March 1, 2020 · Issue no 10,199 · thesundaytimes.co.uk

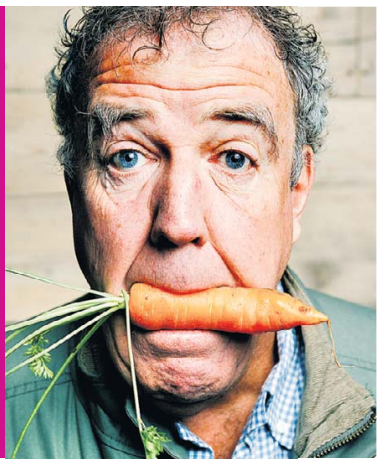
£2.90 · only £2 to subscribers

THE SUNDAY TIMES

COOKING WITH CLARKSON

NO-NONSENSE RECIPES

MAGAZINE



MERSEY BEAT

LIVERPOOL LOSE AT LAST

SPORT



Home Office chief calls Patel a lying bully

Open warfare jeopardises Brexit migrant plan

Tim Shipman and Caroline Wheeler

Boris Johnson has been warned that his Brexit immigration plans risk being derailed by chaos at the Home Office after the top official in the department quit yesterday and announced he was suing the government.

Priti Patel, the home secretary, is now facing the prospect of an inquiry after Sir Philip Rutnam accused the home secretary of orchestrating a "vicious" briefing operation against him and leaving officials in "fear".

Last night, a complaint was lodged with the prime minister that accuses Patel of breaching the ministerial code of conduct by bullying civil servants.

Rutnam announced that he was launching legal action for constructive dismissal, issuing an unprecedented public statement that accused Patel of "shouting and swearing, belittling people, making unreasonable and repeated demands".

His departure leaves the government reeling at a time when the Home Office is expected to play a pivotal role in an expected coronavirus epidemic and a post-Brexit points based immigration system, supposed to begin next January.

Rutnam was replaced by Shona Dunn, the official in charge of immigration and borders, amid concern in Downing Street that Home Office officials might "down tools" or "drag their feet" to sabotage Johnson's border controls.

Dominic Cummings, the prime minister's senior aide, has sent Michael Young, a political aide, to oversee the plans because of fears that Patel is not up to the job and will be undermined by her officials.

A Tory source said Young was told: "You have one job: don't let Priti f*** up the borders plan." The source predicted she would be "out of a job" by the end of the year and that the new immigration system would have to be "delayed".

Rutnam quit after crisis talks in Whitehall on Friday night in which he turned down a payoff that would have come with a gagging clause. He had asked for assurances that, if negative briefings continued against him, both Johnson and Patel would issue public statements supporting him. Neither was prepared to do so.

Rutnam accused Patel and her allies of peddling "false" claims that he had briefed the media against her and accused her in return of authorising leaks against him. He said: "The home secretary categorically denied any involvement in this campaign to the Cabinet Office. I regret I do not believe her. She has not made the effort I would expect to dissociate herself from the comments.

"I believe these events give me very strong grounds to claim constructive, unfair dismissal and I will be pursuing that claim in the courts."

Sir Mark Sedwill, the cabinet secretary, was accused of lacking the "authority" he needs from Johnson to defend officials.

Last night, Sir Ed Davey, acting leader of the Liberal Democrats, wrote to Johnson demanding a probe into Patel's behaviour. "These are extremely serious allegations and must be thoroughly investigated," he wrote.

The ministerial code states: "Ministers should treat all those with whom they come into contact with consideration and respect. Harassing, bullying or other inappropriate or discriminating behaviour wherever it takes place is not consistent with the ministerial code and will not be tolerated."

The confrontation comes two weeks after Sajid Javid quit as chancellor when Johnson ordered him to fire his aides.

Dave Penman, general secretary of the FDA, the senior public servants' union, said: "Only the prime minister can put a stop to this behaviour and unless he does so, he will have to accept his own responsibility for the consequences."

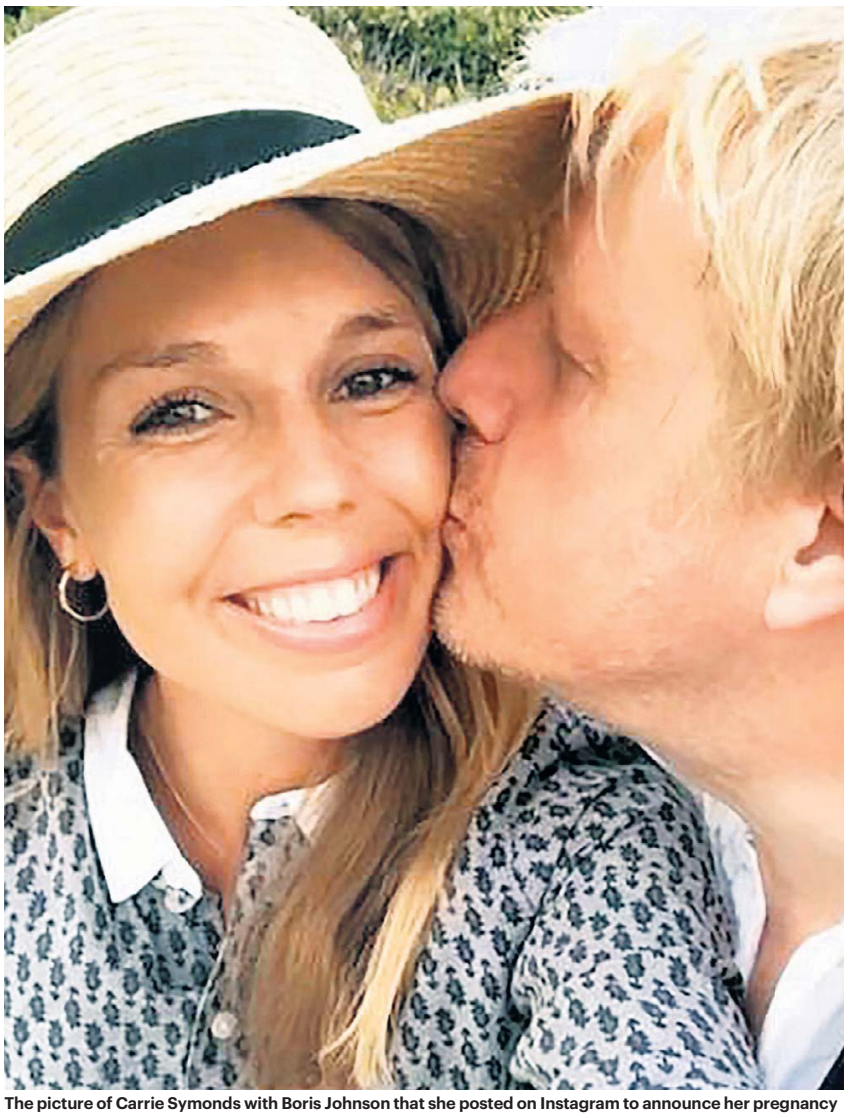
Politics, page 4

BUDGET EXCLUSIVE

ENTREPRENEURS TO LOSE £3BN TAX BREAK

NEWS, PAGE 2

What a good day to announce a No 10 baby



The picture of Carrie Symonds with Boris Johnson that she posted on Instagram to announce her pregnancy

Tim Shipman
Political Editor

Twelve weeks ago Boris Johnson predicted a Brexit baby boom. Yesterday it was revealed the prime minister has done his bit for the cause.

Johnson, 55, and his girlfriend, Carrie Symonds, got engaged to be married in secret at the end of last year and Symonds is now several months pregnant with their first child.

In a private post to friends on Instagram, Symonds, who is 32 later this month, 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."

She added: "Feel incredibly blessed."

The timing of the engagement raises the possibility that Johnson popped the question when the couple holidayed on the Caribbean island of Mustique over Christmas.

The prime minister and his fiancée have kept a low profile recently. Johnson failed to return from his winter holiday for January's Iran crisis and spent the half-term break at his Chevening country retreat in Kent as Britain battled with floods, many of which continue to rise.

The pregnancy had been an open secret in Westminster as Symonds failed to appear for significant events, and friends confided weeks ago that she was planning a baby shower.

The baby, who will be at least Johnson's sixth child, will be just the third born in Downing Street in 150 years, following David Cameron's fourth child, Florence, in 2010, and Tony Blair's fourth, Leo, in 2000. Johnson and Symonds are the first unmarried couple to live in No10.

The new arrival is the couple's second. Dilyn the dog arrived in September.

BORIS'S HAT-TRICK

CAROLINE WHEELER AND ROSAMUND URWIN, PAGE 5

I WAS A DAD AT 53

TONY ALLEN-MILLS, PAGE 5

NEWMAN'S VIEW



Work at home – the virus doomsday plan

Andrew Gregory, Dipesh Gadher and Jon Ungoed-Thomas

Millions of workers could be told to work from home as ministers draw up a "battle plan" to prevent a coronavirus epidemic in Britain.

