IPA Championship Cornish Pirates 21 Nottingham 15; Yorkshire Carnegie 26 London Scottish 73. **Saturday** Bedford 29 Doncaster 5; Jersey Reds 3 Newcastle Falcons 38.

Guinness Pro14 Southern Kings 19 Connacht 29. **Saturday** Dragons 13 Cheetahs 10; Munster 29 Scarlets 10.

Snooker

Coral Players Championship

Southport Theatre: Final J Trump (Eng) bt Yan Bingtao (China) 10-4.

Tennis

ATP Dubai Duty Free Championships

Final N Djokovic (Serbia) bt S Tsitsipas (Gr) 6-3, 6-4.

Mexican Open

Acapulco: Finals: Men R Nadal (Sp) bt T H Fritz (US) 6-3, 6-2. **Women** H Watson (GB) bt L A Fernandez (Can) 6-4, 6-7 (8-10), 6-1.

WTA Qatar Total Open

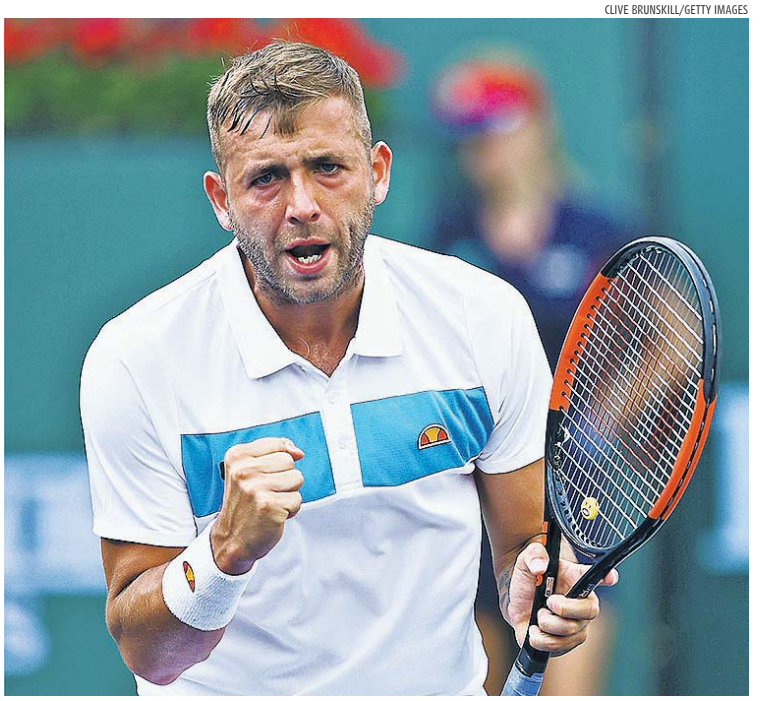
Doha: Final A Sabalenka (Bela) bt P Kvitova (Cz) 6-3, 6-3.

Sport Tennis

‘It’s a poor trait in the British game to aim for top 100’

John Westerby in Dubai talks to Dan Evans about his march into top tier of tennis after his ban shame

CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES



Evans, pictured in March 2017 before his suspension for cocaine, cuts a different figure from the player who has beaten five of the world’s top 20 this year



An hour or so after his latest victory over a top-20 player, Dan Evans strolls into the players’ dining lounge at the Dubai Duty Free Championships, freshly showered, changed and massaged. He squeezes past the table occupied by Novak Djokovic and his team, including Goran Ivanisevic, wanders past Gaël Monfils at another table and takes his seat with a lingering glance at a television on the wall showing a match featuring Stefanos Tsitsipas, whom Evans will face in a semi-final the next day.

This is the sort of company that Evans is now keeping and, having beaten five of the world’s top 20 this year, it is a circle in which he is looking increasingly comfortable. He would go on to lose his semi-final to Tsitsipas, but he had already done enough in Dubai to guarantee that, when the new set of ATP Rankings are released today, Evans will have moved into the world’s top 30 for the first time. It has taken him until he is almost 30, but the British No 1 is now dining near the game’s top table.

“As you go along, you gradually find your game, you find what works for you,” Evans said. “It would have been nice to have done it a bit earlier in life, but that’s how it goes sometimes. Everyone finds it at different points. I found my way in the end.”

He will not, he is keen to stress, be content with a top-30 ranking gained through his victories this year over David Goffin and Alex de Minaur at the ATP Cup, Karen Khachanov in Rotterdam, then Fabio Fognini and Andrey Rublev in Dubai. “It’s a good achievement but hopefully I can go higher,” he said. “It’s a poor trait in British tennis to be happy with top 100, or top 30, or whatever it might be. It’s good that there’s me and Kyle [Edmund, now ranked 44], who’s been very high, and obviously Andy [Murray], and I hope younger players are wanting to get up there. You never know what you can do if you keep striving.”

When Evans became British No 1 in October he sounded distinctly uncomfortable about the label, as though it had come his way by default, through the hip problems that have afflicted Murray, the former world No 1 who could be facing another operation. Now that Evans has climbed so much farther in the rankings, does the tag sit any more easily with him? “Not really, no,” he said. “It’s a nice title and a proud thing. But like I’ve said before, there’s Andy, then there’s me, Kyle, Cam Norrie [ranked No 58]. What I’d like would be for Britain to be more of a household name in tennis than we’ve been in the past, where it’s been Tim [Henman] and Greg [Rusedski], then Andy on his own. It would be great to have a few of us up there.”

That Evans is now leading the way, rubbing shoulders with the world’s elite, is a remarkable story in itself. His elevation to the top 30 comes less than two years after he had no ranking at all, returning to tennis in April 2018 after serving a one-year ban for cocaine use. What he feels has improved the most in his game recently is an enhanced ability to retain his composure in the heat of competition.

Learning how to put mistakes behind him is clearly a skill at which Evans has had plenty of practice in recent times. The seismic shock of seeing his promising career put on the line – “if you saw the ruins it left behind, you’d be pretty confident I won’t take that drug again,” he said on his return — has given him a broader outlook, from which he feels he is benefiting. “With what’s happened, you get a better perspective on life,” he said. “How my attitude has been, it’s been really good for my tennis.”

This phrase — “with what’s happened…” — is Evans’ shorthand for the dividing line in his career, before and after the ban. He had spells around the top 50 before, with a game based on natural athleticism and clever hands, and in particular a fine backhand slice, but a tendency to stray into indiscipline away from the court led to accusations of wasting his talent.

But he returned to tennis with his focus narrowed, his love for the game intact and a desire to simplify his life in keeping tennis as a priority. Take, for example, the decision to stay away from social media. “With what’s happened, I just never wanted to go back,” he said. “I was on there for a long time and it’s just disasters all over. It’s difficult not to bite at the idiots on there.”

Evans began the year with an outstanding performance for Great Britain in the ATP Cup in Australia, including those victories over Goffin, of Belgium, the world No 11 at the time, and De Minaur, of Australia. There was, however, the less than diplomatic comment about his fitness from Tim Henman, Britain’s captain, who suggested that Evans “could miss a few meals”. Evans responded to the comment in good heart at the subsequent Australian Open and smiles again at the memory.

“Tim has his own views on that sort of stuff,” he said. “He’s not so involved in tennis any more. He probably hasn’t seen someone play tennis with my physique too often. I’ve been with the same fitness trainer pretty much my whole career, I’m pretty good with my fitness.”

At 5ft 9in, the boy from Solihull is indeed a different shape from the majority of today’s leading players. Among the top 30 he will join today, there is only one — Argentina’s Diego Schwartzman — who is shorter than Evans. What he lacks in height, though, he compensates for in his bouncy dynamism and quick feet. On and off the court, mentally and physically, he feels that he is finding the right blend.

“It’s getting the balance right,” he says. “I can’t be calm and dull, I’ve got to be aggressive with my feet, but staying calm is the key to everything.”

Watching Evans is anything but dull. He is playing with a relish that endears him to the audience, with a twinkle in his eye. Would moving further up the rankings change his life a great deal? “No way, not for me,” he says, adamantly. “I’m settled living in Cheltenham and I’ll stay there now. I’ve got a great girlfriend [Aleah], she travels with me most weeks and my dad’s around a lot too. I don’t need much else in my life.”

Tomorrow, he leaves for the United States to begin preparations for tournaments in Indian Wells next week and in Miami a fortnight later. His mistakes left firmly behind him, the immediate future for the upwardly mobile British No 1 is looking increasingly rosy. With what’s happened to Evans to date, the next developments should make for fascinating viewing.

How the top ten British men rank on the global stage

	World ranking	Age	Career prize money
1, Dan Evans	37	29	£2.1 million
2, Kyle Edmund	44	25	£4.3m
3, Cameron Norrie	58	24	£1.5m
4, Andy Murray	130	32	£48m
5, Jay Clarke	160	21	£353,000
6, Liam Broady	230	26	£477,000
7, James Ward	273	33	£1.18m
8, Jan Choinski	312	23	£116,000
9, Jack Draper	321	18	£50,000
10, Ryan Peniston	388	24	£43,000

First title in

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

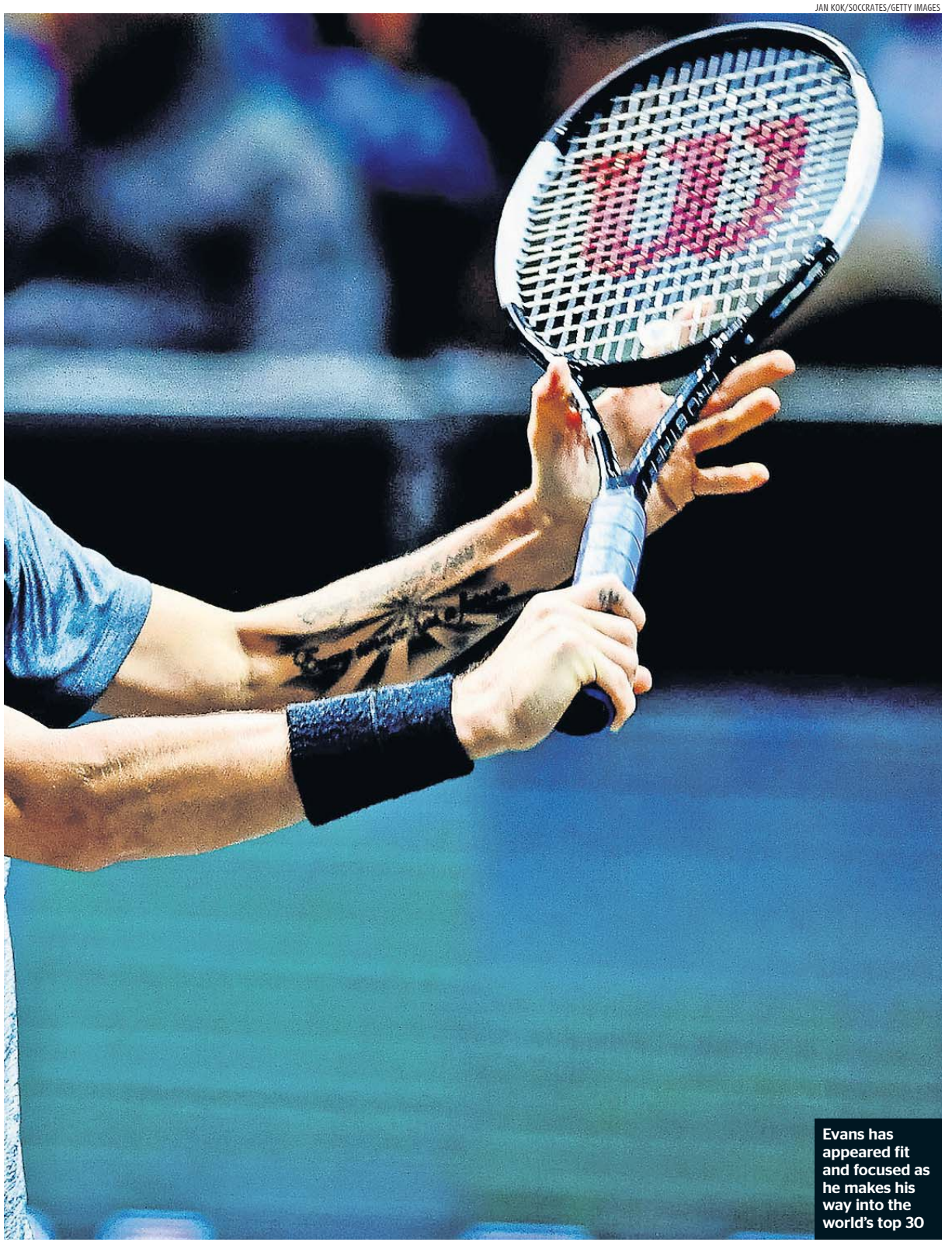
Heather Watson’s impressive resurgence in form continues. The 27-year-old Briton won a fourth WTA Tour title at the Mexican Open in Acapulco last night to secure a return to the world’s top 50 for the first time since June 2015.

Five months ago, Watson was languishing in the rankings at No 125, before finishing as runner-up at the Tianjin Open in October restored her confidence. A run to the semi-finals at the Hobart International in January got her season off to a fine start and now she has claimed a first trophy on the tour for four years.

Watson took full advantage of a draw that opened up for her. The No 7 seed faced only one top-100 player all week — Christina McHale, the American world No 86, in the quarter-finals — and was the clear favourite in the final against Leylah Fernandez, a 17-year-old qualifier ranked No 190 in the world.

It was far from comfortable, however, for Watson, who needed two hours and 46 minutes to overcome the Canadian. She eventually converted a tenth

JAN KOK/SOCCRATES/GETTY IMAGES



Evans has appeared fit and focused as he makes his way into the world's top 30

nearly five years fires Watson into top 50

championship point for a 6-4, 6-7 (8-10), 6-1 victory, much to her relief.

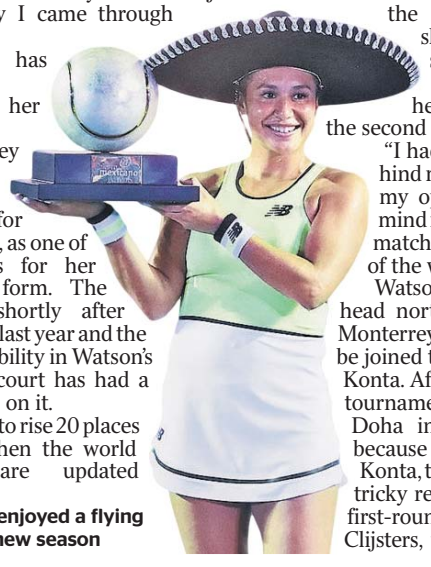
"It was so up and down but I'm so happy to get my fourth title," Watson said. "It's been a few years so I'm just really happy I came through that match."

Watson has previously credited her relationship with Courtney Duffus, a professional footballer for Yeovil Town, as one of the reasons for her upturn in form. The pair met shortly after Wimbledon last year and the resulting stability in Watson's life off the court has had a clear impact on it.

Projected to rise 20 places to No 49 when the world rankings are updated tomorrow, Watson is now on track to achieve her goal of qualifying for the Olympics in Tokyo this summer. As long as she remains inside the top 60 by the deadline on June 8, the day after the French Open, that should be enough to secure a place in Team GB. "It was heartbreaking losing the second set," Watson said.

"I had to leave that set behind me, even though I had my opportunities, and remind myself it's just a tennis match and won't be the end of the world if I don't win."

Watson will immediately head north in Mexico to the Monterrey Open, where she will be joined this week by Johanna Konta. After withdrawing from tournaments in Dubai and Doha in the past fortnight because of a knee injury, Konta, the British No 1, faces a tricky return to action with a first-round draw against Kim Clijsters, the four-times grand slam champion who has recently made a comeback to the tour at the age of 36.



Watson has enjoyed a flying start to the new season

British women's singles titles in the open era (1968-)

55	Virginia Wade	3	Johanna Konta
22	Ann Jones	2	Jo Durie
15	Sue Barker		Anne Hobbs
4	Heather Watson	1	Sara Gomer
			Annabel Croft
			Monique Javer

Rafael Nadal, the world No 2 from Spain, won the men's title in Acapulco, capping a dominant week with a 6-3, 6-2 win against Taylor Fritz, the world No 35 from the United States.

The man to beat on the tour, though, remains Novak Djokovic, who is undefeated this year with 18 consecutive wins. The Serbian world No 1 beat Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 21-year-old world No 6 from Greece, 6-3, 6-4, to win the title in Dubai on Saturday.

Fury-Wilder III puts paid to Joshua plan

CONTINUED FROM BACK

the heavyweight division now includes doubt about the venue for Joshua's bout with Pulev. Eddie Hearn, Joshua's promoter, wants it to take place at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on June 20.

But Bob Arum, the Top Rank promoter for both Pulev and Fury, says that the Bulgarian will not fight in the UK for fear of being robbed by the judges. He said that it will go to purse bids, with Arum hoping to force Joshua to fight in the US. Unsurprisingly, Arum said that Pulev, 38, will beat Joshua, who also holds the WBA and WBO belts, to set up a clash with Fury.

Wilder, 34, was floored twice and well-beaten by Fury but does not sound like a man ready to be paid to step aside to accommodate Joshua. Arum and Frank Warren, who co-promotes Fury, have confirmed that Wilder has triggered the loser's rematch clause, although how much interest there is in a trilogy fight — the first, in December 2018, was a draw — is debatable.

Early figures suggest that the second fight drew 800,000 pay-per-view buys in the US and that is expected to top a million when the final numbers are in, but the one-sided nature of the contest makes a third instalment a harder sell.

Breland, 56, was treated shabbily in the aftermath at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, with reports suggesting that he was barred from the changing room and left crying in a corridor. Wilder insisted that Breland had gone against team orders and that he would rather die in the ring than have his corner concede victory.

"I've told them many times that if anyone throws the towel in on me there will be consequences," he said. "It was not his position to do that."

Now, after widespread criticism of his stance, Wilder has changed his mind, with his camp rewriting his words and claiming he never intended to sack Breland. In a statement, Wilder said: "I understand that my corner and my team has my best interest at heart. Mark Breland is still a part of Team Wilder and our team looks forward to preparing for the rematch."

Whether Breland will be in the corner for a potential third Fury fight is unknown but his reprieve adds a modicum of sense to Wilder's response to his first career loss. In the past week Wilder has also accused Breland of being influenced by a ringside boxer with links to the Fury camp and blamed his performance on the heavy costume he wore for the ring-walk.

Now he has posted a video that sits somewhere between TV evangelism and a *Lord of the Rings* audition.

"I am here, your king is here, we ain't going nowhere because the war has just begun. I will rise again. I am strong. Your king is in great spirits and we will rise like a phoenix from the ashes and regain the title."

Kal Yafai's run as Britain's longest-reigning world champion ended with a brutal ninth-round knockout by Román González in Texas yesterday.

Yafai, 30, won the WBA super-flyweight title in 2016 but was overpowered by the 32-year-old Nicaraguan known as "Chocolatito", who has won world titles in four weight divisions.

ED MULHOLLAND/MATCHROOM BOXING USA



Yafai's four-year world-title reign and undefeated record was ended with a devastating ninth-round knockout at the hands of González, known in boxing circles as "Chocolatito"

Fleetwood's victory bid ends with a splash at 18th

Golf

Tommy Fleetwood's bid for his first win on the US PGA Tour failed last night when he finished two strokes behind the winner, Im Sung-jae, at the Honda Classic.

Overnight leader Fleetwood dropped back during the final round at Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, but then birdied the par-three 17th to leave himself one shot behind the South Korean Im, who had finished with a four-under-par 66, with one hole to play.

Needing a birdie to force a play-off, Fleetwood, who was won five times on the European Tour but never in the US, found the water with his five-wood approach to the par-five 18th and had to settle for third place after shooting a one-over 71.

"It's disappointing and frustrating," Fleetwood said. "I gave myself a good chance with the birdie at 17 but I had an awkward yardage for my second shot at 18 and found the water. But I can still take plenty of positives from my play this week."

Lee Westwood and Luke Donald, who shared third place overnight, also failed to mount a real challenge for victory.

The 46-year-old Westwood, who was aiming for his first US PGA Tour win since 2010, had an even-par 70 and was joint-fourth, while Donald ended in 11th place after a disappointing 72.

It was the first US PGA Tour win for the 21-year-old Im, who finished one shot ahead of Mackenzie Hughes, of Canada. Im was the tour's rookie of the year last season and has played more tournaments and more rounds than anyone else in the last 18 months.

His six-under total matched the second-highest winning score since the Honda Classic moved to the PGA National in 2007. He is the seventh player from South Korea to win on tour and the Honda Classic's tenth international champion in the past 16 seasons.

Ecclestone turns it England's way

England v West Indies

Sydney Showground (England won toss): England beat West Indies by 46 runs

Women's T20 World Cup
Elizabeth Ammon

Some inspired spin bowling from Sophie Ecclestone helped England to a comfortable victory over West Indies yesterday and secured a T20 World Cup semi-final place on Thursday, when they are likely to face the in-form India.

On a slow, turning pitch at the Sydney Showground, the slow left armer finished with exceptional figures of three for seven in 3.1 overs after England had posted a competitive 143 for five thanks to a third consecutive half-century from Natalie Sciver and a 23-run cameo from Amy Jones.

England had switched their batting order around from the previous games, moving wicketkeeper Jones, who had scored only 25 runs in the previous three matches as an opener, down to No 6 and promoting Tammy Beaumont alongside Danni Wyatt. It wasn't a move that paid off as Beaumont was out without scoring in the first over, leg-before to Shakera Selman.

Wyatt, however, made her highest score of the tournament, hitting 29 from 27 balls before being dismissed at long-on by a brilliant diving catch by Selman. Captain Heather Knight was run out by a direct hit for 17. She was replaced as the tournament's leading runscorer by Sciver, who shone again, scoring her eighth T20 international half-century and playing both spin and seam with confidence. Jones rediscovered some form down the order, hitting an unbeaten 23 from 13 balls and Katherine Brunt finished the innings off with back-to-back boundaries as 36 runs came from the last three overs.

West Indies' reply was hampered when Stafanie Taylor, one of their most explosive and experienced batters, had to retire hurt on 15 with what appeared to be a groin injury after she and Hayley Matthews had put on 29 for the second wicket. After that, their chase never got going against some skilful and accurate bowling by England's spinners, with Ecclestone backed up by the leg spin of Sophie Glenn (two for 16) and the off spin of Mady Villiers, who took one for 30 on her World Cup debut.

SAEED KHAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





The innovative Sciver manoeuvres her way to an eighth T20 international fifty, main picture, while, top, England celebrate the eighth West Indies wicket

Ecclestone was only 17 when she made her England T20 debut in 2016 but has long been on England's radar, having come up through the age-groups into their academy. She began her county career at Shropshire but was spotted by Lancashire and moved there at 16 to play in the first division of the County Championship.

Earlier in the day, South Africa also qualified for the semi-finals with a game to spare after beating Pakistan by 17 runs. Their final match is against West Indies and they will top the group with a perfect record if they win.

It means that England are likely to finish second in group B, setting up a tough semi-final against India, who have been the tournament's outstanding performers, winning all four of their group matches. Australia's campaign got off to bad start with a loss to India, meaning that they now have a straight shoot-out against New Zealand today, with the winner taking the final spot in the last four. The semi-finals take place on Thursday at the Sydney Cricket Ground. If England finish second in the group, they will play in the second match of the day, starting at 8am GMT.

Scoreboard

England		(balls)
D N Wyatt c Selman b Mohammed	29	(27)
T T Beaumont lbw b Selman	0	(2)
N R Sciver c Matthews b Taylor	57	(56)
*H C Knight run out	17	(14)
F C Wilson c Cooper b Fletcher	3	(4)
†A E Jones not out	23	(13)
K H Brunt not out	10	(4)
Extras (b 2, w 2)	4	
Total (5 wkts, 20 overs)	**143**	

A Shrubsole, M K Villiers, S Ecclestone and S Glenn did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-51, 3-90, 4-97, 5-130.

Bowling Selman 4-0-23-1; Alleyne 2-0-18-0; Matthews 3-0-23-0; Fletcher 4-0-29-1; Mohammed 4-0-23-1; Taylor 3-0-25-1.

West Indies		(balls)
H K Matthews b Glenn	10	(22)
D J S Dottin c Sciver b Ecclestone	9	(9)
*S R Taylor ret hurt	15	(18)
†S A Campbelle c and b Villiers	1	(5)
C N Nation c Jones b Glenn	0	(5)
B Cooper st Jones b Ecclestone	15	(16)
L A G Kirby c Sciver b Shrubsole	20	(15)
A A Alleyne run out	10	(7)
A S S Fletcher run out	0	(3)
A Mohammed b Ecclestone	5	(3)
S C Selman not out	0	(0)
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 6)	12	
Total (17.1 overs)	**97**	

Fall of wickets 1-12, 2-42, 3-42, 4-42, 5-68, 6-84, 7-92, 8-92, 9-97.

Bowling Shrubsole 2-0-13-1; Brunt 2-0-20-0; Ecclestone 3.1-1-7-3; Sciver 2-0-5-0; Glenn 4-1-16-2; Villiers 4-1-30-1.

Group B

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
England (Q)	4	3	1	0	0	6	2.29
S Africa (Q)	3	3	0	0	0	6	2.23
West Indies	3	1	2	0	0	2	-0.65
Pakistan	3	1	2	0	0	2	-0.76
Thailand	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3.99

● *Semi-finals to be played on Thursday*

Stone driven by dream of Ashes pace trio

Elizabeth Ammon

Olly Stone says that he dreams of being part of a fast-bowling trio with Jofra Archer and Mark Wood steaming in on fast Australian pitches in the next Ashes series in 2021-22.

"It would be the dream to have the three of us bowling together," the Warwickshire paceman said. "I just love seeing people bowl fast. And if there's three of us that can terrorise opposition batters, it would be great to be a part of.

"The Ashes is the dream for me. I was out in Australia during the last Ashes when we didn't do very well. I was playing grade cricket in Perth and to go to the game in Perth and see that, it's something I want to experience."

Stone, 26, has been plagued with injury during his career but his ability to bowl consistently upwards of 90mph means he is part of England's blueprint not just for the Ashes but for this summer and the tour of India next January.

He has been awarded a central fast-bowling contract (along with Saqib Mahmood and Craig Overton) by the ECB as part of its plan for the Ashes. The contracts mean they are paid by the ECB and get a managed workload programme and more input into their fitness training and technical coaching.

Last year Stone was part of England's tour of the West Indies early in the year but suffered a partial stress fracture of the back before the series started. After recovering from that, he made his Test debut against Ireland at Lord's in July and took three for 19. He was named in England's Ashes squad for the first Test but his summer was ended by a recurrence of his back issues.

He hasn't played competitively since that Ireland Test and has spent the winter in intense rehabilitation. He is now fully fit and ready to take part in Warwickshire's pre-season tour to La Manga, in Spain, which starts next week, and the start of the County Championship on April 12. "My hips have historically been a bit stiff but it's the demands of bowling that makes that happen so it's about stretching and my gym work to take the load away from the areas of the body that get most impact."

● Tickets for this season's Vitality Blast go on sale at 10am today. Fans are urged to buy via their local county's website or the ECB's Vitality Blast page.



Sheedy ends Bristol's 14-year wait

Bath	13
Bristol	19

Gallagher Premiership
Alex Bywater

Callum Sheedy produced a moment of brilliance and stated his claim for international rugby as Bristol Bears recorded their first away win over Bath since November 2006.

Sheedy, the Bristol fly half, was calm and organised throughout and provided the game's only moment of genuine class as he set up a try for Alapati Leiua.

The 24-year-old is eligible for England, Wales and Ireland but is yet to play Test rugby. He has played for England at Twickenham in a non-capped fixture against the Barbarians but it is surely a matter of time until he gets the call from someone.

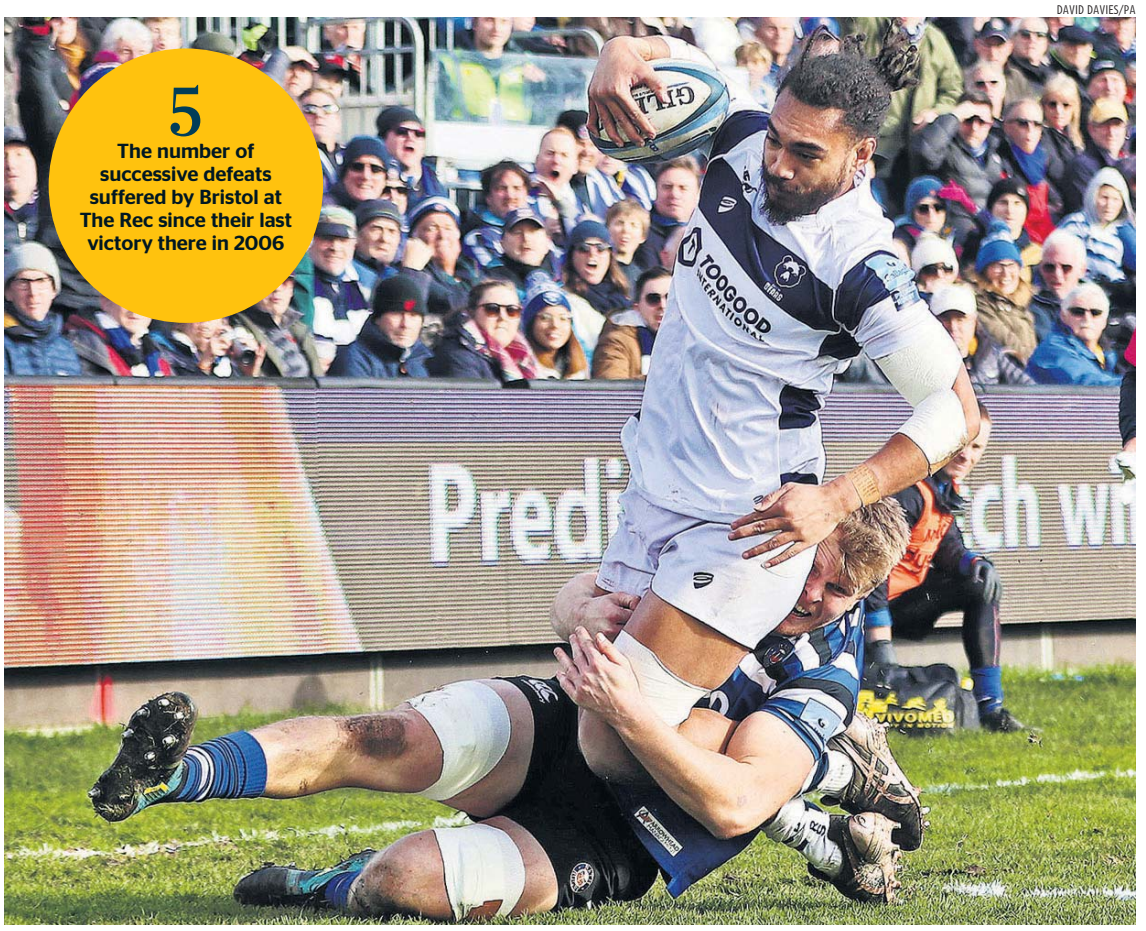
It would be no surprise if Wales make contact before their Six Nations clash with England on Saturday as they have been plagued by injuries at fly half.

Their first-choice No 10, Dan Biggar, is a big doubt to face England after picking up a knee injury playing for Northampton Saints on Saturday, with Jarrod Evans the only fit fly half in Wayne Pivac's squad.

"I'm a Bristolian at the moment and I'm trying to play my best rugby," said Sheedy when asked about his international aspirations. "Whatever happens after that happens. My focus is on playing well for Bristol. I want to keep winning, keep climbing the table and the rest will take care of itself."

5
The number of successive defeats suffered by Bristol at The Rec since their last victory there in 2006

DAVID DAVIES/PA



Back-row Vui scored the first of Bristol's three tries as they won away to derby rivals Bath to move up to third in the table

It is understood that Wales are Sheedy's preferred option as he was born in Cardiff. He has been superb this season for Bristol, who are now third in the Premiership.

"We are constantly growing as a team and it's been 14 years since we won at Bath," he said. "The top six was our goal at the start of the season but I'd be lying if I said I'd be happy with finishing sixth. We want to win it."

Bristol are supremely organised by Pat Lam, their director of rugby. Their defence was superb and they scored three nice tries. Bath, by contrast, were wasteful and nowhere near the sum of their parts and Bristol went to the break 12-6 to the good. Chris Vui reached for the line to open the scoring and though Bath's Rhys Priestland responded with a penalty, Sheedy then showed his class.

He outfoxed Bath's rushing defence to ghost into space and then showed the coolest of heads.

When many would have panicked, Sheedy cross-kicked to Leiua, who took a simple catch to walk over the line. Sheedy nailed the conversion too.

Priestland kicked a second Bath penalty but the home side failed to turn possession into points despite a yellow card for Bristol lock Joe Joyce.

In a tight second half, Bristol — for whom Charles Piutau was also outstanding — put the game to bed when Luke Morahan steamed down the right and replacement scrum half Harry Randall capitalised.

Will Chudley — who replaced Bath's Wales international debutant Rhys Webb — scored a minute after coming on but Bath didn't deserve to win.

Stuart Hooper, Bath's director of rugby, said: "We weren't clinical when we had opportunities to score. In the Premiership you have to convert your chances."

Scorers: Bath: Try W Chudley (65min). **Con** Priestland. **Pens** Priestland (9, 39). **Bristol: Tries** Vui (5), A Leiua (17), Randall (63). **Cons** Sheedy (2). **Scoring sequence** (Bath first): 0-5, 3-5, 3-10, 3-12, 6-12 (half-time), 6-17, 6-19, 11-19, 13-19.
Bath T Homer; S Rokoduguni, J Willison, J Matavesi (M Wright 75), R McConnochie; R Priestland (F Burns 73), R Webb (W Chudley 64); L Boyce (B Obano 51), J Walker, W Stuart (C Judge 55), J McNally, E Stooke, M Williams (T Ellis 51), F Louw (J Bayliss 67), T Faletau.
Bristol C Piutau; L Morahan (M Protheroe 68), P O'Conor, S Bedlow (I Madigan 73), A Leiua; C Sheedy, A Uren (H Randall 58); Y Thomas (J Woolmore 41), S Malton (W Capon 41), L Thiede (M Lahiff 41), E Holmes, J Joyce, C Vui, S Luatua (L Hamilton 66), J Crane (N Hughes 31).
Referee I Tempest. **Attendance** 13,976.

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Exeter	12	8	0	4	333	210	8	40
Sale	12	7	0	5	295	190	7	35
Bristol	12	7	1	4	261	249	4	34
Northampton	12	6	0	6	287	301	7	31
Bath	12	7	0	5	221	236	2	30
Wasps	12	5	0	7	300	306	8	28
Harlequins	12	5	1	6	270	309	6	28
London Irish	12	5	1	6	255	311	6	28
Gloucester	12	4	0	8	246	243	9	25
Worcester	12	4	0	8	192	285	5	21
Leicester	12	4	1	7	194	278	2	20
*Saracens (R)	12	8	0	4	314	250	6	-67

*deducted 105pts for breach of salary cap

Robson stars for Wasps in comeback win

London Irish	26
Wasps	36

Adam Hathaway

Wasps scrum half Dan Robson inspired his side to a five-try win but it may have come at a cost to Wales after Will Rowlands limped off injured.

The second row made his Test debut off the bench against France last Saturday but lasted only 36 minutes here before twisting his knee.

The 28-year-old is in line for a similar role on Saturday against England if he can prove his fitness when he joins up with Wayne Pivac's Welsh squad.

Lee Blackett, the Wasps interim head coach, said: "He felt a knee knock. Hopefully he can go back to Wales with the potential of playing next week.

The 27-year-old Robson, captain for the day, scored the bonus-point try and inspired the comeback from 14-10 down, seemingly making a point to England head coach Eddie Jones about his absence from the Six Nations squad.

"We're starting to see Dan return to the form we know he is capable of," Blackett said. "Off the field he is just getting used to his leadership role."

Before yesterday Wasps had won only four times in the league this season, including last week's 60-point thrashing of Saracens, and recently parted ways with director of rugby Dai Young.

London Irish have been on the up recently after three successive wins, and it was their scrum half, Ben Meehan, who scored the opening try.

Jimmy Gopperth got Wasps on the board with a penalty but Irish quickly extended their lead when wing Ben Loader outpaced the visiting defence.

Wasps hit back with tries either side of half-time from prop pairing Biyi Alo and Ben Harris. The away side then put the game out of reach with three scores from Marcus Watson, Robson and young fly half Jacob Umaga.

Irish got their bonus-point try through Motu Matu'u late on but by then they were well-beaten.

Declan Kidney, their director of rugby, said: "We can't hide from what happened – they showed us things we need to work on."

TMO (THE MONDAY OVERVIEW)

Words by Carl Innes

Try of the week

Phil Dollman rolled back the years with a superb individual effort in an eventual loss to a resurgent Harlequins side. The 34-year-old is one of only two members in the Exeter Chiefs squad on Saturday who was with the club when they won promotion from the Championship ten years ago. Moving into the back line from full back, Dollman took the ball, targeted a gap in between two forwards in the Harlequins defence and broke through a loose tackle to sprint in from 30 metres, below.



Player of the week

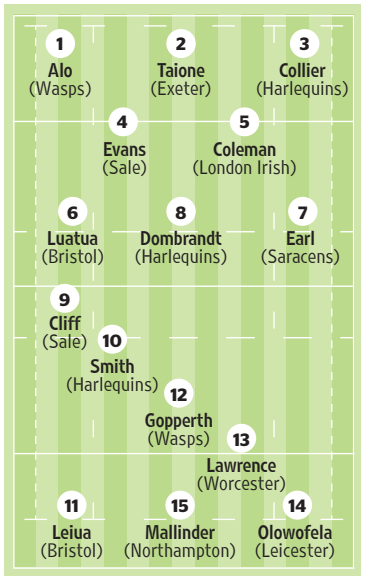
Marcus Smith, 21, masterminded a Harlequins comeback against Exeter that was completed with an 87th-minute penalty try. The fly half, right, made headlines two years ago when the club signed him to a bumper long-term deal but his talent is yet to be fully recognised by England. He has a great kicking game and a superb ability to find gaps.



Stat of the week

1,180 **metres made by Bristol's Charles Piutau this season, 200 more than any other player**

Team of the week



Farah in new 'racism' claim

Athletics
Matt Lawton Chief Sports Correspondent

Mo Farah has claimed that media scrutiny of his dealings with his now disgraced former coach, Alberto Salazar, is motivated by a racist agenda.

Reports in *The Times* and by the BBC last week revealed that Farah had initially denied to American anti-doping investigators that he had received a series of injections for a legal supplement, L-carnitine, before the 2014 London Marathon, only to then return to the interview room to correct himself after a conversation with a UK Athletics (UKA) official.

Interviewed in *The Times* last month, Farah admitted that he was wrong to accuse journalists in Chicago last October of being motivated by a racist agenda when referencing him in relation to reports about Salazar's four-year doping ban. Now, however, Farah seems to have changed his tune again, suggesting to the *Sunday Mirror* that criticism could be motivated by his skin colour.

"It has made me question if I'm a bad person," he said. "Is it because of my colour? It makes you question everything and that's damaging. It's not fair on my kids and my family. Mentally and physically it's had an effect on me."

Farah argues that he simply forgot that he had received four L-carnitine injections when he was quizzed by anti-doping investigators. But evidence obtained by the BBC would suggest that he knew what he was being given at the time. "Although Alberto and Mo have expectations about doing this, we are not at a point where we can't pull out," the UKA head of endurance Barry Fudge wrote in email correspondence.

Yesterday, UKA came under further pressure when Emma Jackson, a former 800m runner, revisited claims she has made about thyroxine treatment she received from medical staff. Speaking to *The Mail on Sunday*, she said that Rob Chakraverty — the same doctor who failed to record the controversial L-carnitine injections given to Farah — had prescribed her an excessively high dose of thyroxine despite her not having a thyroid gland.

Sport Rugby union

How Genge became cult hero

Owen Slot



Chief Rugby Correspondent

Maybe the reason that we are now seeing the full glory of Ellis Genge is because his journey of self-discovery has come to an end. Or at least, for now, in this Six Nations, it appears to have reached a happy conclusion.

There were times when he thought that he did not fit in. Or when he felt that he was not himself. And also when he did not know how OK it was to be unloading all his fabulous, uncompromising aggression on the opposition.

When he was at Hartpury College, there was a point when he was taken aside by Alan Martinovic, the director of rugby, who suggested that he might be better suited to rugby league. "The reason I said that," Martinovic recalls, "was because almost the only things he liked doing was running over the top of people or smashing people — which is what you do in rugby league. He wasn't too interested in the detail and more technical aspects of the game."

To Martinovic's delight, Genge responded. Martinovic loved the young man's rare, raw aggression but he has watched with interest as Genge has worked out how to use it.

There were times when it found him trouble. "How to be me" seems to be the question he has been asking himself. It was only last year that he said to Eddie Jones that he did not feel right around the England squad. Jones said, "Just be yourself" and that straightforward advice appears to have worked.

"I've come into my own as a bloke and a character in the last year," Genge says. How Twickenham has enjoyed it.

He is 25 years old and has been around the England scene for four years. This season, though, he seems to be coming of age.

Even when he is on the bench, desperate to join the fray, you can get a sense of his personality. "Bottled up with all this anger," is how team-mate Ben Youngs put it. "He wants to get out there and perform."

Thus there was a concerted stir of anticipation in the 57th minute last Sunday against Ireland at Twickenham when Genge joined the fray. England fans have now come to expect something: something unusual, something special. Against Scotland, he had scored the match-winning try and celebrated so hard in the face of the opposition that he nearly caused a fight. Against Ireland, he was immediately part of a scrum that splintered the Irish and caused a huge turnover. The Irish then wanted to fight him too.

According to Tom Croft, his former Leicester Tigers team-mate, his time with the club has taught him to channel his aggression. "When he came to Leicester, there were aspects of his game which opposition teams could think, 'We'll target this, we'll get Gengey fired up, he'll do something, get carded or sanctioned,'" Croft said. "He has flipped that on its head now; he knows that he can wind people up and if people try to do the same to him, he controls it. That's an incredible skill to have."

This is all part of why we are now seeing Genge fully unleashed. During the World Cup, he was very much third-choice loose-head prop behind Mako Vunipola and Joe Marler; increasingly all three seem to be on a level.

Getting Genge to this point has not been straightforward. Martinovic recalls first seeing him as a 15-year-old playing No 8 for Keynsham. "He just frightened the other kids to death," he recalls. "I've joked with him over the years about his game face, when he actually gets the ball in his hands, certainly all he wanted to do at that stage was smash people, run over people."

"Mindless," is how Genge described his early rugby in an England Rugby interview recently. "Just seeing red all the time, not many kids had that nasty streak," he said. This did not impress every observer. "People wouldn't know what to do with me. People didn't want to see it as much — running around being horrible at that age. It's not looked at that well."

Yet Martinovic liked what he saw. What he especially prized in the young man was his resilience. Having recruited him to Hartpury, he recalls an under-18 game against Georgia: "They were the most physical under-18 team I've ever seen, very tough boys. They quickly identified Ellis as being a threat and concentrated pretty hard at smashing him whenever he got the ball in his hands. Fair play to him, he kept coming and coming, just to show how tough he was. I think there were about five of them in A&E by the end. But a great game of rugby."

Genge, however, struggled for recognition in the England age-group teams, partly, perhaps, because he was a No 8 who had not yet found his place in the front row. Yet this is how Richard Cockerill, who would take him to Leicester, sees it: "In those days, in those age-group teams, people wanted to shy away from those kinds of personalities, who tend to attract trouble. The RFU don't normally like the kind of people who don't fit the stereotype."

Like Martinovic, Cockerill liked what he saw. "If there is any trouble," he says, "Gengey won't be far away," — and Cockerill recognised himself in that.