Companies may also be ordered to halt all "unnecessary travel" in a "social distancing" strategy being considered by the government. Worst-case scenario plans show 80% of the population may get the virus, with up to 500,000 deaths.

Last night, a "medically high-risk" person in their fifties died in Washington state – the first fatality in America.

UK officials hope to delay the "peak" of any outbreak until the summer, when warmer weather could help slow its spread and the NHS will be better placed to cope.

Cemeteries and crematoriums are drawing up plans to deal with a rise in bodies. Families may be allowed to hold funerals in homes, schools, pubs or hotels if churches become overwhelmed, said Julie Dunk, the head of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. "There may be a requirement for longer working days, increased weekend working, shorter service times and services held in premises other than the crematorium or cemetery chapel."

Boris Johnson conceded the virus could destabilise the UK for "months", but said he had "no doubt" that the country "will get through it – and beat it".

He will chair a meeting of the government's Cobra emergency committee tomorrow, but faces criticism from Labour, which says he should have "got a grip" earlier.

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

Ministers are working on the assumption that worker absences could be "significantly higher" than normal; eventually, half the population could be off work because of fear of infection, suspected infection, quarantine and school and transport closures.

Coronavirus outbreak, pages 8-9

REVEALED

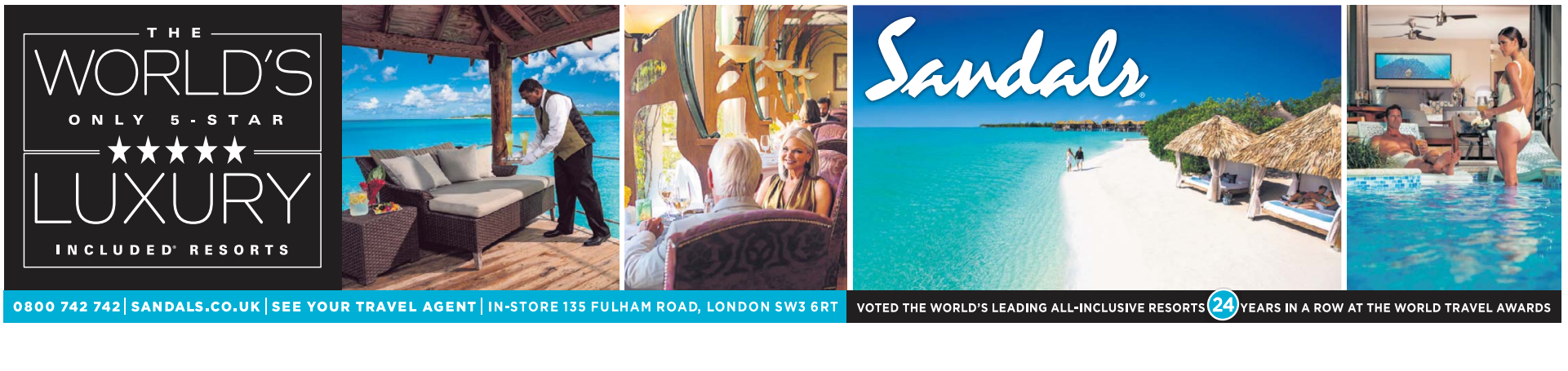
NHS WITCH HUNT



INSIGHT INVESTIGATION PAGES 14-15

INDEX

Lottery	News	2
Puzzles	News	28
Weather	News	29
Letters	News	24
TV & Radio	Culture	37
Books	Culture	26
Best Buys	Money	14



This week in The Sunday Times Also on our phone app, on tablet and online at thesundaytimes.co.uk

STYLE

FASHION SPECIAL



In our bumper spring-summer edition, Dolly Anderton celebrates the 1970s, Britain's brightest talents model the best from the high street – plus beauty, what to wear and news

CULTURE

LEADING LADY



Actress Rosamund Pike loves a challenge, which is why she is playing Marie Curie, the Nobel prize-winning scientist who spearheaded pioneering research into radioactivity

BUSINESS & MONEY

STOCK MARKET BUGGED BY VIRUS



Uncertainty over Covid-19 – and how bad it could get – gave shares their worst week since the global financial crisis of 2008

FIND US ON

ANY SECTIONS MISSING?

If your paper is incomplete we will send you the missing section(s) subject to availability. Telephone 020 7711 1521 or email your details to: customerservices@sunday-times.co.uk with Missing in the subject.

LOTTERY RESULTS

SATURDAY FEB 29 LOTTO	SATURDAY FEB 29 THUNDERBALL	FRIDAY FEB 28 EURO MILLIONS
25, 32, 34, 52, 55, 58	1, 3, 6, 10, 37	8, 11, 20, 22, 23
Bonus 9	Thunderball 10	Lucky Stars 3, 4

YORKSHIRE & NORTH EAST ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



Heavy rain has led to a lake almost the size of Windermere forming in Yorkshire. The Environment Agency estimates there are 3,000 acres of water in the area of the lower Ouse

Fears of more floods as February sets rain record

Nearly 90 warnings are in place across Yorkshire, Scotland and the West Country as Storm Jorge brings more bad weather

Jonathan Leake Environment Editor

A fourth weekend of storms saw the UK break records for February rain and create a giant lake where floodwaters spread across parts of East Yorkshire.

The Met Office said there had been nearly 8in of rain in February, compared with the previous February record of just over 7½in in 2015. The February average is under 2½in.

The rain – much of it from the month's three named storms, Ciara, Dennis and Jorge – is causing record flows in rivers, many of which have burst their banks, causing extensive floods. For some, the worst is yet to come with waters due to keep rising along rivers such as the Aire and the Ouse in East Yorkshire.

Last night, as Storm Jorge barrelled in from the northwest and hit Ireland with 80mph winds, 89 flood warnings were in place in England, Wales and Scotland.

The Environment Agency (EA) said last night it was in a race against rising waters in East Yorkshire. It was installing 18 pumps near river breaches at East Cowick, Gowdall and Snaith washlands, where 100 homes are inundated and more are threatened.

The flooding means the village of Gowdall, usually surrounded by fields, is on the edge of a lake that is likely to expand, with the Met Office warning of more rain. "We have a pumping plan … to accelerate the emptying of the washlands into the Aire and River Don," the EA said. "We are expecting West Marsh washlands to start filling again following rain."

WETTEST ON RECORD

Average UK February rainfall	2.4in
February 2020	8in
February 1990 – previous wettest	7.6in
December 2015 – UK's wettest month ever	8.5in

Source: Met Office. Figures updated 9am yesterday

There was another new lake by the Ouse. "We estimate there is about 3,000 acres of water in Kelfield, Riccall, Wistow and Cawood Ings combined on the lower Ouse. Lake Windermere is 3,640 acres," the EA tweeted.

In Devon, torrential rain caused a landslide that blocked the A381 near Totnes.

The weekend's heaviest rain, about 2in, was in south Wales where water surged into homes and businesses around Ely in Cardiff, and Pontypridd, with police declaring a "critical incident". Towns along the River Severn in the West Midlands, including Ironbridge and Bewdley, saw water levels fall.

Though England is worst hit by floods, it had the least rain of any region in February. The Met Office said Wales was the wettest with more than 11in while Scotland had nearly 10½in, Northern Ireland nearly 8½in and England less than 6in.

The head of Holland's flood protection agency criticised the UK's new "resilience" strategy, which makes householders responsible for "water-proofing" their homes. It urges them to take measures such as relining walls with waterproof plaster, moving boilers upstairs and moving wiring above flood levels.

Peter Glas, head of Holland's Delta Programme, told last week's Floodex conference in Peterborough that governments should protect citizens from flood disaster, rather than expect them to cope. "In Holland we are investing in prevention, prevention, prevention … we would never replace prevention by resilience."

Weather, page 29

Sunak to snatch entrepreneurs' £3bn tax relief to fund the north

Tim Shipman and Liam Kelly

Businesses will be hit with a £3bn tax rise to pay for a budget spending spree in the north of England, it can be revealed.

Rishi Sunak, the new chancellor, will scrap entrepreneurs' relief, which allows those who start a business to pay a preferential rate of tax, according to two sources familiar with the plans. The relief allows entrepreneurs to pay capital gains tax at 10% rather than the usual rate of 20% when they sell a business, up to a lifetime limit of £10m.

Sunak has decided to scrap it because it mostly benefits wealthy businessmen in the south of England. He will divert the cash to pay for nurses and police officers as well as building projects in the Midlands and the north of England.

The relief costs five times as much as it did when introduced 12 years ago, rising from £427m in 2008-9 to £2.7bn in 2018-19.