"I understood where he was coming from. That sort of chip on your shoulder, the person who's always getting into trouble; I was always an aggressive player, I always wanted to stamp my authority physically, I was always the trouble-maker. I can relate to him."

This is where Genge found rugby perplexing. Cockerill wanted to unleash that raw aggression that others had once run shy of. "It was confusing for me when I got older," he said. "People wanted more of what I did when I was younger."

Croft recalls his arrival at Leicester training ground: "He looked like he just wanted to beat everyone up."

"I think," says Mathew Tait, another former team-mate, "he got into a scrap with Tom Youngs early doors in training, which is not that uncommon."

"You've just got a kid from a slightly different background," Cockerill says, "a little rough around the edges. But I liked his personality, I encouraged it because it was really good for the game.

"He could carry the ball, he wanted to hit people, he wanted to be aggressive, to dominate his opponents physically and mentally, which is not always what you get these days. If a player has that raw aggression and ability, then there's a really good way to harness that and use it in a positive way."

This is maybe what we have before us now: Genge fully harnessed. "What you are seeing now," Martinovic says, "is very much what I was seeing then."

The nature/nurture debate with Genge is interesting, if unresolvable. Is he different because of his somewhat hard background in Bristol? Is it from there that the aggression is rooted?

Either way, Jones likes the rare qualities he has found. "You can tame a horse," he said of Genge, "but it's pretty hard to put wildness into a horse."

Genge is not tamed; that would be the ruin of him. However, he understands better who he is and how to use the talents with which he has been blessed. He seems more comfortable, too, around the England squad.

"I was a bit concerned that he was playing within himself for a little bit," Martinovic says. "He was not as high-octane as he had been in the past, but when I've seen him come on in these internationals, that's the Ellis I know. He's coming on to destroy people."

Do England have a new kind of cult hero on their hands? That murmur of excited anticipation: when he comes on against Wales on Saturday, you will hear it. It feels like it is here to stay.

Six Nations

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	86	62	1	13
England	3	2	0	1	54	42	1	9
Ireland	3	2	0	1	55	50	1	9
Wales	3	1	0	2	79	51	2	6
Scotland	3	1	0	2	35	32	2	6
Italy	3	0	0	3	22	94	0	0

Results

Feb 1 Wales 42 Italy 0; Ireland 19 Scotland 12. **Feb 2** France 24 England 17. **Feb 8** Ireland 24 Wales 14; Scotland 6 England 13. **Feb 9** France 35 Italy 22. **Feb 22** Italy 0 Scotland 17; Wales 23 France 27. **Feb 23** England 24 Ireland 12.

Fixtures

Saturday England v Wales (4.45pm, Twickenham; ITV). **Postponed** Ireland v Italy. **Sunday** Scotland v France (3pm, BT Murrayfield; BBC One).

Mar 14 Wales v Scotland (2.15pm, Principality Stadium; BBC One); Italy v England (4.45pm, Stadio Olimpico; ITV); France v Ireland (8pm, Stade de France; BBC One).



Genge came off the bench against Ireland, inset, and ruffled some feathers with his abrasive style of play, especially in the scrum



Nations to hold talks over coronavirus threat

Owen Slot

The fate of the Six Nations fixture between Italy and England in 12 days, and the possibility of a postponement due to coronavirus, will be discussed by the Six Nations committee in Paris today.

The unions are keen to come to a decision about whether to postpone Italy-England and other fixtures as soon as possible. However, it is likely that today will be another day of gathering and assessing information and advice before coming to a conclusion.

Whatever the decision, the Six Nations is determined to ensure that all the championship fixtures are played and that the competition is finished at some point later in the year.

The Ireland-Italy game was due to have been played in Dublin this weekend but has already been postponed. Though many are concerned that cancelled games will not be able to find another date in the calendar, the Six Nations insists that all 15 championship games will be played.

Aside from the postponement of the Italy-Ireland game, coronavirus has affected other fixtures too. Two Pro14 fixtures did not go ahead in Italy at the weekend, the game between Zebre and Ospreys in Parma and the one between Benetton and Ulster in Treviso.

CONTINUED FROM BACK

BBC and ITV may lose Six Nations

part of it, on free-to-air television. A report in *The Rugby Paper* yesterday revealed that their position may have changed and that the whole championship could be put behind a paywall.

The RFU said yesterday: "We would not rule anything out and the unions will review and make a decision based on the nature of the offers received."

Ben Morel, the Six Nations chief executive, refused to give assurances that the championship would not be put behind a paywall. "We are in the process of seeking intentions to bid for various sets of media rights but these are not due yet for some time," he said.

"All this is highly premature and speculative, as no proposals have been sent by any interested party."

The agreement with the BBC and ITV is worth £90 million a year. The two terrestrial broadcasters will struggle to make a competitive bid if they cannot pool their resources. They came together in 2015 in a groundbreaking deal to share the rights and keep the matches on free-to-air TV. Sources say the tender for the next set of rights effectively rules out a similar sharing arrangement.

It will be a hugely controversial step given the huge audiences that the Six Nations can attract— the Scotland v England match last month attracted 8.4 million viewers on BBC One with a further 1.2 million watching online.

A BBC spokesman said: "While we wouldn't comment on the specifics of an ongoing rights negotiation, terrestrial channels have brought unprecedented viewing figures to the Six Nations, ensuring that rugby is enjoyed by as wide an audience as possible and we very much hope that will continue."

at Twickenham

CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP; ANDREW FOSKER/FEX FEATURES



England's supersub

Ellis Genge has made a big impact in his three appearances from the bench at this year's Six Nations

3 Matches

74 Minutes played

1 Try

1 Try assist

9 Tackles made

1 Tackle missed

Wales may pick rookie if Biggar is out

Alex Bywater

Dan Biggar's knee problem could force Wales to head to Twickenham with a Six Nations rookie at No 10 for the first time since 2002.

Biggar came off 20 minutes into Northampton Saints' 27-21 Premiership home defeat by Saracens on Saturday with an injury his director of rugby Chris Boyd said wasn't too serious.

"Dan hyperextended his leg in a collision and seems to be moving relatively OK," he said. "I don't think he's got any major structural damage. It's one of those ones we'll wait and see."

Biggar joined up with the Wales squad last night and is due to be properly assessed today before Saturday's clash with England.



Biggar limps off after just 20 minutes of Northampton's match on Saturday

Should he be unavailable it would be a huge blow to Wales' chances of success and heap pressure on the inexperienced Jarrod Evans.

Cardiff Blues fly half Evans, 23, is playing in his first Six Nations but has never started a championship game and has only 107 minutes of international rugby under his belt.

If Biggar is ruled out then Wales would most likely call up the Dragons fly half Sam Davies. Wayne Pivac, the Wales head coach, is unlikely to break his country's selection criteria on English-based players to pick Bath's Rhys Priestland but Bristol Bears' Callum Sheedy — who excelled against Bath yesterday — could be an option for Wales to consider.

There was another injury worry for Wales yesterday with Will Rowlands limping off with a twisted knee after 36 minutes for Wasps against London Irish. The lock made his Test debut off the bench against France last Saturday.

London Irish v Wasps, page 57

Youngs needs to follow Care and pick up the pace

Stuart Barnes



Open your eyes, Eddie. There are lessons a country's rugby team can learn from the club game. On Saturday, Danny Care, long expelled from England, produced a performance of controlled pace for Harlequins against Exeter Chiefs around the base of the scrum.

Care picked up the tempo in a way rarely witnessed, especially on a sticky surface that took me back to those distant days of winter-rugby drudgery. He was intent on the "tap-and-go" penalty from the earliest stages. It was a clear policy. It was good thinking, too, as Harlequins had Exeter under pressure from the first to controversial last scrum in their 34-30 win. It caused chaos.

Exeter's forwards, on the wrong end of the referee's whistle, were in the act of disorganised backpedalling as the former England scrum half persistently hurtled into their retreating midst. The close-range try scored by Harlequins' hard-running centre, Paul Lasike, was a direct result of scrum pressure, yielding to quick thinking and powerful running.

England possess a scrum that overpowered Ireland. Ireland, in turn caused Wales huge problems, as did Italy. With Mako Vunipola in Tonga, England will scrum with maximum ferocity, whichever option they utilise at loose-head. Ellis Genge is a growing force but it was Joe Marler who ground Tadhg Furlong down.

Wales, with Wyn Jones and Dillon Lewis propping, are not a formidable front row. England will expect to shunt Wales on to the back foot or force penalties at the set piece. Either way, Ben Youngs should take note of Care and take off around the fringes, looking for the heavyweight support runners rather than milking another penalty.

When Lasike, a rumbling centre, thundered through the Exeter defence, I imagined Manu Tuilagi coming short off the careening Youngs. No side in the world would stop him. But it requires the tempo that is too often lacking from the No 9. The scrum should be employed as a primary weapon against a Wales pack that appears vulnerable and a defence that is not the thing it was when Shaun Edwards was in charge off the field and Jonathan Davies on it. A series of up-tempo forays from No 9 has the effect of forcing defences inwards. With the benefit of forward momentum comes the space England failed to find in the wider parts of the field against Ireland.

Care has provided this service so often from the bench for England that fans tend to think that a fast-thinking, running nine is an exclusive part of what Jones once regarded as his "finishing package". At the Stoop we were all reminded that pace can be just as incisive and threatening an attacking tool in the first 60 as last 20 minutes. That was the lesson to be learnt from the one Harlequin half back. The other, Marcus Smith (who, along with Joe Simmonds, was superb at fly half and makes you wonder how Jones could opt for Jacob Umaga over either of these young talents) retains one fault line in his rapidly maturing game that England will want to avoid.

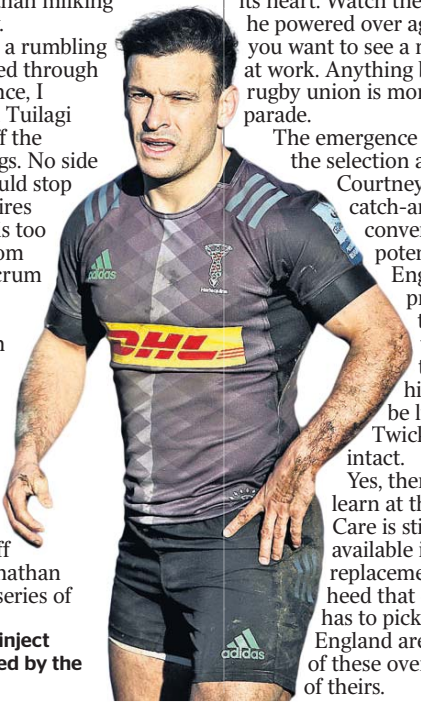
With ten minutes left, Harlequins had a penalty on the halfway line. Smith had to drill it deep into the Exeter 22 to maximise his pack's chances, close to the visiting team's line. The kick was so cravenly conservative that his side ended up struggling to make the Exeter 22 line. England, and Owen Farrell in particular, are not likely to follow this forlorn example.

The England skipper punts his penalties to the corner as if trying to drive a stiletto into opposing hearts. England, whose game is predominantly one of power — unless or until Youngs accelerates — will pound teams into this Kingdom of Claustrophobia. The catch and drive is rugby's weapon of choice. England have improved spectacularly after years of disappointment. The improvement began with the World Cup warm-ups.

At the centre is Exeter's Luke Cowan-Dickie. The hooker has scored an astounding six tries in his last 12 appearances for England; astounding because he so often enters the fray as a second-half replacement for Jamie George. Exeter is the epicentre of the catch and drive and the hooker is at its heart. Watch the manner in which he powered over against Ireland if you want to see a master craftsman at work. Anything but pretty, but rugby union is more than a beauty parade.

The emergence of Cowan-Dickie, the selection at No 6 of Courtney Lawes — the catch-and-drive conversion rate tells a potential tale of English power and precision. If the tempo is tuned to the same pitch that Care had for his club, Wales will be lucky to leave Twickenham with pride intact.

Yes, there were lessons to learn at the Stoop. One: Care is still the best available impact replacement. Jones won't heed that one. Two: Youngs has to pick up the pace if England are to produce one of these overpowering displays of theirs.



Care's ability to inject pace is not valued by the England set-up

Sport

Twickenham cult hero

How Genge grew into a key figure for Jones's England

Owen Slot, pages 58-59



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



Guardiola: My history boys

Aston Villa	1
Manchester City	2

Paul Hirst

Pep Guardiola warned his rivals that they will struggle to reach the same heights as his Manchester City team after they beat Aston Villa to clinch the eighth trophy of his reign yesterday. Sergio Agüero and Rodri found the net to see off a spirited Aston Villa side at Wembley as City won the Carabao Cup for the third successive season despite Mbwana Samatta's first-half goal for Villa.

City are 22 points behind Liverpool in the Premier League but their consistency in domestic competitions delights their manager. "I think it's remarkable that out of the last nine trophies, we have won eight," he said. "It would be so difficult for anyone to do it again, not just us but our opponents. That needs consistency.

"When we arrived, every game we played we try to win it, every competition we try to win it, so to win this trophy three times in a row is great."

The Game

16 pages of the best football coverage and analysis

Inside Times2



Six Nations set for pay TV

Owen Slot, Martyn Ziegler

The Six Nations Championship could disappear entirely from free-to-air television, it emerged yesterday, after the organisers refused to rule out a rights bid for the whole tournament from Sky, BT Sport or other pay TV broadcasters.

The challenge of the BBC and ITV has been weakened because the two free-to-air networks, who presently share the broadcasting rights, will be blocked from bidding as a partnership again after their present deal ends in 2022.

Since CVC, the private-equity firm, started negotiating to buy a financial stake in the Six Nations, it has become apparent that part of the championship may be broadcast on pay TV.

The six unions had always insisted in keeping their product, or at least a large

Continued on page 58

Wilder forces Fury rematch

Rick Broadbent

Deontay Wilder has officially triggered his rematch clause and a third WBC heavyweight title fight with Tyson Fury is now likely to take place in the United States in July.

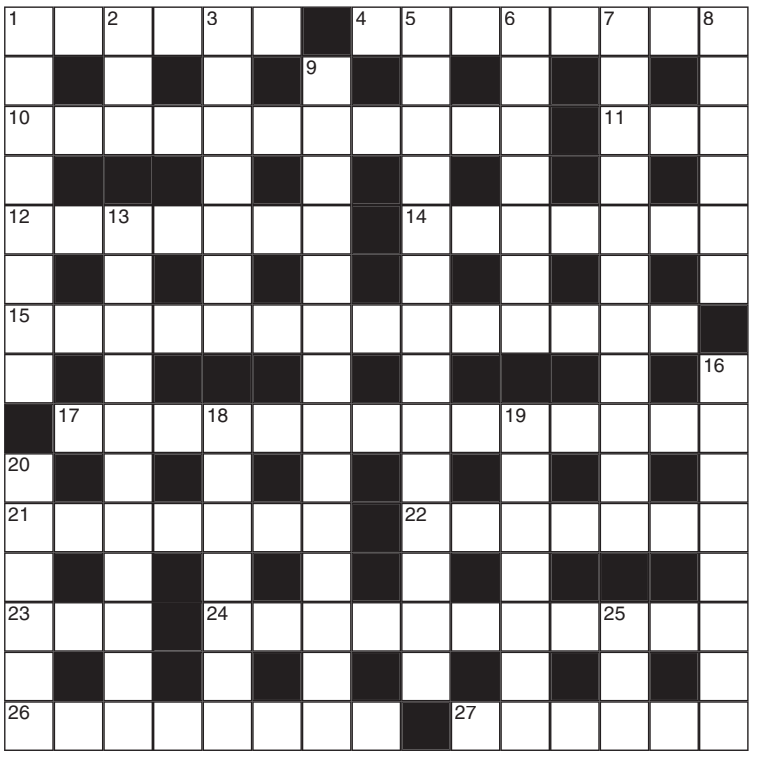
That means the prospect of an all-British world title unification fight between Fury and Anthony Joshua will not happen until the end of the year at the earliest. It is also dependent on Fury beating Wilder and Joshua seeing off Kubrat Pulev for his IBF belt in June.

Wilder has been talking varying degrees of nonsense since his defeat by Fury, but has at least made a volte-face and said that he will continue to work with Mark Breland despite criticism of his co-trainer for throwing in the towel in the seventh round last weekend.

The increasingly muddled vista of

Continued on page 55

Times Crossword 27,601



ACROSS

1 Figure of speech used around university group (6)
4 Airport said to allow Poles entry (8)
10 A little ship going round, one holding mail items? (11)
11 Soldier gaining new spirit (3)
12 Company marks appointment that will stimulate growth (7)
14 It isn't a newspaperman that's corrupt (7)
15 Arbiter asking a criminal to agree on terms (6,1,7)
17 Fish given to one with cat, perhaps an impish young one? (14)
21 Model set to portray one of Zeus's lovers in play? (7)
22 Rue land being redeveloped in Sussex town (7)
23 Before the Revolution devours it (3)
24 Another like Eva and Juan possessing son like theirs (5,6)
26 European window destroys Conservative peace (8)
27 Lack of foresight in my work leads to inadequate assessment (6)

DOWN

1 Like some players, strain on pitch (8)
2 Sash round one that can go either way (3)
3 Eat sparingly with a company in part of a muster? (7)
5 Book — avoiding parking — trips on electric cars — useful! (8,6)
6 What's hard in writing down cipher (7)
7 Not giving much out, like Spooner's torch? (5-6)
8 Strip, getting half nudged into river (6)
9 Cooking up eats with a grannie in her eighth decade? (14)
13 Noble big cat has walk displacing start of lunch (11)
16 Drunken larks in a far country (3,5)
18 Vision of men abandoning parentless cat (7)
19 Get carving in a cathedral in grave style (7)
20 Stick plug at this point (6)
25 Turned irrational after small drink (3)

Prize solution 27,594



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

The winners of Prize Crossword No 27,594 are
W Harcourt, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
R Hill, Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester
G Hughes, Pontypool, Gwent
W Jack, Avoch, Highland
M Wright, London NW1

Overseas prices: Eurozone €4.50 **Monday to Friday,** €5.00 **Saturday (Portugal cont.); Denmark** DKK 33 **Monday to Friday,** DKK 40 **Saturday; Gibraltar** £2.70; **N. Cyprus** TL 33 **Monday to Friday,** TL 36.50 **Saturday; Switzerland** CHF 7.80 **Monday to Friday,** CHF 8.80 **Saturday**

9 771742 498615 10

THE TIMES
thegame
MONDAY MARCH 2 2020

PAGES 6-7

Ancelotti sent off as Everton denied win over United

PAGES 12-13

Pelé and Puscas are together again… this time at Reading



Pep Guardiola and man-of-the-match Phil Foden savour Manchester City's 2-1 Carabao Cup final win over Aston Villa

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND

Coming of age

Henry Winter: Mature cup final display shows Foden is ready for City and England

PAGES 2-3

thegame

Flying Foden proves a step ahead of Villa

Aston Villa	Manchester City
1	2
Samatta 41	Agüero 20 Rodri 30

POSSESSION

30% | 70%

SHOTS ON TARGET

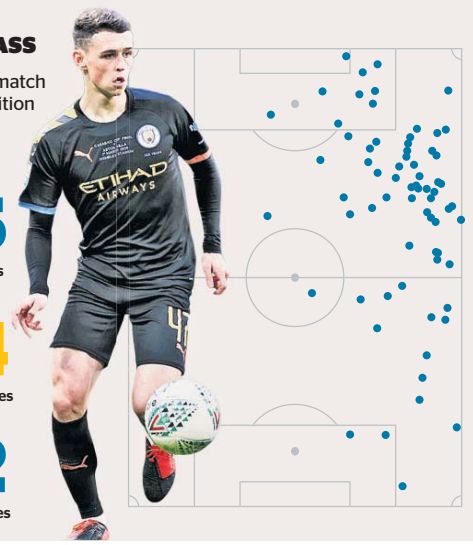
3 | 4

FOULS

7 | 13

MIDFIELD MASTERCLASS

Phil Foden gave a man-of-the-match display from an unfamiliar position wide on the right, as his touch map shows. These are his Wembley match stats:



1 Assists	2 Chances created	5 Shots
71 Touches	51 Passes	4 Dribbles
90.2 Pass accuracy (%)		2 Tackles



Agüero connects with the opening goal but City did not have it all their own way at Wembley



HENRY WINTER

Chief Football Writer at Wembley

Ever since Phil Foden was with Reddish Vulcans in Stockport, winning a mini-tournament aged eight and receiving a medal, he has had this hunger for trophies. Fast forward 11 years and Foden has six major honours, and his contribution to Manchester City's success in the Carabao Cup final showed why he is ready to feature even more, not only for his club but also why he deserves recognition by England.

There were moments in this robustly contested, entertaining final when Foden received a pass delivered at speed and the ball settled on his foot like a feather on a cushion. His control was instant and always in anticipation of his next move. He was always on the move, always planning ahead. He was too often a step or thought ahead of Aston Villa.

There were many moments when Villa pressed him closely, trying to ambush him, desperately seeking to force him to surrender possession, and he simply dribbled on or laid the ball off accurately. Villa had nobody to match him, certainly not with Jack Grealish unfortunately soon carrying an injury.

Criticism always froths forth over the number of minutes afforded to Foden by Pep Guardiola, slightly ignoring the coach's oft-stated response that he will be David Silva's successor when "Merlin" leaves this summer. The sight of Silva lifting the EFL Cup, an emotional moment for City fans, was also a reminder that the clock counts down to his departure.

Foden stays patient. He is patently ready. Still only 19, Foden has made 24 appearances this season, albeit primarily as a substitute, and is trusted enough by Guardiola that he started here. Of equal importance is that his team-mates, world-class performers such as Kevin De Bruyne, trust him with the ball, even with opponents pressing him. They know he has the touch, composure and courage to take care of it, to maintain a move.

Foden gilded his man-of-the-match display with 71 touches, completing 46 of his 51 passes, winning seven of his ten duels, managing five shots and providing the assist for Sergio Agüero's goal. It said much for his talent that Foden beat the excellent Rodri, Fernandinho and Agüero to the individual honours.

He played right wing here, giving Matt Targett a relentlessly difficult afternoon. Even at the nascent stage of his career, Foden acquires experience of a range of roles, intensifying his education under Guardiola. In his first start under the City manager, aged 17, Foden filled the left wing back role against Shakhtar Donetsk. He has played the Fernandinho role, deep in central midfield, as well as a more attacking central midfielder and left wing. Foden's maturing well and is surely a wild-card consideration for Gareth Southgate for Euro 2020.

Foden certainly knows his way around Wembley. He exuded a mix of coltish enthusiasm and thoroughbred decision-making, beginning the game with a silky, sinewy run, withstanding a buffeting, keeping his balance, penetrating deep into Villa's half. One of City's tactics here was the long switch, turning the massed ranks of Villa's defence.

Over on the left, Raheem Sterling was up against Frédéric Guilbert, who closed him down on a couple of occasions, but class will out. After 20 minutes, Sterling progressed before cutting the ball back to Rodri. The moment Rodri addressed the ball, Foden was sprinting, leaving Targett for dead.

As he ran in, Foden checked on Agüero's position and angled his header back for City's No10 to finish, right-footed, through the legs of Tyrone Mings. Joy spread across the face of Foden, a City fan, as he celebrated with Agüero. Five minutes later, Foden controlled Oleksandr Zinchenko's long switch effortlessly and efficiently as he had touched the ball into a position to shoot. He is still very one-footed, but what a foot. That special left foot connected, sending in a shot which clipped Targett and slipped away for a corner. Foden put in the defensive work, too, rushing back to harry Grealish.

City were just too sharp, too clever, but there was fortune in the way they won the corner that brought their second. The ball came off Ilkay Gündogan, not Grealish, but the officials did not spot it and VAR could not intervene. Villa's frustration deepened when Rodri was far more determined than Guilbert in meeting Gündogan's corner and sent a powerful header past Orjan Nyland.

That appeared it, final over, sky blues ribbons at the ready, Foden in charge, yet Villa refused to go quietly and made a game of it four minutes from the break. When John Stones slipped, Anwar El Ghazi nodded the ball on, hoisting in a cross that Mbwana Samatta headed in. Back in Samatta's homeland of Tanzania, the response was joy unconfined, as fans in Villa shirts sang and danced, holding up "Road to Wembley" and "Villa till I die" placards. One fan had painted "Never Give Up" across his chest with the Villa lion crest. Prepared? They certainly were.

Back at Wembley, up in the smart seats, Prince William beamed his approval. Down in the dugout, Dean Smith turned and punched the air. Villa were back in this, responding to the noise of their magnificent support. Villa lived with the holders in the second half, even when Foden continued to weave his way upfield. During one driving run, Foden was tripped by Targett, but kept going and then pushed over by Mings. He then lurked on the edge of the area at a corner, connecting with a clearance but placing his shot into the ground and just wide.

Foden was turning away from Marvelous Nakamba one moment, the next guiding a pass behind the Villa defence that was almost smiling as it reached its intended target, the substitute De Bruyne.

City had to survive some robust challenges and Nakamba was fortunate to see only yellow from Lee Mason, not red, for flying, both feet off the ground, into Agüero.

Villa kept believing and almost forced extra time. Björn Engels steered a strong header goalwards but Claudio Bravo pushed the ball on to the post. The whistle soon went and Grealish fell to the floor, consoled by Stones and Kyle Walker. Villa formed a huddle, listening to Smith, knowing that their fightback had gone so close, that if they repeat such resilience in the remaining 11 games of the season they should stay up.

For City, this was a welcome bauble, with more serious silverware in the Champions League, especially, and the FA Cup to pursue. Given continuing issues with Uefa and Financial Fair Play, City should take heart, and a glimpse of the future, from the home-grown Foden.

Match briefing

20 minutes

Rodri floats a pass to the right to Phil Foden, who nods the ball across the box and Sergio Agüero taps in

30

Ilkay Gündogan swings in a curling corner that Rodri attacks from deep and heads into the Villa goal

41

John Stones falls over trying to clear Matt Targett's high pass and Villa capitalise, with Mbwana Samatta heading in Anwar El Ghazi's cross

88

KEY MOMENT

Björn Engels rises to meet Conor Hourihane's corner but Claudio Bravo pushes his header on to the post and Stones hooks the ball clear



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND

MOST MAJOR TROPHIES

Liverpool.....42
18 League titles, **7** FA Cups, **8** League Cups, **6** European Cups, **3** Uefa Cups

Manchester United.....42
20 League titles, **12** FA Cups, **5** League Cups, **3** European Cups, **1** Uefa Cup, **1** Cup Winners' Cup

Arsenal.....30
13 League titles, **13** FA Cups, **2** League Cups, **1** Cup Winners' Cup, **1** Fairs Cup

Chelsea.....24
6 League titles, **8** FA Cups, **5** League Cups, **1** European Cup, **2** Uefa Cups, **2** Cup Winners' Cups

Manchester City.....20
6 League titles, **6** FA Cups, **7** League Cups, **1** Cup Winners' Cup

Aston Villa.....20
7 League titles, **7** FA Cups, **5** League Cups, **1** European Cup

Tottenham Hotspur.....17
2 League titles, **8** FA Cups, **4** League Cups, **2** Uefa Cups, **1** Cup Winners' Cup

Guardiola: I knew teenager would shine

PAUL HIRST

Pep Guardiola claimed that he never had any doubts that Phil Foden would light up Wembley yesterday.

Foden, the 19-year-old midfielder, was named man of the match after putting on an exquisite display in the Carabao Cup final. The academy graduate set up Sergio Agüero for City's first goal and caused Aston Villa's defence problems all afternoon thanks to his skill and invention on what was only his tenth start of the season.

"It's a reality, unfortunately for him, that he fights against one of the best players in the world in his position [David Silva, who is leaving in the summer], but in training he's incredible and he's always ready," Guardiola said.

"We can count on him to play wider or inside, and the way he is, he is ready to compete. The media decided he was man of the match, so congratulations to him. He can play wide, he's faster in the counterattack and clever in the small spaces, he's got incredible finishing.



John Stones enjoys City's victory with celebrity fan Noel Gallagher yesterday

"He's always scoring in training. He's 19 and every game he's played it's a new experience for his mind and body. He can be here and play without a problem, I never doubt that he can do it and it was perfect for me to let him play."

Foden was delighted with his performance. "I couldn't wait to play; it was an unbelievable day," he said.

"When I play, every minute counts, so I try and do my best and I'm very proud of my performance today."

Guardiola also praised Claudio Bravo, the stand-in goalkeeper, who kept out a late header from Björn Engels in the dying stages.

"He's one of the most incredible professionals I've ever seen," Guardiola said.

"Other players can learn from him. He will have success whatever he does in life."

Dean Smith hopes that his Aston Villa team's encouraging performance will help them in their bid for survival. They are two points from safety in the Premier League, although they have a match in hand on their rivals.

"We'll take heart from this performance," the Villa manager said. "If we play like this we'll get out of the relegation places.

"We had a huddle at the end and I told them how proud of the performance I was."

CARABAO CUP FINAL RATINGS

BY PAUL HIRST

ASTON VILLA (4-2-3-1)

ORJAN NYLAND 7
(29, NORWEGIAN)
Could do little about the two goals that flew into his net. Showed good reflexes to deny Rodri and Sterling too.

FRÉDÉRIC GUILBERT 5
(25, FRENCH)
Lost Rodri for City's second. Petulantly slammed the ball into Sterling's stomach.

BJÖRN ENGELS 6
(25, BELGIAN)
Would have had an equaliser had it not been for Bravo's heroics. Struggled defensively, though, against Agüero.

TYRONE MINGS 6
(26, ENGLISH)
Failed to close down Agüero for City's first goal but did manage to put in a crucial block to deny Sterling.

MATT TARGETT 5
(24, ENGLISH)
Had the toughest job of the day marking Foden. Lost him for the first. Should have been booked for a trip.

DOUGLAS LUIZ 6
(21, BRAZILIAN)
Did a reasonably good job sweeping up in front of back four. Ventured farther forward in the second half.

MARVELOUS NAKAMBA 5
(26, ZIMBABWEAN)
Not as successful as Luiz at tackling. Lucky to stay on pitch after crunching Agüero.

AHMED ELMOHAMADY 6
(32, EGYPTIAN)
Set up early chance for El Ghazi with accurate cross. Booked for late challenge on David Silva.

JACK GREALISH 7
(24, ENGLISH)
Villa's most threatening player despite early hamstring trouble. His burst started the move for Samatta's goal.

ANWAR EL GHAZI 7
(24, DUTCH)
Should have converted Elmohamady's early cross. Did set up Samatta for his goal with a pinpoint delivery.

MBWANA SAMATTA 7
(27, TANZANIAN)
Got in between markers to put the ball beyond Bravo with a superb diving header.

67

SUBSTITUTES
Trézéguet (for Elmohamady 70min) 6, **C Hourihane** (for El Ghazi 70) 6, **K Davis** (for Samatta 80) **Not used** P Reina, N Taylor, H Lansbury, E Konsa
Booked Mings, Nakamba, Elmohamady

MANCHESTER CITY (4-2-3-1)

CLAUDIO BRAVO 7
(36, CHILEAN)
Amazing save to deny Engels at the end. Let down by his defenders for Villa goal, which he could do little about.

KYLE WALKER 6
(29, ENGLISH)
Combined well on the attack with Foden, but could not get across in time to stop Samatta heading in.

JOHN STONES 5
(25, ENGLISH)
Culpable for Villa's goal. Should have cleared Targett's high ball but fell over. Defended well at the death, though.

FERNANDINHO 6
(34, BRAZILIAN)
Made a couple of good interceptions and passed the ball well but failed to get tight to Samatta for the goal.

OLEKSANDR ZINCHENKO 7
(23, UKRAINIAN)
An energetic and accomplished display. His cross-field passing was excellent.

ILKAY GÜNDOGAN 8
(29, GERMAN)
A creative force from deep. Switched play with a number of pinpoint passes and set up Rodri from a corner.

RODRI 8
(23, SPANISH)
Had a hand in the first goal and scored City's second with a powerful header. Booked for a tactical foul on Luiz.

PHIL FODEN 9
(19, ENGLISH)
The best player in a star-studded side. Inventive, intelligent, direct and confident. Built for biggest stage.

DAVID SILVA 6
(34, SPANISH)
Not quite as influential as Foden or Gündogan, but kept the game ticking over well and always looked forward.

RAHEEM STERLING 6
(25, ENGLISH)
Denied by Nyland at the death. His surge started the move that led to City's first goal. Booked.

SERGIO AGÜERO 8
(31, ARGENTINIAN)
Put City ahead with a calm finish deep inside the box. Never stopped running all afternoon. Hit side-netting late on.

76

SUBSTITUTES
K De Bruyne (for Gündogan 58) 7, **B Silva** (for Silva 77), **G Jesus** (for Agüero 84) **Not used** Ederson, B Mendy, R Mahrez, N Otamendi
Booked Rodri, Sterling

TOTAL

thegame

Why upstaged Grealish must move club to fulfil potential

MATT DICKINSON
Chief Sports Writer at Wembley

There was a moment about 30 minutes into the Carabao Cup final when Jack Grealish was off on a dribble, trying to bring some creative life to the overwhelming and, at that stage, overwhelmed underdogs. Suddenly Phil Foden appeared on his shoulder and stole the ball, leaving the Aston Villa captain on the Wembley turf on his backside.

For two of England's brightest stars, it captured the mood pretty tellingly. Foden, 19, spent his 90 minutes eagerly taking the ball, almost toying with it at times, revelling in the occasion and the opportunity.

Grealish, 24, will feel as though he barely saw it — 46 touches (to Foden's 71) and only 32 passes (to 51) — and as bad as losing will have been the sense of being peripheral in a cup final. The occasion came and went with only a limp and a whole lot of heartbreak to show for it, tears for souvenirs by the final whistle.

Barely able to run by the climax, Grealish felt Villa's pain as much as anyone as captain of his hometown team and the talismanic leader of a side who scrapped gamely but could take consolation only from making it a more competitive final than seemed likely by the time Manchester City were 2-0 up after half an hour.

At the risk of an extensive postbag from Birmingham, this was a day, once those tears have dried, that will bring home to Grealish the need to think about his future beyond Villa if he wants to keep returning to Wembley, for a club and country.

As the trophy was passed around, it must have been hard for Grealish not to envy Foden and the talented company he keeps at City. True, he gets to play regularly for his boyhood club, even to lead them out as skipper, but for all that Villa battled away, this was an afternoon to feel the limitations of being at one of the top flight's also-rans rather than, well, a side that could bring Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva and Gabriel Jesus off the bench.

An afternoon that may eventually make all the more appealing the idea of a transfer to a top-six club, perhaps Manchester United — ideally secured after helping to haul Villa out of the bottom three.

Grealish may be living a boyhood dream but it was Foden who departed as the key figure of a victorious afternoon, with a winner's medal, man-of-the-match award and increased clamour for a call-up for England for Euro 2020.

To be at City as a young player can be a difficult challenge, with only two starts in 27 Premier League games this season, but it must feel a blissful blessing on an afternoon like this, which became one of the standout afternoons of Foden's career.

Apart from the obvious impact of his assist for the opening goal, nodding the ball back to Sergio Agüero for a typically unfussy finish, Foden was excellent in the way he kept finding space and using it to be a constant menace, following his manager Pep Guardiola's instruction to keep drawing wide.

Beautifully assured, too, to the extent that you had to remind yourself how young he is. When he brought down a 50-yard pass from Oleksandr Zinchenko with such a velvet touch, you could almost hear Wembley purr its appreciation.

Finding room on the right side, cutting back on to his left foot, he might have had a goal himself but one shot flashed across the goalmouth, another slightly miscued effort bounced wide and a third was blocked.

He had five shots to none from Grealish; 90 per cent passing accuracy to 75 per cent; four dribbles to one. You could see all of Grealish's frustration in the late free kick that was over-hit into touch, a hobbling player trying too hard.

Of course, one afternoon is not going to turn Gareth Southgate's plans upside down, especially when he preferred to be at Everton. In Grealish's case, though, we are not sure if there are plans at all. It was as long ago as September 2015 when Grealish confirmed he wanted to play for England, after representing Ireland as a youth, but the England manager has kept him waiting despite an outstanding campaign. In the jostling among the cast of sprightly playmakers, Mason Mount and James Maddison have been preferred by Southgate while Foden has been kept in the England Under-21 side to continue his development.

Maddison, Mount, Foden, Grealish; there will not be room for all of them in Southgate's squad for Euro 2020, so this month's friendly matches against Italy and Denmark will be the latest insight into his thinking.

Foden will feel as though he cannot do much more than he showed at Wembley. From two minutes off the bench in the 2018 final and none in 2019, this marked a significant leap forward for a teenager spoken of by Guardiola as the ideal in-house replacement for David Silva when the Spaniard leaves in the summer.

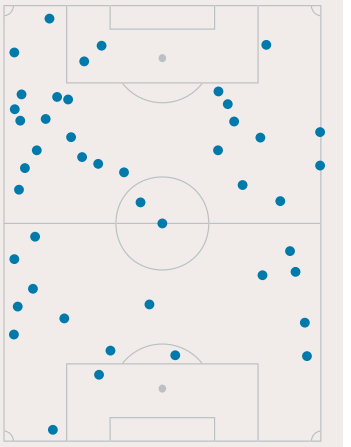
He remains assuredly on the upward trajectory mapped out for him at City. Grealish faces a crossroads that will surely lead him away from home.

JOHN WALTON/PA



The Aston Villa assistant head coach John Terry consoles Grealish after their defeat

JACK'S FRUSTRATING FINAL
Grealish struggled to impose himself on the Carabao Cup final, as his touch map shows



FA wary of rushing into Wenger's new offside rule

MARTYN ZIEGLER
Chief Sports Reporter

FA chiefs have urged caution over Arsène Wenger's plan to bring in the biggest change to the offside rule for almost a century.

The International FA Board (Ifab), the game's lawmaking body, has announced that it will hold a consultation process over Wenger's proposal — backed by Fifa — for offsides to require clear daylight between the attacker and defender.

Mark Bullingham, the FA chief executive and an Ifab board member, warned that there will be "unforeseen consequences" to such a move. It would be the biggest change since 1925, when the number of defenders that had to be between the attacker and the goal was changed from three to two (including the goalkeeper).

In 1990, the law was altered so that if the attacker was level they were onside, but to change it to clear daylight would give a big advantage to the attacking players.

"It would be an absolutely huge change to the game at every level, there's no question of that," Bullingham said. "Our main reaction to that was to make sure nothing was rushed, that it was thought through, and I think effectively we've now got a year to develop a protocol as to what it might look like, look at all the implications of it.

"There would inevitably be unforeseen consequences, but if you come back to the basic philosophy, that we think 'do we want to encourage more attacking football, more entertaining football?' we do. So we think it's something worth exploring."

The Premier League will be able to use thicker lines on VAR offside technology next season, which would allow some flexibility in deciding marginal decisions and would help to defuse some of the controversy over "armpit offsides". A "grey zone" of 10cm, where attackers are given the benefit of the doubt, would have seen nine more goals allowed this season.

David Elleray, Ifab's technical director, said: "There is nothing in the protocol about the width of the lines."

Elleray also said that referees in the Premier League will have to use pitchside monitors to check subjective decisions next season.

"I would be astonished if it remained as it was next season," Elleray said. "But I think it's very difficult for any significant change to be made during the season."

Bullingham also explained why the FA has decided to back trials of an extra permanent substitution for players with suspected concussion, instead of the players' union Fifpro's preference for temporary substitutions to allow doctors ten minutes to make a diagnosis. The permanent substitution system is expected to be trialled at the Olympic football tournament this summer.

"We're working on the assumption that if you're going down the permanent substitution route and there's a clash of heads and any suspicion of concussion, they're off," he added. "You might end up pulling some players off who turn out in the future not to have had concussion. We'd rather be on that side of the argument.

"If you look at the temporary substitutions now in other sports, they now go 12 [or] maybe 15 minutes. Even when the players are going back on, maybe 25 per cent are being found afterwards to have had concussion. So if you can't evaluate someone in that time, actually what the medical opinion is regarding best practice is to pull them off straight away."



Dier cannot stop Jiménez from scoring the winner for a relentless Wolves team

DAVID SIMPSON/TGS PHOTO/REX

Mourinho meddling backfires

Tottenham		Wolves
2		3
Bergwijn 13, Aurier 45		Doherty 27, Jota 57, Jiménez 73

RATINGS

Tottenham (3-4-3): P Gazzaniga 6 — D Sánchez 6, E Dier 5, J Tanganga 5 (T Ndombélé 77min) — S Aurier 7 (Gedson 82), G Lo Celso 6, H Winks 7, B Davies 6 (T Parrott 90) — L Moura 6, D Alli 7, S Bergwijn 6. **Subs not used** M Vorm, T Alderweireld, J Vertonghen, O Skipp. **Booked** Lo Celso, Winks, Davies.

Wolves (3-5-2): R Patrício 6 — W Boly 7, C Coady 6, R Saïss 6 — M Doherty 8, R Neves 7, J Moutinho 7, A Traoré 7 (P Neto 75), R Vinagre 7 — R Jiménez 7 (D Podence 90), D Jota 8 (L Dendoncker 79). **Subs not used** J Ruddy, M Gibbs-White, M Kilman, O Buur. **Booked** Boly, Dendoncker.

Referee S Attwell. **Attendance** 58,064.

POSSESSION

65% 35%

SHOTS ON TARGET

5 4

FOULS

12 14

ALYSON RUDD



at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

In the space of eight days, José Mourinho has been defeated twice by players he used to manage. First it was Frank Lampard, who was under his charge at Chelsea, and yesterday it was Nuno Espírito Santo, his former goalkeeper at Porto.

Those who believe that the Tottenham head coach's credentials are becoming dated will see this as further evidence that he is trapped by his own history. On the other hand, any manager would be struggling to make amends after the loss to injury of their two most effective attackers, in this instance Harry Kane and Son Heung-min.

His line-up for the visit of Wolves conjured images of a coach tapping at a tactics board with a rusty magic wand. Mourinho dropped the central-defensive partnership of Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld as if by meddling with his back line he could invigorate his forwards. It worked, for a while, but it was the work ethic and relentless optimism of Wolves that shone through by the end, allowing them to leapfrog Tottenham into sixth place in the Premier League.

"They had the correct mentality," Mourinho said, "and I think we were punished — not just today on the second and third goal but for quite a long time because we don't have that aggression, that ruthlessness. I think we are too good, we are too nice and that was the only thing that made a difference in the game."

The former Manchester United manager said beforehand that Nuno had all the attributes to manage at a bigger club but perhaps Wolves will grow in line with their manager's ambitions. Perhaps they will become the bigger club. They remain in the Europa League, where they next face Olympiacos, who knocked out Arsenal on Thursday evening, and this was their 46th match of an arduous but rewarding season.

"We are relentless," Nuno said. "We believe the game is still to be played."

By contrast, Spurs were fitful. They began well and took the lead in the 13th minute but were unable to crush Wolves' spirit. It was as if the visitors simply refused to acknowledge they had gone behind, that there might be rumours of a goal but they decided not to believe them. It all meant that Wolves are unbeaten in nine league games in the capital since they were promoted in 2018.

"It's a craziness," was Nuno's explanation. "Our approach is always the same."

He readily admitted that Spurs began the brighter. A Serge Aurier cross, neatly avoided by Lucas Moura, seemed a tap-in in waiting for Dele Alli but Rui Patrício parried the ball out to the advancing Steven Bergwijn, who scored.

Davinson Sánchez then produced a decent effort on the swivel after Willy Boly had cleared from a corner as the home side emanated a sense of entitlement that had been either lacking or misplaced in recent weeks. It did not last.

Diogo Jota attempted a flash half-volley in meeting Adama Traoré's cross as Wolves refused to be intimidated and a Rúben Vinagre cross was missed completely by Eric Dier, leaving Matt Doherty, an Arsenal fan in his youth, with a simple finish for the equaliser.

Mourinho had taken a risk in placing Dier at the heart of a new-look three-man defence but far from accepting this strategy had backfired, he heaped praise upon the England midfielder.