The move puts the government on a collision course with its traditional supporters in business in the south of England and also with increasingly fractious backbenchers who fear that the Tories are abandoning fiscal prudence.

It can be revealed that a group of 150 prominent business owners wrote to the chancellor on Friday urging him not to scrap entrepreneurs' relief.

"Other entrepreneurs have sold their business and are now currently considering whether to start a new business or not and the rate of tax is a very important factor," the letter says. "We know of one who will start his next business in Singapore if entrepreneurs' relief is not available to him." Signatories include the former trade minister Lord Jones; Cecile Reinaud, who launched the Seraphine maternity wear brand; and Graham Hobson, who sold the printing company PhotoBox for more than £300m in 2016.

In other developments:

- The Treasury has been consulting business groups about imposing a swathe of green taxes, including abolishing tax relief on red diesel in an effort to reduce the number of polluting vehicles. Agricultural vehicles are likely to be exempted
- Changes to air passenger duty are on the table
- Sunak has scrapped plans to launch a raid on pension tax relief but wants to reform the regime and will set up a consultation in the autumn to plan for changes
- Proposals to tear up the planning laws have been delayed until autumn, though the budget is likely to include some measures to encourage housebuilding
- The Treasury is debating a change in its accounting rules, reclassifying billions of pounds spent on education and health as "investment" – but this is unlikely to be used in this budget to justify more spending.

Insiders say Sunak's instincts are to keep the government's fiscal rules put in place by his predecessor, Sajid Javid.

Editorial, page 22



Get your business paperwork done without feeling like a robot.

Try Xero free for 30 days.

Beautiful business

xero

NEWS

Clueless and timid: Czech agents' verdict on the spy who became C

Declassified files reveal how the former head of MI6 was watched while working undercover in Prague in the 1970s

EXCLUSIVE

Gabriel Pogrund

He is the former head of MI6 and one of the most celebrated spymasters in British history. Yet little was known about the intelligence career of Sir Richard Dearlove – until now.

Newly declassified files today paint a detailed portrait of Dearlove's time in Eastern Europe during the 1970s, where he established himself as one of Britain's top spies behind the Iron Curtain.

Dearlove was only the second MI6 chief to be publicly named on his appointment, in 1999. Even then, the man known as "C" pulled out at the last minute from a news conference with Tony Blair and George Bush after 9/11, saying that he did not wish to be photographed. He has always refused to discuss his career: information on his postings to Nairobi, Paris and Washington remains practically nonexistent.

However, a 182-page file compiled by the Czech intelligence agency, the StB, lifts the veil on his time as an agent in Czechoslovakia.

Dearlove, 75, who was born in Gorran Haven, a Cornish fishing village, and educated at Cambridge, joined MI6 aged 21 in 1966. In 1973, he was appointed an MI6 station commander in Prague. He moved with his wife, Rosalind, and two children at a time when it was swarming with spies because of its strategic location, near East Germany and the USSR.

The communist secret service was quick to suspect that Dearlove belonged to MI6 and launched a surveillance mission to track his movements: Operation David. The resulting intelligence file depicts "David" through enemy eyes, sometimes literally. It includes a secretly captured photograph of him and his wife enjoying a meal at U Labuti (At the Swans), a hotel near Prague Castle.

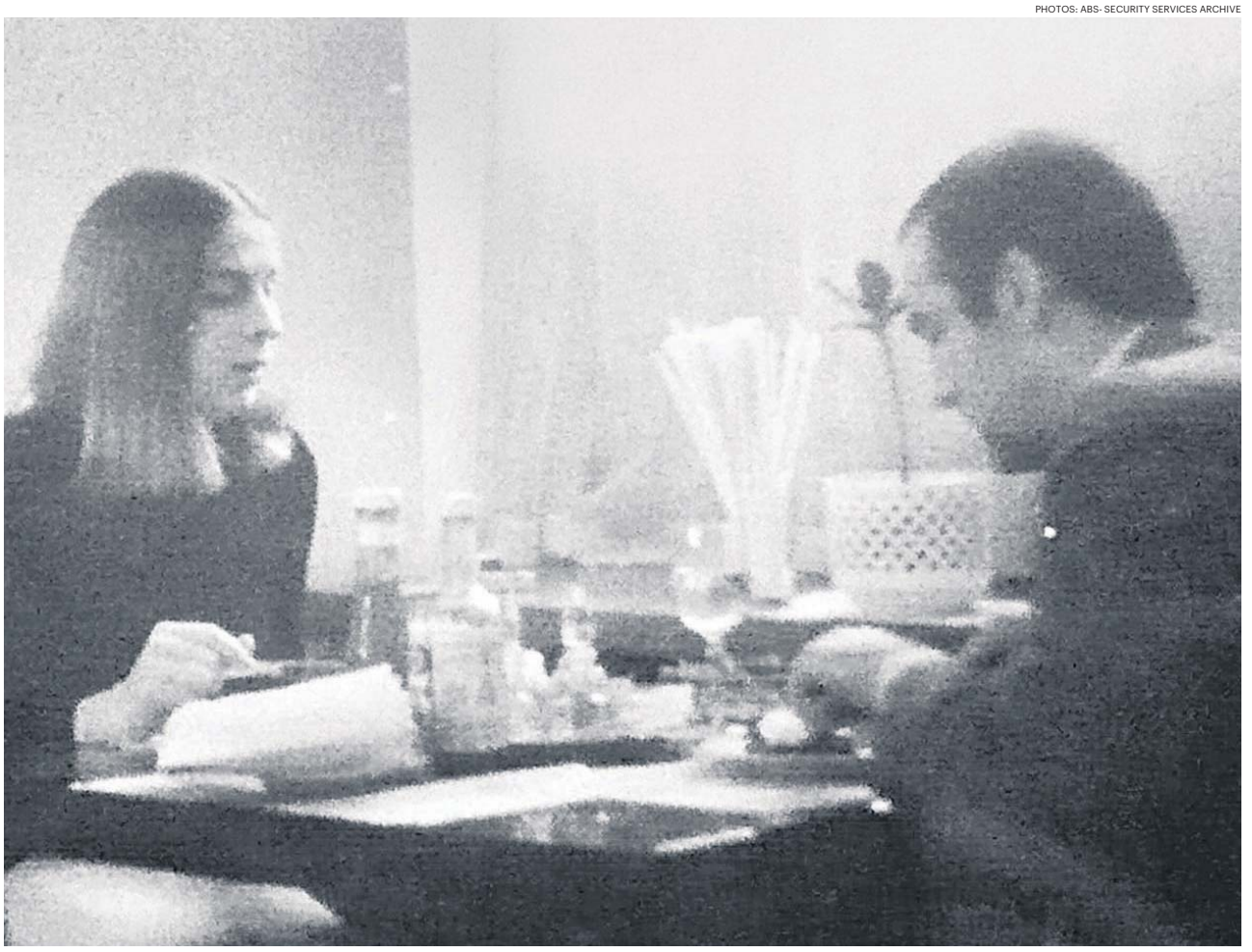
According to the files, Dearlove moved into a flat in a suburb of western Prague on April 4, 1973 – although not before making sure it was not bugged. "That same afternoon Dearlove began to carry out an inspection of his flat … He continued to carry out this inspection the entire next day, into the late hours of the evening," reads one file. "The furniture was displaced, the carpets rolled up … he thoroughly examined the floorboards from the cellar below, and the ceiling from the attic above."

As Dearlove settled into the rhythm of his new life, he remained standoffish as enemy agents posing as civilians sought to interact with him. "In one instance of the source coming into contact with Dearlove in the garden, he offered to give him a hand, as he was all dirty. However, Dearlove, thanking him, tactfully declined," one file said.

Such tactics only emboldened the StB. They installed a former intelligence officer, Ludek Stanek, as Dearlove's *domovnik*: the janitor who lived in the basement of his house and was tasked with running the boilers and clearing snow. He had apparently been sacked from his previous StB role for excessive violence.

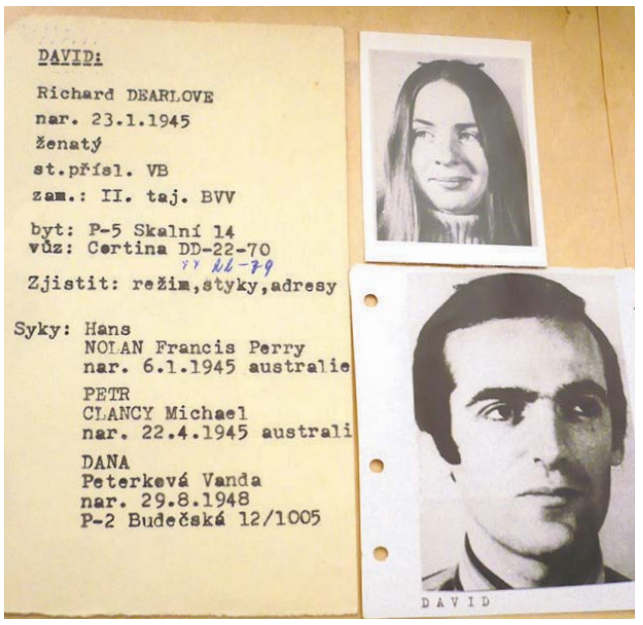
In his role, Agent Ludek provided a stream of intelligence on Dearlove's daily movements, his family life and the humdrum conversations they had together.

PHOTOS: ABS- SECURITY SERVICES ARCHIVE





Richard Dearlove, left, and with wife Rosalind, above at a restaurant in Prague in the 1970s. Below, their pictures in Czech files



After five months, he provided a mixed verdict. Dearlove, he declared, "is an inexperienced diplomat, who is quite clueless, careful, even timid. He is strongly under the influence of his wife, who has several times publicly given him a telling-off … [he] is most frugal, he hardly drinks any alcohol and his household waste is so small as to be imperceptible. He does not admit visitors into his flat … He walks around his residence very smartly dressed."

In total, five spies were deployed to conduct routine surveillance on Dearlove. Their activity took place at the height of the Cold War and five years after the Warsaw Pact's invasion of Czechoslovakia. Yet Dearlove appears to have found time to relax and enjoy the life of a family man. "On Saturdays and Sundays he regularly goes out with his whole family, or just with his older boy. On one occasion he went out with football boots in the car," one file said.

Another note said: "He is from southern England and was born near Penzance, where he owns a family home by the sea. He is a big patriot [of Cornwall]. His wife is a linguist … [her] father is currently the British ambassador to Iceland."

On one occasion in February 1974, Dearlove apparently disclosed his political views. With a week to go until the general election, he said that he was a "a socialist and a democrat", but would still vote Conservative. The chaos of British politics at that time, he told Ludek, was a "positive occurrence, because it is the reflection of a wider assertion of democracy and rights, which apparently is not possible in Czechoslovakia".

For all its efforts the StB does not appear to have been wise to Dearlove's most daring act of espionage. He handled one of the West's top double agents: Miloslav Kroca, a KGB-trained major in the StB who was head of its British section, the department responsible for spying on British soil. Kroca himself became an MI6 asset, codenamed "Freed", meeting Dearlove at secret locations in Prague and a forest outside of the city.

Only after Kroca died did the StB realise his betrayal. Investigators spotted Dearlove going to meet "Freed", unaware that his source had had a heart attack. At that point, the StB realised the scale of penetration in their ranks. In contrast, Dearlove states that MI6 was aware of Ludek's surveillance and deliberately fed certain information to him.

The StB frequently resorted to blackmail, torture and arbitrary arrests in the 1970s. But they also appear to have had a sensitivity for dry British humour. Agents intercepted one "amusing" letter Dearlove wrote to an embassy colleague. The letter concerned a sycophantic note written by a boy and submitted to the press department days earlier. "See," wrote Dearlove. "Someone *does* like you!"

Additional reporting: Martin Dixon

ST DIGITAL

Read a timeline of Sir Richard Dearlove's life

Go to sundaytimes.co.uk or our phone app

… but the ex-MI6 boss hits back: 'I always knew I was being spied on'

Gabriel Pogrund and Martin Dixon

Sir Richard Dearlove, the former head of MI6, knew he was being spied on during his time as an agent in Cold War Prague, and said yesterday that he simply created the impression that he was inexperienced to con enemy agents.

In a rare breach of his policy of refusing to discuss his MI6 career, Dearlove, 75, spoke of how he was posted to communist Czechoslovakia in 1973. His role included handling "Freed", a senior Czech intelligence official and one of the West's most important double agents.

As Dearlove arrived in the city, the Czech intelligence agency, the StB, deployed an agent to work in his block of flats as a caretaker. Agent Ludek lived in the basement and sent regular updates on his activities.

However, Dearlove said that he was wise to the StB's tactics. "The whole idea was to lull him and others of his type in to thinking that I couldn't possibly be an intelligence officer," he said. "All the information he gleaned was deliberately disclosed to him and to make him feel that I was a young and inexperienced Czech-speaking diplomat, rather than a highly trained SIS [Secret Intelligence Service] officer."

Dearlove's comment is backed up by material in his StB file. In one memo, Agent Ludek reported that Dearlove and his secretary had an agreement: "One of them must stay at home at all times."

Daniela Richterova, an expert in Czech intelligence at Brunel University, said that it was almost "100% certain" that Dearlove would have known what Ludek was up to.

"Anyone local working for you or residing in the premises of your house at that time, if you're a foreign diplomat, is going to have to report to local authorities. Whether you're a full-on agent or just an informer, that's how things worked," she said.

From the start of Dearlove's posting, the StB suspected that he was in MI6. It used local staff at the British embassy to provide information on his behaviour and appointments – prompting the occasional rebuke from Dearlove himself. "During the afternoon, she [a local staff member and informer] went into the social area of the embassy to use the telephone … Dearlove snapped at her that she had no business there, that this area was only for Englishmen," one file said. "This is now one of several instances in which [our informer] has had a run-in with Dearlove over coming into the embassy's social area."

Richterova, who reviewed the files, credited the StB with establishing that he was in MI6 – but too late for it to have mattered, she said. "Only just before he returns to Britain [in 1976] do they say positively that he's MI6," she added.

Losing pounds helps trader swim into record books

Nicholas Hellen

Adam Moss began swimming seriously after his doctor told him to get in shape for a knee operation, but when he reached his target weight, he decided not to stop.

Two months after getting the all-clear, Moss, 48, has become the first Briton to swim the Palk Strait between Sri Lanka and India, a distance of about 18 miles.

It could earn him a footnote in the record books alongside Captain Matthew Webb, who made the first crossing of the English Channel in 1875, and Lord Byron, who swam the Hellespont – the stretch of water between Europe and Asia now known as the Dardanelles – in 1810.

But it has also spared the Hong Kong-based equities trader knee replacement surgery scheduled for April. He said: "Having a bad knee if you are 16 ½ stone is much worse than if you are down to just above 14 stone, which I am after so much swimming and yoga."

A stunt on the BBC's *Top Gear* show gave him inspiration: last year the presenters Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris rigged two motorised tuk-tuk rickshaws to cross the Palk Strait.

It is a curiosity among open-water swims because the waters are so shallow that it is possible to wade across. "Someone asked me: 'Why not do a swim run?' I replied: 'I don't run.'"

Moss and Edie Hu, a US swimmer who accompanied him, reached deeper waters, where they were escorted by a catamaran, two rigid inflatables and two kayaks.

The pair crossed on February 26 in a time of 10 hours and 18 minutes, the second fastest crossing, although they stopped 500 yards before dry land because they did not have permission from the Indian authorities to come ashore.

If their achievement is ratified, they will become the joint 12th to have completed the crossing. Moss, who has a property in Sri Lanka, is raising funds for charities on both sides of the Palk Strait.

@NicholasHellen

Gove wouldn't listen, so the Greta of Northern Ireland wrote a book

Alice Hutton

As a 15-year-old environmental activist who is often described as Northern Ireland's answer to Greta Thunberg, Dara McAnulty has his own reasons for mistrusting professional politicians.

Last year he was snubbed by Michael Gove, the former environment secretary, who invited McAnulty to give a speech at London Zoo on the importance of getting young people into conservation – then left before the teenager spoke.

"The politicians don't really care. It's quite distressing," said McAnulty, who, like Thunberg, is on the autistic spectrum. But this year he has ensured his voice will be heard on the issue that concerns him the most: the preservation of plants and wildlife.

His first book, *Diary of a Young Naturalist*, will be published in May. He has become an RSPCA ambassador, and will feature in a BBC One *Countryfile* episode filmed at Murlough beach, 30 miles from Belfast, to be screened today at 5.50pm.

JOHN STILLWELL



Dara McAnulty, third from left, with Michael Gove, far right, and the giant tortoise at London Zoo

McAnulty was diagnosed as autistic at the age of five. He said it left him feeling as if he was "in a hurricane". He found himself drawn to the "peace" of the natural world and started a nature blog in 2016. His Twitter posts have attracted 23,000 followers.

McAnulty hopes his book, documenting a year in a young campaigner's life, will raise awareness of what it is like to live on the autistic spectrum and break down stereotypes, notably that autistic people cannot feel empathy and do not behave 'normally'.

"I have had people come up to me and say, 'You don't look autistic.' It's quite shocking," he said. "Don't be afraid to be different. All those differences give the world life."

His mother Roisin said she was delighted her son was able to "walk his own path". She said she let all her children follow their "passions" while offering "emotional and organisational support".