There then followed a period of no-risk counterattack from Spurs, which was very frustrating for the home fans. Bergwijn was a willing runner but had little support. Romain Saïss flicked on a João Moutinho corner kick but Doherty could not quite leap high enough to connect at the far post. Alli came close too, with an overhead kick, after Wolves struggled to clear a Harry Winks teasing ball. Moments later, Aurier gave Spurs the lead for a second time with a left-footed curling strike from Alli's studied pass. It was the defender's first league goal since March 2018. Again, Wolves took the setback in their stride.

A header from Jota skimmed the top of the net and an Alli header sailed close to the upright as both teams continued playing with a form of distracted intensity. Jota scored the second equaliser from close range after one of Traoré's lung-busting runs allowed Rúben Neves to set up Doherty for the cross.

The winning goal came as Jota embarked on a storming, determined run down the left flank to then produce an intelligently angled pass towards Raúl Jiménez who checked before shooting to ensure Japhet Tanganga and Dier were left flailing and falling as the striker bypassed Paulo Gazzaniga, in goal for the injured Hugo Lloris.

Jiménez meandered menacingly in the 89th minute along the edge of the penalty area and almost scored with his resultant effort so that at last Mourinho felt obliged to bring on Troy Parrott, the young striker the fans want to see much more of, in added time.

His arrival was greeted with amused cheers, as not even the most ardent backer of the 18-year-old and the only out-and-out fit centre forward in Mourinho's squad believed he could do much in such a short space of time to affect the outcome.

Was this the start of a welcoming into the fold for Parrott? Mourinho said, quite emphatically, that it was not, and that the teenager will not feature in Wednesday's FA Cup tie against Norwich City. Instead we can expect more tactical meddling to compensate for no Kane and no Son.



Mourinho dropped the central-defensive pairing

HOW THEY STAND

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Liverpool	28	26	1	1	64	20	79
2	Man City	27	18	3	6	68	29	57
3	Leicester	28	15	5	8	54	28	50
4	Chelsea	28	13	6	9	47	39	45
5	Man Utd	28	11	9	8	42	30	42
6	Wolves	28	10	12	6	41	34	42
7	Tottenham	28	11	7	10	46	39	40
8	Sheff Utd	27	10	10	7	29	25	40
9	Burnley	28	11	5	12	33	39	38
10	Arsenal	27	8	13	6	39	36	37
11	Everton	28	10	7	11	37	42	37
12	Crystal Palace	28	9	9	10	25	32	36
13	Southampton	28	10	4	14	35	51	34
14	Newcastle	28	8	8	12	24	41	32
15	Brighton	28	6	10	12	32	40	28
16	West Ham	28	7	6	15	35	49	27
17	Watford	28	6	9	13	27	43	27
18	Bournemouth	28	7	6	15	28	45	27
19	Aston Villa	27	7	4	16	34	52	25
20	Norwich	28	5	6	17	25	51	21

Match briefing

13 minutes

A bright start by Spurs is rewarded with a Steven Bergwijn goal after Rui Patrício parries Dele Alli's close-range effort, but Wolves equalise 14 minutes later when Matt Doherty turns in a cross from the left by Rúben Vinagre

45

Spurs regain the lead with a fine left-footed strike from Serge Aurier before Wolves equalise again 12 minutes later, this time through Diogo Jota, with the opening carved out by a trademark Adama Traoré surging run

73

KEY MOMENT

The Wolves winner comes after a determined run from Jota, who releases his strike partner Raúl Jiménez for a composed finish

NEVER WRITE THEM OFF

Wolves have won more points from losing positions than any other team in the Premier League this season — even though eight of their players have played at least the equivalent of a full 38-game league season:

Most points from losing positions

Wolves 21
Arsenal 15
Liverpool 13
Sheffield United 13

Most apps for Wolves (all comps)

Conor Coady 44
Leander Dendoncker 44
João Moutinho 44
Raúl Jiménez 42
Rúben Neves 41
Adama Traoré 41
Rui Patrício 40
Jonny 38

thegame

VAR saves United as Ancelotti sees red

Everton	Manchester United
1	1
Calvert-Lewin 3	Fernandes 31

POSSESSION

44%	56%

SHOTS ON TARGET

5	5

FOULS

11	11

RATINGS

Everton (4-4-2): J Pickford 5 — S Coleman 6 (D Sidibé 27min, 6), M Keane 6, M Holgate 7, L Baines 7 — T Walcott 6 (Bernard 62, 6), T Davies 6, A Gomes 7 (M Kean 82), G Sigurdsson 6 — D Calvert-Lewin 7, Richarlison 7. **Subs not used** J Virginia, Y Mina, F Delph, A Iwobi. **Booked** Calvert-Lewin, Davies, Sidibe.

Manchester United (4-3-1-2): D De Gea 4 — A Wan-Bissaka 6, V Lindelof 6, H Maguire 7, L Shaw 6 — S McTominay 6 (J Mata 72), N Matic 6, Fred 6 — B Fernandes 7 — M Greenwood 6 (O Ighalo 72), A Martial 6 (B Williams 89). **Subs not used** S Romero, E Bailly, J Lingard, A Pereira. **Booked** Shaw, Maguire, Lindelof, Fred.

Referee C Kavanagh. **Attendance** 39,374.

18

Points won by Everton since Carlo Ancelotti's first match on Boxing Day, with only Liverpool (30) and Manchester City (19) winning more. Everton have not lost at Goodison Park since sacking Marco Silva, winning four and drawing three



Calvert-Lewin struck what he thought was a late winner but VAR reviewed and ruled it out

PAUL JOYCE



at Goodison Park

Visits to Goodison Park tend to come with an apology attached for Manchester United these days.

David De Gea was the one who solemnly raised his hand in a public mea culpa after a costly aberration when, last April, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer had been forced to deliver a heartfelt confession that his team had produced a performance ill fitting of the badge.

That United endured individual error, rather than a collective malaise, yesterday may represent progress of sorts but, amid the din of expectation, it rather feels like baby steps.

Strip away a tumultuous finale in which Everton heaved with injustice as Dominic Calvert-Lewin saw an effort controversially disallowed for offside, and manager Carlo Ancelotti was shown a red card for confronting referee Christopher Kavanagh on the pitch, and the sense of regret really should be shared. A point did little to boost either side's aspirations for the remainder of the campaign.

Certainly, Solskjaer should be concerned at the manner in which Everton were able to dominate the second half, especially as United had recovered their poise and played with such authority after De Gea's blunder left them trailing inside three minutes.

The Spaniard accepted a pass from Harry Maguire from a free kick but dallied with the ball at his feet and was caught out when his belated clearance struck the outstretched leg of Calvert-Lewin and rebounded into the goal behind him. De Gea had been one of five players who started that harrowing 4-0 reverse 11 months ago, which remains the heaviest defeat of Solskjaer's tenure, and as embarrassment ensued — and Goodison guffawed — he tugged at his gloves, shook his head and stared blankly ahead.

There was a save to deny Calvert-Lewin soon after, but the more measured, convincing response came from his team-mates who performed with care and thought and zipped passes beyond and through their rivals.

When Nemanja Matic struck the crossbar from the edge of the area it was the first sign that there was to be no timid capitulation on this occasion.

Predictably, it was new signing Bruno Fernandes who brought United level to continue his shimmering impact since arriving from Sporting Lisbon for what could end up a £67.6 million fee.

Everton sought to build from the back by playing out through Michael Keane and Djibril Sidibé, who had just replaced the injured Seamus Coleman, but a loose pass was picked off by Matic.

Fernandes took over, sizing up a shooting chance and then thrashing a low shot into the corner of the net beyond the flimsy grasp of Jordan Pickford.

Parity was no more than United deserved, but if Fernandes appears to be conjuring up all the answers at present then questions remain. Most pertinent is why did United wait until so late in the window to sign him? Why was Solskjaer still scouting him on January 5?

The United manager claimed that was because Sporting did not want to sell, but given United lost to Liverpool and Burnley in the second half of January, and succumbed in the Carabao Cup semi-finals, it is not difficult to presume their campaign might be seen in a different light if they had been more authoritative.

Pickford would have known what it is like to stand alone, embarrassed and with 39,000 pairs of eyes fixed upon you in this arena, but any sympathy for De Gea should not have extended this far. England manager Gareth Southgate, watching from the stands, would have winced at his efforts. De Gea and Pickford have now each made seven errors leading directly to an opposition goal in the league since the start of last season, the joint-most alongside Martin Dubravka and Bernd Leno.

In both cases, the shadow of Dean Henderson looms in the background. The Sheffield United No 1 continues to put pressure on Pickford before Euro 2020, and that he is at Bramall Lane on loan from United illustrates the strength in depth from which Solskjaer can choose in the summer as he seeks to evolve his squad a little more. For now, he insists: "David is, for me, the best goalkeeper in the world."

That both protagonists would partly redeem themselves during a frenzied late passage merely highlighted their ability to veer between the margins, which was representative of the game itself.

Everton were relentless in their efforts to reclaim the ascendancy, forcing corner after corner with Calvert-Lewin expertly leading the line. Fortune had of course smiled on the forward, wearing No 9 on a day Everton mourned the 40th anniversary of the passing of Dixie Dean, their greatest ever player, in the opening skirmishes.

Yet it is not luck that he has scored eight league goals since Ancelotti took over on Boxing Day. That would have cheered Southgate, who can always confer with the overworked Maguire to back up what he saw with his own eyes before his squad announcement this month.

Gylfi Sigurdsson thudded the woodwork with a free kick on 57 minutes and then came the late drama when Pickford denied the United substitute Odion Ighalo and then watched from afar as Everton's quest for a statement win under Ancelotti was denied at the last.

De Gea saved from Sigurdsson but was then beaten when Calvert-Lewin's shot struck the heel of Maguire and sneaked inside the post.

United complained that Sigurdsson, who had been sitting on the turf and pulled his legs out of the way as the ball trickled past, was offside and in the goalkeeper's line of sight. VAR intervened and ruled out the effort, much to Ancelotti's chagrin.

Match briefing

3 mins

Dominic Calvert-Lewin's scoring streak continues, although he knows little about it. David De Gea dawdles before his clearance kick hits the striker and rebounds into the United net

31

Bruno Fernandes continues his eye-catching form since joining United in January by scoring from distance, with Jordan Pickford at fault in the Everton goal

73

KEY MOMENT

Pickford saves with his leg from Odion Ighalo in injury time to preserve parity and bring fevered celebrations from the under-pressure goalkeeper



EVERTON'S 'WINNER' THAT WASN'T



Calvert-Lewin, circled, fires a low shot between two players

The expert view

PETER WALTON

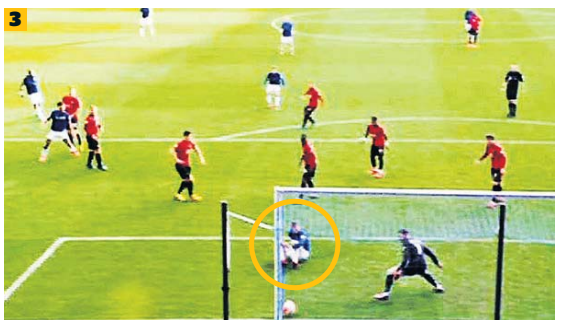
Former Premier League referee



Let's start with what the law says: a player is offside if he is preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball. So Gylfi Sigurdsson was in an offside position when the shot by Dominic Calvert-Lewin was struck. Then it was deflected, and the question then is whether Sigurdsson prevents David De Gea from having a clean sight of the ball. He undoubtedly does. Of course we're talking split-seconds here but for a split-second he does. People are saying that De Gea was going to his right and would not have saved it but from the law's point of view that is irrelevant. Sigurdsson was offside and VAR was right.



The ball takes a heavy deflection off Maguire, circled



Sigurdsson, circled and offside, moves to let the ball go in

'I was respectful – let's see if I'm banned'

PAUL JOYCE

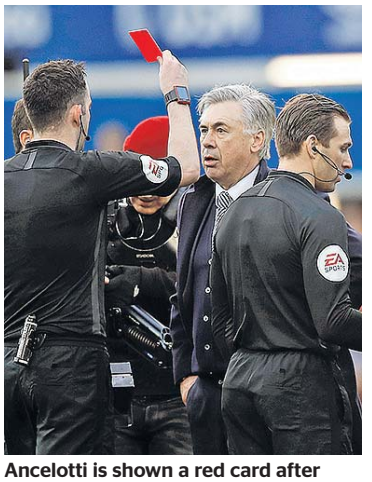
Carlo Ancelotti has insisted that he had not disrespected the referee Christopher Kavanagh on being shown a red card for his heated protests after Everton were denied a winning goal against Manchester United.

The Everton manager reacted angrily over Dominic Calvert-Lewin's injury-time "goal" being disallowed for offside after a review by VAR. The Italian then confronted Kavanagh in the middle of the pitch after the final whistle and shouted: "I want an explanation. I am staying here."

The final touch came from the United defender Harry Maguire, but Jon Moss, the video assistant referee in Stockley Park, decreed that Gylfi Sigurdsson had affected David De Gea's line of sight when sitting in front of the goalkeeper.

The FA will now await the referee's report before deciding whether Ancelotti should be charged, raising the possibility of him having to sit in the stands against Chelsea, his former club, at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

"I asked for an explanation after the game," the Everton manager said.



Ancelotti is shown a red card after confronting the referee on the pitch

"There was a misunderstanding on the pitch, he sent me off. After that I spoke with him calmly in the dressing room. I want to keep the conversation private and he will make a report for the referee.

"I didn't disrespect him. We will see if I am banned.

"Honestly, it was a difficult decision. I think they checked the position of Gylfi. It was offside but, in our opinion, it didn't affect the vision of the goalkeeper. In their [VAR] opinion, it affected the vision.

"It is not the first time [I was sent off as a manager] and it will not be the last. I never showed disrespect.

"At the end of the game I was a little bit nervous and maybe the referee also.

"At the end of the game we spoke friendly. If I am banned I will be disappointed. The stand at Stamford Bridge is near the dugout."

Calvert-Lewin, who opened the scoring when charging down De Gea's clearance, was shown a replay of the incident and believed that his side had been harshly treated.

"In the moment I wasn't sure but, seeing it back, Gylfi on the floor doesn't obstruct his line of sight," the striker said. "Fair enough, he's in an offside position but then it takes the deflection and the 'keeper is already going the other way.

"He moves his legs out of the way and the 'keeper is never going to save the ball. I'm not sure what it is… but for me as a striker, it's a goal.

"VAR says otherwise and it cancels out the emotion at the end. What can you do?"

TONY CASCARINO



Weekend talking points

Pickford lacks the calm authority England need

Here's the positive side of Jordan Pickford as England's first-choice goalkeeper: you can't question his performances at major finals for his country. At the last World Cup he was very good. He had a swagger to him and don't underestimate that.

But as we go towards this summer's Euros you have to be thinking — can we trust him? His performance for Everton against Manchester United yesterday typified his season. The goal he conceded was a bad one. A top-class goalkeeper should be saving that shot from Bruno Fernandes. And there was a certain rashness about a lot of what he did, which even included the double save at the end, though that was him at his best, saving his team. He generally doesn't exactly exude an air of calm authority and that is what England must be looking for.

Would I start him in the Euros? Well, my call today would be yes, just. But if I were Gareth Southgate I would be watching him very carefully between now and the end of the season — and then in England training. The two I would see as most likely to take his place are Nick Pope and Dean Henderson — and talking of Henderson, he could move into the mix at Old Trafford if David De Gea continues to make such crass errors as he did in the same game yesterday.

What's happening to De Gea is extraordinary. For four of the past five seasons he has been United's best player and probably the best goalkeeper in the Premier League. Now he is playing like he has just got into the team.

Will United make a change? I can't see it because of the huge contract he has signed. But if I were running the club I'd bring Henderson back from his loan at Sheffield United this summer and not sell him. And if De Gea continues making mistakes next season, then they have someone ready to step up.

ERROR-PRONE KEEPERS

Goalkeepers who have made the most errors leading to goals in the Premier League since the start of last season:

D De Gea (Man Utd)..... 7
J Pickford (Everton)..... 7
M Dubravka (Newcastle)..... 7
B Leno (Arsenal)..... 7
A Begovic (Bournemouth)..... 5



De Gea continues to make crass errors

West Ham finally realise Haller needs company

When you spend a lot of money on a player you will have done a lot of scouting first, so I can only presume West Ham saw plenty of Sébastien Haller at Eintracht Frankfurt last season and realised the importance of Luka Jovic playing alongside him. But then they have played him alone up front for most of this campaign.

On Saturday, though, he was paired with Michail Antonio against a decent Southampton defence and West Ham looked a completely different team. Both played really well and both scored. What took them so long?

TEAM OF THE WEEK

4-2-3-1

Ramsdale (Bournemouth)
Doherty (Wolves), Cahill (C Palace), Maguire (Man Utd), Alonso (Chelsea)
Neves (Wolves), Doucouré (Watford)
Bowen (West Ham), Foden (Man City), Sarr (Watford)
Antonio (West Ham)

Watford reap rewards of work on training ground

Liverpool's defeat at Watford was a surprise but not a complete shock. In recent games they had not played well in beating Norwich, were poor at Atlético Madrid and got away with it against West Ham when Lukasz Fabianski allowed them back into the game.

But still they are Liverpool, champions-elect, and you have to give Watford and Nigel Pearson in particular a whole lot of credit for not only beating them but doing so comfortably and deservedly.

It was a training ground victory. They will have worked and worked at keeping their two forwards, Troy Deeney and Ismaïla Sarr, and their defence just 25 yards apart — and making sure those two were not just running straight for the ball. You could more or less have thrown a blanket over the whole Watford team at times on Saturday.

Then when they got the ball, Deeney led the line and Sarr ran behind him, as was perfectly shown for the second goal. Deeney wanted a challenge, he wanted combat and Dejan Lovren made the mistake of giving it to him. And if De Gea had a Lovren, by which I mean you just have to remember his performance against Spurs at Wembley.

WINTER'S WEEKEND WONDERS



Chief Football Writer on a star veteran and young players making their mark



Cahill offers proof best things in life are free

1 Gary Cahill. He's 34, still a force, and cost nothing in fees. The Crystal Palace centre back, Mr Consistency over 21 games since leaving Chelsea, is surely one of the most effective free transfers of recent years. Cahill led Palace against Brighton through encouraging word and inspiring deed, won his aerial duels, intercepted and challenged, and organised the back four, which responded superbly. He started his Palace career with two bookings but has been the model of discipline since, timing judiciously his targeting of the ball. Just a good, honest pro who gives value for money, who cares for his team and the club's supporters. A role model, on and off the field.

Superb Hughes sure to attract attention

2 Will Hughes. It was less than a year ago that the Watford midfield player, below right, was reflecting on his low public profile: "I can go to my local supermarket and nobody bats an eyelid. I love that." That may change. He has never played better. He is winning the ball with more conviction (although that challenge on Gini Wijnaldum was too strong) and delivering it with more adventure, as seen with an inspired backheel down the line to Troy Deeney for Ismaïla Sarr's second goal. A Liverpool fan growing up, admiring Michael Owen, Hughes will have enjoyed this win, quietly of course.



Confident Sarr shows he's far from sheepish

3 Ismaïla Sarr. After Watford lost away to Liverpool in December, a caring Sadio Mané spoke with Troy Deeney, telling him "to look after" his Senegalese compatriot. "He's a shy boy," Mané said of Sarr. Maybe off the pitch. Sarr looks anything but reserved when enjoying the ball's company, as Mané discovered at Vicarage Road. He's full of pace, confidence and the technique to beat Liverpool's revered defence. Two fine finishes, an assist for Deeney, a standing ovation and an embrace from Nigel Pearson ensued. Watford's head coach devised the perfect system to bring the best out of Sarr, using Deeney to bully Dejan Lovren, and unleashing Sarr, who looked anything but shy.

Meslier looks a solid stand-in for Casilla

4 Illan Meslier. He's only 19, only on loan from Lorient, but the French goalkeeper demonstrated his quality in his one previous outing for Leeds United, against Arsenal in the FA Cup. Now, with Kiko Casilla suspended for eight games after being found guilty of racial abuse, Meslier has stepped into the breach. He kept a clean sheet against Hull City, making one good save from Kevin Stewart, and looked the part, gaining praise from the head coach Marcelo Bielsa. "He gave the whole team a feeling of confidence," Bielsa said.

Patience pays off as Cook vitalises Wigan

5 Paul Cook. "That song that fans sing — 'How sh*t must you be, we're winning away' — needs to stop now because we've won a couple!" Wigan Athletic's manager told Latics TV.

They've won at Reading and now at Championship leaders West Bromwich Albion in three days, and have taken 17 points from a possible 24, lifting them to 19th. Cook was under pressure earlier in the season, particularly during a 13-game winless run, but has got Wigan well-organised and upwardly mobile.

THIS IS HOW



STOP THE CROSSES

Crosses from Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson have been a huge threat this season, with the full backs setting up 19 league goals between them. Jürgen Klopp's side create five chances per game from crosses but of the 26 they swung in at Watford, just one found a team-mate.

LIVERPOOL'S CROSSES

■ Unsuccessful ■ Successful

Trent Alexander-Arnold ■■■■■■■■■■ 10

Andrew Robertson ■■■■■■■■ 8

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain ■■■ 3

Divock Origi ■ 1 ■ 1

Sadio Mane ■ 1

Adam Lallana ■ 1

Takumi Minamino ■ 1

KEEP FIRMINO QUIET

Roberto Firmino is the fulcrum of Liverpool's front three, holding up the ball and playing in Sadio Mané and Mohamed Salah. Firmino averages 50 touches and 27 successful passes per game this season. Watford restricted him to just 31 touches and, as the graphic below shows, 12 successful passes — the Brazilian's worst figures of the season.

FIRMINO'S PASSES

Follow Watford's bluep

JAMES GHEERBRANT

So this is how it ends, not with a bang but with a whimper. After an extraordinary run of thunderous dominance — 44 games unbeaten in the Premier League — it was remarkable how noiselessly Liverpool's invincible season slipped into oblivion at Vicarage Road. As Jürgen Klopp said afterwards, Liverpool had to lose sooner or later. The surprise was that his team were not only defeated, but defused.

Klopp's team mustered one shot on target, and created chances worth only 0.28 expected goals — their lowest total of the season. Coming on the heels of their 1-0 defeat by Atletico Madrid (in which they recorded 0.5 expected goals), Liverpool's two worst performances of the season, if judged by the quality of chances created, have come in their past three games.

Troy Deeney talked afterwards about how Watford "had a real tight compact block and hit them on the counter", which is the same sort of strategy with which Atletico thwarted Liverpool at the Wanda Metropolitano. Is this just a coincidental blip, or have Nigel Pearson and Diego Simeone identified a small chink in the armour of this magnificent team?

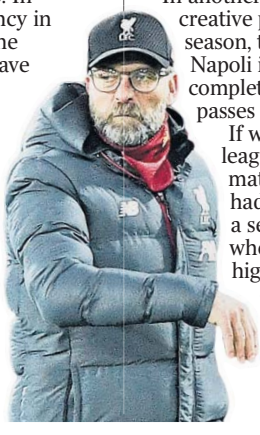
José Mourinho thinks so. In October, during his residency in the Sky Sports TV studio, he suggested that Liverpool have "some limitations against teams with low blocks" — meaning sides who defend deep, with an emphasis on compact shape rather than trying to win the ball in midfield or advanced areas. The barb of a professional provocateur, or a piece of lucid tactical insight?

One way to assess whether Liverpool tend to struggle against a low block is to look at how many passes they complete in the opposition half — the deeper a team defends, the more passes they are likely to allow in their own half.

At Vicarage Road, Liverpool completed 386 passes in Watford's half — their fourth most of the season in the Premier League. Against Atletico, they completed 368.

In another of Liverpool's least creative performances of the season, the 1-1 draw against Napoli in November, they completed 424 attacking-half passes against a deep defence.

If we divide Liverpool's league season into the matches where they have had to patiently break down a set defence, and those where they have faced a higher, more aggressive defence and had more space into which to attack, something



Klopp had no answer to Pearson's clever plan

YOU BEAT LIVERPOOL



Sarr, centre, celebrates his opening goal on Saturday as Watford pulled off an upset

rint if you want to stop Klopp

Match briefing

Watford 3 **Liverpool 0**

After a sloppy first half for Liverpool in which Watford fired several warning shots, the champions-elect were punished when they allowed a long throw to bounce, and Ismaïla Sarr turned in Abdoulaye Doucouré's cross. Sarr added a second before a mistake by Trent Alexander-Arnold marooned Alisson and allowed Troy Deeney to float the third into an empty net.

RATINGS

Watford (4-2-3-1): B Foster 7 — K Femenía 7, C Kabasele 7, C Cathcart 7, A Masina 7 — W Hughes 8, É Capoue 8 — I Sarr 9 (I Pussetto 82min), A Doucouré 8 (N Chalobah 89), G Deulofeu 6 (R Pereyra 37, 8); T Deeney 7. **Subs not used** H Gomes, C Dawson, D Welbeck, A Gray.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Alisson 5 — T Alexander-Arnold 5, D Lovren 4, V van Dijk 5, A Robertson 5 — A Oxlade-Chamberlain 4 (D Origi 65, 5), Fabinho 6, G Wijnaldum 5 (A Lallana 61, 7) — M Salah 4, R Firmino 4 (T Minamino 79), S Mané 6. **Subs not used** Adrián, J Matip, C Jones, K-J Hoever.

Referee M Oliver. **Attendance** 21,634.

interesting emerges. In the 13 games in which Liverpool completed more than 273 passes in the attacking half, they average 1.84 goals. In the 15 games in which they completed fewer passes in the attacking half, they average 2.67 goals. The three games in which Liverpool completed the fewest passes in the opposition half were three of their best attacking performances of the season: the 3-1 win against Manchester City in November, the 5-2 against Everton in December, and the 4-0 against Southampton last month.

Deep down in their Klopp DNA, Liverpool want to kill you by counterattacking into space, or to create their own counterattacking situations through *gegenpressing* (intense pressing of the opposition after losing possession). The data website, Understat, divides a team's attacks into four categories of speed. This season, Liverpool have taken 37 shots from build-ups they class as slow, and scored only two of them: a conversion rate of 5.4 per cent. Their conversion rate from fast build-ups is 34.3 per cent. They are less adept than Pep Guardiola's City at patiently opening up deep blocks.

The remarkable thing about Liverpool is that they have become very good at facing low-block teams by evolving ways to create chances when there is no space in behind. After all, this was their first league defeat of the season: from Newcastle United to Aston Villa to Mourinho's Tottenham Hotspur, the majority of deep blocks they have faced have been expertly negotiated.

They deal with compact defences by working their full backs into space out wide and crossing into the box. Roberto Firmino drops deep to link play and create space for Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mané. They squeeze every drop from set pieces and hunt the ball remorselessly in the final third, where teams are vulnerable.

What was exceptional about this game was that Watford took away everything Liverpool do well against a set defence. Only one of Liverpool's 26 crosses and corners found a red shirt, as Craig Cathcart and Christian Kabasele parried everything that came near. Firmino was nullified. Watford lost possession in their final third only five times and they played a remarkably clean match, giving away only three free kicks.

It may be sacrilegious to say but this was a more complete defensive performance than Atletico managed against Liverpool. They closed off every avenue that Klopp's team would usually attack to get around a low block.

Watford offered a blueprint for how to neutralise Klopp's team: by defending deep and negating the most reliable facets of their attacking play.

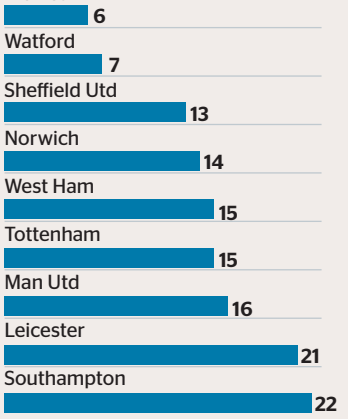
Liverpool are still a phenomenal team with an answer for most defensive plans, but we have a better idea than we did two weeks ago of how they can be bottled up.

KEEP YOUR DISCIPLINE

Liverpool are kings of the set piece — scoring ten goals from dead-ball situations this season — so it is vital to stop them from winning free kicks. As our table below shows, Watford have given away just seven free kicks in their two games against Liverpool this season.

FOULS CONCEDED v LIVERPOOL

Teams who have played Liverpool twice this season

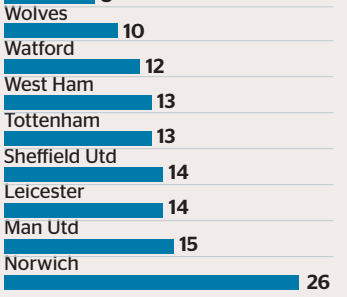


BEAT THE PRESS

Liverpool are renowned for their pressing style, trying to force defenders into mistakes and regain possession high up the pitch. Watford have largely managed to avoid losing the ball in dangerous positions when they have played Liverpool this season, doing so just five times on Saturday and seven times in the Premier League fixture at Anfield.

TIMES LIVERPOOL HAVE WON POSSESSION IN FINAL THIRD

Teams who have played Liverpool twice this season



I thought they would do it – but our special team are No1

Invincible's view

GILBERTO SILVA



Arsenal midfielder made 32 league appearances during the 2003-04 season

Liverpool came very close to the unbeaten record we hold with Arsenal. I have always said that one day it may happen and the way they have been playing, I was expecting them to do it. For most people it was unexpected that they would lose at Watford but we are still there as No1, and this is a very special achievement.

I was only talking about Arsenal's Invincibles season last week over lunch with Jens Lehmann, our goalkeeper, and David Dein, who was vice-chairman. It is impossible not to talk about it. Every conversation I have with team-mates from that time is special.

Jens and I spoke about the training sessions, the approach of everyone, when someone was maybe not in the right mood for training we pushed each other. Jens talked to everyone. If someone was not 100 per cent, he would ask why not and ask for more. He was never afraid to say things but in a positive way.

Compared to some games, our training sessions were even harder. Everyone trained to their limit, nobody at 80 or 90 per cent. Sometimes Arsène Wenger, our manager, had to calm us down. I had the feeling many times in the tunnel, the way some opponents looked at us, I knew straight away that we were going to win this game.

We won the league with four games to go. We thought, "OK, let's keep winning." Arsène said that we could become a special team, not only winners but a team everyone would know went unbeaten.

I left the Premier League more than ten years ago. We won this in 2004. It's such a long time and after the Liverpool game, "Arsenal the Invincibles" came into people's minds. It gives us a good feeling that people will still talk about us for I don't know how long.

Even though they did not break our record, what Liverpool have done this season is very special. It is not so easy with the competitors nowadays. They face Manchester City, who have done so well, and the Premier League is a competition where anything can happen. Jürgen Klopp, his staff and the players have done a great job. They can still do marvellous things.

Interview by Tom Roddy

LONGEST UNBEATEN RUNS

Europe's big five leagues

AC Milan (1991-93)	58
Bayern Munich (2012-14)	53
Arsenal (2003-04)	49
Juventus (2011-12)	49
Liverpool (2019-20)	44
Barcelona (2017-18)	43
Nottingham Forest (1977-78)	42
Chelsea (2004-05)	40
Fiorentina (1955-56)	40
Real Sociedad (1979-80)	38

thegame

Antonio's fitness holds the key to West Ham hopes

GARY JACOB

If West Ham United are to stay in the top flight they are going to have to rely heavily on their back line and the elasticity of Michail Antonio's hamstrings.

The 3-1 win against Southampton was only the second time all season that the forward has managed to play three games in a row. It was easy to imagine at the London Stadium on Saturday that West Ham would not be sitting above the relegation zone by virtue of goal difference if they had been able to use more of his pace and energy this campaign.

Sadly, Antonio has spent two spells in the treatment room with thigh injuries, which have restricted him to only nine starts this season.

David Moyes is cautious about whether Antonio is repeatedly able to sprint at full throttle. The West Ham manager is also mindful that he has to maintain a fine balancing act with the 29-year-old because one muscle tear could rule him out for the rest of the season but too much rest would result in a loss of fitness.

"Maybe we can't push him to the maximum all the time," Moyes said. "With his injuries we have to curtail some of the work he does. Maybe we give him some more leeway as we know we have to save him. I want repeated actions, which is a hard thing to do. To do that he needs a good endurance tank and when you're injured, it's very difficult to get to that top level of fitness. We're giving him the minutes to get a big energy tank. Imagine if we get Michy Antonio to his maximum with his ability. We are a different side when he plays because of what he offers."

Injuries aside, Antonio has also been let down by his finishing, which might be expected from a player who came through as a winger and had a spell at full back. On Saturday, he burst through the Southampton defence to sidefoot only his second league goal of the season, which boosted his conversion rate of shots on goal in the league to a still disappointing 6.25 per cent.

Making Antonio more reliable is something Moyes wants to work on, as he did when he was in charge during the 2017-18 season. "Michy is more mature than my last time here," he said. "He was always lively today and he was a go-to man up front."

Antonio also created a goal for Sébastien Haller and West Ham look a different side with them in tandem, alongside Jarrod Bowen. The danger remains that they are one mistake from conceding needlessly. as Issa Diop and Angelo Ogbonna have shown a tendency to lose concentration. "You can have all the attacking options in the world, but if you are going to lose lots of goals you will always be in trouble," Moyes said. "If we want good attacking players we have to have good defenders."

Ralph Hasenhüttl warned his Southampton side about complacency and promised changes unless their defending improved. "If anybody believes we are safe then we have a problem," the manager said. "We were not able to defend. If we can't change it in the season, then we will have to address it in the summer."

Match briefing

West Ham	Southampton
3	1

RATINGS

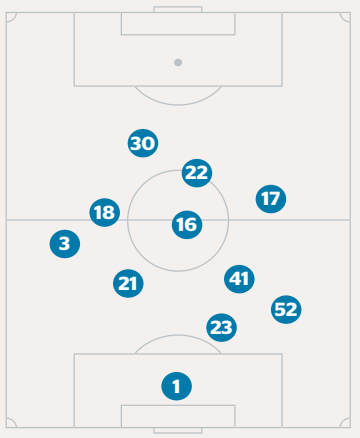
West Ham (4-4-2): L Fabianski 6 — J Ngakia 6, I Diop 6, A Ogbonna 6, A Cresswell 7 — J Bowen 8 (R Snodgrass 78min), D Rice 7, M Noble 6, P Fornals 7 (F Anderson 90+2) — M Antonio 8, S Haller 7. **Subs not used** D Randolph, F Balbuena, P Zabaleta, M Lanzini, A Masuaku. **Booked** Cresswell.

Southampton (4-4-2): A McCarthy 5 — J Ward-Prowse 6, J Stephens 5, J Bednarek 5, R Bertrand 6 — S Armstrong 6, W Smallbone 6 (O Romeu 78), P-E Hojbjerg 6, S Boufal 5 (D Ings 54, 6) — M Obafemi 6 (J Vestergaard 68, 6) S Long 6. **Subs not used** A Gunn, C Adams, K Walker-Peters, Y Valery. **Booked** Stephens.

Referee A Taylor. **Attendance** 59,962.

FOCAL POINT

Michail Antonio (No30) was West Ham's most advanced player against Southampton





BLINK AND YOU'LL MISS IT

Goalscoring is a high-speed business. Of the 75 Premier League goals in 2020 where the scoring team started the move in their own half, only in one third did the ball take more than nine seconds to travel from the halfway line to goal. It took seven seconds for West Ham to get from halfway to goal when Michail Antonio, right, scored against Southampton

Premier League goals since turn of year where move started in own half and ball did not touch opponent (or it only deflected off opponent)

Time from halfway line to goal

Agüero's timely goals

Sergio Agüero gave Manchester City an 18th-minute lead in the 2018 League Cup final and a 20th-minute lead in the 2020 final. It was the first final in this competition with scorers from three different continents: Agüero (Argentina), Rodri (Spain) and Aston Villa's Mbwana Samatta (Tanzania). City and Liverpool have both won the competition for the first three seasons of a new drinks sponsorship (Liverpool: Milk Cup 1982-84; City: Carabao Cup 2018-20). The tenth (City), 50th (United) and

Newcastle short-changed by £80m trio

MARTIN HARDY

It is perhaps worth remembering that Newcastle United spent £80 million on three forwards last year and the exit of Rafa Benítez was seen by most as a pathway to more attacking football.

There was a sobering message, though, from Steve Bruce about the time it will take to get any better — and it has been a dry start to the year so far on Tyneside, especially after three goalless draws in a row now at St James' Park in all competitions.

Newcastle are now fighting for their lives, sitting a worrying five points above the relegation zone, without any sort of form and lacking a goalscorer — Jonjo Shelvey leads the way with five league goals. The £80 million spent on Joelinton, Allan Saint-Maximin and Miguel Almirón has produced a total of four.

Bruce spoke of requiring at least a year for young foreign players to get the hang of the Premier League after his side stretched their poor run to one win in ten league games. "It takes maybe 12 months, but you can't wait that long, that's the problem," Bruce said. "If you're a forward you have to be a top, top, top player to score more than a dozen goals. I understand the way the club was thinking. They want a big centre forward to lead the line, a No 9 for Newcastle."

On Saturday, they failed to find the back of the net for the fourth league game in a row. Despite changing formation and having 21 shots, they never looked like scoring. A Newcastle centre forward has not scored in the league since August — that is still Joelinton's only goal in the top flight. Asked if the team has more goals in them than the 24 they have managed in 28 games, Bruce replied: "When you look at the front three and what we have invested, then I'm sure all of us would want more."

The thoughts of Alan Shearer, who is close to Bruce, should be noted. His mounting criticism of Newcastle's transfers, and the £40 million paid for Joelinton, is significant. "Someone has decided to say, 'We're going to pay £40 million for you and you're going to play centre forward,' and that guy is not a centre forward," Shearer said.

"I think I know who signed him. No, it wasn't Steve and it wasn't Rafa. You have to think it was the head of recruitment [Steve Nickson] and their recruitment has been rotten."

For Burnley, James Tarkowski was excellent in front of the watching England manager Gareth Southgate, but stopping Newcastle scoring is no longer hard, or even novel. It is difficult to know what Southgate will have learnt from his trip to St James' Park, where the club still have more questions than answers.

Match briefing

Newcastle	Burnley
0	0

RATINGS

Newcastle (4-2-3-1): M Dubravka 7 — J Manquillo 5, J Lascelles 7, F Fernández 7, D Rose 5 — J Shelvey 6, I Hayden 6 — M Ritchie 6, M Almirón 7, Joelinton 6 (A Saint-Maximin 78min) — D Gayle 7. **Subs not used** K Darlow, F Schär, F Lejeune, D Yedlin, S Longstaff, N Bentaleb. **Booked** Manquillo, Rose, Shelvey, Gayle.

Burnley (4-4-2): N Pope 7 — P Bardsley 6, J Tarkowski 8, B Mee 7, C Taylor 7 — J Hendrick 5, A Westwood 5, J Cork 6, D McNeil 5 — M Vydra 5 (C Wood 58, 6) , J Rodriguez 6. **Subs not used** J Hart, J Brownhill, R Brady, E Pieters, A Lennon, K Long. **Booked** Bardsley, Tarkowski, Mee.

Referee A Madley. **Attendance** 52,219.

Struggles force Chelsea

PAUL ROWAN

Considering tomorrow night's fifth-round FA Cup clash between Chelsea and Liverpool and the comparative health of the two clubs at present, it is difficult to avoid recalling Rafa Benítez's comments, after he brought his team to Stamford Bridge for another cup game, that "our fans don't need plastic flags".

The comments came back to haunt Benítez when he became Chelsea's "interim" manager in November 2012 and was pilloried by supporters there despite performing wonders for the club. Now they come back to haunt Chelsea in turn, as the club go through not only a transition period but a full-blown identity crisis.

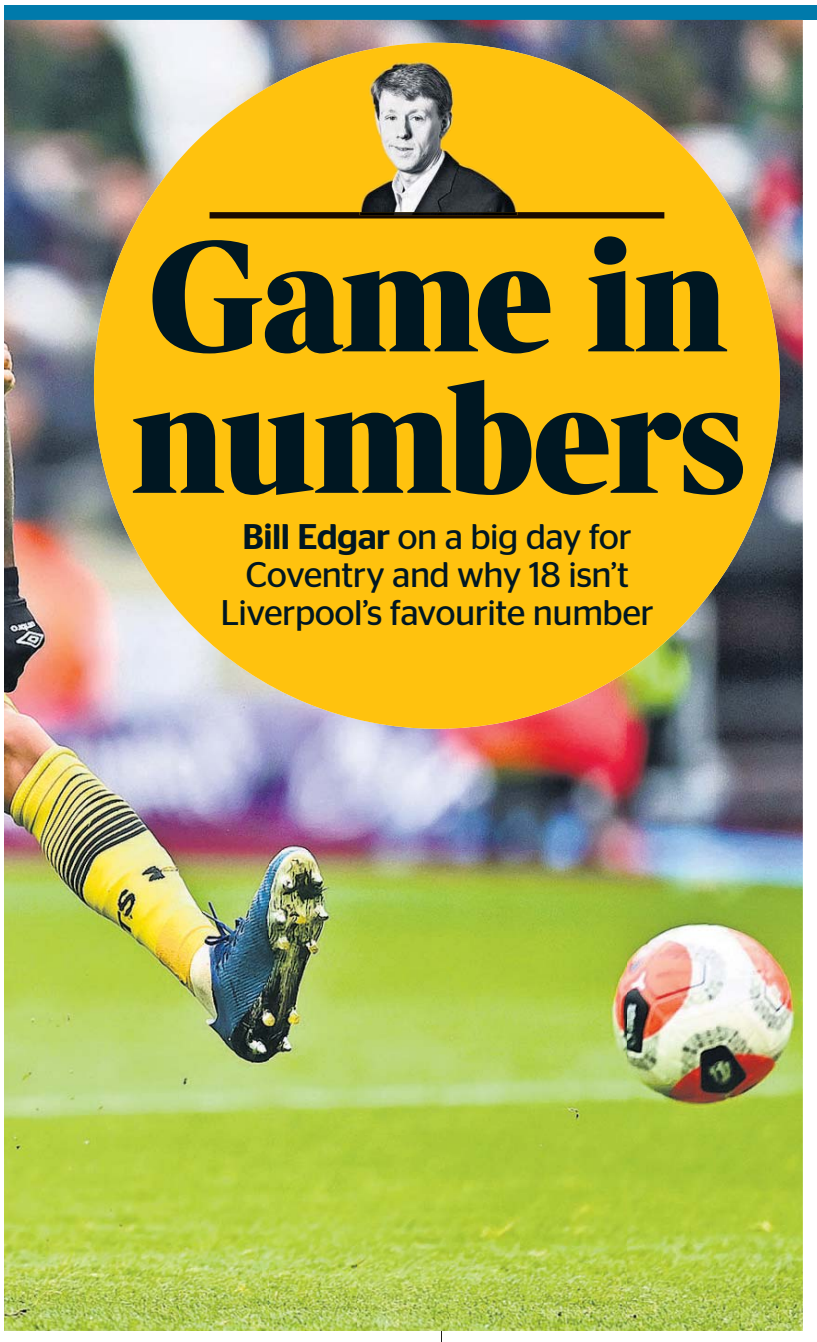
If that is considered hyperbole, please consider the following: were plastic flags again provided for supporters, they would be placed on the plastic seats of a creaking stadium which is not supposed to exist any more, but survives demolition and rebuild because of a supposed economic downturn.

What sort of a club are Chelsea? Where do their ambitions lie? On Saturday, the away fans sang the praises of their manager Frank Lampard as Chelsea struggled to a draw at Bournemouth. Chelsea somehow manage to cling on to fourth place in the Premier League, with 45 points from 28 games; at this stage last season they were



Alonso thanks the travelling Chelsea fans after the game

CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES



Game in numbers

Bill Edgar on a big day for Coventry and why 18 isn't Liverpool's favourite number

60th (City) finals: Manchester team beats Midlands club 2-1 having won Manchester derby in semi-final. City and Celtic have won six of the past seven English/Scottish equivalent trophies in tandem: 2017-18: League, League Cup; 2018-19: treble; 2019-20 League Cup. English managers have won only one of the past 72 main domestic trophies and one of the past 104 top European club trophies.

Figure it out

Liverpool are finally about to add to their 18 league titles but in the 18th match they have played at Vicarage Road their run of league wins was ended at 18 by a resurgent Watford team (18 points gained now under Nigel Pearson) who were 18 places below them at kick off. Liverpool are the first team to lose a top-flight match to opponents as many as 55 points below them before kick-off since the introduction of three points for a win in 1981-82.

Back to the Sixties

Coventry City, of League One, yesterday moved top of a table after Christmas for the first time since 1967. Fulham have gone 186 home league games in a row without a 0-0, pipping Sheffield United's run of 185 up to October 1932 and trailing only Wrexham's 225 up to August 1936. Shrewsbury Town's Scott Golbourne turned 32 on Saturday but stayed on the bench, which means the last February 29-born player to appear for a league club on his birthday remains Jim Brennan for Swindon Town against Millwall in 1956.

False start

Everton's Dominic Calvert-Lewin is the first player since Sheffield Wednesday's Andy Booth in October 1996 to score in the opening three minutes of consecutive top-flight games but win neither. If Harry Maguire and Fred (both born on March 5, 1993) play for Manchester United against Derby County on Thursday, they will be the first pair of top-flight team-mates born on the very same day to play together on their birthday since Jon Stead and Michael Tonge for Sheffield United in April 2007.

Minute detail

The five Premier League winners at the weekend were all the second team alphabetically, as were the Carabao Cup winners. The three top-flight home teams who scored on Saturday all did so in the 54th minute. Only two of the Premier League's past 134 free-kick shots have found the net. Arsenal have not won on a Saturday for six and a half months. Leicester City's goal tally in their past four Friday games: 0, 9, 0, 0.

Ronaldo looks on as Real leapfrog stuttering rivals

IAN HAWKEY Madrid

Among the guests at the most famous of all club fixtures, one Cristiano Ronaldo. The public health crisis in northern Italy had left his Sunday free, so the Juventus player went to check on the fragile wellbeing of Real Madrid. He keeps hearing how much his former club miss him.

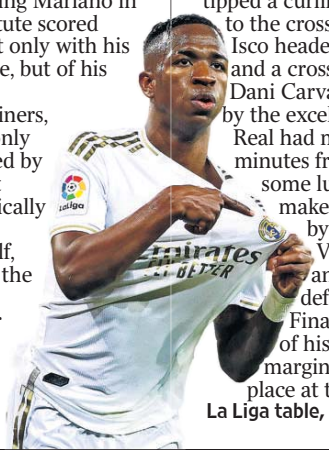
They do, though not so much that they are a humble second best in the rivalry that matters most. Real's first La Liga win over Barcelona at the Bernabéu for more than five years meant they leapfrogged Barcelona to go top of the table. The gap is only a point, and this was not the greatest of Clasicos, peppered with errors, but it was riveting, and Real will feel emboldened at their recovery from the bruising midweek Champions League defeat by Manchester City.

If there was a stroke of good fortune to their first goal, Vinícius Júnior's shot deviating off Gerard Piqué, a second, very late on, from substitute Mariano, confirmed their second-half ascendency. It may also restore faith in head coach Zinedine Zidane's uncanny, Midas-touch judgment. He chose Vinícius ahead of Gareth Bale; the teenage winger, after some frustrating moments, made the breakthrough. Zidane sprang a surprise by even naming Mariano in the squad. The substitute scored Real's second goal not only with his first touch of the game, but of his entire league season.

Two unlikely headliners, then, on an evening only sporadically influenced by Lionel Messi. Thibaut Courtois saved athletically from the Barcelona captain in the first half, and also kept Arthur, the midfielder, from establishing a lead for the visiting side. But for most of the opening period, these looked like teams more preoccupied with hiding their known flaws from one another than boldly probing.

Neither club are at peak confidence and a pattern was set: more end-to-end urgency from Real; a façade of calm, patient watch-and-wait from Barcelona. "We had four or five good chances," said Quique Setién, a Barcelona coach new to the job, seeking alibis and knowing he will be remembered for having lost his first Clasico if the hierarchy of the league table does not shift again before May.

A more purposeful Real emerged after the break. Marc-André ter Stegen, the Barcelona goalkeeper, tipped a curling drive from Isco on to the crossbar, Piqué cleared an Isco header from the goalline, and a cross from the galvanising Dani Carvajal was shanked wide by the excellent Karim Benzema. Real had momentum. Twenty minutes from time, they had some luck too. Invited to make an angled run at goal by Toni Kroos's pass, Vinícius dashed on to it and his shot took a deflection off Piqué. Finally, enter Mariano, out of his long spell on the margins, to cement Real's place at the top of the table.



Vinícius's goal took a deflection off Piqué

La Liga table, page 15

Match briefing

Real Madrid	Barcelona
2	0

RATINGS

Real Madrid (4-3-1-2): T Courtois 7 — D Carvajal 7, R Varane 6, S Ramos 7, Marcelo 6 — Casemiro 7, F Valverde 7 (L Vazquez 86min), T Kroos 7 — Isco 7 (L Modric 79) — K Benzema 8 (Mariano 90+1), Vinícius 8. **Subs not used** A Areola, E Miltao, F Mendy, G Bale. **Booked** Carvajal, Vinícius.

Barcelona (4-4-2): M-A ter Stegen 7 — N Semedo 6, G Piqué 5, S Umtiti 6, J Alba 6 — A Vidal 6, Arthur 6 (I Rakitic 80), S Busquets 6, F De Jong 7 — A Vidal (M Braithwaite 69 6), L Messi 7 — A Griezmann 6 (A Fati 81). **Subs not used** Neto, C Lenglet, Junior, A Collado. **Booked** Alba, Messi.

Referee M Lahoz. **Attendance** 78,357.

to question scale of their ambition

sixth with 56 points under Maurizio Sarri and supporters were chanting about how much they hated "Sarri-ball".

Instead, in Lampard and assistant Jody Morris they trust, even though the old Chelsea midfield pair only have a Championship play-off spot with Derby County on their management CV. At least Lampard talks a good game. He is giving some Chelsea fans what they want — more attractive football and opportunities to eyeball the home-grown players coming through — but others prefer the days when Chelsea's hardened mercenaries were expected to give Liverpool a bloody nose.

When it comes to tomorrow night, Lampard is making the right noises. No doubt Jürgen Klopp, his opposite number, will play a stronger team than the under-23 side that defeated Shrewsbury in the fourth round when the senior team were on holiday.

"It's Liverpool," Lampard said, dismissing suggestions that he might field a weakened side. "Our fans come to the FA Cup to see us trying to overturn the best team in the land. It doesn't mean I don't change a couple of people. I'll be treating it with the care I'd give a Premier League game."

On Saturday, while Chelsea dominated the possession stats, this was a game between two well-matched sides. Bournemouth fought back after conceding a first-half Marcos Alonso goal with two goals in three second-half minutes, through Jefferson Lerma and Joshua King.

Going into the last quarter of the game a goal up, their centre half, Nathan Aké, stayed up for a cross and Bournemouth could have scored a third had Callum Wilson made firmer contact with his knock-down. Chelsea finished far stronger after looking ineffective for much of the game, with Alonso grabbing his second with a header five minutes from the end.

"We got too deep," the midfielder Philip Billing said about how Bournemouth led their lead slip. "We were all knackered from pressing the ball. We didn't have much left in the tank." For Bournemouth, Liverpool are next up also, at Anfield on Saturday. Klopp will make all the right noises — he certainly won't be mentioning plastic flags — and it's difficult to know which game he will be worried about more.

Match briefing

Bournemouth	Chelsea
2	2

RATINGS

Bournemouth (4-1-4-1): A Ramsdale 7 — J Stacey 7, S Cook 6, N Aké 6, A Smith 6 — J Lerma 6 — R Fraser 6, P Billing 6, L Cook 6 (D Gosling 81min), J King 6 (J Stanislas 68, 5) — C Wilson 6. **Subs not used** A Boruc, S Francis, D Solanke, D Rico, H Wilson. **Booked** Smith, Wilson.

Chelsea (3-4-3): W Caballero 6 — C Azpilicueta 6, A Christensen 5, F Tomori 5 (Willian 64, 5) — R James 6, Jorginho 5 (R Barkley 64, 6), M Kovacic 6, M Alonso 7 — M Mount 6, O Giroud 6 (M Batshuayi 72), Pedro 6. **Subs not used** K Arrizabalaga, A Rüdiger, R Loftus-Cheek, B Gilmour. **Booked** Christensen, Jorginho.

Referee A Marriner. **Attendance** 10,667.

Potter must turn to Murray and put his project on hold

CHRIS HATHERALL

Brighton & Hove Albion, only one point above the relegation zone and without a win in 2020 after a loss to Crystal Palace, are facing some tough questions about the Graham Potter project.

There is no doubt that the club remain 100 per cent behind the man they appointed in May 2019.

But the Potter revolution, which started so fast, has hit the buffers — and public perception suggests that they lack a cutting edge.

Potter needs to be pragmatic if he is to keep Brighton up and the man he may need to turn to is Glenn Murray, who, to the dismay of the fans, was dropped against Palace on Saturday. The 36-year-old striker and a more direct style may hold the key. Murray, for one, is up for the fight.

"Every year we've been in the Premier League we've been fighting for survival so it's nothing new," Murray said. "We've got plenty of points to play for and you never know in this league."

Match briefing

Brighton	Crystal Palace
0	1

RATINGS

Brighton (4-3-3): M Ryan 6 — M Montoya 6 (A Jahanbakhsh 77min), A Webster 6, L Dunk 7, D Burn 7 — Y Bissouma 6 (S Alzate 82), D Pröpper 7, A Mooy 6 — S March 6 (G Murray 66, 6), N Maupay 7, L Trossard 6. **Subs not used** D Button, D Stephens, P Gross, E Schelotto. **Booked** Montoya, Schelotto.

Crystal Palace (4-3-3): V Guaita 7 — J Ward 7, S Dann 7, G Cahill 8, P van Aanholt 7 — J McArthur 6, J McCarthy 6 (J Riedewald 46, 6), C Kouyaté 6 — W Zaha 6, J Ayew 7, C Benteke 6 (C Tosun 87). **Subs not used** M Meyer, W Hennessey, L Milivojevic, M Kelly, A Townsend. **Booked** Benteke.

Referee M Atkinson. **Attendance** 30,124.

thegame

Pelé and Puscas are together again…but this time at Reading

Alyson Rudd talks to two players on the same team who share names with game's legends



For as little as £3, and for no more than a tenner, you could watch Puscas and Pelé in action together on the same pitch tomorrow night.

This is no hologram trick, such as when Elvis Presley performed a duet with Celine Dion on *American Idol*. These are two flesh-and-blood Reading players facing Sheffield United in the fifth round of the FA Cup at the Madejski Stadium. It just so happens that they have two of the most famous names in the history of football in their squad.

Nominative determinism does not apply to Pelé, whose real name is Judilson Mamadu Tuncará Gomes. The 28-year-old was awarded the nickname Pelé because of his talent playing on the streets of Sintra in Portugal. He did not become a footballer because he was called Pelé.

"When I was young, playing in the street with my friends, scoring a lot of goals, they start to call me Pelé. It stays like this," the midfielder says.

He was not embarrassed by the association, as "when I was young I did not know who Pelé was and I did not know why they called me this name, but later I heard about him and I realised this is a big name, and then I thought, why would they call me Pelé because I scored on the street?"

Most of his friends call him Pelé, as do his team-mates. His father calls him Pelé sometimes and occasionally his wife, but his mother? "Never," he says with a smile.

I wonder if Pelé was ever encouraged to write to his namesake, who is now very unwell, or to try to meet him when he was younger, but his hero is not the striker who won the World Cup three times for Brazil. It is the midfielder who he believes was responsible for winning the Champions League for Liverpool in Istanbul. "No, never," Pelé says of wanting to meet the 79-year-old.

"Me? I just want to meet Steven Gerrard. My hero is Gerrard, because I was watching the 2005 Champions League final and they were losing 3-0 at half-time. It was the first time I had seen him, and I say, 'Oh, my days, who is this player?' And then I try to watch every Liverpool game because of Steven Gerrard. My dream is to go to Anfield and to meet him."

George Puscas, 23, was born in Romania, which shares a border with Hungary, so he knew from a young age about Ferenc Puskás, the prolific forward who scored 242 goals in 262 matches for Real Madrid and was nicknamed the Galloping Major, having served in the Hungarian army.

"The Puskás name is Hungarian, not Romanian," Puscas says, "but Romania is close to Hungary so when I started playing football I heard about him. He was a good striker, and then I saw he scored thousands of goals, so I say if I can score half of that then it's OK.

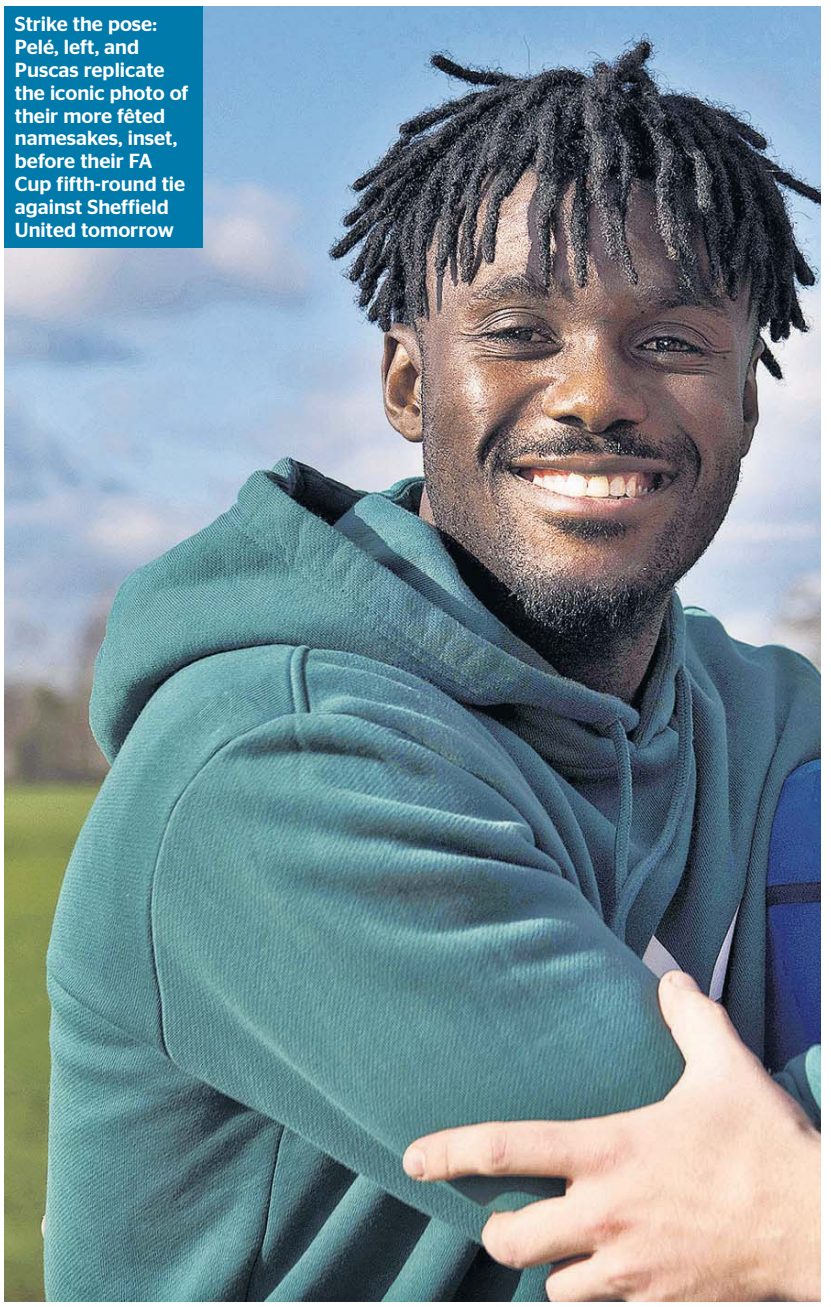
"He's one of the greatest players, I admire the amount of goals, it is the best quality a striker can have. He was the best at scoring goals."

Puscas does not smile when I ask if he has been teased about not being as prolific as his namesake. "Not too much," the forward says sternly.

I cajole them to reproduce an image from 1959, when the original icons posed in Madrid. The Reading versions are slightly bemused and although they are fully aware of how it is fun that the club can boast a Pelé and a Puscas, they are too young to be fully bowled over by the coincidence.

Puscas scored his tenth goal of the season on Saturday, running from the halfway line to slot the ball past the Barnsley goalkeeper Bradley Collins in a 2-0 success that put greater distance between Reading and the Championship relegation zone.

This is not his usual style. The former Palermo and Inter Milan striker is a bustling, aggressive, old-



Strike the pose: Pelé, left, and Puscas replicate the iconic photo of their more fêted namesakes, inset, before their FA Cup fifth-round tie against Sheffield United tomorrow

FA CUP IS BACK – IN MIDWEEK

The FA Cup fifth round will be played in midweek this season, rather than its usual weekend slot, to accommodate the Premier League's recent winter break. Replays have been scrapped at this stage, because of the resulting fixture congestion, so any ties that are level after 90 minutes will be settled with extra time and penalties. These are this week's ties:

TONIGHT

Portsmouth v Arsenal, 7.45pm
Live on BT Sport 1

TOMORROW

Chelsea v Liverpool, 7.45pm
Live on BBC One
West Brom v Newcastle, 8pm
Live on BBC Red Button
Reading v Sheffield United, 8pm

WEDNESDAY

Sheffield Wednesday v Man City, 7.45pm
Live on BBC One
Tottenham Hotspur v Norwich, 7.45pm
Live on BBC Red Button
Leicester City v Birmingham City, 7.45pm

THURSDAY

Derby County v Manchester Utd, 7.45pm
Live on BT Sport 1

Meet the Greta Thunberg of the Football League

Christian Burgess talks climate change and his release by Arsenal as a youngster to **Henry Winter**



On and off the field, Christian Burgess stands up to be counted. On Friday, the Portsmouth centre back scored and provided an assist in the 3-0 win over Rochdale. On Saturday, Burgess, a Labour Party member, took the stage at a Keir Starmer campaign meeting in Portsmouth, endorsing him as leader and delivering a passionate speech about the perils of climate change, rising tides and disappearing ice caps.

"It's a real problem," Burgess tells me. "It's scary, change needs to happen now. I love the oceans. It would be a dream job to work in conservation of marine life [or in] politics to enact real change. Football's fantastic but it's a game, it will be over soon."

Burgess, a history graduate, is still only 28 and is driven by helping Portsmouth push for promotion to the Championship. Tonight, at a raucous Fratton Park in the FA Cup, Burgess faces Arsenal, the club who released him as a youngster.

He has just completed his Uefa B licence, enjoys "coaching the younger kids", and emphasises "football serves me fantastically well", but adds that "there are more important things out there in the world than football. I want to make a real change."

He was very aware of Greta Thunberg's speech and presence in Bristol on Friday as he prepared to face Rochdale. "Greta's unbelievable, what she's done is incredible, out of this world," Burgess says of the 17-year-old environmental activist.

"I've been down to one of the Fridays for Future strikes in Portsmouth at the Guildhall, not as big as Bristol, but a fair few school kids there, fighting for their future. There's a lot of hope, especially with the younger population taking climate change seriously.

"I'm very interested in politics. Unfortunately in football people are not that engaged, a lot of the boys [in the Pompey dressing room] didn't vote at the general election, even though I tried to encourage them to." But it's their country, their future? "You try and explain that to them. I did. They're just not interested. It's more bread and butter, simple views, not too interested in getting involved.

"There were a few who did vote but a lot were turned off by the increase in taxes that Jeremy Corbyn proposed. They asked me who I was voting for, and when I told them, they said, 'Why on earth would you vote for him? He will tax you more.'

"I'm often called 'weird' but when I go back with my friends I went to school and university with we would probably call *them* [the non-political] the weird ones. I am considered different to an extent, in terms of interests, sometimes with the books I read and the boys will be, 'What are you reading that for?'

"At the minute I'm reading *The Uninhabitable Earth* [by David Wallace-Wells], which paints a depressing picture about the state of the climate crisis and the earth itself. I recently read *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* [by Jared Diamond], that touches on different societies [going back to the Greenland Norse] right up to Rwanda, Haiti and where and why societies collapse."

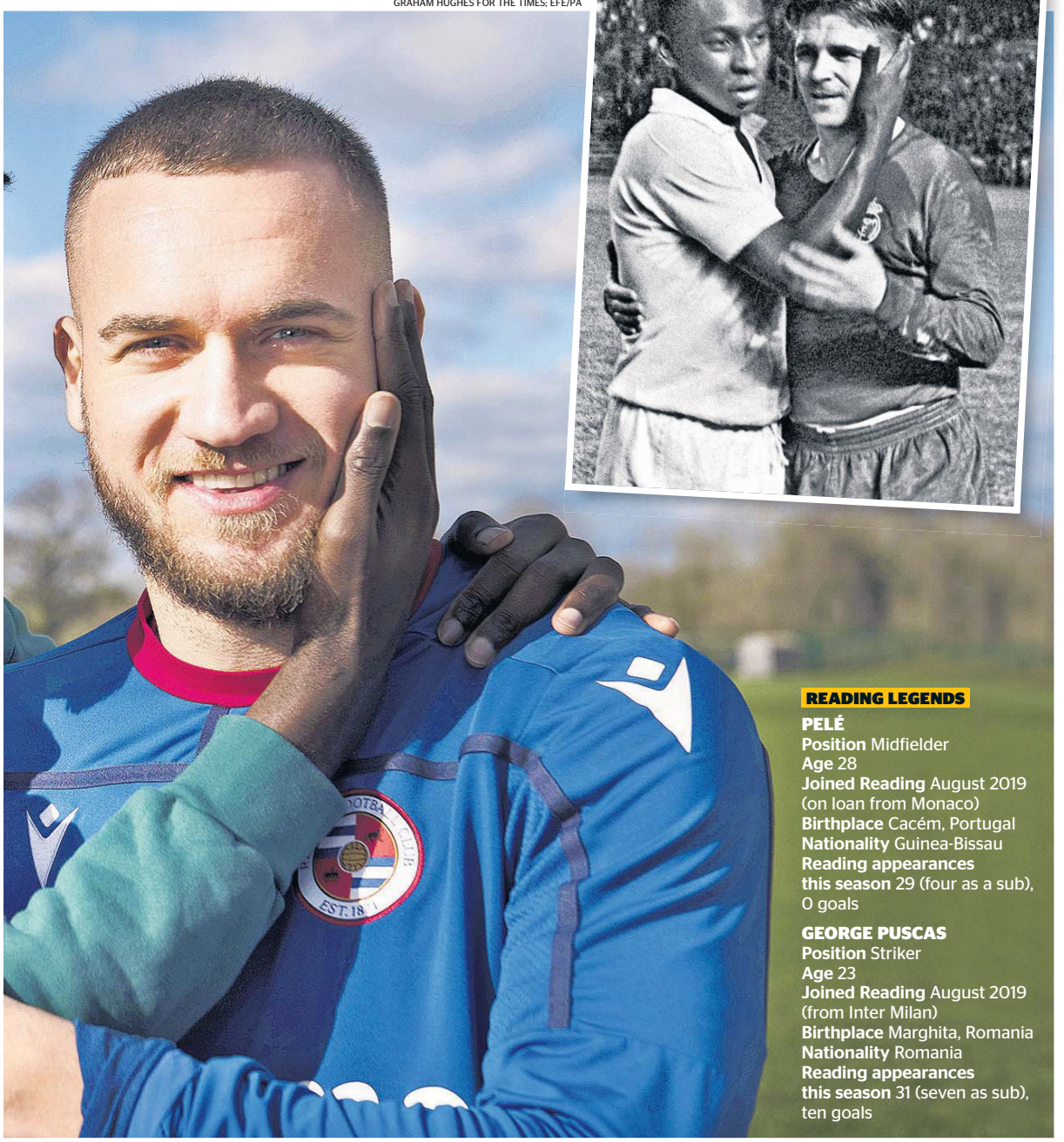
He sees some leaders emerging from English dressing rooms, individuals such as Raheem Sterling, of Manchester City and England, calling out the media on its depiction of black players, criticising the authorities for not tackling racism, campaigning for better educational opportunities. "I love listening to Raheem," Burgess says. "He talks so much sense. It's a breath of fresh air that he's had the courage to come out and challenge those sort of views.

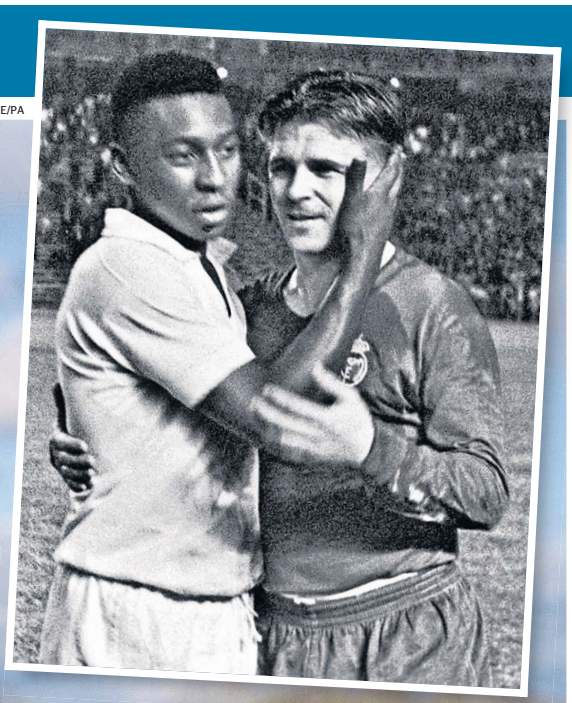
"We see it a lot in pop culture with Dave and his song at the Brits [where the south London rapper called Boris Johnson a racist], which was unbelievable, just a touch of genius, it was politicised but I agreed with it."

Burgess studied history at the University of Buckingham while playing non-League football for Bishop's Stortford. "I was so lucky to get to experience university, life as a fresher, and meet loads of people I'm really good friends with now," he says. "Some of the lads [at Portsmouth] say I still dress like a student now. I did go out a fair bit, although I kept my diet pretty good.

"We took our football seriously, it was in the BUCS [British Universities and Colleges Sports] Premier League, most of the boys were ex-academy lads, a good standard, no mugs there. There was a certain amount of partying, which needed to be adapted…" Especially when he went on trial at Middlesbrough, impressed

GRAHAM HUGHES FOR THE TIMES; EFE/PA





READING LEGENDS

PELÉ
Position Midfielder
Age 28
Joined Reading August 2019 (on loan from Monaco)
Birthplace Cacém, Portugal
Nationality Guinea-Bissau
Reading appearances this season 29 (four as a sub), 0 goals

GEORGE PUSCAS
Position Striker
Age 23
Joined Reading August 2019 (from Inter Milan)
Birthplace Marghita, Romania
Nationality Romania
Reading appearances this season 31 (seven as sub), ten goals

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND UP

Team performance of the week The prospect of Paul Cook's struggling **Wigan Athletic** side getting anything from the visit to West Bromwich Albion, the Championship leaders, appeared slim but Sam Morsy's second-half goal secured an unexpected 1-0 victory that could have consequences at both ends of the table.

Individual performance of the week Two goals from **Karlan Grant** in Huddersfield's 4-0 thrashing of Charlton Athletic helped to move them five points clear of the bottom three and pushed their opponents, Grant's former club, closer to the relegation zone.

Rising star The Ireland Under-21 midfielder **Jason Knight**, 19, scored Derby's third goal in a convincing 3-1 win at Sheffield Wednesday with a powerful angled shot.

Villain of the week The one-time England marksman **David Nugent** scored for only the second time this season for Preston in the 58th minute against Fulham at Craven Cottage. From a corner he rose at the near post to back-head the ball into the far corner of the net. His own, as Preston lost 2-0.

fashioned No 9, keen on poaching and pouncing. "I never had a proper hero," he says. "I would change from year to year. I started with Fernando Torres, then it was Zlatan Ibrahimovic, then Kun Agüero. I always try to compare me to other strikers and their qualities. I mostly like big strikers, proper No 9s like Romelu Lukaku. Harry Kane, I like so much, he is the best striker in the Premier League."

It is fair to say that he has taken his time to adapt to the rigours of Championship football, with some fans impatient for him to repay the €10 million (about £8.6 million) spent on signing him last summer. "In Italy it is less physical, more tactical," he says. "I have to adapt myself here so I take time to see how they are training, how they eat, how they go into the games. But I feel so good here, it's a perfect place to play."

Puscas is almost incredulous that the diet of the British player is so different. He cannot quite believe footballers here eat eggs and beans for breakfast. He and Pelé had more individually tailored nutrition plans on the Continent. "To change after ten years is difficult," Puscas explains. He says "soup" in the same way we might say "gruel" but he likes the intensity of the schedule. "The league is so competitive but every three days you can show your best, if you lose a game you try again and that's the best thing in football."

Pelé spent six months at Nottingham Forest before joining Reading on loan last summer.

"I know the league is very hard," he says. "It is the most difficult league I have played in, the most competitive. In the first weeks I was feeling so tired, and after the games I could not feel my legs but now I feel really good and I like playing in this country because the fans are not like in any other country.

"We take the FA Cup very seriously because we are close to Wembley. We want to make a story."

The story would, of course, be that it is Puscas and Pelé who enjoy FA Cup glory.

---

and was signed. "Finish off your degree," Tony Mowbray, then the manager, told him.

So Burgess enrolled at Teesside University and studied hard, particularly with his dissertation. "It was based on Anglo-German rivalry and the naval arms race. It is just a small slither of one of the reasons that the First World War happened. Germany wanted to expand their pull in the world, and so much land was colonised in empires, like the British one. So they built a navy and that would affect the British, who built up their navy even more, and it [war] became almost unstoppable."

Burgess loves Portsmouth, and not only for the naval connections. "Everything in the city revolves around the football club, and we have a massive role to play in inspiring youngsters, keeping a real closeness between fans and the club," he says.

"A lot of fans comment that they prefer the club now than when it was in the Premier League. It's more real, players are very much more approachable, we are not big stars on the big wages. Fans feel we are more every-day people. They tell stories back in the glory days when people wouldn't sign things for them, and no contact time with the players."

He's a trustee of the award-winning Pompey in the Community at a club proud of its roots and history. "I'm constantly reminded about the teams of the Forties and Fifties by Barry Harris, one of the assistant kit men," Burgess adds. "He always talks about the fantastic players, he names games and goals, they won the First Division a couple of the years on the bounce [48-49, 49-50]."

They've had great players, "Gentleman Jim" Jimmy Dickinson and Alan Knight MBE, and also some questionable owners, such as Sacha Gaydamak who took the club to the cusp of oblivion. "Portsmouth have been on the biggest rollercoaster, going down into the basement, getting back up," Burgess continues.



Burgess couldn't get team-mates into politics

Portsmouth Supporters' Trust came to the rescue in 2012. "It was under fan ownership and they are massively proud of that, as they should be. It was an incredible achievement to dig the club out of where they were, purchase it themselves, and lead them back into League One.

"To sell to the Eisners [the American family headed by Michael Eisner, the former Disney chairman] was a very good business decision. The club is certainly safe under the Eisners for the foreseeable future. It's not just a billionaire owner throwing money at the club. There's proper infrastructure, work going into the academy, building it up from the roots, which gives the fans a sense of pride."

Now Arsenal visit in the FA Cup. "Most of the fans are hung up [focused] on the league and they see this as a free hit, so there's not a lot of pressure," Burgess says. "There's excitement, especially with kids who see Arsenal every week on *Match of the Day*, and they have big stars of the game. They are buzzing to see that in the flesh."

When Arsenal last visited in the cup, in 2004, the magnificent Thierry Henry was applauded off. "They know their football," Burgess adds. Tackling Arsenal will bring back memories of his four years in their academy, playing alongside Jack Wilshere, Luke Ayling and Emmanuel Frimpong, before being released.

"It was the right decision made by them," Burgess reflects. "I have a lot of respect for the club, for the way they play football, and the way they released me was very dignified, they gave me hope to carry on. I can't speak highly enough of the set-up, fantastic academy, that was under Liam Brady and Roy Massey.

"It was so professional that it was all the more gutting to leave. Of course, it would be fantastic to cause an upset but there's no ill-feeling."

He's too intelligent for that. "Especially at centre half, intelligence does help, definitely in terms of reading the game and quick thinking." Standing up to be counted, the Burgess way.

FUNNY OLD GAME

Comedian George Lewis reflects on the week's action



The Premier League Hall of Fame is to be launched this month and initially, I wasn't sure what to think. I usually support anything that means we can talk about how great things were in the past, but this system ignores that football existed before 1992.

Then I heard people talking about "what it takes to be a true Hall-of-Famer" and I was sure what to think. I hate it. It just sounds so American. You can see American influences creeping in everywhere. From the WWE-style walk-up shots of the players, to stadium pyrotechnics, to VAR with its slow-motion replays and "look at me" dramatics.

And did you see the outfits Manchester City travelled in to their away fixture against Real Madrid last week? They were dressed as cowboys. OK, maybe that wasn't the look they were going for, (perhaps they were trying to emulate Nineties girl band B*Witched) but the fact that we have got to the point where a team can walk around in matching denim suits tells us there is something seriously wrong.

The only thing that gives me hope with this particular example is that the shirts were printed with 'MANCHESTER CITY WINTER 2019' emblazoned all over them, which implies they resisted wearing the outfits for months. But maybe not. Maybe it's just some new fashion thing that I don't get. All the cool kids who are reading *The Times* today are probably laughing at me for not knowing that saying it's last year when it's this year is intentionally ironic and anyone who doesn't get that is a fusty old square.

Unlike double denim, I don't think the Hall of Fame is bad in itself, but I worry it's a big step towards the full Americanisation of the game. It won't be long before you're sitting in the stands at half-time, reading your programme, when Mariah Carey is lowered on to the pitch for a 45-minute routine.

You try to escape but you can't get past all the new soccer fans with their beer helmets and giant foam hands. That's when a cheerleader fires her T-shirt cannon at you. You try to protect your face and the cotton missile hits your hand, sending boiling Bovril everywhere and the whole thing is broadcast to the entire stadium via Kiss Cam. Then you'll think back to all of the little American things you let slip along the way. They all added up to this.

The saving grace is that Hall of Fame inductees are due to be voted for by the English public and we are nothing like the American public. We voted for Boaty McBoatface. So, I can't wait for the awkward ceremony as they induct the first two Hall-of-Famers: Massimo Taibi and Ali Dia.

THE JOURNEYMAN



Gregor Robertson visits Grimsby

Manager, investor, litter vigilante – Ollie's way

Last Tuesday, Ian Holloway got up at the crack of dawn to pay a visit to Grimsby's bin men. He thanked them for their hard work in keeping the streets clean, for tackling fly-tipping in the area. He regaled them with one or two typically colourful stories, answered questions, mingled, posed for pictures. "You've got to have pride in where you live," he told the *Grimsby Telegraph*. "I'd like to thank all the people who care, who make this such a great place to be."

That evening, he led Grimsby Town to a buccaneering 4-2 victory against Newport County in Sky Bet League Two. It was a sixth win in 12; play-off form from a team that had won only five of their first 22 games and, prior to Holloway's arrival on New Year's Eve, none since September. A thousand extra supporters poured through the turnstiles at Blundell Park, as they have every week since his arrival. Not even Saturday's 3-0 defeat by play-off chasing Northampton Town could deflate the buoyant Mariners.

What a fascinating union this is. Manager. Ambassador. Investor. The 56-year-old, affectionately known as "Ollie", has bought £100,000 worth of shares — about 4 per cent of the club — and has a seat on the board. He has relocated with his wife Kim from the south west to the remote east. He told council staff on Tuesday morning that he has never felt as at home as he does in northeast Lincolnshire. There have been visits to charity shops, to schools to hand out tickets. There is even a tale of Holloway telling someone to pick up litter in the street.

"I know what I want to do and I know why I want to do it," says Holloway, who has spoken of "investing in the people of Grimsby". "It's gonna take a while. But it's about passion. I want to create something people enjoy whether they win, lose or draw.

"The aim is to try and get up the divisions, then try to build a better team, try and help the people of the area have something to be really, really proud of."

Many in Grimsby can't quite believe he is here. Holloway had been out of work for 19 months after spells at Millwall and Queens Park Rangers. It is his success with Blackpool — another club in a neglected coastal town whom he led to the Premier League in 2009-10 — that kindles hope of rejuvenation in Grimsby.

John Fenty, the majority shareholder, referenced a "track record of achieving success at unfashionable, underperforming clubs" after a deal was ironed out over fish and chips in Papa's, a restaurant on Cleethorpes Pier.

"I do not believe any manager in the whole of English football suits Grimsby Town as well as Ian Holloway," Fenty said. "He is building something special and it feels like we are on the cusp of a magical period for the football club and wider community."



Holloway's grassroots approach to managing Grimsby has included visits to schools and charity shops, and meeting the town's bin men

There is something about the marriage which captures the political zeitgeist. Grimsby, where 70 per cent voted to leave the EU in 2016 and where a Conservative MP has just been elected for the first time in 74 years, expects investment, regeneration, a brighter future. It is hoped the club's relocation from the evocative but archaic Blundell Park, their home of 121 years, as part of the proposed regeneration of Freeman Street, in the town centre, will be a part of that.

Holloway's arrival feels like part of a wider vision to make Grimsby great again. The appointment of his predecessor, Michael Jolley, a Cambridge graduate and former Burnley under-23 coach, was heralded as a step into a "modern, cutting-edge" future. Two years later, however, they have reverted to a charismatic, totemic leader. "He will have more freedom and autonomy to shape on-the-field matters than any other manager within the English Football League," Fenty said. In an era of directors of football and head coaches, Holloway says: "This is old fashioned. I absolutely love it."

Grimsby are a club that quickly get under your skin. The sound of the Mariners' one-word chant, "Fish!", reverberating around Wembley Stadium during the 2016 National League play-off final — my final game in professional football — will live with me for ever. Our fans had raised £100,000 to fund the signing of striker Omar Bogle after defeat by Bristol Rovers on penalties in the same final a year earlier, so it was apt that Bogle's two goals against Forest Green Rovers sealed a return to the Football League after a six-year exile.

Saturday was a reminder that this is a long-term project. Yet, hope blossoms.

Premier League

		P	Home W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	FORM	NEXT (Last meeting)
1	Liverpool	28	14	0	0	38	11	12	1	1	26	9	44	79	WWWWL	Bournemouth (h) (3-0)
2	Manchester City	27	9	2	2	33	12	9	1	4	35	17	39	57	DWLWW	Man Utd (a) (0-1)
3	Leicester	28	8	3	3	26	15	7	2	5	28	13	26	50	WDDLL	Aston Villa (h) (1-2)
4	Chelsea	28	6	3	5	18	15	7	3	4	29	24	8	45	DDLWD	Everton (h) (1-3)
5	Manchester Utd	28	7	5	2	27	12	4	4	6	15	18	12	42	LDWWD	Man City (h) (1-0)
6	Wolves	28	5	6	3	21	17	5	6	3	20	17	7	42	LDDWW	Brighton (h) (2-2)
7	Tottenham	28	8	2	4	27	15	3	5	6	19	24	7	40	WWWLL	Burnley (a) (5-0)
8	Sheffield Utd	27	6	3	5	16	13	4	7	2	13	12	4	40	DLWWD	Norwich (h) (2-1)
9	Burnley	28	7	1	6	19	18	4	4	6	14	21	-6	38	WDWWD	Tottenham (h) (0-5)
10	Arsenal	27	6	5	3	25	20	2	8	3	14	16	3	37	DDDWW	West Ham (h) (3-1)
11	Everton	28	7	4	3	19	15	3	3	8	18	27	-5	37	DWWLD	Chelsea (a) (3-1)
12	Crystal Palace	28	5	4	5	11	13	4	5	5	14	19	-7	36	LLLWW	Watford (h) (0-0)
13	Southampton	28	4	2	8	16	30	6	2	6	19	21	-16	34	WLLWL	Newcastle (h) (1-2)
14	Newcastle	28	5	6	3	12	12	3	2	9	12	29	-17	32	DDLLD	Southampton (a) (2-1)
15	Brighton	28	4	6	4	17	15	2	4	8	15	25	-8	28	LDDDL	Wolves (a) (2-2)
16	West Ham	28	4	3	7	23	26	3	3	8	12	23	-14	27	LDLLW	Arsenal (a) (1-3)
17	Watford	28	4	5	5	16	17	2	4	8	11	26	-16	27	LLDLW	Crystal Palace (a) (0-0)
18	Bournemouth	28	4	5	5	17	21	3	1	10	11	24	-17	27	WWLLD	Liverpool (a) (0-3)
19	Aston Villa	27	5	2	6	18	24	2	2	10	16	28	-18	25	DWLLL	Leicester (a) (2-1)
20	Norwich	28	4	3	7	19	26	1	3	10	6	25	-26	21	LDLLW	Sheff Utd (a) (1-2)

RESULTS

Bournemouth Lerma 54 King 57	2	Chelsea Alonso 33, 85 10,667	2
Brighton 30,124	0	Crystal Palace Ayew 70	1
Everton Calvert-Lewin 3 39,374	1	Man Utd Fernandes 31	1
Newcastle 52,219	0	Burnley	0
Tottenham Bergwijn 13 Aurier 45 58,064	2	Wolverhampton Doherty 27 Jota 57 Jiménez 73	3
Watford Sarr 54, 60 Deeney 72	3	Liverpool 21,634	0
West Ham Bowen 15 Haller 40 Antonio 54	3	Southampton Obafemi 31 59,962	1

TOP SCORERS

17 Aubameyang (Arsenal)
17 Vardy (Leicester)
16 Agüero (Man City)
15 Ings (Southampton)
14 Salah (Liverpool)
14 Rashford (Man Utd)

TOP ASSISTS

16 De Bruyne (Man City)
12 Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)
8 Mahrez (Man City)
7 Buendía (Norwich)
7 Firmino (Liverpool)
7 Robertson (Liverpool)

TOP SAVES

115 Dubravka (Newcastle)
98 Leno (Arsenal)
98 Ramsdale (Bournemouth)
94 Krul (Norwich)
91 Ryan (Brighton)
88 Pope (Burnley)



TV HIGHLIGHTS
THIS WEEK

TOMORROW
Chelsea v Liverpool, BBC One, 7.45pm
Jürgen Klopp's side may have lost their unbeaten league record but they head to Stamford Bridge in the FA Cup fifth round with a historic Treble in their sights.

THURSDAY
Derby v Manchester United, BT Sport 1, 7.45pm
Wayne Rooney faces the club for whom he scored a record 253 goals. Can Derby pull off an almighty FA Cup shock?

FRIDAY
US Women v England Women, BBC Two, 12am
Stay up to watch the Lionesses begin their defence of the SheBelieves Cup against the world champions in Florida. England will also face Japan and Spain.