"I 'unparent'," she said. "For me to stop them from doing that would be taking a piece of them away."

When McAnulty travelled 500 miles to London Zoo in January 2019, he posed with a giant Galapagos tortoise while Gove grinned beside him. But the minister quickly disappeared, providing McAnulty with an early introduction to politics.

Sorry, great-grandma, but Archie's staying in Canada for this trip

Roya Nikkhah
Royal Correspondent

While Boris Johnson and his fiancée, Carrie Symonds, wait for their baby to arrive, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor will not be filling the void of sweet celebrity baby sightings.

When the Duchess of Sussex returns to the UK from Canada for a final round of engagements with Prince Harry, who arrived last week, she is expected – again – to leave behind their nine-month-old son.

The news will be disappointing for the Queen and the royal family, who are understood to be "very sad" that they have seen so little of Archie since his birth.

The Queen, 93, and the Duke of Edinburgh, 98, first met their eighth great-grandchild in May, when he was two days old at Windsor Castle. They did not attend his christening at the castle two months later, however, as it clashed with a private weekend they host annually at Sandringham.

Archie is understood to have first met his cousins, Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, in July at a polo match that Prince William and Harry played in, but contact since is said to have been minimal.

The last official sighting of Archie was a photograph of Harry holding his son, published on the Sussex Royal Instagram account on New Year's Eve.

Archie has yet to set foot on British soil this year, having spent the past three months in Canada, where Harry and Meghan have been staying in a mansion in Vancouver Island. It is thought he will remain in Canada with the Sussexes' nanny, and with Meghan's friend Jessica Mulroney, while they are in the UK.

If he remains in Canada, he is also set to miss out on meeting a new playmate. Harry's closest friend, Charlie van Straubenzee, and his wife, Daisy, have had their first child. Their daughter, Clover, was born on Wednesday, and Harry is expected to be her godfather.

@RoyaNikkhah

Home Office boss tells 'bully'

After days of vicious briefing by allies of the home secretary, Sir Philip Rutnam has taken an unprecedented step

TIM SHIPMAN
AND
CAROLINE WHEELER



RII SCHROER



Priti Patel has been accused of engaging in 'screaming matches' and 'foot-stamping tantrums' directed at her staff since becoming home secretary last year

At 10pm on Friday, Sir Philip Rutnam was still in negotiations with government lawyers. After 33 years as a civil servant he was in the middle of a very uncivil mess. For a fortnight allies of Priti Patel, the home secretary, had been – in Rutnam's view – running a "vicious" campaign to get him fired. Officials allied to the permanent secretary of the Home Office were running an equally vociferous campaign to draw attention to what they saw as unacceptable behaviour by Patel.

On Wednesday Rutnam had met Sir Mark Sedwill, the cabinet secretary, and agreed that it might be better if he left government. By Friday two sets of lawyers were negotiating a "substantial" payoff. In return Rutnam, who earned £185,000 a year, would be expected to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Rutnam is not a demonstrative individual, certainly less so than the home secretary, but the owlish, balding, bespectacled official was a doughty Whitehall warrior. Before he was prepared to accept the gagging clause he wanted an assurance from both Boris Johnson and Patel that if there was any further briefing against him they would issue a public statement dismissing the claims.

No such undertaking was forthcoming, so Rutnam abandoned the money and went public, at the risk that his colleagues would be purged. "If he had gone on their terms it would have emboldened the home secretary and the behaviour would have got worse," said a source familiar with the conversations.

Yesterday Rutnam issued a statement, without modern precedent, recounting the allegations his officials have made about the home secretary: "shouting and swearing, belittling people, making unreasonable and repeated demands". Patel denies the claims and Downing Street says no formal complaints have been lodged, but reports of "screaming matches" and "foot-stamping tantrums" have been legion since we revealed two weeks ago that one official had collapsed after working all night and being berated by Patel.

Even in a government that has specialised in personnel bushfires, the raging inferno of briefing and counter-briefing has paralysed one of the main departments of state. The row comes at a terrible time for a government facing a possible coronavirus pandemic in which the Home Office will have to help manage police resources, and Brexit trade negotiations that will bring a new immigration system and potential disruption at Britain's borders next January. Patel and Rutnam had been due to hold a meeting on coronavirus last week but did not meet.

Rutnam's departure is not the first. Patel had already "got rid of" her principal private secretary and at least two other senior Home Office civil servants. The home secretary may also have form. Someone who worked under Patel at the Department for International Development claims her behaviour led to the departure of several senior officials. "I saw first-hand the emotional distress caused," the whistle-blower said. "If she took against someone she made it very difficult for them to continue, and there were a number of officials she did not get on with who left. Her private office had a very rough time. Nothing was ever good enough and she would be quite rude and aggressive at all times."

It is understood that Sue Gray, the former Cabinet Office head of propriety and ethics, was made aware of Patel's behaviour while she was international development secretary between July 2016 and November 2017.

Some see a double standard, however. "A lot of men in Whitehall behave like this and don't get the pushback that she does," a former ministerial aide said. Dominic Raab, the foreign secretary, was branded a tough boss when he was Brexit secretary and members of his private office left. Another cabinet minister who was recently promoted is notorious for making his female private secretary cry and, in the words of an admirer: "If he thinks you're shit, he'll say so."

Rutnam has told friends that he thinks he has "a good case" for constructive dismissal. He has gathered a "catalogue" of complaints made about Patel's behaviour by officials and plans to use them.

> **A lot of men in Whitehall behave like this and don't get the pushback that she does**

The affair has laid bare a culture of confrontation in Whitehall in which Johnson's senior aides are invariably involved. Friends of Sonia Khan, an adviser to Sajid Javid who was marched out of Downing Street by an armed guard last year after being dismissed by Dominic Cummings, Johnson's senior aide, say she is expecting a substantial payoff and has been photographed and followed since she left work.

Yesterday Nick Macpherson, former permanent secretary to the Treasury, compared the Tories to "Jacobins" such as Maximilien Robespierre during the French revolution who had their enemies guillotined."They used to want to preserve our great institutions," he wrote on Twitter. "They are now hell-bent on destroying them."

Another insider said: "It's government by shooting the messenger."

Johnson's allies are conducting an informal leak inquiry to find out who has been briefing against Patel. Last week two security sources said Patel received less raw intelligence than her predecessors – a claim denied by MI5.

In Downing Street the finger of blame has pointed at, variously, a former official forced out by Patel; an official who is in a relationship with a former ministerial aide; and even a senior official who is married to a journalist.

This weekend officials at No 10 have ordered ministers, special advisers and officials to shut up. "When things go legal the shutters come down," said one insider. But not everyone was silenced. Even officials and advisers with little sympathy for Patel said Rutnam was lucky to have a job at all after presiding over the Windrush scandal in 2018, where civil servants sought to deport British citizens who lacked the right paperwork. The affair cost Amber Rudd (who accused him of being "absent" when it mattered) her job as home secretary, and two senior Home Office officials also carried the can.

Those who worked in the department at the time have described a total breakdown of trust between Rudd and her team and Rutnam. "Officials would produce papers and you couldn't trust a single fact in them," said one Whitehall veteran. "Amber was hung out to dry," said another ally. "Windrush was a national atrocity and the home secretary and two senior officials left and Rutnam carried on as if it was nothing to do with him."

Rudd became frustrated that Rutnam would consult her on the appointment of senior civil servants and then ignore her requests. "She'd be given a shortlist of three and rank them: one, two, three – and then they'd pick number three," said a Whitehall source.

BBC NEWS



Rutnam: 'doughty Whitehall warrior'

Critics of Rutnam have said this went further than the age-old battle between ministers and civil servants. They said he was constructing a personal fiefdom. "He built up this huge network of people who he had helped put into key jobs," said a Whitehall official. "He wanted a robust wall around him."

Rutnam, a balding and bespectacled 54-year-old, is described as "a classic mandarin – rimless glasses and management speak, concerned most with the well-being of himself and of his tribe rather than delivering for ministers."

One Whitehall source said: "It does take quite some guy to fall out with Amber Rudd and with Priti Patel, who couldn't be more different. He is an equal opportunities pisser-off of people."

A former senior civil servant warned that officials getting into a standoff with politicians would not end well. "This is an extremely bad look for the civil service," he said. "That one of the most senior officials in the country should desert his post at a moment of potential national crisis because of the allegedly poor treatment he has personally received does not exactly look like people doing their duty."

The conclusion is that the Home Office is once again "not fit for purpose", a situation that has raised serious questions about the position of Sedwill, who used to run the Home Office. "Mark should have been banging heads together and sorting this out weeks ago," said one minister.

Instead a statement calling for officials and political aides to work together was dismissed as "mealy mouthed" as insiders accused him of lacking the authority to bring the civil war to a halt.