Non-League, women, Scotland and Europe

Carabao Cup final

Aston Villa Samatta 41 82,145 (at Wembley Stadium)	1	Manchester City Agüero 20 Rodri 30	2

Buildbase FA Trophy quarter-finals

AFC Fylde Williams 53 Burke 90+3 803 (aet; 2-2 after 90min)	2	Harrogate Kerry 73 Muldoon 74, 103	3
Barnet Walker 65 1,483 (aet; 1-1 after 90min)	1	Halesowen Yates 85 Cobourne 109	2
Notts County O'Brien 32 Crawford 38 Osborne 44 Wootton 61 Wilson 64	5	Aveley 4,893	0

Vanarama National League

Barrow White 6 Brough 28	2	Dag & Red Reid 10 2,353	1
Boreham Wood Tshimanga 1 932	1	Hartlepool Toure 46	1
Bromley 1,909	0	Sutton Utd Bugiel 16	1
Ebbsfleet 1,030	0	Stockport Palmer 87	1
Solihull Moors Simpson (og) 36 Howe 70, 82	3	Dover 773	0
Torquay Cundy 45+1 Reid 80	2	Chorley 2,126	0
Woking Jarvis 62 Hyde 83	2	Maidenhead 2,019	0
Yeovil Duffus 42 Wilkinson 55 Skendi 90+3	3	Wrexham 3,040	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barrow	36	21	7	8	68	37	31	70
Harrogate	35	18	8	9	56	40	16	62
Yeovil	36	16	9	11	60	44	16	57
Boreham Wood	35	15	11	9	52	38	14	56
Halifax	34	16	7	11	49	46	3	55
Solihull Moors	36	15	9	12	48	36	12	54
Stockport Co	37	15	9	13	48	52	-4	54
Dover	36	15	8	13	48	47	1	53
Woking	36	14	10	12	47	52	-5	52
Notts County	34	13	12	9	50	36	14	51
Hartlepool	36	13	12	11	54	48	6	51
Bromley	37	14	9	14	56	51	5	51
Barnet	32	13	10	9	46	38	8	49
Torquay	35	14	6	15	56	59	-3	48
Sutton Utd	35	11	13	11	44	40	4	46
Aldershot	36	12	10	14	42	50	-8	46
Wrexham	36	11	9	16	46	49	-3	42
Eastleigh	34	10	12	12	41	50	-9	42
Dag & Red	35	10	11	14	38	42	-4	41
Maidenhead	36	12	5	19	43	55	-12	41
Chesterfield	35	10	10	15	49	59	-10	40
Ebbsfleet	37	8	12	17	45	68	-23	36
AFC Fylde	33	7	11	15	40	57	-17	32
Chorley	36	4	14	18	29	61	-32	26

North

Darlington 1 Brackley 1; Hereford 0 Altrincham 2; Spennymoor Town 3 AFC Telford 3; York 1 Curzon Ashton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
York	32	18	9	5	48	23	25	63
King's Lynn	28	18	6	4	61	36	25	60
Boston Utd	30	17	5	8	45	31	14	56
Chester	31	15	9	7	57	36	21	54
Altrincham	32	15	9	8	58	39	19	54
Brackley	31	14	11	6	52	21	31	53
Spennymoor	32	14	10	8	58	41	17	52
Gateshead	30	14	10	6	46	29	17	52
Farsley Celtic	31	13	6	12	44	39	5	45
Darlington	31	13	6	12	39	45	-6	45
Guiseley	31	12	8	11	48	41	7	44
Southport	31	12	7	12	39	39	0	43
Alfreton Town	30	12	4	14	45	48	-3	40
AFC Telford	32	10	9	13	47	53	-6	39
Kidderminster	32	9	8	15	37	42	-5	35
Leamington	30	9	7	14	39	48	-9	34
Hereford	31	7	11	13	33	50	-17	32
Kettering	28	7	9	12	34	42	-8	30
Curzon Ashton	31	7	9	15	31	41	-10	30
Gloucester	28	8	5	15	36	55	-19	29
Blyth Spartans	32	6	5	21	30	73	-43	23
Bradford PA	30	3	5	22	22	77	-55	14

South

Braintree Town 2 Bath City 0; Chippenham 2 St Albans 1; Dartford 0 Wealdstone 0; Dorking Wanderers 3 Slough 5; Dulwich Hamlet 0 Tonbridge Angels 1; Eastbourne Borough 1 Billericay 1; Weymouth 5 Maidstone United 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wealdstone	31	21	3	7	66	33	33	66
Slough	33	17	9	7	51	34	17	60
Weymouth	33	16	11	6	58	35	23	59
Bath City	33	17	8	8	49	37	12	59
Havant & W	31	16	10	5	59	36	23	58
Dartford	32	14	8	10	55	45	10	50
Dorking Wands	33	14	8	11	57	53	4	50
Hampton & R	31	14	4	13	50	47	3	46
Chelmsford	32	11	10	11	54	52	2	43
Maidstone Utd	31	11	9	11	45	40	5	42
H Hempstead	32	11	8	13	34	41	-7	41
Oxford City	32	11	8	13	45	56	-11	41
Welling	32	11	6	15	35	43	-8	39
Chippenham	33	9	11	13	35	43	-8	38
Concord Rgrs	30	10	5	15	40	44	-4	35
Tonbridge Angels	30	9	8	13	43	51	-8	35
Eastbourne Boro	32	7	14	11	35	54	-19	35
Braintree Town	33	10	5	18	43	64	-21	35
Dulwich	33	8	10	15	48	47	1	34
Billericay	29	7	13	9	44	51	-7	34
St Albans	33	8	10	15	39	52	-13	34
Hungerford	31	7	4	20	36	63	-27	25

BetVictor Northern League

Premier division Buxton 5 Stafford Rangers 1; FC United of Manchester 4 Warrington Town 4; Grantham 2 Stalybridge 0; Hyde United 5 Lancaster City 2; Scarborough Athletic 3 Radcliffe 1; Whitby 1 Ashton United 1.

BetVictor Southern League

Premier division: Central Stourbridge 2 Lowestoft Town 0. **South** Hendon 1 Truro City 4; Merthyr Town 0 Beaconsfield Town 0; Wimborne Town 1 Chesham United 2.

Sky Bet Championship

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
		Home						Away						
▶	1 West Brom	36	8	7	3	36	23	11	5	2	28	14	27	69
▶	2 Leeds	36	10	4	3	24	13	10	4	5	30	17	24	68
▶	3 Fulham	36	12	2	5	32	21	6	7	4	19	16	14	63
▲	4 N Forest	35	8	4	5	20	16	8	7	3	26	17	13	59
▼	5 Brentford	36	9	5	3	31	15	7	4	8	28	18	26	57
▶	6 Preston	36	11	3	4	34	21	5	5	8	15	21	7	56
▶	7 Bristol City	36	7	4	6	24	26	8	5	6	26	26	-2	54
▶	8 Blackburn	36	8	8	3	24	16	6	3	8	28	26	10	53
▶	9 Swansea	36	8	4	6	24	20	5	9	4	22	25	1	52
▲	10 Millwall	36	8	7	3	25	18	4	8	6	16	22	1	51
▼	11 Cardiff	36	8	8	2	26	17	4	7	7	24	33	0	51
▶	12 Sheffield Wed	36	7	5	6	16	21	6	4	8	30	23	2	48
▶	13 Derby	36	9	7	2	25	13	3	5	10	21	36	-3	48
▲	14 QPR	36	8	5	6	37	33	5	3	9	18	28	-6	47
▼	15 Birmingham	36	6	5	6	26	26	6	6	7	21	28	-7	47
▶	16 Reading	36	7	2	9	23	24	5	7	6	20	17	2	45
▲	17 Huddersfield	36	7	5	7	24	25	4	4	9	21	31	-11	42
▼	18 Hull	36	6	3	10	27	33	5	5	7	21	25	-10	41
▲	19 Wigan	36	6	5	6	18	22	4	5	10	20	28	-12	40
▼	20 Charlton	36	7	5	6	25	22	3	4	11	19	31	-9	39
▼	21 Stoke	36	7	3	8	24	23	4	3	11	20	31	-10	39
▼	22 Middlesbrough	35	6	7	5	16	17	2	6	9	18	28	-11	37
▶	23 Barnsley	36	5	7	6	26	31	3	3	12	16	29	-18	34
▶	24 Luton	36	7	4	7	27	27	3	0	15	16	44	-28	34

Blackburn 2
Gallagher 25
Johnson 90+5
13,099

Swansea 2
Brewster 45
Ayew 48 (pen)

Cardiff 2
Hoilett 34
Ralls 45+1
22,393

Brentford 2
Racic 5
Mbeumo 21

Fulham 2
Nugent (og) 58
Kamara 90+5

Preston 0
19,020

Huddersfld 4
Grant 25, 90
Mounie 75
Bacuna 90+4

Charlton 0
21,539

Hull 0
16,178

Leeds 4
Ayling 5
Hernández 47
Roberts 81, 84

Luton 1
Collins
90+1 (pen)

Stoke 1
Vokes 9
10,070

Millwall 1
Kalas (og) 51
13,584

Bristol City 1
Pereira 10

QPR 2
Pugh 51
Hugill 55

Birminghm 2
Hogan 24, 81
14,113

Reading 2
Méïté 17
Puscas 60

Barnsley 0
13,263

Sheff Wed 1
Windass 74
25,148

Derby 3
Lawrence
7, 24
Knight 30

West Brom 0
24,942

Wigan 1
Morsy 73

TOP SCORERS

22 Mitrovic (Fulham)
22 Watkins (Brentford)
16 Bowen (Hull City)
16 Grabban (N Forest)
16 Grant (Huddersfield)
14 Wells (Bristol City)

TOP ASSISTS

12 Eliasson (Bristol City)
12 Pereira (West Brom)
9 Wallace (Millwall)
9 Swift (Reading)
8 Brown (Barnsley)
7 Bannan (Sheffield Wed)

TOP SAVES

124 Phillips (Charlton)
118 Cabral (Reading)
110 Bentley (Bristol City)
109 Bialkowski (Millwall)
99 Johnstone (West Brom)
97 Samba (N Forest)



22

Sky Bet League One

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
		Home						Away						
▲	1 Coventry City	33	11	5	1	22	11	6	8	2	25	19	17	64
▼	2 Rotherham	34	8	5	4	31	16	10	3	4	29	19	25	62
▲	3 Portsmouth	33	12	5	0	34	13	5	3	8	17	19	19	59
▼	4 Wycombe	34	13	3	2	34	20	4	5	7	11	20	5	59
▼	5 Sunderland	34	10	7	1	33	11	6	3	7	13	17	18	58
▲	6 Oxford Utd	34	11	3	3	33	13	5	6	6	25	22	23	57
▼	7 Peterborough	34	11	3	2	39	13	5	5	8	27	27	26	56
▼	8 Fleetwood	32	10	6	1	25	13	5	4	6	23	23	12	55
▼	9 Ipswich Town	34	6	5	4	23	16	8	5	6	23	18	12	52
▲	10 Doncaster	33	10	5	4	30	19	4	4	6	20	14	17	51
▼	11 Gillingham	34	9	3	5	27	17	3	11	3	13	15	8	50
▶	12 Burton Albion	33	6	7	3	17	12	6	4	7	29	33	1	47
▲	13 Blackpool	33	9	2	5	26	21	2	9	6	17	20	2	44
▼	14 Bristol Rovers	33	6	6	5	21	19	5	3	8	14	27	-11	42
▲	15 Shrewsbury	33	6	5	5	19	21	4	6	7	10	18	-10	41
▼	16 Accrington	34	7	2	7	32	25	3	8	7	14	26	-5	40
▼	17 Lincoln City	34	9	3	4	25	16	2	3	13	16	28	-3	39
▶	18 MK Dons	34	9	1	7	20	20	1	6	10	16	26	-10	37
▲	19 AFC Wimbledon	34	5	8	4	18	18	3	2	12	21	34	-13	34
▼	20 Rochdale	33	4	4	7	16	21	5	2	11	20	35	-20	33
▶	21 Tranmere	32	3	6	8	19	26	3	2	10	13	32	-26	26
▶	22 Southend Utd	34	1	4	11	15	41	2	3	13	21	43	-48	16
▶	23 *Bolton	32	4	8	5	17	23	1	1	13	8	41	-39	12

*deducted 12pts for going into administration

Blackpool 2
Dewsbury-Hall 26
Nuttall 90+3

Ipswich 1
Sears 54
9,500

Bolton 0
12,011

Accrington 0

Bristol R 0
6,954

Shrewsbry 1
Udoh 69

Burton 1
Brayford 65
3,795

Peterboro 1
Eisa 52

Coventry 1
Godden 2

Sunderlnd 0
10,055

Doncaster 3
Ennis 45
Sadlier 71
McCarthy (og) 83

Wycombe 1
Akinfenwa 67
7,522

Gillingham 1
Charles-Cook 87
4,893

Wimbledn 2
Pigott 49
Reilly 90+1

Oxford Utd 2
Henry 17 (pen)
Taylor 84

Southend 1
Gard 45
7,451

Rotherham 1
Ladapo 10
8,883

MK Dons 1
Healey 22

Tranmere P
Fleetwood P
Postponed because of a waterlogged pitch

TOP SCORERS

23 Toney (Peterborough)
15 Gnanduillet (Blackpool)
15 Madden (Fleetwood)
14 Eisa (Peterborough)
14 Walker (Lincoln)
13 Henderson (Rochdale)

TOP ASSISTS

14 Feeney (Blackpool)
11 Fraser (Burton Albion)
9 Maguire (Sunderland)
8 Henry (Oxford United)
7 Dembélé (Peterborough)
7 Grant (Lincoln)

TOP SAVES

117 Nicholls (MK Dons)
112 Matthews (Bolton)
96 Trott (AFC Wimbledon)
92 O'Hara (Burton Albion)
90 Vickers (Lincoln)
88 Allsop (Wycombe)



23

Sky Bet League Two

		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
		Home						Away						
▶	1 Swindon Town	34	12	2	3	32	15	8	4	5	28	22	23	66
▶	2 Crewe	35	12	3	3	35	16	7	5	5	28	25	22	65
▶	3 Exeter City	35	10	6	1	30	14	8	4	6	21	25	12	64
▲	4 Cheltenham	35	11	4	2	35	17	6	8	4	17	10	25	63
▼	5 Plymouth	35	10	5	2	32	16	8	3	7	23	23	16	62
▲	6 Northampton	36	11	2	5	30	12	6	5	7	23	26	15	58
▲	7 Port Vale	36	9	8	1	28	15	5	6	7	22	29	6	56
▼	8 Colchester	36	9	5	4	28	17	5	8	5	21	20	12	55
▶	9 Bradford City	36	11	5	2	29	14	3	7	8	15	24	6	54
▲	10 Salford City	36	4	6	8	18	24	8	5	5	29	22	1	47
▼	11 Forest Green	35	5	4	8	16	22	7	6	5	25	18	1	46
▶	12 Crawley Town	36	9	5	4	27	19	1	10	7	21	28	1	45
▼	13 Cambridge Utd	36	7	3	8	23	27	5	6	7	16	19	-7	45
▲	14 Grimsby	35	6	5	7	22	27	5	6	6	21	21	-5	44
▼	15 Walsall	35	5	5	8	18	25	7	3	7	19	23	-11	44
▼	16 Newport County	34	8	7	3	19	13	3	3	10	12	24	-6	43
▲	17 Oldham	36	6	7	5	28	21	3	7	8	16	33	-10	41
▼	18 Scunthorpe	35	6	6	6	24	23	4	4	9	20	29	-8	40
▼	19 Leyton Orient	35	4	8	6	24	29	5	4	8	21	25	-9	39
▶	20 Carlisle	35	4	7	6	15	23	5	5	8	22	30	-16	39
▶	21 Mansfield	35	4	5	8	27	29	4	6	8	19	25	-8	35
▶	22 Morecambe	36	4	8	6	20	23	3	3	12	15	36	-24	32
▶	23 *Macclesfield	36	5	9	4	19	17	2	6	10	13	27	-12	30
▶	24 Stevenage	35	2	6	9	10	22	1	7	10	13	25	-24	22

*deducted 6pts for breaches of EFL regulations

Bradford 2
Richards-Everton 6
Connolly 45+2
Sent off: G Sawyer 40, A Sarcevic 84 (both Plymouth)

Plymouth 1
Hardie 87

Cambridge 1
Lambe 82
4,122

Carlisle 2
Alessandra 27
Anderton 73

Colchester 0
3,698

Cheltenhm 2
May 39
Hussey 79
Sent off: O Sowunmi (Colchester) 90+9

Exeter 1
Dickenson 82
5,404

Crawley 1
Nadesan 34

Forest Grn P
L Orient P
Postponed because of a waterlogged pitch

Grimsby 0
4,879

Northmptn 3
Goode 9
Morton 26, 82

Macclesfld 0
2,317

Salford 2
Hunter 30
Towell 37

Mansfield P
Swindon P
Postponed because of a waterlogged pitch

Morecombe 1
Wildig 68
2,872
Sent off: A Phillips (Morecambe) 90+4

Crewe 1
Ng 47

Oldham 5
Rowe 25, 52
Dearnley 27
Hamer 62
Smith 83

Newport 0
2,912

Port Vale 2
Cullen 16
Smith 78
5,121

Scunthorpe 2
Gilliead 71
Miller 90

Stevenage P
Walsall P
Postponed because of a waterlogged pitch

TOP SCORERS

23 Doyle (Swindon)
14 Maynard (Mansfield)
13 Palmer (Crawley)
13 Yates (Swindon)
12 Bowman (Exeter)
11 Lubala (Crawley)

TOP ASSISTS

14 Kirk (Crewe)
13 Williams (Exeter)
11 Adams (Northampton)
11 Worrall (Port Vale)
10 Cooper (Plymouth)
8 Woolery (Swindon)

TOP SAVES

132 Morris (Crawley)
121 Farman (Stevenage)
113 Collin (Carlisle)
104 Brown (Port Vale)
102 Palmer (Plymouth)
93 McKeown (Grimsby)



23

Fixtures

BetVictor Isthmian League

Premier division AFC Hornchurch 2 Haringey 1; Carshalton Athletic 4 Horsham 0; Wingate & Finchley 1 Lewes 1; Worthing 1 Potters Bar Town 1.

Buildbase FA Vase

Quarter-finals Hebburn Town 2 Plymouth Parkway 0; Wroxham 0 Bitton 4.

Women's League Cup final

Chelsea 2 Arsenal 1 (at The City Ground).

William Hill Scottish Cup quarter-finals

Hearts 1
Bozanic 58

Rangers 0
11,428

St Johnstone 0
8,181

Celtic 1
Christie 81

St Mirren 0
4,479

Aberdeen 2
Ferguson 7
Cosgrove 90+2 (pen)

Ladbrokes Championship

Alloa 0
915

Ayr 2
Drinan 9, Forrest 82

Dunfermline 2
Nisbet 26, Afolabi 60

Dundee United 0
6,261

Queen of South 0
1,116

Morton 4
Tumility 25
Nesbitt 44, Cadden 77
McGuffie 88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dundee Utd	26	18	3	5	51	21	30	57
Inverness CT	24	12	3	9	33	27	6	39
Ayr	24	12	2	10	38	33	5	38
Dundee	24	10	6	8	30	31	-1	36
Morton	26	10	5	11	42	48	-6	35
Dunfermline	25	10	4	11	39	34	5	34
Arbroath	24	10	4	10	23	25	-2	34
Alloa	26	6	9	11	31	43	-12	27
Queen of South	25	7	5	13	26	36	-10	26
Partick	24	6	5	13	30	45	-15	23

League One

Clyde 3 Falkirk 2; Dumbarton 1 Raith 0; Forfar 0 East Fife 1; Montrose 1 Airdrieonians 0.

League Two

Albion 1 Elgin 2; Brechin 0 Stirling Albion 2; Cowdenbeath 1 Edinburgh City 1; Queen's Park 2 Annan Athletic 0; Stenhousemuir 0 Cove Rangers 3.

Spanish league

Athletic Bilbao 1 Villarreal 0; Eibar 3 Levante 0; Espanyol 1 Atlético Madrid 1; Granada 0 Celta Vigo 0; Leganés 1 Alavés 1; Mallorca 0 Getafe 1; Real Madrid 2 Barcelona 0; Seville 3 Osasuna 2; Valencia 2 Real Betis 1.

Top of the table	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Madrid	26	16	8	2	48	17	31	56
Barcelona	26	17	4	5	62	31	31	55
Seville	26	13	7	6	37	27	10	46
Getafe	26	13	6	7	37	25	12	45
Atlético Madrid	26	11	11	4	29	19	10	44

Italian league

Cagliari 3 Roma 4; Lazio 2 Bologna 0; Lecce 2 Atalanta 7; Napoli 2 Torino 1.

Top of the table	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Lazio	26	19	5	2	60	23	37	62
Juventus	25	19	3	3	48	24	24	60
Inter Milan	24	16	6	2	49	22	27	54
Atalanta	25	14	6	5	70	34	36	48
Roma	26	13	6	7	51	35	16	45

German league

Augsburg 2 Borussia Mönchengladbach 3; Borussia Dortmund 1 Freiburg 0; Cologne 3 Schalke 0; Hoffenheim 0 Bayern Munich 6; Mainz 2 Paderborn 0; RB Leipzig 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1; Union Berlin 2 Wolfsburg 2. **Postponed** Werder Bremen v Eintracht Frankfurt.

Top of the table	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bayern Munich	24	16	4	4	71	26	45	52
RB Leipzig	24	14	7	3	62	26	36	49
B Dortmund	24	14	6	4	66	32	34	48
B M'gladbach	23	14	4	5	46	27	19	46
Bayer Leverkusen	24	13	5	6	41	30	11	44

French league

Amiens 0 Metz 1; Bordeaux 1 Nice 1; Brest 0 Angers 1; Lyons 2 Saint-Étienne 0; Monaco 1 Reims 1; Montpellier 3 Strasbourg 0; Nantes 0 Lille 1; Paris Saint-Germain 4 Dijon 0; Toulouse 0 Rennes 2.

Top of the table	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
PSG	27	22	2	3	75	24	51	68
Marseilles	27	16	7	4	39	27	12	55
Rennes	27	14	5	8	33	24	9	47
Lille	27	14	4	9	34	27	7	46
Lyons	27	11	7	9	42	26	16	40

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

Today

FA Cup: Fifth round Portsmouth v Arsenal.

Sky Bet Championship Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest.

Tomorrow

FA Cup: Fifth round Chelsea v Liverpool; Reading v Sheffield United (8.0); West Bromwich Albion v Newcastle United (8.0).

Sky Bet League One Ipswich v Fleetwood Town. **League Two** Exeter v Crewe; Plymouth Argyle v Grimsby; Swindon Town v Scunthorpe.

Vanarama National League AFC Fylde v Notts County; Barnet v Boreham Wood; Chesterfield v Harrogate Town; Chorley v Eastleigh; Halifax v Sutton United; Solihull Moors v Hartlepool.

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership Hibernian v Heart of Midlothian.

Ladbrokes Scottish Championship Ayr v Dundee United; Dundee v Alloa; Inverness Caledonian Thistle v Morton; Partick v Queen of South. **League One** Clyde v Montrose; Dumbarton v Forfar; Raith v Falkirk. **League Two** Cowdenbeath v Albion; Stirling Albion v Stenhousemuir.

Wednesday

FA Cup: Fifth round Leicester City v Birmingham; Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester City; Tottenham v Norwich.

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership Kilmarnock v Aberdeen; Livingston v Celtic; Motherwell v Ross County; Rangers v Hamilton; St Mirren v St Johnstone.

Ladbrokes Scottish Championship Arbroath v Dunfermline. **League Two** Brechin v Annan Athletic.

Thursday

FA Cup: Fifth round Derby v Manchester United

Friday

Sky Bet Championship Nottingham Forest v Millwall.

Women's SheBelieves Cup United States v England (midnight, at Exploria Stadium, Orlando, Florida).

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Saturday

Premier League Arsenal v West Ham; Burnley v Tottenham (5.30); Crystal Palace v Watford; Liverpool v Bournemouth (12.30); Sheffield United v Norwich; Southampton v Newcastle United; Wolverhampton Wanderers v Brighton.

Sky Bet Championship Barnsley v Cardiff; Birmingham v Reading; Brentford v Sheffield Wednesday; Bristol City v Fulham (12.30); Charlton v Middlesbrough; Leeds v Huddersfield; Preston v Queens Park Rangers; Stoke City v Hull; Swansea City v West Bromwich Albion; Wigan v Luton. **League One** AFC Wimbledon v Bolton; Accrington Stanley v Tranmere; Fleetwood Town v Blackpool; Ipswich v Coventry City; Lincoln City v Burton Albion; Milton Keynes Dons v Doncaster; Peterborough v Portsmouth; Rochdale v Rotherham; Shrewsbury v Oxford United; Southend United v Bristol Rovers; Sunderland v Gillingham. **League Two** Carlisle v Colchester; Cheltenham v Port Vale; Crawley Town v Oldham; Crewe v Stevenage; Leyton Orient v Cambridge United; Newport County v Morecambe; Northampton v Mansfield; Plymouth Argyle v Macclesfield; Salford City v Bradford City; Scunthorpe v Grimsby (1.0); Swindon Town v Forest Green; Walsall v Exeter.

Vanarama National League AFC Fylde v Solihull Moors; Aldershot v Dagenham & Redbridge; Barrow v Notts County; Chorley v Chesterfield; Dover v Yeovil; Halifax v Woking; Harrogate Town v Bromley (5.20); Hartlepool v Ebbsfleet United; Maidenhead United v Boreham Wood; Stockport County v Barnet; Sutton United v Torquay; Wrexham v Eastleigh.

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership Aberdeen v Hibernian; Celtic v St Mirren; Hamilton v Kilmarnock; Heart of Midlothian v Motherwell; St Johnstone v Livingston.

Ladbrokes Scottish Championship Alloa v Inverness Caledonian Thistle; Ayr v Dundee; Dundee United v Partick; Dunfermline v Queen of South; Morton v Arbroath. **League One** Airdrieonians v East Fife; Clyde v Dumbarton; Falkirk v Peterhead; Montrose v Stranraer; Raith v Forfar. **League Two** Annan Athletic v Cowdenbeath; Cove Rangers v Brechin; Edinburgh City v Albion; Elgin v Stirling Albion; Stenhousemuir v Queen's Park.

Sunday

Premier League Chelsea v Everton (2.0); Manchester United v Manchester City (4.30).

Sky Bet Championship Derby County v Blackburn Rovers.

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership Ross County v Rangers (midday).

Women's SheBelieves Cup Japan v England (6.15, at Red Bull Arena, Harrison, New Jersey).

MOLLY HUDSON



The expert eye on the women's game

Resilience is a recurring word in Chelsea's season, and none more so than in their defiant, 2-1 win against Arsenal in the Continental Cup final. Arsenal were the better side for long periods, dominating possession and peppering Chelsea's goal, and yet as the winning manager, Emma Hayes, said post-match, "It's just about getting one more goal than the opponent."

It wasn't pretty for Chelsea, but little did they care, as Beth England scrambled home in stoppage time from one yard out to send Hayes, sporting a green coat in tribute to Brian Clough, into jubilant celebrations on the touchline at the City Ground.

"The better team did not win the game; the most resilient team won the game, and I value defending, and I value resilience," Hayes said. "It isn't always about being the best team, it isn't always about possessing the ball the most."

While Ann-Katrin Berger produced a heroic display in the Chelsea goal to prevent Arsenal striker Vivianne Miedema from finding the net, England produced a display of clinical finishing to earn the player-of-the-match award, alongside her two goals, taking her to 21 goals in all club competitions this season. Her first, nine minutes in, showed the close control and killer instincts making her the most in-form striker in the country.

It has not always been this way. Having joined the club in 2016, England struggled for consistency and game time, and went on loan to Liverpool, who were in the middle of a tough spell. Moments like Saturday night felt a long way away, at least in the blue of Chelsea, she admitted.

"My confidence was always [something] I did battle with and I have had a lot of people help to try and boost that," she said. "Thankfully I am in a position now where I am much more grown-up, mentally as well as physically."

While the Continental Cup is seen as the least-prestigious trophy, the manner of Chelsea's victory may prove a landmark moment in their bid for a domestic treble. Reacting to Leah Williamson's 85th-minute equaliser, Hayes said, showed how far her team had developed this season. With their first Continental Cup secured, one point off the top of the league with a game in hand, and in the FA Cup quarter-finals, Hayes could be forgiven for taking a moment to be satisfied.

"My sister sent me lists of [Clough] quotes this morning, my favourite one being this — she sent me it twice so clearly she wanted me to read it out to you guys: 'I wouldn't say I'm the best manager in the business but I was in the top one.' Well, I'm there today. I'll take that today," Hayes said.

TOMMY CONLON





CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

Liverpool had the chance to better Arsenal, who drew 12 games in their famed season

Liverpool may not appreciate for decades what they lost at Watford

"You don't know what you've got till it's gone," sang Joni Mitchell, but maybe in Liverpool's case they will never know what has gone because they didn't get it in the first place. But it was there waiting for them, an invincible season, and unless they do it in the years to come, they will never know the prize from history that they lost at Vicarage Road on Saturday. And in the not knowing, perhaps they will be protected from regret.

Only one living team in England can tell them what they really would have gained: the Arsenal immortals of 2003-04. They, by their own accounts, did not know either until they actually achieved it. Thierry Henry called it "the invisible prize". And if it is invisible, then maybe it cannot hurt the way it would hurt if the title itself was taken from a side's grasp. That is the great prize of English sport and there is nothing opaque or amorphous about its honour and prestige. The title is the thing.

And so when Arsenal won the title on April 25, 2004, their remaining four games were still an afterthought. They had made enough history already. They hadn't considered the statistical Everest much at all until the Premier League trophy was secured. It seems it was only then that they realised how close to the summit they were — to the prize hidden beyond the prize.

Physically and emotionally they hit the wall when they clinched the championship, at White Hart Lane as it happened, with a 2-2 draw. Now they were like the marathon runner who crosses the line first and raises his arms, only to be told there was another mile to be done. And they got it done, just about, with two more draws, against Birmingham City and Portsmouth, and two narrow wins, against Fulham and then Leicester City on the final day. They survived their own exhaustion, and ambivalence, to see out the season undefeated.

Professional sportspeople strive to live in the perpetual present; they may take a glimpse at the future but they usually bury the past without a backwards glance. They are therefore just about the last people on earth to have a historical perspective, even while they are making history. Staying in the moment is not conducive to surveying the grander vista.

So it seems that for many of those Arsenal players, it wasn't until the tranquillity of retirement that the invisible prize started to materialise in all its splendour. It needed to sit in the cask and slowly mature, and turn to amber, then gold. And boy, do they appreciate it now. It seems to have brought them the most profound fulfilment.

Amy Lawrence told the story of that season in her 2014 book, *Invincible*. Dennis Bergkamp, for one, was still discovering its pleasurable depths ten years on. "I truly believe that with each year that passes, you realise even more how special it was," he told Lawrence.

"At the time," recalled Henry, "I don't think we realised how big a deal it actually was."

Freddie Ljungberg said: "It's been more since I retired that I notice how big it was. I would say I'm more proud of it than I was when I played."

Patrick Vieira: "Now I am retired I realise how important and big it was."

Robert Pirès: "Even today people talk about the Invincibles. It's great that we entered into the history of the club."

Liverpool's present squad may never get a better chance again. Which is not to say they will be racked by remorse either. But with the title race already over bar the shouting, they could have broken the habit of a sportsman's lifetime by taking their eye off the immediate prize to better appreciate the historic possibilities that awaited them. As it turned out, they took their eye off the ball anyway, and promptly blotted their otherwise pristine record. They played on Saturday like a team who knew full well that they could not be caught.

But what if they had played like a team who wanted to reach beyond the Premier League trophy and into the rarest of record books?

They could, in fact, have blown Arsenal's hallowed record out of the water. The team of 2003-04 had 12 draws that season. In this campaign, Liverpool have had only one draw — against Manchester United — and a phenomenal 26 wins. What they are doing this season is still phenomenal but the L column is no longer immaculately bare.

Any lingering regrets from the 3-0 shock defeat by Watford will be washed away in the deluge of joy that will come with the title. Bringing the championship back to Liverpool after 30 years is no routine piece of history. They are closing in on a momentous achievement.

Still, if the Invincibles didn't know what they had got until years later, they know for sure now it will never be gone, for as long as they live. No one is paving paradise and putting up a parking lot here. They know how beautiful it is.

Liverpool's players may never regret it, because there will be ample compensations to come, and because if you never had something, you are less likely to miss it.

But the Arsenal boys know the feeling and they would not swap it for the world.

Jarrod Bowen scored for West Ham United on his full debut on Saturday and BT Sport viewers were informed that Jarrod's auld fella, Sam Bowen, could have played for West Ham too. Sam was banging the goals in at Merthyr Tydfil FC in the mid-Nineties and Harry Redknapp wanted him but Merthyr asked for too much.

They changed their name to Merthyr Town in 2010 after going into liquidation but their nickname survived. The Martyrs have suffered in the non-League gulags for over a century and the financial crisis ten years ago happened, their website says, "despite a televised FA Cup match against Walsall in 2005". And if Walsall couldn't save them, who could? Their own fans, it seems.

The Martyrs to the Cause Supporters Trust kept the club going and the team still play in the Southern League at their spiritual home, Penydarren Park. A fanzine rejoices in the handle, *Dial M For Merthyr*. What's not to love?

---

thegame

Coventry go top thanks to Godden

NARYAN BRANCH

Coventry	Sunderland
1	0

Mark Robins witnessed his Coventry City side jump to the summit of Sky Bet League One, leaving the club in prime position to end their eight-year exile from the second tier after beating Sunderland in a frenetic clash.

In Robins' 200th game in charge of the club, Matty Godden, their leading scorer, lashed the ball into the bottom left-hand corner after just two minutes after Jamie Allen slipped a deft ball through to him.

Robins revelled in the win against a promotion-chasing rival. He said: "It was a brilliant start and one we needed against a strong, powerful team that are full of confidence."

Sunderland recovered from the shock to create a number of opportunities, often via Chris Maguire's set pieces, and they thought they had earned a point 16 minutes from time as Max Power's shot deflected off team-mate Luke O'Nien and into the net only for it to be correctly chalked off for offside.

Phil Parkinson, the Sunderland manager, lamented his team's start. "It's very annoying after conceding early against Fleetwood too," he said. "The lads are disappointed, [but] you get knocked back and you've got to come back again fighting."

LEAGUE ONE ROUND-UP

Team performance of the week Glyn Hodges' **AFC Wimbledon** side moved another step towards safety with an impressive 2-1 win at Gillingham that leaves them eight points clear of the relegation places.

Individual performance of the week Karl Robinson, the Oxford United manager, praised **Matty Taylor** for the way he kept his nerve to secure his side's 2-1 win over Southend with a late finish.

Rising Star The Burton goalkeeper **Kieran O'Hara**, 23, helped protect the point earned by John Brayford's equaliser with an excellent late save.

LEAGUE TWO ROUND-UP

Team performance of the week Growing off-field problems were put to one side by **Oldham Athletic**, who responded to a winding-up petition from HMRC on Friday by thrashing Newport County 5-0.

Individual performance of the week The demand from Bradford City manager Stuart McCall for his side to pose more of a threat from set pieces was answered by centre back **Ben Richards-Everton**, who scored the opening goal in the 2-1 defeat of Plymouth Argyle.

Rising Star Northampton Town strengthened their play-off challenge thanks to **Callum Morton**, their 20-year-old forward, who scored twice in a 3-0 win at Grimsby Town.

Villains of the week Double disaster for Plymouth as defender **Gary Sawyer** was sent off for a first-half challenge and was later joined in the dressing room by team-mate **Antoni Sarcevic** as their side lost ground in the promotion race at Bradford.

TIMES 2

March 2 | **2020**



Bringing up baby at No 10

What Carrie and Boris need to know

Lady Gaga isn't the only star looking for a 'normal boyfriend'. I've been there



Kevin Maher

People are so strange. You'd swear it was the end time. First it's accelerated climate change. Then it's coronavirus. Now, worst of all, global hysteria seems to have coalesced around how the pop-singing provocatrice Lady Gaga has acquired a "normal boyfriend".

Yes, his name is Mike, and he's not a Hollywood megastar, a rapper, a basketball-playing legend, a hardened rocker or a rebellious free-spirited artist (the usual job descriptions for male partners of female celebrity icons: see Madonna, Jennifer Lopez, Taylor Swift etc). He is, instead, a tech nerd and he wears jeans and has, you know, a face, and a body, and hair. Like an actual, real-life person.

Mike's ex-girlfriend, however, who works for *The New York Times*, wrote an article about the shock of seeing him canoodle with Gaga, and the online universe seemed to agree. "What's Gaga doing with a normal boyfriend?" summed up the collective response. "How's that going to work? And how did she even go about getting a normal boyfriend?"

Well, I don't mean to brag, but it's easier than you might think. I was once nearly the proverbial normal boyfriend. She was an actress on the rise and had starred in a well-regarded horror movie, and was over here, in London, doing press. I was then a strapping young buck with dreams of literary greatness in my heart and barely two years of actual journalism under my belt. I met her in a café in Notting Hill in London. We talked about her film. I had broken it down, as I still do today, into fascinating discussion topics based on the overriding themes, the narrative structure and its ultimate relationship with the horror genre and the shifting cultural norms within which that genre is produced. I'm brilliant like that. I've got it covered.

I don't remember anything especially flirty happening during the interview. Even back then, way before the film industry's eventual reckoning with its pervasive sexism, there was always something hugely creepy about meeting fellow male journalists who would emerge, flush-faced, from a junket interview with, say, Sigourney



Weaver and announce, "She was all over me. She was gagging for it!" So my preferred interview mode was always, and remains, "tremulous, introverted nerd". And, also, more importantly, it's just not fair to dazzle them with the real me. There's only so many Hollywood hearts you can break.

Meanwhile, we took a taxi to the photo shoot. Again, the chat continued, my Dictaphone recording, as she spoke about her early career roles, the reason she wanted to act and her performance "method". Honestly, those last two? You never use them. In fact, during those bits you mostly want to poke your eyes out, but it's good to keep the conversation flowing at all times. It's professional.

I left before the shoot began and as we shook hands I noticed something dancing about the eyes. A little spark of curiosity. "Must have been the cultural norms," I thought. I wasn't surprised then when she called me later and asked to meet up, that very evening, for a drink. "She simply can't get enough of film theory," I thought. I didn't blame her. It's fascinating stuff.

We met in a bar in Soho and chatted, still about film, but also about London and life in general. When she asked about my ring and I replied that it was a recent birthday gift from my girlfriend, my long-term girlfriend, her face twisted into a rictus of horror. She was gone, out the door and into a taxi, within ten minutes. I realised then, too late, that we weren't there for that chat. I wasn't a potential buddy of a rising film star. It was worse than that. I was normal boyfriend material.

A close shave with Covid-19

Who knew that one of the secondary impacts of coronavirus would be a potential outbreak of creative facial topiary?

Rough, unruly beards and even substantial levels of stubble apparently limit the effectiveness of medical masks, so the NHS has issued guidelines on the type of lip foliage that is acceptable in the fight against Covid-19.

Men are being encouraged to shave off beards altogether, to stick strictly to moustaches and to aim for the Zorro (suave and very neat pencil lines) and the Zappa (after the mustachioed guitarist Frank Zappa and not to be confused with the Zapata, after Emiliano Zapata, which is just massive).

I mostly go — every fortnight — for the Magnum, PI. I leave it there, resplendent and mildly itchy, for a day or two, then shave it off — but not before witnessing, if only for a bizarre minute or two, alone in front of the bathroom mirror, the Hitler.

The best thing about the Hitler, I suppose, is that it fits neatly under a medical mask. Which makes it hygienic and profoundly disturbing.

So, is it your pod or mine?

I'm not completely convinced by the new economy class sleeping pods — aka full-length beds — that have been introduced by Air New Zealand.

The pods — which measure 200cm by 58cm and are equipped with full-size pillows and sheets — will be available to hire by the hour during the airline's long-haul flights as early as next year.

Which is lovely for those of us with longer legs who fancy a proper stretch. But what about, well, the bonking?

When asked if they were worried at all about customers using their beds to become part of the mile-high club, a spokesman for Air New Zealand said: "Our crew have procedures for all those kinds of things."

Obviously what I am now thinking is: "Cattle prods?"

Still recycling?

There's a new strategy to win the war on waste: first it was plastic bags, now they are coming for your packaging. Harry Wallop tries living without it

Some draw the line at going vegan, others at refusing to step on a jumbo jet again. My bridge too far in the war on climate change is a deodorant. I'm prepared to do many things to save my children from an eco-apocalypse, but I balk at the following instructions: "Hold the stick on your armpit to allow the warmth of your body to soften the deodorant…"

This sandalwood and bergamot block may be cruelty-free, handmade and packaged in recyclable cardboard, but as I stand in the bathroom with what feels like a candle rammed in my armpit, I am cursing Greta Thunberg and willing the ice caps to melt.

The product is part of a package of eco-friendly household goods put together by Bower Collective, whose co-founder Nick Torday insists that the mango butter and candelilla wax concoction works. "I've been using it for six months now. And people stand close to me, hug me and, you know…" he tails off, suggesting that his marriage has not suffered.

The company, which launched just before Christmas, is part retail website, part subscription service. You can sign up for regular deliveries or buy just one or two items, but everything it sells is designed to cut down on plastic waste in your home. There are beeswax (rather than clingfilm) food wrappers, loo roll made from bamboo pulp and packaged in a paper bag, toothpaste that you scoop out of a glass jar, and Mooncups, which are latex-free, washable menstrual devices sold as an alternative to tampons.

So far, so knitted yoghurt. What makes Bower Collective clever, though, is its washing products — for clothes, dishes and your body. These liquids come in large plastic pouches that you decant into rather stylish glass or plastic dispensers. The empty pouches, which can be squashed flat, are then sent back in a pre-paid envelope. Bower washes the pouches, then reuses them for other customers.

Some may think that the use of plastic pouches is a flaw in its system. Bower's other co-founder, Marcus Hill, disagrees. "Used in the right way it is a wonder material. It's strong, it's light, it's cheap. If it ends up in landfill or, worse, shipped abroad and dumped in a field in Malaysia, that's the problem."

The scheme is in its very early days, with fewer than 1,000 customers, but Torday and Hill reckon that each thin, plastic pouch can be used up to ten times before it needs to be recycled.

Torday, 43, and Hill, 42, may sound a bit hippyish. The former is married to a yoga teacher, has three children and lives in Somerset; the latter lives in Wiltshire, is also married with three young children and is using reusable nappies and washable bamboo baby wipes on his youngest son. "You have to give them a bit of a rinse first before putting them in the washing machine," he says, pulling a face before admitting that his wife, Anna, bares the brunt of this decision to banish wet wipes from the home.

However, the pair, who met at Eton, have big ambitions. "Our vision is to be the Ocado of sustainable retail," Torday says. The company is backed by an investment firm called Founders Factory that was started by Brent Hoberman, another old Etonian and the man who made a fortune from Lastminute.com. Torday used to run a technology consulting business that worked for the United Nations and Greenpeace. Hill ran a successful eco-packaging company, which he sold to a multinational company for "an undisclosed seven-figure sum — not enough to retire in the Bahamas, but enough to keep me going for a bit".

Bower is tapping into a simple idea that is suddenly back in fashion: refills. Lloyd Atkin is the managing director of Bio-D, which supplies Bower with much of its detergent and liquid soaps. For years it has been selling its ecologically friendly products (made in Hull) to independent shops, where consumers can refill their bottles. He says there was a sea change in behaviour after David Attenborough's *Blue Planet II* programme in 2017. "Two years ago about 3 per cent of our sales were refills; it is now 10 per cent."

These shoppers are still "extreme ethical consumers", according to Atkin, but could that be about to change? Paula Chin is a sustainable materials specialist at WWF, the conservation

> **Plastic is strong, it's cheap. Used in the right way it's a wonder material**

charity that has been campaigning against plastic pollution. She says: "We're poised on the edge of a refill and reuse revolution. However, there are still big challenges. One is piquing consumers' interest — finding the right way to allow them to buy into reuse without inconveniencing them too much. That's why an online scheme is interesting."

Of course, many of us grew up with a pretty perfect system of returning bottles: the milkman. Indeed, Milk & More, the delivery service that took over Dairy Crest, says that last year 70,000 new customers signed up to using reusable glass bottles rather than recyclable plastic ones, double the number of previous years.