The cabinet secretary was "not popular with a lot of permanent secretaries", said one senior figure in Whitehall. "They don't feel he has their back. But Sedwill's weakness is that cabinet secretaries are supposed to speak with the authority and the backing of the prime minister. The PM is not interested in putting a stop to this behaviour.

"A lot of officials in other departments are now looking at this, wondering what happens if this stuff happens in their department. Is there someone at the centre who will support them?"

Other mandarins – Sir Tom Scholar, Sir Simon McDonald and Sir Stephen Lovegrove, the permanent secretaries at the Treasury, the foreign office and the MoD – are watching their backs amid reports that they are on a "shit list" of people No 10 wants fired.

But there are also tensions between Patel and Johnson's team. Amid fears that the chaos will disrupt Home Office preparations for Brexit, Cummings has inserted a new policy adviser, Michael Young, in Patel's office. A source explained: "He was sent over there with express instructions from Cummings. Dom said to him: 'You have one job: make sure that Priti doesn't f*** up the borders.' They don't trust the department and they know she isn't up to it."

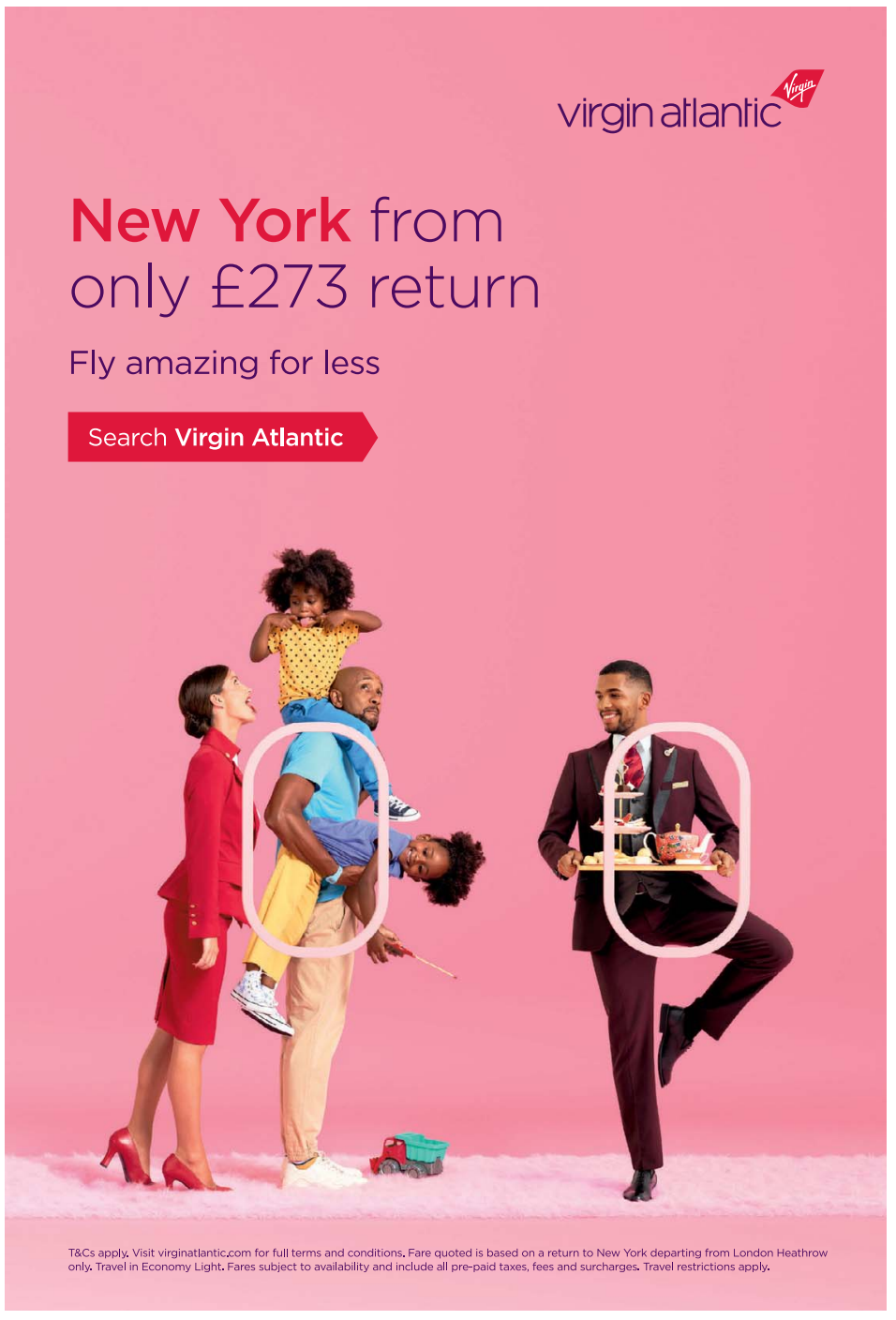
Friends say Young is a "smart guy" but another source said Patel viewed him as "No 10's man" and added: "He is one of Dom's favourite people. Priti sees shadows everywhere."

Young's arrival coincided with reports that some ministers believe that Downing Street has inserted "spies" in their camps to "report back" on the performance of ministers.

Downing Street is likely to prop up Patel, but her long-term future is less secure. "This would have been enough to sink a Labour home secretary," said a Whitehall source. "But the people around the PM will see Priti's behaviour as creative destruction and Rutnam's statement as the blob reacting."

Patel and Johnson have agreed a very simple points-based system to be put in place by January 1 precisely because Home Office officials have warned that something more complicated might take too long to construct. They plan to make it more sophisticated in the years ahead.

Her fate probably depends on her delivering these plans with officials who dislike both the policy and her personality. "I think she is mortally wounded," said one well-connected Tory. "I'd be amazed if she was still home secretary in a year. By then we will probably have had to delay the new immigration system because it won't be ready in time."



'The home secretary denies involvement in this vicious campaign. I regret I do not believe her'

RUTNAM'S STATEMENT

I have this morning resigned as permanent secretary of the Home Office. I take this decision with great regret, after a career of 33 years. I am making this statement now because I will be issuing a claim against the Home Office for constructive dismissal.

In the last 10 days, I have been the target of a vicious and orchestrated briefing campaign. It has been alleged that I have briefed the media against the home secretary. This, along with many other claims, is completely false.

The home secretary categorically denied any involvement in this campaign to the Cabinet Office. I regret I do not believe her. She has not made the efforts I would expect to disassociate herself from the comments. Even despite this campaign, I was willing to effect a reconciliation with the home secretary, as requested by the cabinet secretary on behalf of the prime minister.

But despite my efforts to engage with her, Priti Patel has made no effort to engage with me to discuss this. I believe that these events give me very strong grounds to claim constructive, unfair dismissal, and I will be pursuing that claim in the courts. My experience has been extreme, but I consider there is evidence that it was part of a wider pattern of behaviour. One of my duties as permanent secretary was to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our 35,000 people. This created tension with the home secretary, and I have encouraged her to change her behaviours.

I have received allegations that her conduct has included shouting and swearing, belittling people, making unreasonable and repeated demands, behaviour that created fear and needed some bravery to call out.

I know that resigning in this way will have very serious implications for me personally. The Cabinet Office offered me a financial settlement that would have avoided this outcome. I am also aware that there will continue to be briefing against me now I have made this decision. But I am hopeful that at least it may not now be directed towards my colleagues or the department.

This has been a very difficult decision, but I hope that my stand may help in maintaining the quality of government in our country, which includes hundreds of thousands of civil servants loyally dedicated to delivering this government's agenda. I will make no further comment at this stage.

Patel: I'll see you in court

PAUL EDWARDS/SANG TAN





The Camerons with Florence in Downing Street in 2010 and, far left, the Blairs with Leo in 2001

Baby will make it a hat-trick for PM

Boris Johnson will go down in history as the first prime minister to divorce, marry and become a dad at No 10

Caroline Wheeler and Rosamund Urwin

Boris Johnson will be the first prime minister in history to score a hat-trick – with a divorce, a wedding and a baby while living in Downing Street.

The prime minister, 55, got engaged to his pregnant girlfriend Carrie Symonds, 31, at the end of last year, and they are expected to marry later this year.

It will be No 10's first divorce and wedding since the 18th century, when the Duke of Grafton ended his marriage to Anne FitzRoy and wed Elizabeth Wrottesley. She was pregnant with their first child when Grafton stepped down in January 1770 – meaning Johnson will be the first British prime minister to experience all three events while in office.

Johnson, who already has at least five children, has been married twice, with both ending in divorce after he had affairs with the women who became his future wives. His fifth child was born after a fling with art consultant Helen Macintyre. The former foreign secretary has embarked on at least five extramarital flings and got at least two of his mistresses pregnant.