Reuse — rather than recycle — is being embraced by all sorts of big businesses, keen to do their bit to combat climate change and pollution. Last year Waitrose converted four

It's all about refilling now



GETTY IMAGES



Six ways to be an eco-shopper

Ecover and Bio-D
ecover.com; biodegradable.biz
Owned by the consumer giant SC Johnson, Ecover mostly uses plant-based rather than fossil-fuel-derived ingredients. You can refill its washing-up liquids, soap and other products at quite a few health-food shops, as well as Booths, the upmarket supermarket chain.

Bio-D, its main rival, makes all its products in the UK and also has refill stations in various health-food shops.

Neal's Yard Remedies
nealsyardremedies.com
Bring in clean, empty bottles of Geranium & Orange Hand Wash and Bee Lovely Bath & Shower Gel and they can be refilled in its stores. You save £2 on a new bottle. Body Shop is testing refill stations for its shower gels at its Oxford Street branch in London.

Beauty Kitchen
beautykitchen.co.uk
A beauty brand that boasts that nearly all of its moisturiser, shampoo and soap packaging can be dropped off at a Holland & Barrett. Only one shop offers refills — the new flagship Boots in Covent Garden, London.

Milk & More
milkandmore.co.uk
This doorstep delivery service focuses heavily on its eco-credentials, also selling Troo granola (delicious and packaged in paper bags), Panda loo roll and kitchen towels made of bamboo, and beeswax wraps. Its milk in glass bottles, however, is expensive. A pint of semi-skimmed in a glass bottle is 81p a pint, compared with 50p at Tesco.

To find a milkman in your area, try findmeamilkman.net

The London Sock Exchange
thelondonsockexchange.net
For £20 a quarter, receive three new pairs of socks every three months, send back your old socks in the prepaid envelope and they will be recycled.

Ink Cartridges
therecyclingfactory.com
Print off a Freepost label, send off your old, empty printer ink cartridges and earn up to £1 in return. It is paid to you via a bank transfer or you can choose to donate the money to charity.

stores into its "unpacked" format, where a significant number of items are sold loose — customers can put them into containers they've brought from home. It says that, so far, sales of refillables at the four shops are outselling their packaged equivalent by 68 per cent. Admittedly, Waitrose has chosen shops in well-heeled Oxfordshire and Cheltenham, places where shoppers may be more willing to fill hessian sacks with lentils.



Bower Collective produces refills for household products

Asda is soon to start a trial at its Leeds store and crucially — unlike Waitrose — is signing up a number of big brands, such as Kellogg's and PG Tips, which have agreed to sell their products loose. And in March Tesco is launching a service called Loop, which was tested in the US last year. Loop is a scheme owned by Unilever, the owner of some of the world's biggest brands that come in heavy-duty packaging: Persil, Marmite, Domestos, Carte d'Or, Dove and Sure deodorant. The idea is that you buy (through Tesco) various Unilever products that have been packaged in reusable metal or glass containers, be it Dove conditioner or Hellmann's mayonnaise. You have to pay a £3 or so surcharge for the containers, but you can then send them back to be washed and refilled.

Isn't Torday worried that Unilever, a global packaging behemoth, and Tesco, Britain's biggest retailer, will steal Bower's thunder? He says no, pointing out that the brands in the Loop scheme — at least so far in the US — are neither "particularly interesting or desirable", certainly not from a sustainable point of view. And consumers need to pay a premium to have them packaged in reusable metal containers.

Of course, the real test is whether consumers are prepared to change their behaviour and take that little extra step — in the case of Bower, decanting liquids into dispensers and sending back the empty pouches.

I'm not sure I could stand the faff of refilling my bottles of washing-up liquid in a supermarket, but over the kitchen sink it wasn't too much of a bother. And the prices that Bower charges seem reasonable. Take washing-up liquid. Fairy Platinum at Tesco costs £2.88 a litre; the Bower washing-up liquid, which cleaned my dishes perfectly well, is £2.93 a litre; the fabric conditioner is more expensive than Lenor, but about the same price as Ecover, the environmentally friendly brand. "They are a premium price, but only compared with products full of nasty chemicals that are very cheap to manufacture on a massive scale," Hill says.

And most of what Bower sells, for all its Greenham Common vibe, is genuinely high quality. The hand soap, made by Bio-D, smells fresher than my normal hand wash. The recycled aluminium foil is just as good as my Waitrose Essential version. The loo roll does the job, as it were, and is indistinguishable from the brand with the fluffy puppy. The best product? Strangely, the cardboard tube of deodorant not only smells lovely, but is far more effective than the aerosol brand I have been using for the past decade, quietly polluting the planet and my lungs. It turns out that I am not prepared to go vegan or ditch air travel, but I am willing to melt some wax into my armpit to save the planet. I have put in another order.

The lowdown
Cynthia Nixon

Be a lady.
What's that supposed to mean?

Exactly.
I once read that it meant not taking the last biscuit. Is that helpful?

No.
You're very stern today. Smile!

I'm channelling my idols.
Oh. Are they barristers?

Try female pop culture icons.
Aren't those types usually jolly?

Another unrealistic expectation of women from the patriarchy!
Er, I'm not the patriarchy.

Everyone is. Except women. Just watch Cynthia Nixon's viral video, *Be a Lady They Said*, and see.
I've googled it. I don't want to.

Why?
She looks scary.

Sigh. That's the point. The three-minute video shows Nixon list the impossible expectations that women have to cope with.
Hmm. Dare I ask… like what?

Like: be thin, but not too thin. Dress sexy, but not like you're asking for it. Be ambitious, but don't get angry about it. It's had millions of views, so don't hmm me.
Hmm. Why don't you tell me about your other idol, sweetie?

Taylor Swift!
What's she been up to?

She also released a video last week — for her song, *The Man*.
Uh oh. I feel seen.

You'd better. The lyrics are about how much better off Swift thinks she would be if she were a man. Eg "I'm so sick of running as fast as I can, wondering if I'd get there quicker if I was a man."
And the video?

Swift is dressed as a man, playing out all of the woke tropes — manspreading, having tantrums, lounging on a yacht with multiple girlfriends etc. She calls out Harvey Weinstein and Scooter Braun.
Scooter Braun? Is that some sort of lothario cartoon?

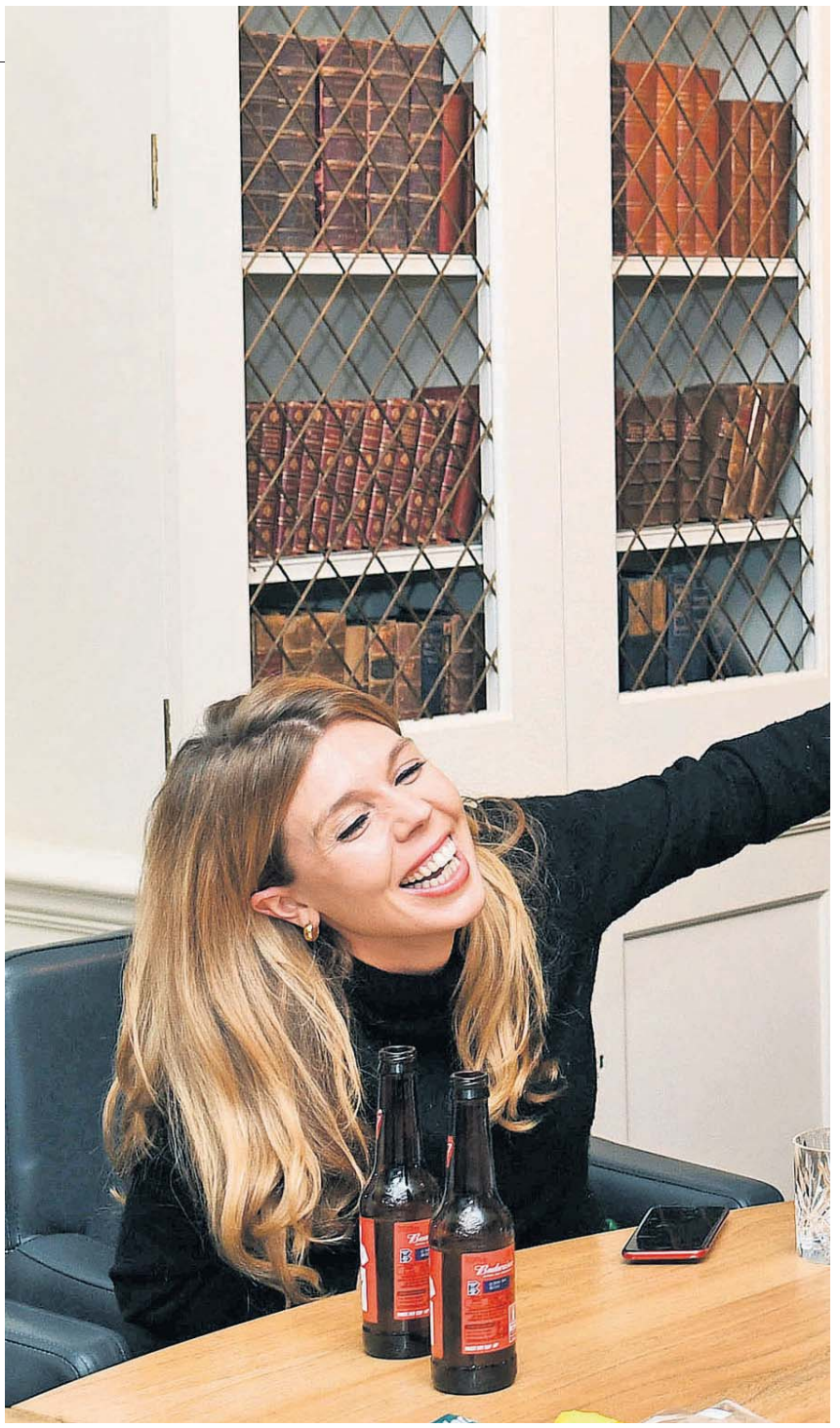
He's the record executive that she is in a feud with over the rights to her music. Hey, where are you going?
Too many angry women. I'm off to self-isolate.



Hannah Rogers

Red boxes and sleepless nights — what's in store for Carrie

With a baby on the way, Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson might want to take tips from previous Downing Street parents. Helen Rumbelow looks at a 21st-century trend, from Cherie Blair to Sam Cam



Right: Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson watch the 2019 Election results in No 10. Below: David and Samantha Cameron with baby Florence in 2010

The 18th-century word "confinement" seems apt for Carrie Symonds: for months she has been shut away in historic buildings, free from prying camera lenses. Now that Carrie is officially pregnant, at first glance it seems business as usual for a 21st-century Downing Street, which has only once this century — when Theresa May was prime minister — had an occupant without school-age children. Babies have arrived every decade: Leo Blair in 2000, Florence Cameron in 2010, and now the Boris baby, like the Boris bus, will be along in his or her own sweet time.

Downing Street, baby-free for a century and a half, has, by Blair and Cameron, been flipped into a nursery. The buggy will be back in the hall tripping up foreign dignitaries and the prime ministerial car full of soft toys; the garden keeps its Cameron-installed climbing frames.

In fact, there is a crucial difference. The present "first lady" of Downing Street will be its first first-time mother, according to records going back to the establishment of the role of prime minister in 1721.

In doing so Carrie marks a cultural shift: Leo Blair and Florence Cameron were late additions to established families. Their parents' long, stable marriages were as traditional as the spin doctors used to insist. In fact, they shared much with the Victorian baby born in Downing Street to Lord Russell in 1848.

Carrie and Boris have announced their engagement yet their baby will be born into transformed social mores, where, as the Office for National Statistics revealed this year, the number of cohabiting couple families — up 26 per cent over the past decade — is growing faster than that of married couple families.

Carrie is 31 and Boris 24 years her senior: a generation's difference. That is not just unconventional in itself; she brings with her a modern acceptance of the explosion of the nuclear family. While Carrie is a first-time mother, Boris occupies the other end of the spectrum. He will, notoriously, not confirm the number of his children from his multiple relationships; it is known that he has four with his second wife, offspring who will become adult half-siblings to the new addition.

Likewise, Britain, long comfortable with divorce or separation, is now at ease with all kinds of familial permutations that would at one stage have been electoral, if not village, gossip poison. Blended households of step and half-siblings are common, single parents head a quarter of families, and the number of same-sex couple families has grown by more than 50 per cent since 2015.

Three infants grew up in Downing Street. Leo Blair spent the most time there, from birth to seven. Then James Fraser Brown arrived from next door aged 11 months (his older brother was three). Finally Florence Cameron, born there, left at the age of six. The sudden fashion for newborns in 21st-century Downing Street was born of a confluence of trends for younger prime ministers and older parents. In all cases their parents grappled with the surreal nature of growing up in an 18th-century secure unit.

"Downing Street and Chequers, it's the only life he's known," Tony Blair said wonderingly of Leo in an interview, while Cameron wrote in his recent autobiography, *For the Record*, of his daughter Flo popping out of the "shiny black door" and scooting down Downing Street to nursery, pursued by her father and a plain-clothes protection officer. "'Hello, Flo,' beams the first police officer she passes, his finger on the trigger of a machine gun… This is the only world she has ever known."



All these Downing Street parents try their best to preserve "normality", but, really, is it possible with the kids, as Cameron recalls, clambering across the green baize of the cabinet table? Cameron stated that for the children there was "no distinction between home areas and work areas, it was all theirs. It was one giant labyrinth to explore." When the chief of the defence staff, decked in medals, arrived at Downing Street for a serious briefing he was confronted by the toddler Florence "sitting on the black-and-white checkered floor of the hallway, asking him, 'What are YOU doing in MY house?'"

Yet while Blair, Cameron and Sarah Brown have spoken fondly of babies in Downing Street, Blair declaring Leo's birth the highlight of his time there, we have only Cherie Blair to rely on for the truth about its dark side. With the large gap between the Blairs' older children and Leo, making Leo something of an only child, they are the closest model for the family currently in No 10.

> **"Carrie is younger and less experienced than her predecessors**

Carrie is younger and less experienced than her predecessors and may feel less confident, more isolated. Possibly her role is more similar to that of the young Princess Diana, arriving at Buckingham Palace and navigating the pressures of the establishment and an institution where officials constantly intrude in a new way, new ways often being the lonelier way.

As Cherie overshared in her memoir, *Speaking for Myself*, Leo was conceived at Balmoral. Cherie had been mortified on a previous visit when butlers unpacked her "distinctly ancient" toiletries bag, so did not bring her "contraceptive equipment, out of sheer embarrassment", and, well, it was cold in Scotland.

Cherie's book shows the harsher realities of political conception. The

COVER: STEFAN ROUSSEAU/AFP/GETTY; BELOW: ANDREW PARSONS/I-IMAGES



Below: Tony and Cherie Blair and their children Euan, Kathryn, Leo and Nicholas in 2001. Gordon and Sarah Brown with baby James Fraser in 2006





first thoughts are not of excitement or the grandparents. When Cherie tells Tony that the pregnancy test is positive his reaction goes like this: "Oh my God," then immediately, "We'll have to tell Alastair," as in Campbell, the Blair spin doctor in chief. Surely Dominic Cummings would have been one of the first to know of Carrie's test result, although he may well have claimed to have predicted it.

A marker of how much the machine of politics interferes with the most intimate parts of a prime minister's relationship is the story of what happened when, a couple of years later, Cherie had a final pregnancy that ended in miscarriage.

She recalled in her book that, on returning to Downing Street after the diagnosis, "the flat was empty and silent. I walked upstairs suddenly feeling very, very old, and crawled between the sheets and just lay there, strange sounds ringing in my ears. Only when Tony got through did I let go. He said he would come up to London straight away. Twenty minutes later he called back. He hoped I understood, but he had to tell Alastair [Campbell]. Ah, yes. Alastair. I lay there just waiting."

During her pregnancy with Leo, Cherie endured some severe morning sickness while trying to avoid the public eye. At one point she vomited all over the table of a public train carriage, which was thankfully unwitnessed, "all the time thinking: this is hard, hard, hard". Later she is chauffeured by a No 10 driver, but it goes no better and he suddenly has to produce a bucket and hold it for her.

Cherie was understandably daunted. Even while acknowledging that she has more material advantage than most mothers, it came at a price. Every 21st-century young family in Downing Street has employed a nanny, but the Blairs' nanny tried to publish a book about their first three children and it was blocked. Cherie burst into tears while talking to an old friend, and wrote in her memoir: "How can I possibly do all this in Downing Street?"

Cherie, unable to sleep at night due to her growing bump, would turn off the lights and stare out of the back of the building, towards the gate at St James's that was favoured by the family. There, unseen, she would look at the photographers waiting for 24 hours, in shifts, for her to emerge. A cinematic scene like this is surely the material for a dramatisation of the complicated set-up in the present Downing Street.

When at the hospital in labour, Cherie talked about hearing that the press had got wind of the story and gathered outside. Her contractions stopped. "The thought of that phalanx of photographers was enough to freeze me." The couple's protection officers "put their heads around the door to say hello" and "every one of them looked as if he was going to be sick".

Cherie was not sentimental about her husband attending the birth. She recalls her first birth, Euan, and Tony's assistance. Some might wonder if Carrie will share any of these sentiments.

"It would be nice to say that his presence had made all the difference. It would be wrong. He was completely useless," Cherie reported. "My last thoughts as I went to sleep that night were of my husband: I hate this man."

Sometimes the Blairs drew a line between politics and privacy that would become a deeper and more significant national story. When Leo was a few months old he was faced with his routine MMR vaccination. This was a divisive vaccine at the time, wrongly associated with a risk of autism. The Blairs' personal endorsement would have boosted waning confidence in the vaccine, but the Blairs refused to reveal if Leo had been jabbed. Cherie later said that she did give Leo the MMR at the right time — "It's irresponsible not to" — but she was "adamant" that she would not sacrifice her baby's privacy in this way.

> **Aides did not approve of Leo Blair sleeping in his parents' bedroom for months**

For that era of Downing Street dads, time spent on paternity leave or baby care became culturally important. This is an expectation that Boris will find has changed markedly in the decades since his last baby with his second wife. "When the kids were four, two and nothing, I got up two or three times a night," Tony Blair told one interviewer, a claim not made by Boris.

Aides were disapproving that Leo Blair slept in his parents' bedroom for the first few months, saying that it was tiring out the premier. Cherie, according to Tony, slept right through: "It takes a minor nuclear explosion to wake her." When Leo was nine months old Tony was asked by *The Independent* if he took "his turn" soothing the baby. "What do you mean, 'It's my turn'?" Blair responded. "It's pretty well impossible to wake Cherie when she's asleep. So the night-time tends to be my shift… and he's teething."

Debates raged over the practicality of this arrangement: could egalitarian gender roles be sacrificed for the greater good of a political leader able to keep his eyes open? Even at the most high-level international summits, Leo came too; by the time he was five months old he had been on five foreign trips with his parents, including to New York. There Bill Clinton met baby Leo; just minutes before, the child had explosively filled his nappy. There are no right answers for Boris.

The Blairs were the first to move into the more spacious flat in No 11 because of their children outnumbering the chancellor's. That arrangement has mostly held since (excepting May, who lived in No 10). Rishi Sunak, the chancellor, has the run of the smaller No 10, despite having two daughters.

Samantha Cameron was able to adapt the flat at No 11 before the Camerons moved in, whereas when the Blairs took it over it still smelt of Kenneth Clarke's cigars. All recent Downing Street families have said that they vastly prefer Chequers anyway; it has become supremely baby-friendly. The lawn has been adapted for football, and Blair and Campbell played football there with their children and detectives. The newly heated indoor swimming pool is equipped with armbands, while Victory Drive is perfect for bicycles with stabilisers.

Even in Downing Street, long gone are the days when Harold Macmillan had to put up a sign for his grandchildren saying: "No roller skating in the corridors today, Cabinet meeting." Peter Stothard wrote a book, *Thirty Days*, shadowing Tony Blair in the intensely fraught days before the Iraq war. Leo, who was then two years old, is an innocent, oblivious source of relief.

As Blair and their team discuss ordering troops to risk their lives, they spend long days in Downing Street, where "in the half-darkness the rooms resemble the site of a hastily finished children's party. The Thomas the Tank Engine train set is overflowing its box. At the bottom of the stairs, as though beguiling the prime minister to stumble, is a baby-sized drum kit with BAND in large letters on the bass. The music on the piano is the second page of *I Tawt I Taw a Puddy Tat*." After the war cabinet leaves the building, Leo delivers his father a Wagon Wheels biscuit, which he shares, distractedly, with Campbell.

One evening, during the Iraq war, Leo asked his unusually quiet father if he was worried about something. His father admitted: "I've got something on my mind at the moment." Leo replied: "Daddy, I know what you mean because I can't find my dinosaur and it's really worrying me too and I can't stop thinking about it." Boris is not usually burdened by an excess of gravitas; by contrast he sometimes lacks for responsibility. Maybe, in the opposite way to Leo, the new Boris baby will prove every bit as effective.

life

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

My six-year-old grandson wets himself and gets upset about it and we don't know what to do

Q **I have two grandsons, aged six and nine, both bright, intelligent boys with two interested parents in a happy home. The six-year-old can be the perfect child, but can also be very rude and shouty. When he is told off he can become hysterical — he feels embarrassed and doesn't like to be wrong or caught out. This never happens at school, where he is always well behaved.**

He has friends and works hard at school. He does, however, wet his trousers regularly — mostly at school, but sometimes at home. He always denies this and gets really defensive and angry when you try to help him to change or clean him up. We have all tried to be patient and not make a big thing about it and have used reward charts, which worked for a while. Interestingly, over the Christmas holidays there were very few accidents.

I help out in his school and he seems very much part of the class and happy. Have you any tips?
Meredith

A What you describe can cause quite significant concern in families and create a level of stress that unintentionally causes the problem to continue rather then ameliorate it. What I mean by this is that when a problem becomes an issue, it is fuelled and maintained by the emotional temperature that exists around it, so for children who struggle with daytime wetting the stress they feel in themselves and others can increase the behaviour.

Therefore it sounds odd to suggest that this wetting problem has to, from now, cease to be an "issue" (because it clearly is one), but nothing I suggest will be effective until everyone becomes as unconcerned as possible and has faith that, in time, the problem will no longer exist.

To begin with, assess how much your grandson drinks throughout the day. Often children who struggle with day or night-time wetting restrict the amount they drink, which, paradoxically, is the wrong thing to do. A bladder needs to be filled and emptied regularly for it to function well. As the muscles stretch, the bladder expands and strengthens its capacity to hold urine. A bladder that isn't "exercised" enough won't "learn" how to hold urine and respond to the sensation of needing to empty, so can then release lots of little wees.

There will be an explanation for the wetting, which needs to be understood, and this can be physical, behavioural, psychological or a combination. To begin with it would be useful to exclude physical causes and consult a GP, who may refer to a urologist. Children can have bladder-related problems and sometimes wetting can be caused by urinary-tract infections (wee can be cloudy and/or smelly and cause pain when passed), so a thorough examination is important, to exclude this.

Another underlying medical issue relates to constipation. If the bowel is impacted, that can put pressure on the bladder, which then causes a child to wee often, well before the bladder has become full. Many parents miss constipation because it doesn't show itself for a number of days. Poos can be hard, painful and often small like rabbit droppings. In such cases stool softeners enable the blockage to be cleared. Often by then, however, children are afraid to go to the toilet because they remember the pain. They need to be behaviourally "retrained" to learn to respond to their body's urge to go without fear, otherwise they will withhold and the problem will start again.

Finally, a bladder can be overactive or "twitchy" and squeeze randomly even when not full and needing to void. A urologist would diagnose this and medication can be prescribed to remedy the problem.

You have mentioned reward systems, which can work if this problem also has a psychological underpinning, ie the child "forgets" to go to the toilet or is anxious about toileting. This is where behaviour retraining comes in. You mention that your grandson is very sensitive to being told when he has done something wrong and gets angry and can have a tantrum. This would indicate an anxious, sensitive child who gets overwhelmed by the thought of doing something wrong, and perhaps this underpins why he has got himself into an anxious state about weeing, and it isn't a natural and relaxed process.

A reward system therefore has to be one that is consistent and calm, whereby he gets a sticker or marble for going to the toilet to do a wee and an additional sticker for a dry day. Given that children usually need to empty their bladders between four and seven times a day, he may initially need to be prompted to use the toilet (every hour and a half). He can exchange stickers/marbles for treats, eg golden time before bed where he can choose a special activity. The idea is that because he is being a "big boy" and doing a wee in the toilet, he can delay bedtime by 20 minutes. Eventually fade the prompting, but continue to reward toilet use.

If there is an accident, it should be dealt with without fuss or attention and your grandson should be encouraged to change himself. It is always important to remember that if we give attention to behaviour we don't want to continue (even negative attention), that behaviour will be reinforced and so continue. Also make using the toilet fun. Make sure he is relaxed and sitting comfortably with his feet on a stool so his body is in the right position. Have bubbles he can blow so he manages his breathing and remains calm and happy. Some boys, if they like to wee standing up, enjoy doing target practice into the toilet by hitting coloured ping pong balls, which will remain in the toilet bowl even after flushing.

Finally, it is also interesting that he had fewer accidents during the school holidays, so I wonder if his anxiety about weeing comes from using the toilet at school? This can be remedied by him having the same reward system at school and initially being prompted and rewarded. School needs to make sure he doesn't feel singled out and that other children also go with him. If he is afraid of the toilet, he needs time to explain why and be helped to feel comfortable in a toilet he chooses to use.

This will ameliorate itself if all physical checks are assessed and all the approaches used to enable him to be relaxed about responding to his full bladder are calm and consistent. I would recommend also that all discussion about this issue stops around your grandson so that it doesn't become a bigger issue and so increase his anxiety and therefore the possibility of him having an accident. See also eric.org.uk, which is the excellent children's bowel and bladder charity.

If you have a problem and would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron@thetimes.co.uk

Sign up for **The Times Wellness bulletin**
Our weekly email with news and expert advice for a healthier, happier body and mind
thetimes.co.uk/bulletins



"Accidents should be dealt with without fuss

Don't

Or that's what a leading Scandi skin expert claims — but is she right, asks Hannah Betts

In a move that will bring joy to soap dodgers everywhere, this year a book will be published in the UK by the skin scientist Dr Johanna Gillbro in which she will argue that you shouldn't wash your face in the morning. *The Scandinavian Skincare Bible*, already a bestseller on its native patch, will assert that one way to ensure skin health is to leave your complexion alone at the start of the day, rather than wiping the slate clean. No soap, no oils, no scrubs or wipes — nothing.

If this sounds controversial, Gillbro's will be the latest intervention in a longstanding debate over morning face-washing that proves that — in an age when beauty routines have become elaborate, with some futuristic molecule for every skin whim — most of us have no idea what we're doing.

Millennials and Gen Z seem particularly perplexed by the issue. This makes perfect sense. In the same way that spotty teenagers of my Eighties ilk scoured their complexions with Buf-Pufs, gritty scrubs and paint-stripper toners, so today's youth are encouraged to go at it with cleansing gadgets, chemical exfoliants and retinols. The website Man Repeller and *Cosmopolitan* have published investigations into the subject.

The former's brand director, Harling Ross, wrote: "I've been fanatical about face-washing ever since… my very first pimple appeared… I loved my subsequent foray into meticulous facial hygiene… But a few months ago something changed. I sudsed up first thing in the morning per my usual routine, and my face started FREAKING. OUT. It got all red and blotchy and even broke out in a tiny constellation of hives," she says. "I tried switching up my face wash. I even tried using Brita-filtered water. Nothing helped."

One particularly blotchy breakfast time Ross went cold turkey on her morning cleanse. "Going forward, I resolved to skip my AM face wash and simply splash once with water, pat dry with a towel and proceed with my usual sunscreen." Immediately, her skin not only calmed, but flourished; an experience endorsed by Man Repeller's vociferous readership in its comments section. *Cosmo*'s reporter maintained the same morning splash-only policy for a month, resulting in a complexion "that looked like I just came out of the womb: no zits, no dull texture, no red spots — just plump, bright and clear as hell".

Not that this impetus is confined to the young. When asked for her beauty secrets, the Hollywood star Salma Hayek, 53, revealed to ITV's Kate Garraway: "You don't have to wash it [your face], but you have to clean it really, really well at night." And in the

wash your face in the morning

GETTY IMAGES







Above: posed by a model. Right from top: Thandie Newton and Salma Hayek

morning? "One strange tip — don't wash it in the morning, at all, never. Because at night your skin is rebuilding some of the oils that you need to keep your skin young and it balances the pH. So in the morning if you take them off — you can splash it with water, do something mild — but you don't want to get rid of that."

Meanwhile, on acne forums, talk of the "caveman regimen" is all the rage among sufferers of all ages. This "paleo" approach translates as not washing your face ever, with diehard enthusiasts refusing to let water even touch their skin, arguing that grease production will eventually self-regulate. Think: the facial equivalent of the "no poo" movement that eschews shampoo for supposedly self-cleaning hair.

To get to the bottom of this, I asked 20 or so skin experts for their views. Only three(ish) advocated not face-washing in the morning. The cosmetic doctor and skincare brand chief Dr Michael Prager was one. "This is the dumbest question I've ever heard," he said. "If you cleanse your face in the evening, why would you do that in the morning? A morning 'wash' should consist only of water. We need a bit of a dead-cell layer as a protective barrier." Nausheen Qureshi, a biochemist, agrees. "I have long been touting no morning cleansing as the way forward, as each time you cleanse you disrupt the epidermal barrier. Prolonged disruption causes long-term skin problems such as irritation, flakiness, dryness, redness and inflammation. It's a pH issue: the skin rests at around pH5, which is acidic. Most cleansing ingredients are alkaline. The swing in pH causes our skin to become dry and sensitised."

Dr Justine Hextall, a consultant dermatologist for La Roche-Posay, understands why people find the morning cleanse irritating, but points out that the soap involved in showering and hair-washing will also disrupt the skin barrier so recommends a hydrating cleanser to remove these elements.

Everyone else I questioned advocated some sort of face wash with a cleansing product. "Why wouldn't you wash your face when you're washing your body?" Dr Mervyn Patterson of the Woodford Medical clinic inquired.

For the dermatologist Dr Howard Murad the reason to do so is clear. "To understand the importance of a morning wash, we need to understand what happens to the skin at night," he says. "When we sleep, our circadian rhythm allows skin to go into hibernation mode during which our cells are working to repair, restore and regenerate. The peak time for skin cell renewal is between 11pm and 3am, and our body temperature fluctuates during this time causing perspiration, which increases the release of sweat and oil on to the surface of the skin.

> **"We need a bit of a dead-cell layer as a protective barrier**

"Studies have shown that we lose three times more water at night, which will often leave the skin feeling dehydrated when we wake. This is potentially where the 'don't clean your skin in the morning' myth stems from; there is a misconception that cleaning the skin will dehydrate it further, but the reality is that you wake up with sweat and excess sebum, leading to the potential for breakouts. The skin is dirty, oily and covered in sweat, and possibly dry and flaky, so it really is essential to wash and give the skin a chance to reset and be ready for the day, cleansing, hydrating and fortifying it against pollution and harmful bacteria."

The issue that experts prefer to focus on is choosing the right cleansing product. Dr Emma Wedgeworth, a dermatologist for Clinique, explains: "Cleansers can make or break your routine. There is no one size fits all." While the GP skin specialist Dr Anita Sturnham tells me that often when she adjusts a patient's cleansing method their skin problems fall away, with the source of "self-inflicted" injury removed.

For Dr Nick Lowe, a clinical professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, one of the main issues is the suggestion that there is such a thing as a universal approach to skincare. "There's a lot of nonsense put about by skincare companies, beauty therapists, salons, clinics and cosmetic doctors who are not dermatologists," he says. "As a clinical dermatologist, I've done a lot of research over the last 40 years, and the answer is that there is no single answer: everybody's skin is different.

"The key is to know your skin type. See a dermatologist or read the book I wrote on the subject a couple of years ago to help people do this [*Perfectly Clear: The Perfect Guide to Clear Skin*]. It can be simplified right down.

"For the 50 per cent of people with dry and sensitive skin, they should wash every morning and night to keep the skin moisturised and protected, but it depends what with. All skin needs a good barrier to keep hydrated. In some areas, such as London, we have hard water that can be very drying. Then people use soap and exfoliator, which is not a good idea. Instead, sensitive skins need lotions as cleansers, containing hyaluronic acid, glycerin or lipids, such as CeraVe or Dermol, which are excellent and not expensive. Some micellar waters, such as Simple's, contain niacinamide, which has skin-calming properties.

"For those who've got more oily, robust, acne-prone skin, it's a good idea to wash morning and evening to reduce surface sebum and acne bacteria, and gently lift out blackheads and comedones. Look for a de-greasing cleanser with a low amount of salicylic acid, or a natural antimicrobial such as eucalyptus to reduce antibiotic use."

The digital beauty journalist Nadine Baggott has been writing about the subject for more than 30 years. "Morning washing will depend on two things," she tells me. "Your skin type and what skincare you use at night. If you use an acid, retinol or thick cream, then you might want to cleanse it off. That said, I interviewed Thandie Newton, who was proud not to wash her face in the morning, instead just rinsing it with tepid water, and she has incredible skin."

Baggott also recommends CeraVe ("it's the three Bs: budget, brilliant and at Boots"), but cautions that micellar waters can create problems, causing real sensitivity among her audience. "They should never, repeat never, be left on the skin. Why would you leave a detergent on your skin? Simply rinse with water and your skin will be fine. Face wipes and micellar water are the lazy option. Get a bottle of pH-balanced, hydrating cleanser and give your face a good clean morning and night. Team with a microfibre face cloth from Primark for £1.50 and you'll get every scrap of make-up and product off in one simple step.

"Don't overthink it," she concludes. "Skincare should be straightforward and reasonably priced."

arts

‘I’d like to do one more theatre thing, one more’

Derek Jacobi, 81, talks to Andrew Billen about cancer, Last Tango in Halifax — and a return to the stage

So now that he is before me, white-haired, pink-faced, instinctively neat in his blue corduroy jacket, where do I begin? Like most of my generation, I have adored Derek Jacobi ever since he played the stammering accidental Roman emperor in *I, Claudius* for the BBC in 1976. On screen he has since run the gamut from Jacobi as Hitler to Jacobi as the narrator of CBeebies’ *In the Night Garden*. Last year he played the dying Duke of Windsor in *The Crown*, a performance as affecting as his mentor Laurence Olivier’s deathbed scene in *Brideshead Revisited*, and not just because Jacobi is 81.

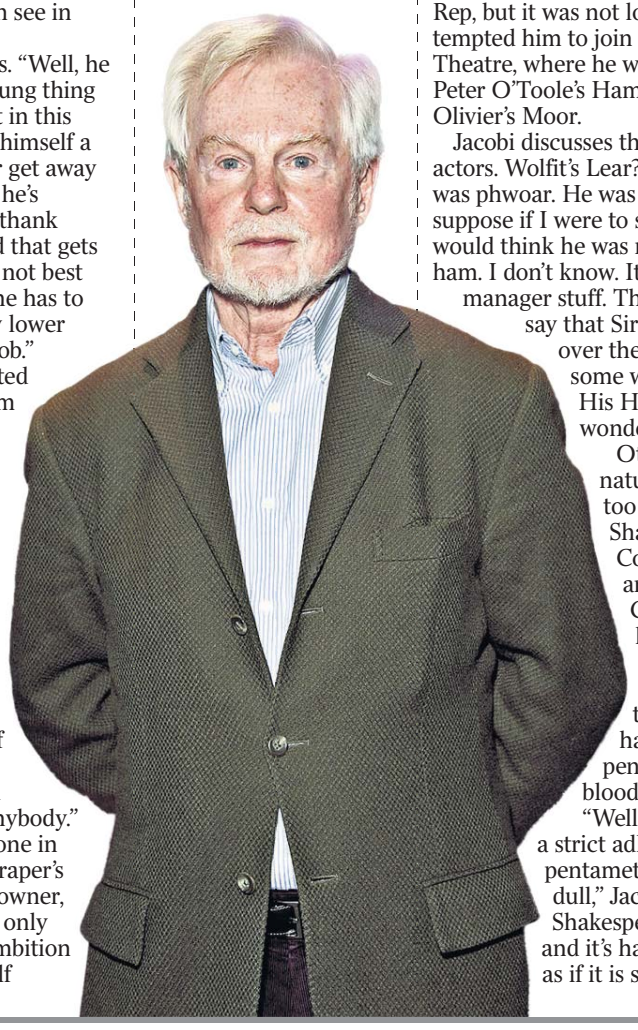
It is on the stage, however, where Jacobi is true royalty. He has played Hamlet four times, the first when he was 18 — the same age Kenneth Branagh was when he told him it was his ambition to play the Dane (Jacobi would later direct him in the role). Jacobi, who saw the actor-manager Donald Wolfit play Lear, played the part himself at the Donmar in London nine years ago. It was not all classical roles, though. In 1986 he was fêted for his West End and Broadway portrayal of Alan Turing, the hero-victim of Bletchley Park, in *Breaking the Code*, one of the few times a Jacobi role has spoken to his own sexuality.

When we meet at BBC Broadcasting House one evening, I begin at the end and ask about *Last Tango in Halifax*. In Sally Wainwright’s series, which returned for a fifth run to BBC One a week ago, Jacobi’s Alan is the kindly octogenarian widower hitched to his childhood sweetheart, Celia, played by Anne Reid. What does Alan see in her? She’s such a bitch!

“Yes, she is,” Jacobi agrees. “Well, he remembered her as that young thing that he fell in love with, but in this series he is standing up for himself a bit more. He used to let her get away with everything, but at last he’s showing a bit of backbone, thank goodness. He gets a job and that gets him out of the house. She’s not best pleased, particularly since he has to wear a uniform. That’s very lower class to her. She’s such a snob.”

Oddly enough, it is inverted snobbery that kept him from a big television part for so long, he suggests. “I’m thrilled about *Tango* because I’d always thought that the powers-that-be in television saw me as a posh, classical-costumed Shakespearean luvvie. My good fortune was that somebody saw someone as ordinary as Alan in me. I’ve got a feeling I wasn’t who they thought of first of all, but thank goodness somebody did because, you know, I’m as common as anybody.”

He was born in Leytonstone in east London, the son of a draper’s secretary and a sweetshop owner, both of whom adored their only child and encouraged an ambition to act that first showed itself when, aged six, he paraded down Essex Road in his mother’s wedding veil. He went to Cambridge, having already made a name for himself as an Edinburgh fringe Hamlet. He graduated with what he calls an “actor’s degree” (a lower second) and was employed by the Birmingham Rep, but it was not long before Olivier tempted him to join the new National Theatre, where he was Laertes to Peter O’Toole’s Hamlet and Cassio to Olivier’s Moor.



Jacobi discusses those old-school actors. Wolfit’s Lear? “He was loud. He was phwoar. He was on there. I suppose if I were to see him now, I would think he was maybe an old ham. I don’t know. It was big actor-manager stuff. There are those who say that Sir Laurence was over the top, but he did some wonderful things. His Heathcliff was wonderful.”

Others say naturalism has gone too far. At the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), its artistic director, Gregory Doran, has set up a Shakespeare “gym” to ensure that young actors have “the iambic pentameter in their bloodstream”.

“Well, I’ve always found a strict adherence to iambic pentameter rhythm rather dull,” Jacobi says. “I like Shakespeare to sound — and it’s harder, I think — as if it is spoken thought.



There needs to be an attitude behind what you’re saying, so that people who are unfamiliar with Shakespeare understand it. If they know why you’re saying something, they’ll understand. If it’s too strictly dum-de-dum-de-dum-de-dum, I think you’ll bore the arse off them.

“There’s a bloom on every Shakespeare sentence that you can’t actually destroy. It’s there. But for me, Shakespeare comes alive in a theatre on the ear when it is backed up by attitude and a sense of why you’re saying it.”

He says he finds his “attitude” by returning to a state of vulnerability,

TIMES+

EXCLUSIVE REWARDS FOR SUBSCRIBERS



Exclusive Met Opera screening tickets

Last call for the final screening of the 2019-20 season of *The Met: Live in HD*. Don’t miss your chance to claim two complimentary tickets to Donizetti’s *Maria Stuarda*, live from the Met, on May 9, 2020.

To redeem visit mytimesplus.co.uk

TRAFALGAR RELEASING

The Metropolitan Opera HD LIVE

Photo credit: Ken Howard/Metropolitan Opera. This offer is open to UK subscribers and residents only. For full terms and conditions, visit **mytimesplus.co.uk**

REX FEATURES, ALAMY

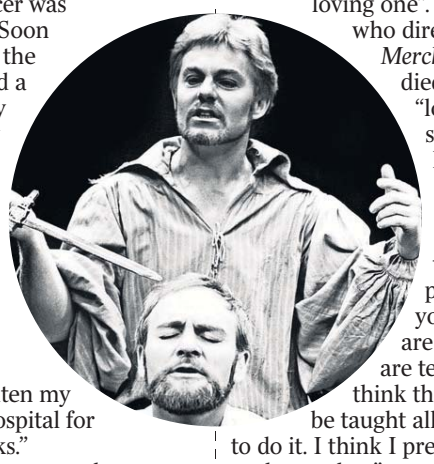


where he locates a "conduit" to his emotions.

"A child has it. They express their feelings: anger, frustration, hunger. The child will let you know and then, as we grow older, we're told, 'You mustn't do that. You're grown up now. You don't do that. Grown-ups put a lid on it.' Actors shouldn't ever put a lid on it."

Off stage does he cry easily? "I cry very easily. Too easily. I could always cry fairly easily, but then I got cancer and was treated with hormone therapy and that made me cry even more."

His prostate cancer was diagnosed in 2014. Soon after, on holiday in the Maldives, he missed a step and fell heavily from a low balcony landing. "I thought it was paraplegic time. I thought, 'This is wheelchair time.' I didn't know what I'd done, but I'd done something terrible. And they managed to straighten my legs, but I was in hospital for seven or eight weeks."



The injury was so severe, doctors could not operate on his prostate. He took the hormone therapy, which made him weepy, and then radiation treatment when he was able to move around again.

Is he now in complete remission? "I have check-ups every four months or so, but yes I am, and my legs are fine. I didn't intend to tell you my medical history."

Jacobi has worked with most of the great theatre directors, but his 2013 autobiography, *As Luck Would Have It*, does not brim with love for them, albeit there are some exceptions — notably Olivier, who told Jacobi he regarded him as a son. He did not go to John Dexter's funeral, classing him alongside William Gaskill and Peter Wood as a dictator director. Otto Preminger, who directed him in the movie *The Human Factor*, was "vile". John Barron "frightened the f***" out of him.

Terry Hands, who died last month, was, Jacobi tells me, "a bit of a Gauleiter — but he was a good, clever Gauleiter and my own personal relationship with him was a very loving one". Jonathan Miller, who directed him in *The Merchant of Venice* and died last year, was "lovely, but he was so clever that by lunchtime he was bored".

"There are directors that try to frighten a performance out of you and then there are directors who are teachers. They think that you have to be taught all the time how to do it. I think I prefer the tyrant to the teacher."

What I appreciated on finishing the book was how precarious even a great actor's confidence is. Jacobi's deserted him when he was 41, midway through a matinee of *Hamlet*. He did not dry, but felt himself going on autopilot.

"I lost it. It put a worm of doubt in my head that stayed with me for years. It was stage fright. We'd done China, we'd done all over the place and ended up in Sydney, and the very last day this doubt came into my head. Thank God I kept going, but every pore in my body opened and I sweated my way through two performances. I didn't go on stage again for two years."



Top: Derek Jacobi in Last Tango in Halifax with Sarah Lancashire, Anne Reid and Nicola Walker. Above: with John Hurt and George Baker in I Claudius in 1976. Left: as Hamlet with Julian Glover at the Old Vic in 1979

"I didn't need to tell anyone [I was gay]. Everybody knew

He was cured only by a call from the RSC offering "four spanking classical roles. I thought, 'If I don't accept this offer even though the thought terrifies me, I will never, ever go on stage again. I mean, this is an offer a sane person cannot refuse.' And it was Terry Hands, God bless him."