Symonds's baby, due in "early summer" with the most likely due date thought to be in June, will join an illustrious history of babies born in Downing Street. Friends were told several weeks ago that Symonds was planning a baby shower this month.

> **Johnson has had two wives and at least five children**

David Cameron was the last prime minister to have a child while living in Downing Street. Three months after the 2010 election, his wife Samantha gave birth to their fourth child, Florence.

A decade earlier in 2000, Tony Blair had his fourth child, Leo, who was conceived at Balmoral. He was the first child to be born to a serving British prime minister for more than 150 years.

Cherie Blair later wrote that she was too embarrassed to take her "contraceptive equipment" with her when they went to stay with the royal family as her washbag had been unpacked by staff on a previous visit. On September 6, Johnson and Symonds travelled to Balmoral for a meeting with the Queen.

Details of Symonds's pregnancy and the couple's forthcoming nuptials have emerged less than two weeks after Johnson and his second wife Marina Wheeler, 55, reached a financial settlement for their divorce. They announced in September 2018 that they were to divorce after 25 years of marriage. The couple have four children together, the eldest of whom, Lara, is only five years younger than the prime minister's fiancée.

Wheeler had herself become pregnant with Lara while Johnson was still legally married to his first wife, Allegra Mostyn-Owen. Wheeler married Johnson in May 1993, just weeks after his first divorce came through. In 2012, Allegra Mostyn-Owen revealed: "He suddenly blurted out that he wanted a quickie divorce. I said: 'Is she pregnant?' and he said: 'Yes, how did you guess?'"

I became a dad at 53. Here's some advice for the prime minister

TONY ALLEN-MILLS



It is truly a lovely thing for any man in his mid-fifties to be presented with a shiny new baby. How proud you feel, how massively reinvigorated by this squawking evidence of your still-potent masculinity.

What you tend to forget, in that first flush of re-energised fatherhood, is that time is not on your side. As you approach your seventies, an age when you might be longing for domestic peace, it turns out that you've lumbered yourself with a teenage daughter keen to invite round an army of friends for a Kardashian-like beauty salon sleepover.

Like Boris Johnson, I spread out my child-making years. I have four daughters – two sets of two – aged 27, 23, 16 and 13.

I was 53 when my fourth daughter was born. I suspect my wife may have secretly fancied a son, but neither of us was remotely disappointed when out popped our incomparable Zélie.

Those first years of late fatherhood weren't easy. In my mid-fifties I was still a foreign correspondent, trotting the globe at the first hint of crisis, ditching the family for earthquakes, elections and any other story my editors wanted.

I would sometimes go weeks without seeing our baby, let alone changing her nappies.

If Carrie needs to know what it's like trying to raise a child with a frequently absent and often preoccupied father, she might want a word with my wife, who juggles motherhood with a high-powered job of her own.

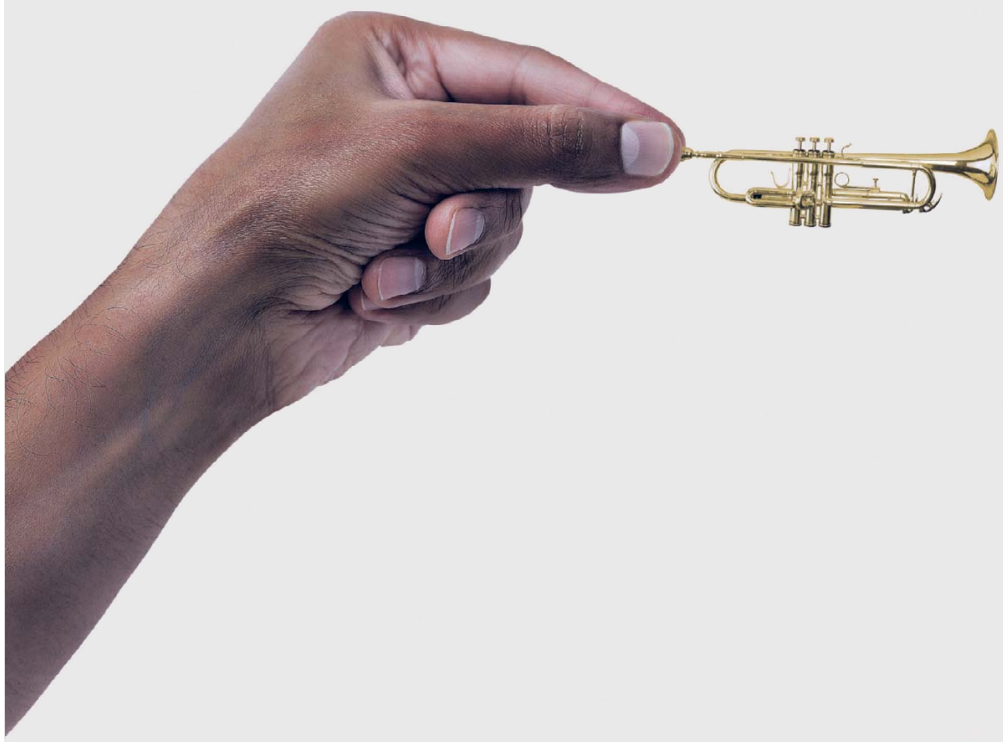
I dare say that Boris will have access to plenty of help, but I hope he finds the best of it not in the trappings of prime ministerial privilege but in the solidarity of siblings. I was incredibly lucky in my choice of four daughters – they have come to support, encourage and adore each other, and there is no greater pleasure in my life than watching the four of them trying to annoy me.

This sisterly bonding might not have unfolded without the encouragement of my former wife, the mother of my two older girls. I know nothing of Johnson's family arrangements, but remaining on good terms with the mother of Delaney and Cleo helped produce imperishable ties between those two and their sisters, Anouk and Zélie.

The two older girls now live in America, but they all join in four-way video chats whenever anyone's got any news. We were all in New York for Delaney's wedding last summer – her sisters were bridesmaids, of course. She turned up in London on a business trip last week, and pandemonium reigned.

I'm 66 now, and tend to frown on noisy children running riot. But last week I loved every minute of it.

DACIA
You do the maths



We're not into big celebrations

The Dacia Duster has won What Car? Best Family SUV less than £20,000 for the second year running. So we've put on a bit of a party. Starting at just £10,995*, just like our celebrations, our prices are pretty modest. Find out more about our range of award-winning cars at **Dacia.co.uk.**



WHAT CAR?
CAR OF THE YEAR 2020
Family SUV
Less than £20,000
Dacia Duster
TCe 130 Comfort

*MRRP. Model shown: Dacia Duster Prestige TCe 130 4x2 at £16,700 (including metallic paint). The official combined fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) are: 43.3 (6.5). The official CO_2 emissions are 135–129g/km. WLTP figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare figures with vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. Actual real world driving results may vary depending on factors such as weather conditions, driving styles, vehicle load or any accessories fitted after registration. WLTP is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO_2 figures; however, until April 2020 the CO_2 figures are based on the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle which will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. Please visit dacia.co.uk/configure for WLTP figures for any selected options.

NEWS

NHS gender clinic to face day in court

A woman who claims she was steered into taking puberty-blocking drugs at 16 has won the right to take her case to trial

Sian Griffiths Education Editor

A landmark case to stop the NHS prescribing "experimental" puberty blockers to children who say they want to change their gender is to go ahead after judges gave it the green light last week.

One of the High Court's most senior judges, Mr Justice Supperstone, said it was "plainly arguable" that Britain's first NHS child gender clinic was acting unlawfully when it referred children to receive powwerful drugs to arrest puberty. He has given permission for a full trial in the divisional court before the end of July.

The case against Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, which runs a gender identity clinic in London, is being led by Keira Bell, whose gender reassignment treatment began at the clinic when she was only 16.

Yesterday Bell, 23, said she was "very excited" at the ruling, and hoped the case would bring attention to the fact that children are being given experimental drug treatment that could have lifelong consequences.

Bell was depressed as a teenager and asked to be called by a boy's name at school. Her GP referred her to the gender identity clinic. "From then on everything snowballed," she said. "I was 16 when I had my first appointment at the Tavistock. After a handful of appointments, I was taking puberty-blocking drugs.

Bell, who has stopped transitioning, is waiting to see whether taking the powerful drugs from a young age has impaired her fertility. "By the time I was 18, I was on cross-sex hormones. It was so quick. Then I got transferred to the adult gender identity service."

After two appointments she was "referred for chest surgery" to remove her breasts. "From then on I was on my own. They did not keep tabs on me. I had no therapy. I was just living the way I thought was best." She argues she should not have been given puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones, that children cannot give informed consent to such treatment, and that medical staff should have challenged her teenage view that she wanted to be a boy.

According to legal documents, the clinic started prescribing puberty blocking drugs to children as young as 11 or 12 from about 2014 and is still doing so. Nearly all children given puberty blockers go on to take cross-sex hormones after the age of 16.