For the first half of his life, Jacobi was mostly single, hankering after pretty young actors who were not very interested in him. In middle-age, however, he received a bunch of flowers from a young actor who described himself as a fan. Richard Clifford, 22 at the time, has been his partner for 43 years.

What changed? "I was courted. I think it was that basic," Jacobi says.

It had never happened before? "No. I was approaching middle age and I had never cohabited. I was absolutely convinced that that would be my life. At the beginning it was difficult because you had to think of somebody else, you know? I was used to thinking only of myself. Also, because of the age difference. We were both in the same profession and there was I being successful and there was him just starting. So it was difficult for him. All the scripts coming through the door were for me."

So to be frank, Clifford never caught up? "I would rather say that he didn't have the luck," Jacobi says.

Does he act now? "He does, but he's a very good director. He's just directed *Amadeus* in Washington DC, which was voted one of the ten best plays of the year. He's directed me twice and he's very good. I mean, he's a good actor, but his big successes have come through directing."

I say he was lucky to be in a profession where his sexual preference was not an issue, but also to have parents who took it in their stride. Was there a scene when he told his mother he was gay? "There wasn't, no. And it wasn't sort of put like that either. The word 'gay' wasn't used then. Gay meant happy."

What did he say? "I think I said 'queer'. I was at university and her reaction was, 'Oh, you're in a specialised world. All the boys go through it in their teens. Don't worry.' I remember saying, "Don't tell Dad," but I'm sure she did." Did he ever have that conversation with him? "No, no. It was just there."

In his book he even hints that his father might have had homosexual inclinations himself. Jacobi, in any case, has never made the subject an issue. "I didn't need to. Everybody knew. All my friends knew, all my family knew. It never affected my work, thank goodness."

The press was never interested. "I think you're the first one to actually talk about it. I've never talked about it very much. That's me. Take it or leave it, really."

What did he make of the ITV presenter Phillip Schofield's recent declaration, after nearly 27 years of marriage, that he is gay? "My own reaction was, 'How do you do that for so long?' If I were to marry, knowing I was gay, produce children, I couldn't do it… In a sense I admire him very much. He must have been tortured by it."

Jacobi is such a young 81 that it does not seem presumptuous to ask what he wants to do next. He says more *Last Tango*, but he hankers after a spell in *Coronation Street*.

"When it started, *Corrie* was all about the older generation and they were wonderful: lovely Annie Walker behind the bar, Elsie Tanner, all of them. There are only token oldies in it now. And it lacks a texture that it had. It's still good, I still watch it, but it's not as rich as it was, not as layered as it was, and it's very much plot-driven, whereas it used to be character-driven." (In fact, he has already appeared in one scene in the Rovers Return, but it was wordless and with his back to the camera. His friend and an actor on the show, Antony Cotton, had brought him in for a tour of the studio.)

Anything else? "I'd like to do one more theatre thing, just one more. A play that has yet to be written or has been written and nobody's seen. One of the things about being in the classics is that you're compared with the 6,000 people who have played the part before you."

And that is true, I suppose, or would be were not Sir Derek Jacobi, in every other sense, incomparable.

***Last Tango in Halifax* continues on Sunday on BBC One at 9pm**

A new sleuth pays homage to Miss Marple

Ben Dowell TV review



McDonald & Dodds
ITV
★★★☆☆

Doctor Who
BBC One
★★★★☆

Detective Sergeant Dodds, Jason Watkins's new sleuth in the new ITV series **McDonald & Dodds**, is annoying. He wears silly clothes, writes things in a silly notebook and is constantly taking his glasses on and off.

Rather than sensibly buying a pair of bifocals he subjects Sunday night ITV viewers to repeated jokes about losing his specs and then finding them on his head. He's a pain in the arse, everyone thinks he's a pain in the arse, his wife has left him (perhaps because he dips his chips in butter, but it could be anything, frankly) and his bosses want him to retire and never be seen again. So they have kept him on desk duties for 11 years and perched him right under the air conditioner. The poor man is freezing, but you can't blame them. Not really.

But what's this? Enter the sassy London cop DCI McDonald (Tala Gouveia), one of those cocky kick-arse types who has been seconded to Dodds's Bath force to solve the riddle of a homeless man shot dead in the home of Robert Lindsay's slimy millionaire inventor Max Crockett. Of course, McDonald finds Sgt Dodds annoying and then finds he's less annoying when he deploys his observational skills to solve the whole damn crime. Bingo.

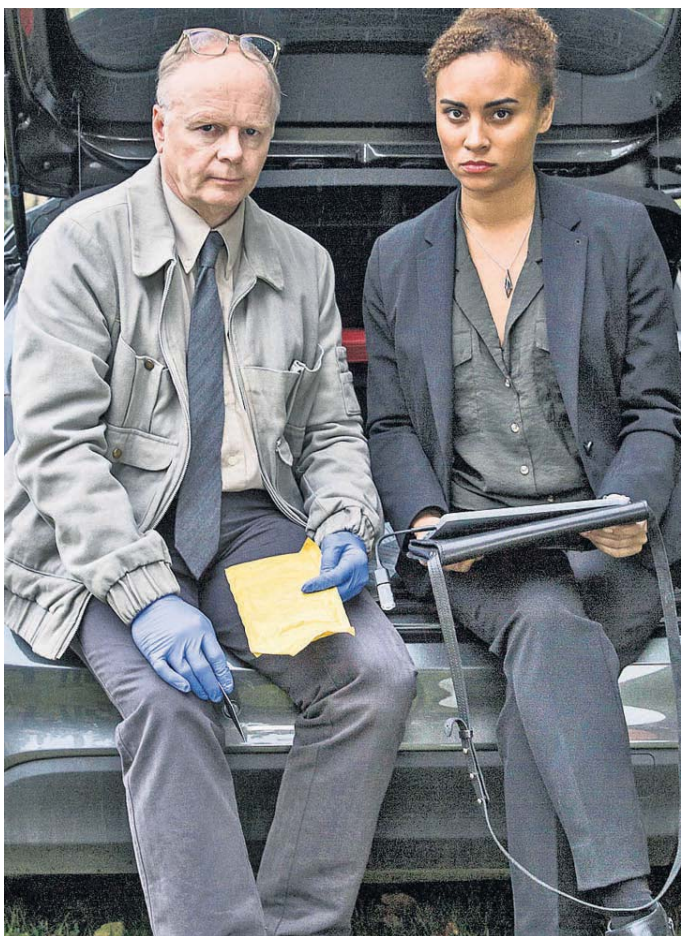
I can see what ITV were doing here. Obvious differences aside, Dodds is a bit of a Miss Marple type: inoffensive, unassuming, not taken terribly seriously until he sees what is going on and gets there. People are a bit too confident and careless around him.

There was also something quite interesting — and slightly subversive — about having the middle-aged white man as the marginalised outsider. Yes, mixed-race DCI McDonald is on the receiving end of some fairly repellent knuckle-scraping racism from Lindsay's wrong-un, but everyone in this drama has it in for poor Dodds.

However, it would have all been rather marvellous had the plotline of last night's episode (the first of two films) not been slightly daft, with Crockett's ghastly children and their partners eliminated one by one until it turned out to be the girlfriend of the only nice one. Still, honey-coloured Bath looks absolutely lovely in autumn. Much prettier than a remote planet under attack from the Cybermen, anyway, which is where we went with the last **Doctor Who** of the current series.

We have had a few epic finales and last night's upped the ante with a visually spectacular showdown on the Doc's home planet Gallifrey as Sacha Dhawan's pleasingly psychotic Master plotted the end of all organic life and a new universe run by him and immortal Time Lord Cybermen hybrids under his command.

It's been a hit-and-miss series but this was a tense, emotionally powerful and action-packed send-off that managed to reveal that the Doctor had many previous lives she didn't know about and incarnations covering both genders and many skin colours. It won't put an end to debates on that subject, but it's all been set up nicely for the next series, which will return with a story called *Revolution of the Daleks*. And it's always great with them around.



Jason Watkins as Dodds and Tala Gouveia as McDonald

Radio Choice
Joe Clay



This Californian Century
Radio 4, 1.45pm

The concluding part of the series narrated by Stanley Tucci, *above*, exploring the history of California by chronicling the lives of people who have had the biggest influence on the state. Tucci takes the role of cynical screenwriter, writing an imaginary screenplay for each of his subjects. First up this week is William Shockley, the inventor who brought the silicon to Silicon Valley — "a genius, a hideous boss and an irredeemable racist". On Thursday it's Ice-T, the original gangsta rapper. If you missed any of the episodes, you can catch up with the first half of the series on BBC Sounds.

OUR TV NEWSLETTER
Sign up to a weekly briefing of the only shows you need to watch
thetimes.co.uk/bulletins

Radio 1
FM: 96.7-99.8 MHz
6.30am The Radio 1 Breakfast Show with Greg James **10.00** Clara Amfo **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Scott Mills **4.00** Nick Grimshaw **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Nick Grimshaw **7.00** Radio 1's Future Sounds with Annie Mac **8.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Annie Mac **9.00** Dev **11.00** Radio 1's Indie Show with Jack Saunders **1.00am** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Show with René LaVice **3.00** Radio 1's Chill Mix **3.30** Radio 1's Workout Anthems **4.00** Early Breakfast with Adele Roberts

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show. A special Sport Relief announcement **9.30** Ken Bruce. Jim Lea picks his Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Steve Wright **5.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whiley. A mix of new music and classic album tracks, with guests dropping in to the studio to chat **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews. New and classic blues tracks **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 70s with Johnnie Walker (r) **5.00** Vanessa Feltz

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Petroc Trelawny presents music, news and listener requests, and in a daily feature, the amateur pianist and BBC Moscow correspondent Steve Rosenberg introduces music for a Russian Spring
9.00 Essential Classics
Ian Skelly presents music and features, including listeners' ideas for companion pieces on the Essential Classics playlist
12.00 Composer of the Week: Price (1887-1953)
Donald Macleod looks at the early years of the African-American composer and pianist and explores the impact of racial prejudice on her life and career. Price (*The Deserted Garden*; Sonata in E minor — Andante — Allegro; Suite for Organ No 1 — *Fughetta and Air*; *The Oak*; and Violin Concerto No 2)
1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
A live recital from London's Wigmore Hall, with the violist Lise Berthaud and her pianist compatriot David Saudubray. Schubert (Arpeggione Sonata in A minor, D821 — trans. Ulrich von Wrochem); and Brahms (Viola Sonata in F minor, Op 120 No 1)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Joana Carneiro leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra, followed by a choral recital with the BBC Singers. Beethoven (*Grosse Fuge*, Op 133, for string quartet; and Symphony No 3 in E flat, Op 55, Eroica); John Adams (*Absolute Jest* for string quartet and orchestra); Karin Rehnqvist (*HAYA!*); Grieg (*Ved Rondane*, 12 Songs, Op 33 No 9; and *Ave Maris Stella*); Kaija Saariaho (*Nuits adieux*); Mattias Skold (*We Know Not Where the Dragons Fly*); Edvard Grieg (*Varen, 12 Songs*, Op 33 No 2); and David Sawer (*How Among the Frozen Words* — BBC commission world premiere)
4.30 Early Music Now
Penny Gore presents the Czech period instrument group Ensemble 18+, under the direction of Blanka Karnetova, with the soloist Katerina Englichova. Handel (Messiah, HWV 56, overture; and Harp Concerto in B flat, Op 4/6, HWV 294); and CPE Bach (Sinfonia in C, Wq 182/3)
5.00 In Tune
Katie Derham is joined by the Linos Piano Trio, the soprano Elizabeth Llewellyn and duo Igudesmann & Joo
7.00 In Tune Mixtape
An eclectic nonstop mix of music, featuring old favourites together with lesser-known gems, and a few surprises thrown in
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Andrew McGregor presents a concert recorded at London's Barbican in which the BBC Symphony Orchestra performs music by Anders Hillborg. It is easy to immerse oneself in music as seductive as that of Anders Hillborg — the Swedish maverick with a background in pop and electronics. The climax of the BBC Symphony Orchestra's Total Immersion series is this concert, in which large-scale, spectral canvases full of detail and playfulness will mesmerise listeners. Anders Hillborg (*Fanfare; Eleven Gates; Beast Sampler*; Concerto for Clarinet — *Peacock Tales*: Millennium Version; Violin Concerto No 1; and *Through Lost Landscapes* — BBC co-commission, UK premiere)
10.00 Music Matters
Kate Molleson speaks to the cast and team of a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* at the Royal Opera House (r)
10.45 The Essay: Women Writers to Put Back on the Bookshelf
Sophie Coulombeau champions the poet and novelist Charlotte Turner Smith
11.00 Night Tracks
An adventurous, immersive soundtrack for late-night listening
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
9.00 Start the Week
Hilary Mantel talks about the final book in her Cromwell trilogy
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Guest House for Young Widows
By Azadeh Moaveni (1/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Magazine show offering a female perspective on the world. Including at **10.45**: Part one of Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's *The Leopard*, read by Alex Jennings (1/10)
11.00 Out of the Ordinary
Reports that people with severe dementia are lucid just before they die (2/4)
11.30 Loose Ends
With guests Dawn French, Brian Cox and Chris Addison. Plus, music by Seth Lakeman and Cherise (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 Apeirogon
By Colum McCann (6/10)
12.18 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 The Californian Century
The story of Silicon Valley's troubled founder William Shockley. ***See Radio Choice*** (6/10)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: This Thing of Darkness
By Lucy Haynes. While continuing to assess David's state of mind, Alex also takes charge of her group therapy for murderers (2/7)
3.00 Round Britain Quiz
The North of England take on the Midlands. Tom Sutcliffe asks the questions (8/12)
3.30 The Food Programme
David Atherton discusses life after *Great British Bake Off* (r)
4.00 OK, Boomer!
Exploring the history of generational conflict
4.30 The Digital Human
The potential impact of advances in technology on the human character (2/6)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Nature Table
Panel show hosted by Sue Perkins (4/6)
7.00 The Archers
Johnny is on a mission
7.15 Front Row
Arts programme
7.45 The Book of Strange New Things
By Michel Faber (1/10) (r)
8.00 Class Talk
Conversations across the class divide
8.30 Analysis
Current affairs reports (6/9)
9.00 Peach Fuzz
Examining the issue of female facial hair (r)
9.30 Start the Week
Hilary Mantel talks about the final book in her Cromwell trilogy (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Apeirogon (r)
11.00 Night Vision
Zakiya Mckenzie goes on a nocturnal walk in the Forest of Dean at night (2/3)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Guest House for Young Widows (1/5) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **8.30** Dad's Army **9.00** Whispers **9.30** Huddwinks **10.00** Sons and Lovers **11.00** TED Radio Hour **12.00** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **12.30pm** Dad's Army **1.00** Deep Six **1.30** Comprehensively Eton **2.00** The Rainbow **2.15** Just So Science **2.30** A Severed Head **2.45** The Weather Experiment **3.00** Sons and Lovers **4.00** Whispers **4.30** Huddwinks **5.00** Double Income, No Kids Yet **5.30** Nature Table **6.00** The Invisible Man **6.15** Beyond Black **6.30** A Good Read **7.00** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **7.30** Dad's Army **8.00** Deep Six. Thriller by John Fletcher **8.30** Comprehensively Eton. The stories of four state-school boys who have won scholarships to Eton **9.00** TED Radio Hour. Guy Raz explores the unintended consequences of technology **10.00** Comedy Club: Nature Table. Comedy panel show hosted by Sue Perkins **10.30** Bleak Expectations. Pip and Harry are put to sea with Captain Beehab **11.00** The News Quiz Extra. Extended edition of the comedy panel show **11.45** Friends Like These

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Your Call **10.00** The Emma Barnett Show **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport. Mark Chapman presents **7.45** 5 Live Sport: FA Cup Football 2019-20 — Portsmouth v Arsenal (Kick-off **7.45**)

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
6.00am The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast **10.00** White and Sawyer **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** Adrian Durham and Darren Gough **7.00** The PressBox **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Paul Ross **5.00** Early Breakfast

talkRADIO
Digital only
6.30am Julia Hartley-Brewer **10.00** Mike Graham **1.00pm** The Matthew Wright Show **4.00** Ian Collins **7.00** James Whale Feat Ash **10.00** The Late Night Alternative with Iain Lee **1.00am** Darryl Morris **5.00** James Max

6 Music
Digital only
7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Shaun Keaveny **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Marc Riley **9.00** Gideon Coe **12.00** 6 Music Recommends with Lauren Laverne **1.00am** The First Time with Elton John **2.00** The Clash in New York and Shea Stadium **2.30** 6 Music Live Hour **3.30** 6 Music's Trunk of Funk with Craig Charles **4.00** 6 Music's Desert Island Disco with Lauren Laverne **4.30** 6 Music's People's Playlist with Lauren Laverne **5.00** Chris Hawkins

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with Sam Pinkham **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Tim Cocker **4.00** Kate Lawler **7.00** Steve Denyer **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Virgin Radio Through the Night **4.00** Christian Williams

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** John Suchet **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **5.00** Classic FM Drive **7.00** Smooth Classics **8.00** The Full Works Concert. Smetana (*The Bartered Bride* — Overture); Dvorák (Romance in F minor, Op 11); Vivaldi (Guitar Concerto in D, RV 92); Phamie Gow (*Rackwick Bay*); Coleridge-Taylor (Violin Concerto in G minor, Op 80); and Felix Mendelssohn (Symphony No 3 in A minor, Op 56)
10.00 Smooth Classics **1.00am** Sam Pittis **10.30** Geoff Lloyd **1.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Reports **5.15** Wake Up to Money

Pop
Big Thief
Eventim Apollo, W6
★★★★☆

How did a previously obscure indie folk four-piece from New York get to sell out the 5,000-capacity Hammersmith Apollo? They did it the old way: by being extremely good. "This is definitely the most people we've ever played in front of," said the front woman Adrianne Lenker, between singing in an intense, quavering voice that conveyed both determination and frailty.

The band did seem as if they were yet to adjust to newfound popularity, offering little in the way of a show beyond the guitarist Buck Meek's wobbly leg dance and the bassist Max Oleartchik's tendency to lie down when it all got too much for him, yet they captivated through the vitality of the music alone.

After Lenker began with a solo acoustic song called *Zombie* that owed more than a small debt to Dylan's *Mr Tambourine Man*, the drummer James Krivchenia kicked in with a style recalling the laid-back groove of the Band's Levon Helm, *Shark Smile* and *The Toy* brought shades of Rickie Lee Jones and Joni Mitchell, and Big Thief's appeal became apparent: they have soaked in all kinds of classic rock influences and used them as the building blocks of their own creation. From the rollicking, country-tinged *Cattails* to the Crazy Horse rocking of *Real Love*, this was familiar, yet made fresh all over again.

Not was remarkable, with Lenker using a series of negations to describe something unseen — "Not the meat of your thigh, nor your spine tattoo, nor your shimmery eye, nor the wet of the dew" — while *Two Rivers* jumped about in odd time signatures. After releasing two acclaimed albums last year, the gentle *UFOF* and the raw *Two Hands*, this superb concert marked the moment a wider audience discovered how special Big Thief are.
Will Hodgkinson
Glasgow City Halls, tonight

JOHAN PERSSON/ALEX HARVEY-BROWN



Thalissa Teixeira as Bianca is the show's standout performance

A missed opportunity

This new staging of Thomas Middleton's revenge drama is a mess, says Sam Marlowe

Theatre
Women Beware Women
Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, SE1
★★☆☆☆

Greed, ambition, sexual abuse: Thomas Middleton's Jacobean gorefest makes a biliously apt play for today. Unfortunately, while Amy Hodge's production has swagger and flashes of ingenuity, it's less bloody tragedy, more bloody mess. With a blingy Eighties aesthetic and Me Too overtones, it's delivered like a campy soap opera, dominated by Tara Fitzgerald's devious widow Livia, as slinky and steely-hearted as *Dynasty's* Alexis Carrington.

It's fun, up to a point, but almost everything is played for laughs, so that the staging has no emotional purchase. That's a serious problem for a work in which rape is a pivotal plot point, and vicious patriarchal power games are literally a matter of life and death.

Fitzgerald — extravagantly husky, as if she's just smoked an entire pack of Virginia Slims — is a toxic queen bee in a Chanel suit or gold leather, who has mastered the rules of a man's world and schemes her way towards money and position by manipulating younger women. Under her avaricious eye, a young bride, Bianca (Thalissa Teixeira), is raped and silenced; Livia's own niece, Isabella (Olivia Vinall) is duped into an incestuous affair with her uncle. Meanwhile, Isabella's father plans his daughter's marriage of convenience to a charmless moron (played with vigour as a chinless, priapic public schoolboy by Helen Cripps).

Hodge has substantially cut the text, but its tortuous narrative isn't made any more digestible when it's gilded with so much gaudy comic excess. Jim Fortune's score mashes up Eighties pop songs with snarling jazz sax. There are tangos, congas and candlelit processions of pelvic-thrusting courtiers, a chess game in which actors are the pieces, and a gold elevator that looks as if it belongs in Trump Tower. And there's lots of strenuous clowning and farcical dashing about.

Teixeira's more grounded, vivid performance is a stand-out, but often the acting is either wearyingly frenetic or weirdly disengaged. In our current political moment, when abusers are at long last beginning to face a reckoning, *Women Beware Women* ought to be right on the money.

Such a shame that, in a production lacking focus, precision and potency, none of its sordid cruelties really seem to matter.
Box office: 020 7401 9919. The production runs to April 18

Concert
Hallé/Elder
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
★★★★☆

'Good evening, ladies and gentlemen," said the imposing stage presence seated at a table, "my name is Fernando." This is not how Act II of Beethoven's *Fidelio* is supposed to begin, but then Mark Elder and his Hallé forces were giving us something special: a concert account, minus dialogue, of the freedom-loving opera's rousing last half, topping off another instalment in the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic's current Beethoven strand.

Matters got off to a flying start with the baleful chords conjuring up Florestan's prison cell, launching an orchestral tapestry guided by Elder with passion and tender care. Memorable moment No 2 was Florestan's cry of "Gott!", piercing as a fire alarm in Simon O'Neill's spirited portrayal. As the disguised Leonore, Rachel Nicholls didn't command the stage as much as her male companions, though you always noticed her soprano's bright flare.

Brindley Sherratt's Rocco and Derek Welton's Pizarro stole the honours among the rest, while James Platt's Fernando, when relieved of his spoken job filling in the plot, proved worth the wait. As was the stunning Hallé Choir, fervent in the final scenes.

With so much going splendidly right, I began to wish we had also had Act I to enjoy. Not that this evening's Beethoven rarity, *Tremate, empi, tremate*, a vocal trio, wasn't worth hearing, or that Symphony No 8, fielded by the BBC Philharmonic's principal guest conductor Ben Gernon, didn't have stretches to cherish (the hurtling first movement).

However, a complete concert *Fidelio* from Elder and the Hallé would surely have been spectacular enough to justify the civic pride writ large in the graffiti decorating a building near the city's Piccadilly train station: "On the sixth day, God created Manchester".
Geoff Brown

Opera
Denis & Katya
Riverfront, Newport
★★★★☆

Their names are immortalised in the opera's title, as if these two Russian teenagers were a modern-day Romeo and Juliet. But they were real: Katya Vlasova and Denis Muravyov, who, in 2016, ran away, holed up in a cabin for three days — and began live-streaming online. Violence and a siege ensued; Russian special forces turned up. The pair ended up dead.

These disturbing events have inspired an intense chamber opera by the composer Philip Venables and librettist Ted Huffman, given its UK premiere by Music Theatre Wales. It's a bold venture. More than 65 minutes, two singers and four London Sinfonietta cellists, sitting at the four corners of the nearly bare stage, draw us into this murky story. Its themes are potent: voyeurism, internet culture, conspiracy theory, social media abuse, instant celebrity, societal breakdown.

It's an opera as much about what we don't see as what we do. We neither meet nor hear Denis and Katya. Nor do we see the video. Venables and Huffman decided against including it. It's a good call. What would be gained by showing harrowing footage? Not to mention the ethical sensitivities and legal ramifications. We see the impact clearly in any case. It's in the nervous music and twitching foot of the agitated teenager, and the melancholic lyricism of the grieving friend.

The bulk of the opera cuts, documentary-style, between six interviewees: teenager, friend, teacher, journalist, neighbour and medic, all movingly sung by Johnny Herford and Emily Edmonds. The story is fragmented, post-traumatic. The music is economical but telling.

Yet, by not including Denis and Katya, there is a fatal flaw. Where's the personal connection, so vital for drama? We get a hint in the closing throes, which reflect on rather than report events. A baroque-style lament rises up in the cellos, and here, at last, is true emotional weight.
Rebecca Franks
Touring details: musictheatre.wales



Theatre
Love, Loss & Chianti
Riverside Studios, W6
★★★★☆

This is a modest double bill, yet it covers an awful lot of ground, from romantic disillusionment to bereavement. The writing is as exquisite as a jewel box, and elegantly interpreted by Rebecca Johnson and the *Cold Feet* star Robert Bathurst, *right*. He is particularly good at portraying the kind of debonair men who have a grim sense of what may lie in store once they turn the corner of late middle age.

Both items are the work of the poet Christopher Reid. *A Scattering*, past winner of the Costa Book of the Year award, explores memories of his wife, Lucinda Gane, who died of cancer in 2005. Grief comes wrapped in random memories of happier times. After the interval, the mood turns lighter in *The Song of Lunch*, a wittily observed encounter between two former lovers.

In no way is *Scatterings* a mere appetiser. Reid's verse, calm and precise, flits back and forth between passages of grief and quiet joy. Under Jason Morell's assured direction, the words become a kind of dance, Johnson and Bathurst facing each other across a space that consists of little beyond a couple of chairs and box-files of memorabilia.

Their performances are a perfect match for Reid's pensive phrases, and there is an unbearably painful moment when the husband, reading *Northanger Abbey* to his wife, realises that the tumour in her brain is pushing her further and further away from him.

Charles Peattie's artful animated drawings provide a subtle backdrop, and play an even more important role in *The Song of Lunch*, which begins with a jaded survivor of an old publishing firm on his way to an assignation in a Soho restaurant which was one of his old haunts.

Carried aloft by "London's approximation of fresh air" he is full of anticipation. It is not long, though, before disappointment sets in. Johnson is chic and feline and self-possessed. After a glass or two too many, Bathurst crumples before our eyes, brilliantly capturing a long dark night of the soul in the "midday twilight" of a restaurant which, like him, has seen better days.
Clive Davis
Box office: 020 8237 1010, to May 17

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

Age of the Image
BBC Four, 9pm

Top pick

Today we take more photographs every minute than were made in the whole of the 19th century, and people seem keener to snap themselves gurning next to the *Mona Lisa* than to look the masterpiece full in the face. These are sobering thoughts, and the young Cambridge don James Fox does not deny that his footage from the Louvre in Paris speaks volumes about the self(ie)-obsessed modern human. However, he is not here to condemn us "image addicts" — and it would be a bit rich if he did, considering how much time he spends striding across the screen in his sharp suits. What he does is fashion an enjoyably rich, complex and thought-provoking analysis of a subject so simple yet so important that you may wonder why it hasn't been approached in this manner before. If the 19th century was the age of the novel, this must surely be the age of the image, Fox contends, and his keen focus on the interplay between scientific and technological changes and creative endeavour is dazzling. From the Kodak Brownie to the impact of Albert Einstein's theories about time on the surrealism of Salvador Dalí, it's a fast ride that can leave you, well, reeling a bit. And it's probably appropriate that it does because, as later programmes will no doubt explore, never before have humans lived amid such a blizzard of images, with anyone in possession of a smartphone able to create and manipulate them at will.

Jimmy McGovern's Moving On
BBC One, 2.15pm

Low-budget and bleak, but always well written, Jimmy McGovern's anthology series about people facing turning points in their lives returns with Dave Kirby's redemptive tale of Joe (Tom McKay), who is released from prison for a crime he claims he never committed and served with a tag that makes him "feel like someone's dog". He was once a champion swimmer, and when he returns to the pool he meets single mum Lisa (Angel Coulby). Will his past jeopardise his future? This has more cheery moments than most *Moving Ons*.

BBC One

Early

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Britain's Housing Scandal. A tenant in poor health who is trapped in a damp rented property (AD) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. Two properties in southeast London (r) (AD) **11.00** Wanted Down Under. A couple from the UK sample Auckland for a week (r) **11.45** Saved on Camera. New series. Stories of bravery captured on phones, CCTV and dashcams **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. From Peterborough (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Daniel's attempt to give Jimmi a reality check does not go to plan (AD)
2.15 Jimmy McGovern's Moving On. New series. The return of the show featuring stand-alone dramas telling modern stories. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)
3.00 Escape to the Country. A couple returning from Sweden hope to find a home in Wiltshire (AD) **3.45** Money for Nothing. New series. Sarah Moore visits Wallyford Recycling Centre in East Lothian
4.30 Ready Steady Cook. New series. Rylan Clark-Neal hosts a revival of the culinary contest. *See Viewing Guide*
5.15 Pointless. Quiz show (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

7PM

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Matt Baker present the first visit of the week to the One Show studio

7.30 Coronavirus: Everything You Need to Know A panel of experts answers questions on the outbreak

8PM

8.00 EastEnders Keegan and Tiffany are stunned to bump into a burglar escaping from their flat (AD)

8.30 Spying on the Scammers: Panorama A report on fraudsters operating call centre scams in India

9PM

9.00 The Split Secrets come out and lies unravel as Hannah deals with the fallout from her anniversary party. The whole Noble Hale Defoe team attends a prestigious awards ceremony at the Law Association, where Ruth is given a lifetime achievement award (4/6) (AD)

10PM

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.25 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.35 This Country An infamous Mucklowe family member returns to the village and causes Kerry to re-evaluate her living arrangements (3/6) (AD)

11PM

11.05 Young, Welsh and Pretty Minted Gonth makes a new friend who shares his passion for fast cars (2/6) (AD)

11.35 Live at the Apollo Jon Richardson hosts an evening of stand-up, introducing routines by Sara Pascoe and Nathan Caton (4/6) (r)

Late

12.20am A Question of Sport FIFA Women's World Cup Golden Boot winner Ellen White, the Great Britain 400m runner Perri Shakes-Drayton, the former Everton midfielder Leon Osman and the jockey Mick Fitzgerald join team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell and host Sue Barker on the quiz (r) **12.55-6.00** BBC News

BBC Two

6.00am Flog It! (r) **6.45** Bargain Hunt (r) **7.30** Sign Zone: Best Home Cook (r) (SL) **8.30** The Week in Parliament **9.00** BBC News at 9 **10.00** Victoria Derbyshire **11.00** BBC Newsroom Live **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Hardball (r) **1.45** Best House in Town (r) **2.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. Terry Wogan and Mason McQueen go on a culinary journey around the nation (r) **3.00** Red Rock. Paudge is enraged when he suspects Tony Doyle has been abusing Aoife Burke (r) (AD) **3.45** The Great Interior Design Challenge. In the first heat, three hopefuls must transform a bedroom each in a modernist former leisure centre in south London and have three days to help to deliver their schemes (r) (AD) **4.45** Portillo's State Secrets. Michael Portillo trawls through the National Archives (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! In Dover Castle, Jonathan Pratt discovers an elegant Lalique figure and James Lewis finds a collection of Chinese snuff bottles. Paul Martin looks at the history of the castle **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from Newry to Portadown (r) (AD)

7PM

7.00 Coastal Path Paul Rose explores the north Cornish coast (2/5) (r)

7.30 Mastermind Specialist subjects are British breweries, the life and works of John Lennon, Lorenzo de' Medici and the *Back to the Future* trilogy

8PM

8.00 Only Connect The Orwellians take on the Turophiles in the last quarter-final

8.30 University Challenge The sixth of the quarter-final matches

9PM

9.00 Murder 24/7 Police and specialists investigate a double stabbing in Colchester's homeless community that leaves Carl Hopkins dead and the other victim seriously injured. Detectives initially question whether the men had attacked one other, and go in search of witnesses (4/5) (AD)

10PM

10.00 Inside No 9 Seven disparate characters share their stories with a camera (5/6) (AD)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events presented by Emily Maitlis

11PM

11.15 Hospital An 81-year-old has been left with a hole in his heart after suffering a heart attack, and faces a complex procedure that carries a high mortality rate (3/8) (r)

Late

12.15am Sign Zone: The Farmers' Country Showdown. First-time farmers show their sheep at the Isle of Wight show (r) (SL) **1.00** Countryfile. The team visits the annual snowdrop festival in Shaftesbury, Dorset (r) (SL) **2.00-3.00** Secrets of the Museum. A Mary Quant minidress undergoes a deep clean (r) (AD, SL)

ITV

6.00am Good Morning Britain. Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne invite Piers Morgan into their Los Angeles home to discuss Ozzy's first album in a decade **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of showbiz chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions **12.30pm** Loose Women. Interviews and topical studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **2.00** Judge Rinder. Cameras follow the criminal barrister Robert Rinder as he takes on real-life cases in a studio courtroom **3.00** Tenable. Five friends from London with a shared love of music and dance tackle questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Hosted by Warwick Davis (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh asks the questions as four contestants work as a team to take on a ruthless quiz genius and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

7PM

7.00 Emmerdale April receives an unwelcome message regarding her dad, and Tracy clashes with Cara (AD)

7.30 Coronation Street Alya confronts Geoff, demanding to know why Yasmeen was crying in the garden (AD)

8PM

8.00 St Davids: Britain's Smallest City New series. Looking at the busiest tourist season in the Pembrokeshire city's history (1/6) (AD)

8.30 Coronation Street The Barlows and Platts convene for Adam and Sarah's wedding, while Yasmeen's absence sends Geoff into a panic (AD)

9PM

9.00 Liar New series. Three weeks after his disappearance, Andrew's body is found on the Kent marshes, but Laura once again finds herself drawn into his destructive path. Return of the thriller starring Joanne Froggatt, Ioan Gruffudd and Katherine Kelly. *See Viewing Guide* (1/6) (AD)

10PM

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.35 Regional News

10.45 Tyson Fury: The Gypsy King The opening instalment in a three-part documentary following the boxer as he prepares for his rematch with Deontay Wilder for the WBC World Heavyweight title after the first contest in December 2018 ended in a much-disputed draw (1/3) (r) (AD)

11PM

11.45 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Action from the latest edition of the weekly AEW event

Late

12.35am Teleshopping 3.00 James Martin's French Adventure. The chef visits the port of Marseilles, where the fishermen are selling fresh seafood from the back of their boats, and buys sea bass for an outdoor cook on the waterside (r) (SL) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service **5.05-6.00** Judge Rinder (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.30am Cheers (r) **7.25** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **9.10** Frasier (r) (AD) **10.10** Undercover Boss Canada. The CEO of Mary Brown's Famous Chicken and Taters goes undercover (r) **11.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. The chef heads to Eagle Rock in California to help the owners of Capri, a grubby restaurant which often remains closed during lunchtime (r) **12.00** Channel 4 News Summary **12.05pm** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien visit Swindon and Chippenham (r) **1.05** Posh Pawn. James test drives a high-performance motorbike on sale for £35,000 (r) **2.10** Countdown. With the impressionist Rory Bremner in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple look for a holiday home in Mijas, southeastern Spain (r) **4.00** A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? Catching up with the owners of a unique B&B in rural France **5.00** Come Dine with Me. Four contestants from the Liverpool area compete (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer wakes up to find he and the world around him are made of Lego (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Warren is on the warpath after Liam's latest stunt. Meanwhile, Darren is starting to feel defined by his failures (r) (AD)

7PM

7.00 Channel 4 News

8PM

8.00 Starbucks & Nespresso: The Truth About Your Coffee — Dispatches A report on children picking coffee beans used by two large brands

8.30 Food Unwrapped Helen Lawal searches for the secret to perfectly shelled walnuts, and Andi Oliver investigates cloudy beers (AD)

9PM

9.00 Prison The emotionally charged difficulties of being a mother in prison. Staff at HMP Foston Hall, where more than 300 women are incarcerated for everything from murder to non-payment of fines, believe that maintaining family contact is vital to reduce reoffending (3/3) (AD)

10PM

10.00 Baghdad Central Zubeida Rashid offers to help Khafaji find Sawsan, but when they discover her supposed whereabouts it appears that she has already fled. A murder in the Green Zone wrecks Parodi's investigation and brings the captain into conflict with Temple and Evans (5/6) (AD)

11PM

11.00 Emergency Helicopter Medics An appearance at a charity event is cut short by an emergency, a worker at a wind farm suffers a cardiac arrest, and an off-road motorcyclist breaks his thigh bone (r) (AD)

Late

12.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA The fiery chef comes to the aid of Anthony Trobiano, whose restaurant in Great Neck, New York, is failing (r) **12.55am** Hunted (r) (AD, SL) **1.50** The Supervet (r) (AD) **2.45** Liberty (r) **3.55** Come Dine with Me (r) **4.50** Location, Location, Location (r) **5.50-6.30** Countdown (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day, with co-host Storm Huntley **11.15** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A couple who unwittingly rented a property to a confidence trickster, and a family in south London who are living in a cramped and cold multiple-occupancy house (r) **12.10pm** 5 News at Lunchtime **12.15** Paddington Station 24/7. A lorry rips the safety barriers off a level crossing near Didcot after ignoring the warning lights, while overrunning weekend works at Acton tie up the fast line out of Paddington (r) **1.10** Access **1.15** Home and Away (r) (AD) **1.45** Neighbours (AD) **2.15 FILM: Famous and Fatal (PG, TVM, 2019)** A woman becomes the target of a stalker after being hired to home-school the son of a celebrity. Thriller starring Sarah Roemer, Jon Prescott and Hannah Barefoot **4.00** Friends. Ross and Rachel's separation causes friction in the group (r) **4.30** Friends. Frank makes an announcement (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **5.30** Neighbours. Finn struggles to subdue his anger about the Mardi Gras party (r) (AD) **6.00** Home and Away. Ryder needs to convince Colby of his innocence (r) (AD) **6.30** 5 News Tonight

7PM

7.00 Gallagher Premiership Rugby Highlights Action from the 12th round of fixtures, featuring Harlequins v Exeter Chiefs, Bath v Bristol Bears, Gloucester v Sale Sharks, Leicester Tigers v Worcester Warriors, Northampton Saints v Saracens and London Irish v Wasps

8PM

8.00 Traffic Cops On the outskirts of Chesterfield, Jim Payne responds to a call for backup from colleague PC Tom Strachan, who is surrounded by a mob following a report of dangerous driving

9PM

9.00 Warship: Life at Sea As Iranian forces take control of the British-flagged oil tanker *Stena Impero* and hold the crew hostage, *HMS Duncan* is ordered to the Persian Gulf (4/5)

10PM

10.00 Monster Warship of WWI: The Mighty Dreadnought Charting the history of the turbine-powered, big-gun dreadnoughts, which revolutionised the rules of engagement on the high seas (r)

11PM

11.05 Run All Night (15, 2015) A hitman working for a longtime friend who has become head of a crime syndicate becomes disillusioned with his life. He is forced to turn against the syndicate when he learns a hit has been ordered on his own son. Action thriller starring Liam Neeson and Ed Harris

Late

1.15am The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show 3.15 The Hotel Inspector: Checking In, Checking Out. Alex Polizzi returns to the Atlantic House Hotel in Bude, Cornwall (r) **4.00** Tattoo Disasters UK. Helping a man who inked himself (r) (SL) **4.45** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.10** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.35-6.00** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL)

What really went on in Pompeii's brothel?

television & radio

Ready Steady Cook
BBC One, 4.30pm

The cooking competition is back after a decade away with a new host, the toothsome Essex boy Rylan Clark-Neal taking over from Ainsley Harriott. There are tweaks to the format, but the main difference is the emphasis on sustainability, replacing plastic bags with reusable receptacles, greater care in the choice of ingredients, and the use of colour-coded waste bins. Today's contestants, cousins Joe and Alex, have serious sight-loss problems and Alex is being cheered (barked?) on by his guide dog, River.

Liar
ITV, 9pm

Andrew Earlham (Ioan Gruffudd), the chillingly handsome serial rapist, was found dead in coastal mud in the final scene of series one of this hugely popular drama — but who cut his throat? Naturally the investigation (led by Katherine Kelly as the new DI Karen Renton) focuses initial attention on Earlham's "most high-profile victim", the teacher Laura Neilson (Joanne Froggatt). There are plenty of others with opportunity and motive, though. Clever use of flashback and the unearthing of new evidence set the hares running on what promises to be another heart-stopping hit.

Storyville
BBC Four, 10pm

"We're not here to get votes," a speaker bellows at a rally of the religious TLP party in Lahore at the start of Mohammed Ali Naqvi's powerful film. "We're here to get some heads chopped." This stark dive into Pakistan's blasphemy laws has many more moments of horror, especially given the number of defence lawyers and judges who have been murdered. We also hear the story of Asia Bibi, the Christian villager accused by her community of blasphemy in what she claims was a stitch-up. To the TLP leader, Khadim Hussain Rizvi, she remains simply a "demon".

Film
Run All Night
Channel 5, 11.05pm

Whatever glory days the hired killer Jimmy Conlon (Liam Neeson) once had, they are long gone. However, when a coincidence puts Mike in the sights of every gangster in town, Jimmy does what he does best — he kills everyone. (15, 2015)

Sky One

6.00am Monkey Life (r) (AD) **7.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue (r) **8.00** The Dog Whisperer (r) **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD) **10.00** Brit Cops: Law & Disorder (r) (AD) **11.00** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **3.00** MacGyver (r) **4.00** Modern Family (r) **5.00** The Simpsons (r) **5.30** Futurama (r) (AD) **6.30** The Simpsons. Triple bill (r) **8.00 FILM: Men in Black II (PG, 2002)** An alien plots to destroy humanity — and the only one who can stop her is a retired agent whose memory has been wiped. Sci-fi comedy sequel starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones **9.45** A League of Their Own. With Ashley Cole, Noel Fielding and Aisling Bea (r) (AD) **10.45** Avenue 5. Ryan and Billie try to identify the source of an incessant beeping (r) **11.20** Strike Back: Vendetta (r) **12.25am** Flintoff: Lord of the Fries (r) (AD) **1.25** Road Wars (r) **2.00** The Trip to Greece **3.00** Jett (r) **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize (r) (AD) **5.00** Futurama (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Storm City (r) (AD) **7.00** Without a Trace (r) **10.00** The West Wing (r) **12.00** Blue Bloods (r) (AD) **1.00pm** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (r) **2.00** The West Wing (r) **4.00** Without a Trace. Drama series (r) **6.00** Without a Trace (r) **7.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Part two of two. The detectives search for Stokes (r) **8.00** Blue Bloods. An incident at a church tests Frank's diplomatic skills (r) (AD) **9.00** The Outsider. Ralph and Yunis interview witnesses from the cave festival **10.05** The End. A confession changes Edie and Pamela's relationship (4/10) **10.40** True Blood. Bill breaks a taboo by protecting Sookie, who identified the man responsible for stealing from Fangtasia (r) **11.50** True Blood. Sookie suspects Sam is the serial killer, so he shares his secret with her (r) **1.00am** The L Word: Generation Q. Finley struggles with her feelings (r) (AD) **2.10** Oz (r) **3.25** Californication (r) **4.00** The West Wing (r)

Sky Witness

6.00am Nothing to Declare (r) (AD) **8.00** Paramedics (r) **9.00** Blue Bloods (r) (AD) **10.00** Criminal Minds (r) **11.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (r) **12.00** Elementary (r) (AD) **1.00pm** Blue Bloods (r) (AD) **2.00** Law & Order (r) **3.00** The Real A&E (r) (AD) **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize. The work of Ireland's border force (r) (AD) **5.00** Nothing to Declare (r) **6.30** Nothing to Declare (r) **7.00** Nothing to Declare (r) **7.30** Nothing to Declare (r) **8.00** Ghost Whisperer(r) **9.00** Criminal Minds. As the team enjoy time off, Garcia leads a hacking competition (4/10) **10.00** Blue Bloods. New series. Danny and Baez grapple with a year-old homicide investigation **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (r) **12.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (r) **1.00am** The Good Doctor (r) **2.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (r) **3.00** Shades of Blue (r) (AD) **4.00** Ghost Whisperer (r) **5.00** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Royal Opera: Verdi — Il Trovatore **8.30** Watercolour Challenge **9.00** The South Bank Show Originals **9.30** Auction **10.00** Tales of the Unexpected **11.00** Discovering: Vanessa Redgrave **12.00** Discovering: Jason Robards **1.00pm** The South Bank Show Originals **1.30** Watercolour Challenge **2.00** Neil Sedaka: The Show Goes On **4.00** Tales of the Unexpected **5.00** Discovering: Richard Dreyfuss **6.00** Discovering: Basil Rathbone **7.00** Andrea Bocelli: Love in Portofino. A 2012 concert in the resort on the Italian Riviera **8.45** Close to You: Remembering the Carpenters **10.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2020. The famous sitters are Ricky Wilson, Adrian Dunbar and Zawe Ashton **11.00** Mystery of the Lost Paintings (AD) **12.00** Comedy Legends. A tribute to Joan Rivers **1.00am** The Nineties **2.00** The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life **2.45** Off Camera with Sam Jones **4.00** Discovering: Richard Dreyfuss **5.00** Discovering: Basil Rathbone

Sky Main Event

6.00am Live Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: Australia v New Zealand. Coverage of the Group A match from Junction Oval in Melbourne **7.30** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Football Centre **11.30** Ref Watch **12.00** Sky Sports News **5.00pm** Sky Sports News at 5 **6.00** Carabao Cup Final Highlights **7.00** Best Goals: Carabao Cup 2019/20. Highlights from the League Cup **7.30** Live EFL: Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest (Kick-off **7.45**). The Championship clash from Riverside Stadium. The sides shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in December's reverse fixture. However, Forest will be hopeful of an away win to enhance their chances of promotion this time around, given Boro are struggling at the other end of the table **10.00** The Debate. The latest football news **11.00** Live Test Cricket: New Zealand v India. Coverage of the fourth day of the second and final Test in the two-match series from Hagley Oval in Christchurch

Read about the Roman masculinity experience at the-tls.co.uk/Romanic

Subscribe for £1 a week for 12 weeks

TLS

BBC Four

7.00pm Beyond 100 Days; Weather **7.30** Francesco's Mediterranean Voyage. The ancient Greek theatre at Epidaurus (AD) **8.00** New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Islands. A caving expedition reveals relics of the nation's pre-human past. Against all odds, one giant bird from primeval times has survived (3/3) (AD) **9.00** Age of the Image. New series. James Fox explores how the power of images has transformed the modern world, beginning with the scientific and technological advances at the start of the 20th century. *See Viewing Guide* **10.00** The Accused: Damned or Devoted? — Storyville. The stories and fates of four people accused of blasphemy in Pakistan, including a Christian who claims she was falsely accused by her Muslim co-workers. *See Viewing Guide* **11.15** Art of France. Andrew Graham-Dixon explores how art in France took a dramatic turn after the Revolution ushered in a bold new world of artists including Jacques-Louis David and Théodore Géricault (AD) **12.15am** Leonora Carrington: The Lost Surrealist **1.15** Rude Britannia (AD) **2.15-3.15** New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Islands (AD, SL)

E4

6.00am Hollyoaks (AD) **7.00** How I Met Your Mother (AD) **8.00** Baby Daddy **9.00** Mike & Molly **10.00** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **11.00** The Goldbergs (AD) **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine (AD) **1.00pm** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **2.00** Baby Daddy **3.00** Mike & Molly **4.00** The Goldbergs (AD) **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine (AD) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **7.00** Hollyoaks. Edward lets Marnie down gently when she comes on too strong (AD) **7.30** Man with a Plan. Andi and Marcy revive an old high-school feud (AD) **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride. Fun-loving groom-to-be Liam wants a wedding day that really celebrates his native Isle of Wight **9.00** Celebs Go Dating. Anna and Paul come to a surprising conclusion about Alison Hammond **10.00** The Sex Clinic. A personal trainer is concerned she might be a sex addict (AD) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine (AD) **1.00am** Celebs Go Dating **2.05** First Dates Abroad **3.00** The Sex Clinic **3.55** The Big Bang Theory (AD) **4.45** How I Met Your Mother (AD)

More4

8.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun **10.05** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun **11.05** Emergency Helicopter Medics **12.10pm** 999: On the Front Line **1.15** Escape to the Château: DIY (AD) **2.15** Four in a Bed **4.55** The Secret Life of the Zoo (AD) **5.55** Car SOS **6.55** Escape to the Château: DIY. Belinda and Lee welcome their first paying guests (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs: The Street. Kevin McCloud follows a husband building a home to improve the quality of life for his disabled wife (5/6) **9.00** Car SOS. Tim and Fuzz restore a 1972 Toyota Celica, one of the first Japanese sports coupés to find success on the global market, but spares are almost impossible to find (AD) **10.00** Inside Bentley: A Great British Motor Car. Documentary going behind the scenes at the car company's plant as work gets underway on a range of 4x4s, from the factory floor to the world's most exclusive car showroom (AD) **11.00** 24 Hours in A&E. A young man has a severe reaction to a recreational drug (AD) **12.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.05am** Car SOS (AD) **2.05** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.10-3.40** Best of Food Unwrapped (AD)

Film4

11.00am In Harm's Way (PG, 1965) Second World War drama starring John Wayne (b/w) **2.25pm Millions Like Us (U, 1943)** Second World War drama starring Patricia Roc (b/w) **4.35 Malta Story (U, 1953)** Second World War drama starring Alec Guinness (b/w) **6.45 Bend It Like Beckham (12, 2002)** A schoolgirl tries to keep her passion for football a secret from her parents. Comedy starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley **9.00 Die Hard 4.0 (15, 2007)** Tough cop John McClane goes on the trail of a criminal mastermind plotting a technological terror attack on America. Action thriller sequel with Bruce Willis and Timothy Olyphant (AD) **11.35 Journeyman (15, 2017)** A world champion boxer suffers a serious head injury during a fight that leaves him with brain damage. Boxing drama, written, directed by and starring Paddy Considine **1.25am-3.45 Queen and Country (15, 2014)** John Boorman's semi-autobiographical sequel to *Hope and Glory* follows a young man doing National Service during the Korean War. Drama starring Callum Turner (AD)

ITV2

6.00am Teleshopping **7.00** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **7.50** Emmerdale (AD, SL) **8.20** Coronation Street (AD, SL) **9.20** Superstore (AD) **10.15** Dinner Date (AD) **11.15** Dress to Impress (AD) **12.15pm** Emmerdale (AD) **12.45** Coronation Street (AD) **1.50** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **2.45** Dinner Date (AD) **3.50** Dress to Impress (AD) **4.50** Take Me Out **6.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **6.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **7.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **7.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **8.00** Two and a Half Men **8.30** Two and a Half Men **9.00** Family Guy (AD) **9.30** American Dad! New series. Francine becomes a bodybuilder (AD) **10.00** The Stand Up Sketch Show **10.30** Family Guy (AD) **11.00** Family Guy (AD) **11.30** American Dad! (AD) **11.55** The Cleveland Show (AD) **12.25am** Two and a Half Men **1.25** Hey Tracey! **2.05** Plebs (AD) **3.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.20** ITV2 Nightscreen **3.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Coronation Street **6.55** Classic Emmerdale **7.55** Heartbeat (AD) **8.55** The Darling Buds of May **10.00** That's My Boy **10.30** Inspector Morse (AD) **12.40pm** Heartbeat (AD) **1.45** Classic Emmerdale **2.50** Classic Coronation Street **3.55** Midsomer Murders (AD) **6.00** Heartbeat. Rural drama (AD) **7.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot. An aircraft manufacturer hosts a party to trap a spy, but his wife expects problems and summons the famous detective to keep an eye on proceedings **8.00** Endeavour. Shaun Evans returns as the young Inspector Morse. A baffling suicide, and a smash-and-grab robbery throws Morse in at the deep end as he returns to work (1/4) (AD) **10.00** Scott & Bailey. Janet moves a step closer to tracking down Veronica's killer (5/6) (AD) **11.00** Inspector Morse. The murder of a retired university fellow leads to a complex investigation for Morse involving student suicide, drugs and the mysterious dismissal of a loyal college scout (AD) **1.20am** Inspector Morse. A woman is shot **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Quincy ME **6.50** Kojak (SL) **7.50** The Saint **8.55** Minder (AD) **10.05** The Professionals (AD) **11.10** The Sweeney **12.15pm** Quincy ME **1.20** Kojak **2.20** The Saint **3.30** Minder (AD) **4.30** The Professionals (AD) **5.35** The Sweeney. A routine assignment leads Regan and Carter to a massive car-parking fraud **6.45 FILM: Goldfinger (PG, 1964)** James Bond tracks down a ruthless gold smuggler intent on destroying the world economy by raiding Fort Knox. Spy adventure starring Sean Connery and Gert Frobe (AD) **9.00** Giant Lobster Hunters. New series. The real-life dramas of six captains as they go in search of lobsters in the Southern Ocean — Australia's deadliest stretch of water **10.00 FILM: Cop Land (18, 1997)** The naive, half-deaf sheriff of a town populated by New York cops discovers the officers he idolises are involved in corruption. Thriller starring Sylvester Stallone and Harvey Keitel (AD) **12.05am** Car Crash Global: Caught on Camera **1.05** The Contender **2.20** Auto Mundial **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

Dave

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **8.00** American Pickers **9.00** Storage Hunters UK **10.00** American Pickers **12.00** Cop Car Workshop **1.00pm** Top Gear (AD) **2.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers (AD) **3.00** Sin City Motors **4.00** Top Gear USA Special (AD) **5.00** Top Gear. With guest Simon Pegg (AD) **6.00** Taskmaster. Greg Davies hosts **7.00** Room 101. With David Tennant, Trevor McDonald and Aisling Bea **7.40** Room 101. With Noel Fielding, Ian Wright and Joanna Scanlan **8.20** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You. Hosted by Frankie Boyle **9.20** QI. With panellists Ross Noble, Alan Davies, Jack Dee and Phill Jupitus **10.00** The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. The comedian tests his preconceptions of Albania (AD) **11.00** Meet the Richardsons **11.40** Mock the Week **12.20am** Taskmaster **1.20** Jon Richardson: Ultimate Worrier **2.25** The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan (AD) **3.15** Zapped (AD) **4.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Soldier, Soldier **9.00** The Bill **10.00** Classic Holby City **11.00** Classic Casualty **12.00** The Bill **1.00pm** Classic EastEnders **2.20** London's Burning **3.20** Monarch of the Glen **4.20** Bergerac **5.20** Bread **6.00** Hi-de-Hi! Ted rents an X-rated film **6.40** As Time Goes By. Jean suspects Lionel is going deaf, but has trouble convincing him **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. A worldly wise acquaintance of Alvin catches Howard's eye **8.00** Dalziel & Pascoe. A priest is murdered in a village, and the duo arrive to find a community divided. James Bolam guest stars (3/5) (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. A security van is discovered at the bottom of a lake, and the team makes a link to a disappearance 17 years previously and an unsolved murder, prompting them to reopen the case. Amanda Redman stars (3/8) (AD) **11.15** Waking the Dead. DS Boyd investigates whether a woman who confessed to the murder of her husband 25 years ago could be innocent. Lynda Bellingham guest stars (4/5) (AD) **1.40am** The Bill **2.40** London's Burning. Nick causes controversy **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.00am Ronnie Kray and the Pervert Peer (AD) **7.10** Impossible Railways (AD) **8.00** Forbidden History (AD) **9.00** Hunting Down the Nazis (AD) **10.00** True Evil: The Making of a Nazi **11.00** Underground Worlds **12.00** Impossible Railways (AD) **1.00pm** Secrets of Althorp: The Spencers (AD) **2.00** Walking Through History **3.00** Underground Worlds **4.00** Impossible Railways (AD) **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Nazi Victory: The Post-War Plan **7.00** Underground Worlds. A labyrinth of tunnels underneath a tiny French village (5/10) **8.00** Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railway Journeys. Chris attempts to cross the length of Cuba (4/6) **9.00** Bangers and Cash. Dave finds a very rare 1970s Sunbeam Lotus (4/6) **10.00** Trains That Changed the World. The establishment of America's rail network **11.00** The Two Ronnies. With Pan's People **11.55** The Two Ronnies. Vintage comedy **12.40am** Nazi Victory: The Post-War Plan. Documentary **1.40** Ronnie Kray and the Pervert Peer (AD) **2.35** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC One N Ireland
As BBC One except: 8.30pm-9.00 The Chronicles of Erne **10.35** There's No Place Like Tyrone **11.05** Spying on the Scammers: Panorama **11.35** BBC Arts NI Presents: Borders (r) **12.05am** This Country (AD) **12.35** Young, Welsh and Pretty Minted (AD) **1.10** Live at the Apollo (r) **1.55-6.00** BBC News

BBC One Wales
As BBC One except: 7.00pm-7.30 X-Ray **8.30** Flooded Out of My Home **9.00-10.00** Hidden **10.35** The Split (AD) **11.35** Spying on the Scammers: Panorama **12.05am** This Country (r) (AD) **12.35** Live at the Apollo (r) **1.20-6.00** BBC News

BBC Two N Ireland
As BBC Two except: 10.00pm-10.30 Beidh Aonach Amárach **11.15-12.15am** Rugby Union PRO14 Highlights

BBC Two Wales
As BBC Two except: 7.00pm-7.30 The One Show **11.15** New Voices from Wales **11.30** Rugby Union: PRO14 Highlights **12.30am-1.00** Coast (r)

ITV Wales
As ITV except: 8.00pm-8.30 Wales This Week **10.45** Sharp End **11.15** St Davids: Britain's Smallest City (r) (AD) **11.45-12.35am** Tyson Fury: The Gypsy King (r) (AD)

STV
As ITV except: 10.35pm STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.10** Tyson Fury: The Gypsy King (r) (AD) **12.05am** Broadchurch (r) **1.00-5.05** ITV Nightscreen

UTV
As ITV except: 10.45pm-11.45 View from Stormont. Current affairs and political analysis

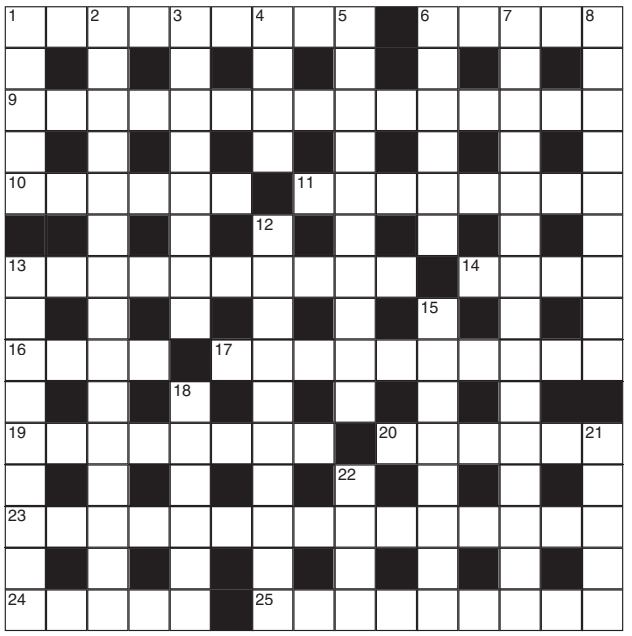
BBC Scotland
Midday-7.00pm As BBC Two except: Midday Sign Zone: Paramedics on Scene (r) **1.00pm** Sign Zone: Hebrides: Islands on the Edge (r) **2.00-2.30** Sign Zone: Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands (r) **7.00** Rugby Union PRO14 Highlights **8.00** Hebrides: Islands on the Edge (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **11.00-Midnight** Love Song (r)

BBC Alba
7.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Piseag & Cuilean/Kit & Pup **5.10** Gudrun: A' Bhana-phrionnsa Lochlannach (r) **5.20** Sgriobag (Get Squiggling) (r) **5.35** Na Bleigeardan (Little Monsters) (r) **5.45** Na Braithrean Cuideachail (The Koala Brothers) (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Clann Na Cruinne **6.15** Sràid nan Sgread (Scream Street) (r) **6.30** Seonaidh (Shaun the Sheep) (r) **6.35** Na Moomins/Moomin Valley **7.00** Turas a' Bhradain (The Salmon's Journey) (r) **7.30** Speaking Our Language (r) **7.55** Earrann Eachdraidh (History Shorts) (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Thar na Loidhne/Crossing the Line **9.00** Trusadh: Croitearan Leodhais (Next Customer Please) (r) **10.00** Port (r) **10.30** 'San Fhuil (It's in the Blood) (r) **11.30** Mach à Seo! (r) **12.00-7.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw **12.00** News S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Ysgol Ddawns Anti Karen (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.30** Nyrsys (r) (AD) **2.00** News S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Ysgol Ni: Maesincla (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo (r) **4.10** Awr Fawr: Nos Da Cyw (r) **4.15** Awr Fawr: Do Re Mi Dona (r) **4.30** Awr Fawr: Digbi Draig (r) **4.45** Awr Fawr: Cacamwnci (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Pat a Stan (r) **5.05** Stwnsh: Mwy o Stwnsh Sadwrn **5.25** Stwnsh: Sgorio **5.50** Stwnsh: Ffeil **6.00** Cerys Matthews a'r Goeden Faled (r) **6.30** Heno. Magazine programme, featuring stories from all over Wales **7.30** News S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Dan Do. Aled Samuel and Mandy Watkins visit an Edwardian house with a contemporary extension, a house built by Twm o'r Nant and a Victorian guest house **8.55** News S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Ffermio **9.30** Ein Byd: Cocen. Sion Jenkins follows a young woman through rehab after cocaine addiction for ten years, and meets a London drug dealer who earns thousands selling the drug in South Wales **10.00-11.45** Clwb Rygbi

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 14



Across

1 British acting great whose daughters Hayley and Juliet were also in the industry (4,5)
6 Member of an indigenous people of the West Indies (5)
9 Classic novel parodying gothic literature (10,5)
10 Feline species of the Americas with a marbled coat (6)
11 Vocal style focusing on beauty of tone rather than power (3,5)
13 US novelist who left *The Last Tycoon* unfinished (10)
14 Creature cited twice in the title of AA Milne's adaptation of a Kenneth Grahame tale (4)
16 1980s band featuring a pair of twins on vocals and drums (4)
17 Unpowered flying apparatus (4-6)
19 Drama in which Sally Field earned the first of her two best actress Oscars (5,3)
20 Edith ---, heroic First World War nurse (6)
23 Mythical twins, or stars in the constellation Gemini (6,3,6)
24 Ancient region in which the city of Ephesus was located (5)
25 Plant of the genus Helianthus (9)

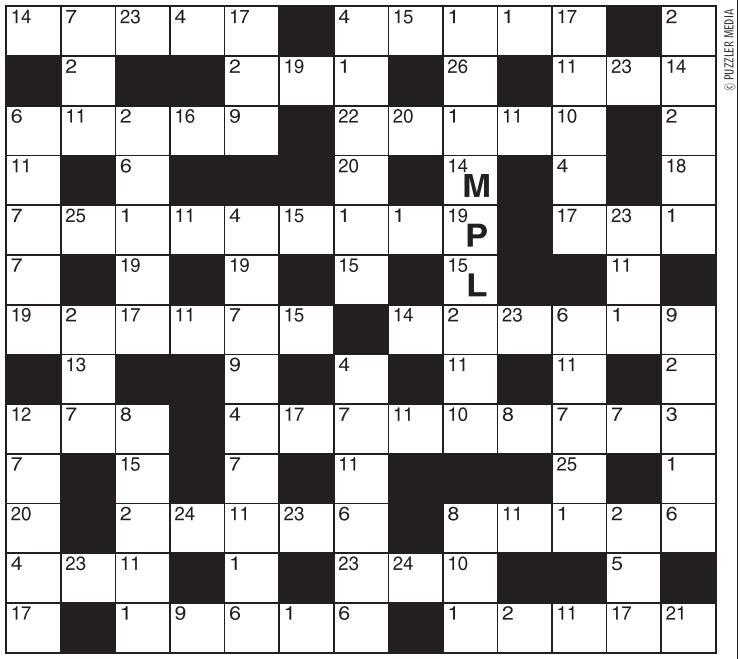
Down

1 --- O'Neill, Irish racehorse trainer and former jockey (5)
2 Deputy prime minister under Clement Attlee (7,8)
3 Chinese game played with 136 or 144 tiles (3-5)
4 Austria's third-largest city, on the River Danube (4)
5 Study of caves (10)
6 Monopoly card set including "Advance to Mayfair" (6)
7 Shakespeare's Puck (5,10)
8 Nickname of Batman's sidekick (3,6)
12 Canadian rocker who topped the UK charts for 16 consecutive weeks in 1991 (5,5)
13 Mathematician associated with the sequence 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ... (9)
15 Picturesque village on Loch Broom in NW Scotland (8)
18 Capital of Japan's Chubu region (6)
21 Egyptian city near the Valley of the Kings (5)
22 --- Hazard, ex-Chelsea FC star now at Real Madrid (4)

Last week's solution

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

Codeword No 3899



© PUZZLER MEDIA

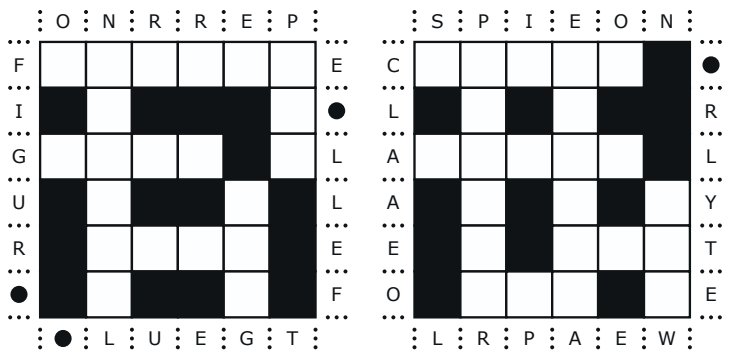
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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

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

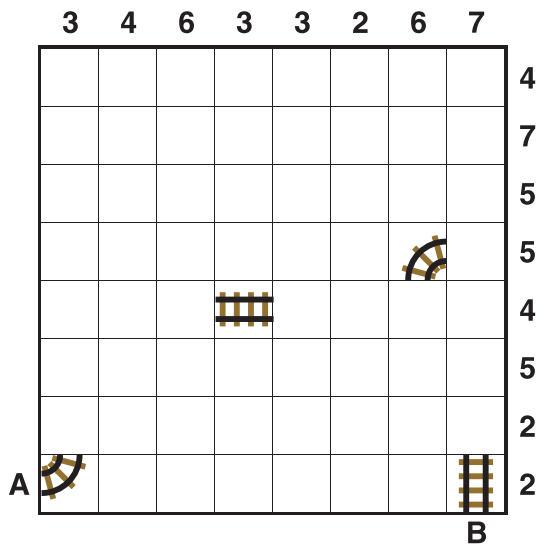
Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 84901. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica No 5201 No 5202



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

Train Tracks No 957



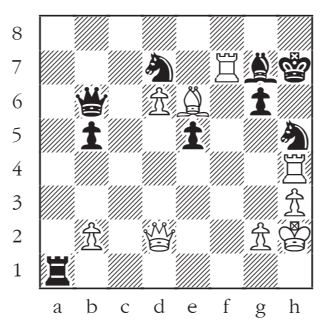
Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Mini Sudoku

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

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

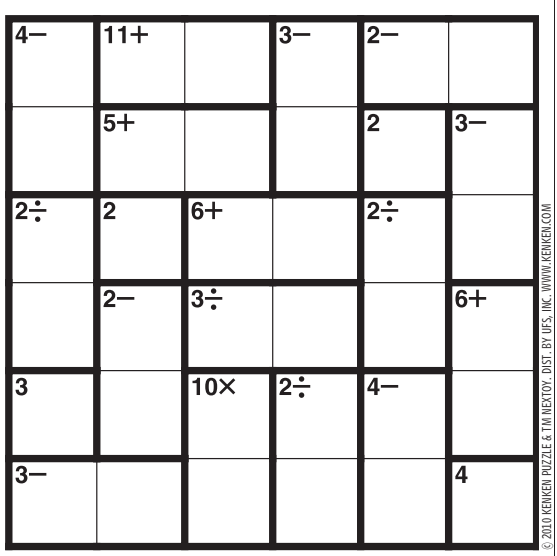
Winning Move



White to play. This position is from Yilmaz-Sindarov, Moscow 2020.

White has an attack but needs to act fast as Black threatens mate on g1. He now found a way to hoover the main black defences away so that his queen could come in and clean up. Can you see how?

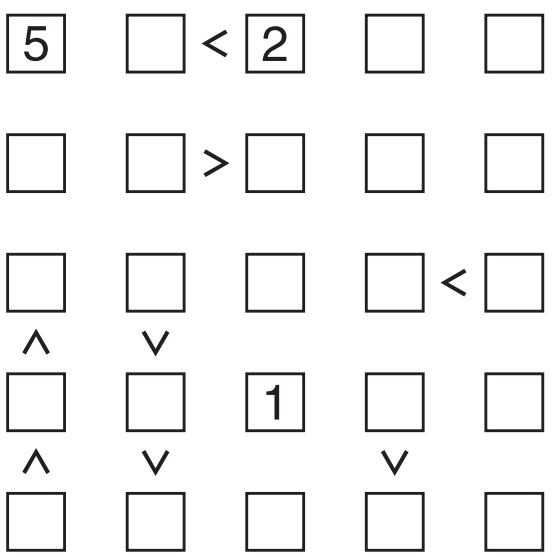
KenKen Easy No 4891



© 2010 KENKEN PUZZLE & TM NIKTOY. DIST. BY UFS, INC. WWW.KENKEN.COM

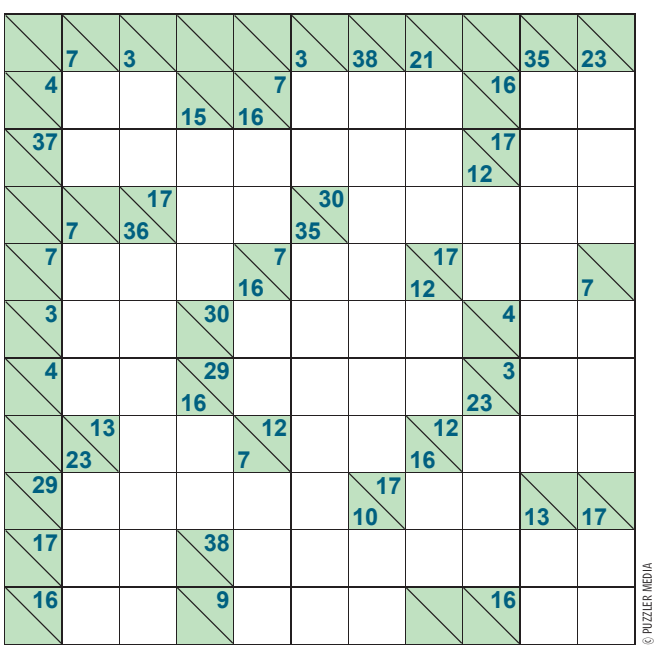
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 3641



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

Kakuro No 2600

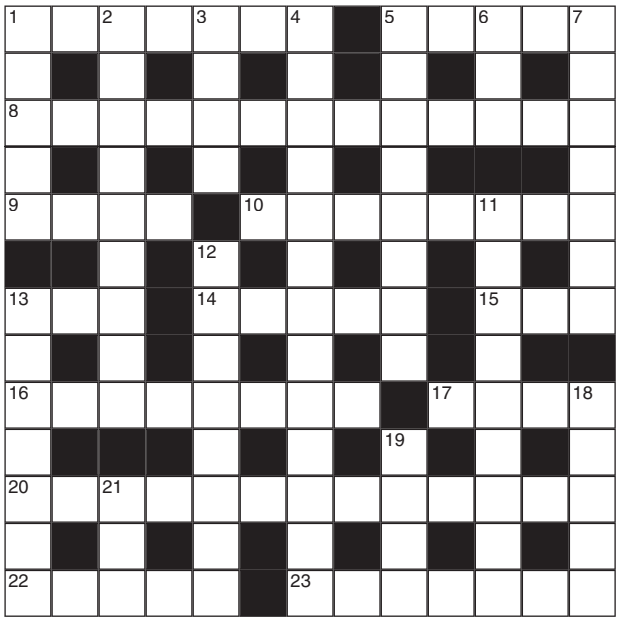


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

© PUZZLER MEDIA

MindGames

times2 Crossword No 8215



Across

1 Type of cloud (7)
5 Nonsense (5)
8 Star group (13)
9 Abominable snowman (4)
10 Tied race (4,4)
13 Tune; atmosphere (3)
14 Condescend (5)
15 Vehicle (3)
16 Migratory thrushes (8)
17 Floating ice sheet (4)
20 Stylish writer (13)
22 Giant god (5)
23 Not artificial; off-white (7)

Down

1 Bumptious, self-important (5)
2 Checked over time (9)
3 A large amount (4)
4 Circuit builder's tool (9,4)
5 Amassing; advert carrier (8)
6 Ornamental carp variety (3)
7 Frightening creature (7)
11 Poem by Longfellow (9)
12 Process of summing (8)
13 Fruit (7)
18 Praise enthusiastically (5)
19 See; location (4)
21 Auction item(s) (3)

Solution to Crossword 8214

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

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

Bridge Andrew Robson

Easily the most important piece of advice for declarer to follow in a notrump contract is to count up the top tricks before embarking. That means only those tricks you can win before losing the lead.

Take this instructive deal, shown to me by Steve Conrad of New York. How do you play 3NT on the queen of spades lead?

You win the king and, being in your hand, it looks awfully tempting to lead a diamond to the jack. If West holds the queen, you'll scoop up all five diamond tricks (perhaps via another finesse, if West holds ♦Qxxx); if the jack loses to East's queen, you'll make four diamond tricks. That's got to be good, hasn't it?

Actually no. You go down. East beats the jack of diamonds with the queen, promptly returns a spade and, with both the club and heart finesses losing, you're scuppered.

Let's think in a more structured way. Count up your top tricks. You have two top spades, one top heart, two top diamonds and one top club. That's six. You need three more tricks. And the club suit must provide them, even if the finesse loses.

After winning the spade, you could play clubs out of your hand and nine tricks would be guaranteed. However, there's a cost-free overtrick if East holds ♣Kx or ♣Kxx. Cross to the ace of diamonds, spurning the finesse, and lead a club to the queen.

Here, West wins the king of clubs and continues with the jack of spades. However, you win, cash your four promoted clubs and cross to the king of diamonds and ace of hearts. Nine tricks made — 100 per cent. Take the diamond finesse or the heart finesse and you go down. Take no finesse (or the club finesse) and you're certain to make.

As a general guide, the best suits to play on are the ones where you have a big differential between your top tricks in the suit and potential extra tricks. This is why a suit of, say ♥Q2 facing ♥KJ3 is so powerful — no top tricks and two easily promoted extra tricks. While a suit of ♠AK32 facing ♠654 is a poor suit to develop — two top tricks and only a meagre chance of an extra trick (an opposing 3-3 split).

Dealer: North, Vulnerability: East-West

Teams

	♠76 ♥AJ76 ♦AKJ109 ♣54	
♠QJ1098 ♥1098 ♦87 ♣K32	N W E S	♠5432 ♥K32 ♦Q32 ♣876
	♠AK ♥Q54 ♦654 ♣AQJ109	

S	W	N	E
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥(1)	Pass
3NT	End		

(1) Playing a freewheeling shape-showing style, North would rebid 2♥ to show their 5-4 shape. Here, North-South were playing that 2♥ would show 16 or more points; so North rebids 2♦.

Contract: 3NT, Opening Lead: ♠Q

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY	3	CUBE IT	+ 54	÷ 9	− 5	x 23	½ OF IT	+ 31	÷ 7	SQUARE IT
MEDIUM	220	+¾ OF IT	÷ 5	x 7	+ 176	⅘ OF IT	− 384	x 9	+ 883	÷ 25
HARDER	294	÷ 21	CUBE IT	− 968	⅔ OF IT	TREBLE IT	− 527	÷ 55	+ ⅘ OF IT	÷ 9

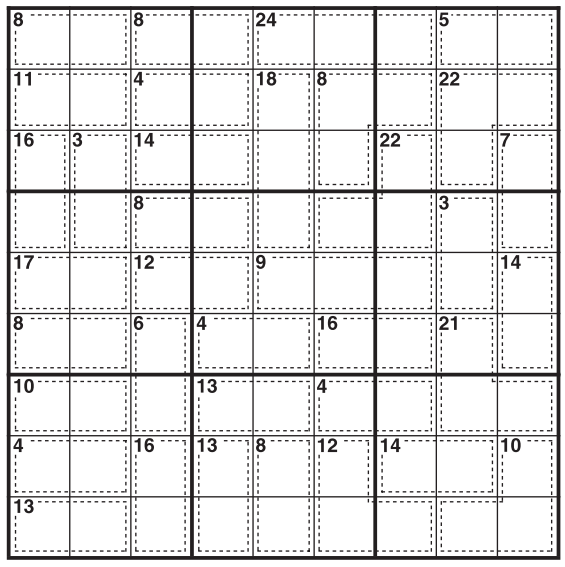
ANSWER

Polygon

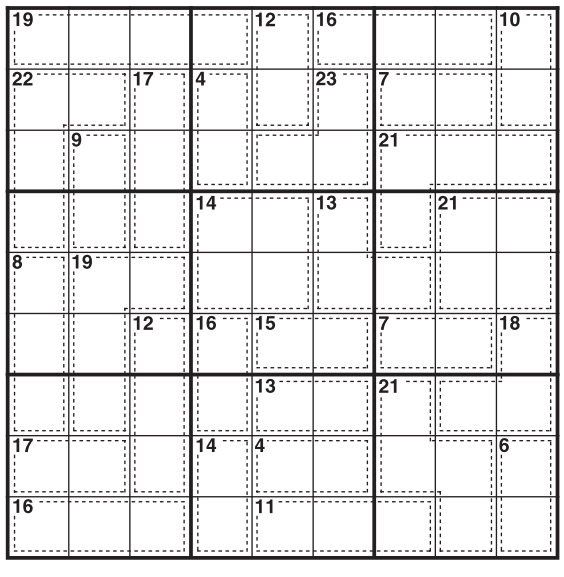


From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 15 words, average; 21, good; 25, very good; 29, excellent
Saturday's answers
amount, anima, animato, anomia, atman, atom, **automation**, automaton, main, mana, manat, mania, manitou, manta, mantua, matai, matt, mint, mitt, moan, moat, mono, moon, moot, motion, motto, mount, muon, mutant, mutation, muti, mutt, mutton, notam, omit, ottoman, tatami, tinamou, tomato

Killer Gentle No 7038



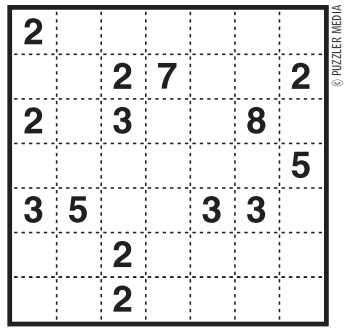
Killer Tricky No 7039



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

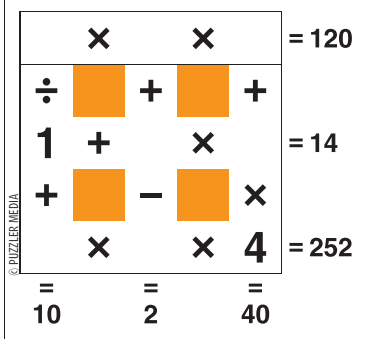
Cluelines **Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen?** Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Cell Blocks No 3782



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

Set Square No 2603



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

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 1559

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

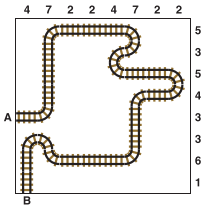
Codeword 3898

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

Kakuro 2599

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

Train Tracks 956



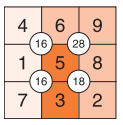
Chess — Winning Move

White jettisons both rooks with 1 Rxh5+! gxh5 2 Rxg7+! Kxg7 and now the queen and bishop complete the demolition: 3 Qg5+ Kh7 4 Bf5+ Kh8 5 Qh6+ Kg8 6 Be6 mate

Brain Trainer

Easy 121; Medium 103; Harder 11

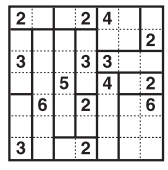
Suko 2800



Square Routes 51

M	A	C	K	A
O	R	P	E	M
P	O	U	S	E
A	S	A	L	I
E	L	Y	A	D

Cell Blocks 3781



Set Square 2602

8	×	6	+	9
−	■	÷	■	+
7	×	1	×	5
×	■	×	■	×
3	+	2	+	4

KenKen 4890

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

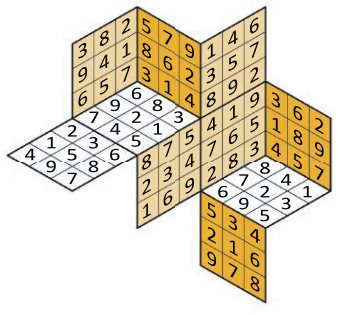
Word watch

Salpiglossis (c) A plant from Chile with brightly coloured flowers
Salpa (a) A minute marine animal
Salopettes (b) Strapped, quilted trousers, worn for skiing

Futoshiki 3640

1	5	3 <	4	2 ∨
5	4	2	3	1
2 ∧	3 <	5	1	4 ∧
3	1 <	4	2	5
4 >	2	1	5	3

Tredoku 1619



Sudoku 11,368

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

Quintagram

1 Bald
2 Harpy
3 Golden
4 Martial
5 Legal eagle

Lexica 5199

S	E	N	T	■	A
K	■	■	R	O	W
E	■	■	I	■	A
T	■	S	A	C	K
C	■	■	L	■	E
H	■	■	■	■	■

Killer 7037

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

Lexica 5200

W	■	S	A	N	K
H	O	E	■	O	■
I	■	D	■	B	■
T	R	A	I	L	■
E	■	T	■	E	■
■	H	E	M	■	■

Quiz

1 Richard Nixon **2** Temperature **3** Absolut vodka **4** John Buchan **5** *The Birth of a Nation* **6** Valencia **7** Samuel Beckett — in his work *Worstward Ho* **8** Asif Ali Zardari (b 1955). Muhammad Mian Soomro (b 1950) was briefly acting president before him. Partition took place in 1947 **9** Uvula or palatine uvula. Its action helps prevent food entering the nasal cavity **10** Tencent **11** Traverse Theatre **12** Alex Colville **13** Orville Peck **14** Anna Kournikova **15** David Owen

THE TIMES

02.03.20

MindGames

Word watch
Josephine Balmer

Salpiglossis
a A speech deficiency
b An annotation
c A plant

Salpa
a A marine animal
b A herb
c A rouge

Salopettes
a A young Shropshire inhabitant
b A skiing garment
c A shoulder pad

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Easy No 11,369

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

Difficult No 11,370

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

Fiendish No 11,371

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

© PUZZLER MEDIA

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

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 On April 30, 1973, who told his fellow Americans: "There can be no whitewash at the White House"?

2 On a map, an isotherm joins areas of equal what?

3 Introduced in 1879 by Lars Olsson Smith, which vodka is made in the Swedish town of Ahus?

4 Who set two of his Richard Hannay novels — *Greenmantle* (1916) and *Mr Standfast* (1919) — during the First World War?

5 Considered the first movie sequel, *The Fall of a Nation* (1916) followed which DW Griffith film?

CHRIS MCANDREW



6 The capital of Venezuela's Carabobo state and Spain's third largest city share what name?

7 Which Irish Nobel laureate wrote: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better"?

8 Which politician, the widower of Benazir Bhutto, was the first president of Pakistan born after Partition?

9 During swallowing, which projection moves with the soft palate to close off the nasopharynx?

10 In 2017, which tech firm became the first Chinese company to be valued at more than $500 billion?

11 John Calder and Jim Haynes were among the founders of which theatre now in Cambridge Street, Edinburgh?

12 Which Canadian painter of *Horse and Train* inspired a shot in Michael Mann's film *Heat* with his 1967 work *Pacific*?

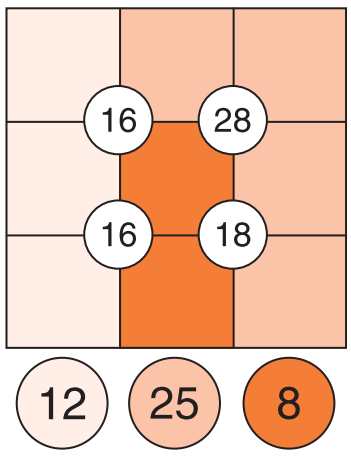
13 Which Canadian country musician, whose first album is *Pony* (2019), disguises himself with a leather-fringed mask?

14 The singer Enrique Iglesias has three children with which retired Russian tennis player?

15 Which politician (b 1938) is pictured?

Answers on page 15

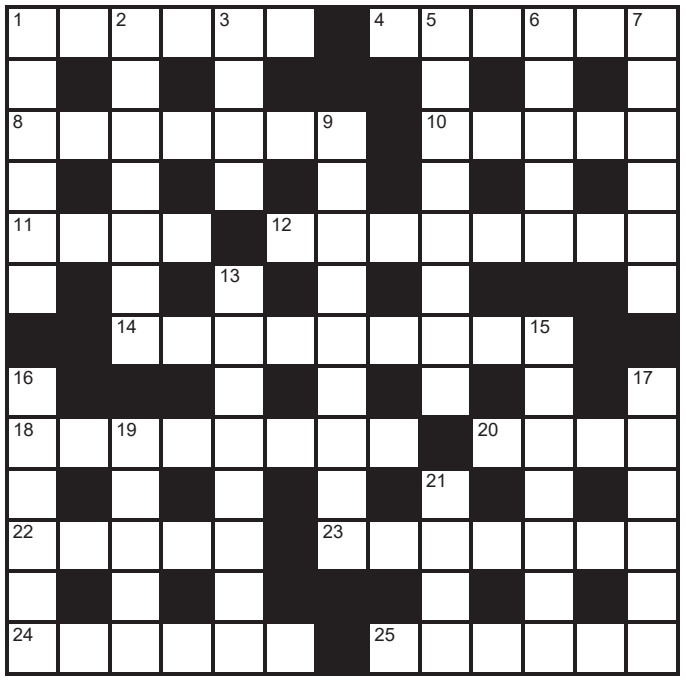
Suko
No 2800



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

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 1560 by Hurley



Across
1 Is concerned about son's embrace (6)
4 Prudence — article left unfinished before breach (6)
8 From local man, a city annual (7)
10 Nearly all admitting India's humid (5)
11 Curtailed rascal's swindle (4)
12 Allow into journey travelled for gambling game (8)
14 Self-centred, I get Stoic for a change (9)
18 Precise account by member of clergy (8)
20 Gamble about large boxing prize (4)
22 Far from humble urge to include university (5)
23 Salesman left in charge with a copy (7)
24 Evening event succeeded — tunes involved (6)
25 Attractive quarry, dry inside (6)

Down
1 Rough path, we hear (6)
2 Angry behaviour — strike attendant (7)
3 Transgression, dark's ending in fall (4)
5 Modesty of home up mountain in Lebanon — it tantalises you initially (8)
6 Wild, hit out regularly? Silly (5)
7 Element of vote the right must secure (6)
9 Singer his rector trained? (9)
13 Cereal time (8)
15 Revolutionary film dispenser (7)
16 Civil Service welcoming a politician, upper-class, in study area (6)
17 Various dates over year leading to regular boyfriend (6)
19 Top clubs dispute name (5)
21 Fight, second, of expected standard (4)

Friday's solution on page 15