The most common drug used as a puberty blocker is triptorelin, which is licensed to treat advanced prostate cancer in men, to chemically castrate male sex offenders, and to halt very early puberty. It is not licensed to treat gender dysphoria in children.

In recent years the number of children wanting to change sex has soared. In 2009-10 in England, 40 girls under 18 were referred for gender treatment. By 2017-18 the number stood at 1,806. Over the same period, referrals for boys increased from 57 to 713 a year.

Paul Conrathe of Sinclairslaw, the solicitor representing Bell, said: "The ruling is a significant step towards establishing protection for vulnerable children from experimental treatment that has lifelong consequences."

Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust said: "We welcome the opportunity to talk about the service and to stand up for our dedicated staff who put the best interests of the young people and families at the heart of their practice."

The NHS is carrying out a review into the use of puberty blockers.

@SianGriffiths6

BBC criticised over breast-binding

Nicholas Hellen
Social Affairs Editor

The BBC has brought the practice of breast binding to the screen by showing a doctor explaining to a young transgender patient how to give the appearance of having a flat chest without undue pain.

Frankie, the patient, has worn a binder for more than four years. His back is hunched and his ribs pop out of place as he walks.

In one scene, Frankie, who has 36D breasts, tells the doctor: "I can't walk a lot. It compresses my chest so much I can't breathe properly and I can't really leave the house without it."

The programme, *The Unshockable Dr Ronx* on BBC3, is intended for a young audience. Dr Ronx Ikharia, who describes herself as a "queer, black, androgynous intersectional feminist", establishes that Frankie is wearing binders two sizes too small and should swap them.

Campaigners are concerned about the record number of children seeking to change their gender because they feel they were born in the wrong body, and they have criticised the BBC for failing to provide advice about alternatives to breast binding.

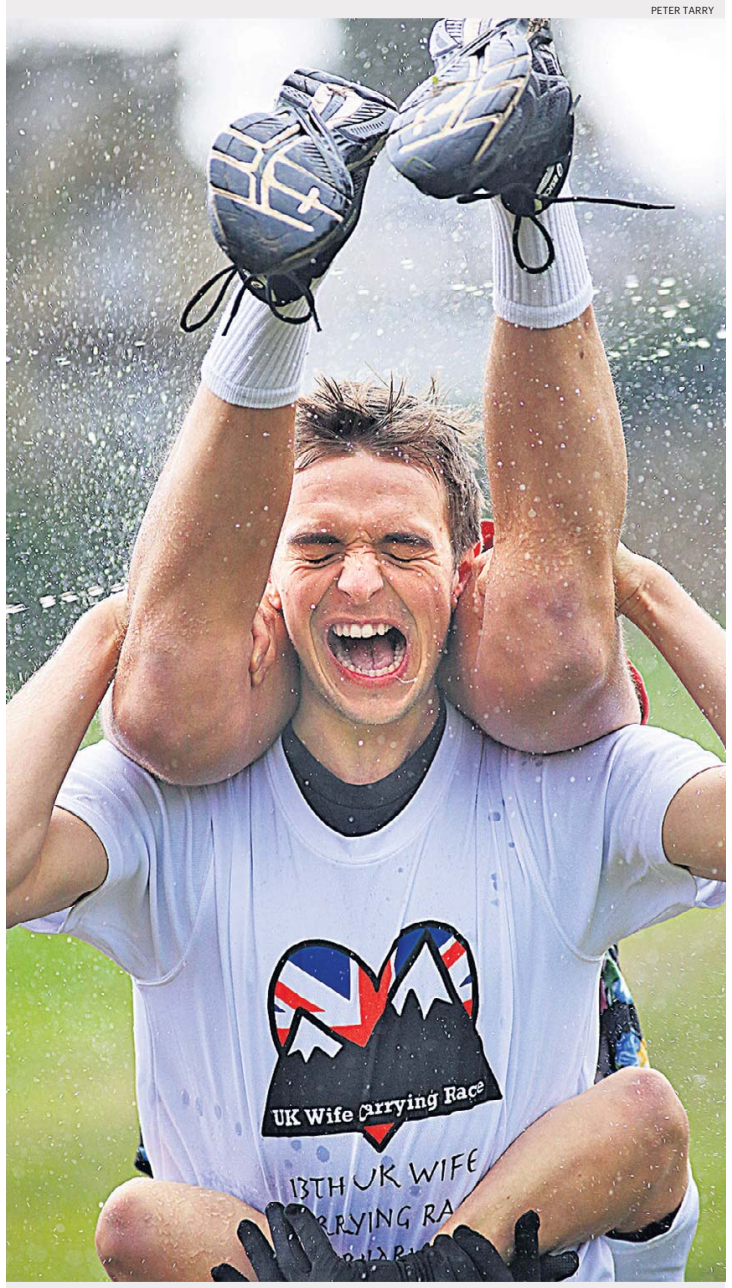
Stephanie Davies-Arai, founder of Transgender Trend, said: "This is a practice which should not be promoted to teenage girls. This is often a body hatred issue, and the BBC is proposing a solution which harms the body." She said such programmes should carry a disclaimer.

The BBC said Frankie had made clear his gender dysphoria was causing depression and anxiety and that wearing a binder could improve his mental health and allow him to express his identity without damaging his health. "Dr Ronx's proper role is therefore to respect that choice, while offering medical advice on how to do it in the right way."

@NicholasHellen

TO HAVE AND TO HAUL

PETER TARRY



Competitors take the strain at the UK Wife-Carrying Race in Dorking, Surrey, yesterday

No-alcohol beer on tap 'in all city's pubs'

Jon Ungoed-Thomas

Bristol could become the first city in the country to require pubs to sell alcohol-free beer on draught in a drive to improve drinkers' health.

A report to the city council's health and wellbeing board recommends pubs should be required to have at least one alcohol-free option on draught "to reduce alcohol consumption".

The recommendation comes as alcohol-free drinks enjoy a boom in sales. They are the fastest-growing part of the drinks sector.

In January, Daniel Craig appeared in a promotion for the latest James Bond film, No Time to Die, brandishing a bottle of Heineken 0.0. About one in five Britons are teetotal, and alcohol consumption has fallen by about 16% since 2004, according to the charity Alcohol Change UK.

Marcus Munafo, professor of biological psychology at the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies at Bristol University, who presented the report, said: "The alcohol-free options are much better quality now and we are now looking at how we can ensure that healthier options are more widely available."

Laura Willoughby, co-founder of Club Soda, which encourages mindful drinking, said any effort to force pubs to stock alcohol-free options could backfire because of the short shelf life of draught beers. "Forcing a venue to do this before they have enough volume of sales will lead to wastage," she said.

Bristol city council said its officers and public health officials would examine how the recommendation could be implemented.

@JonUngoedThomas



NEWS

Essex scrubs off fake tan to show tourists new face

The county wants to banish Towie and promote coastal walks

Pravina Rudra

For a decade, the people of Essex have had to tolerate widespread association with the reality-TV series *The Only Way Is Essex*, which depicts the hedonistic lifestyle of young people with a taste for tanning salons and nightclubs.

The local tourist board has had enough, however, and this month begins a strategy to convince the world that Essex has more to offer than orange skin and a beauty treatment known as the "vajazzle".

Lisa Bone, the strategic tourism manager for Essex county council, said: "People forget Constable country and Saffron Walden. They are a million miles away from Brentwood and Basildon. I think there's a bit of snobbery towards Essex."

Rather than feature Towie stars such as Gemma Collins and Joey Essex, the tourism board will launch a film on social media that features an oyster farmer, a town crier and local authors including the crime writer Martina Cole in front of landscapes such as a local estuary.

The new campaign will come as a relief to local residents who are fed up with being known for Towie.

Dennis Alabaster, 69, lets a property in Billericay, the neighbouring town to Brentwood, where the ITV programme is set, and has banned groups of girls on a "Towie weekend" from staying because so many get drunk and behave badly.

"They leave fake tan all over the bedsheets – we had to use lots of [the stain-removal product] Vanish to clean them," he said.

"Towie tours" visit shops, salons and bars around Brentwood so visitors can see where the show's cast got made up, coupled up and brawled.

Gordon Bird, 73, runs the Essex Area Ramblers, which has about 4,000 members. He hopes the tourist board's new approach will introduce people to the lesser-known joys of the county.



Tourism promotions will focus on the outdoors rather than nightclubs



Nearly 75% of Essex is countryside, according to the board, and many beautiful parts of the county were depicted in the paintings of John Constable, who spent much of his life in the county.

Essex's long coastline is popular for rambling, birdwatching and sailing trips, as well as the annual oyster festivals.

"I would like to think people would come to Essex to see the outdoor life," Bird said. "We have thousands of kilometres of footpaths. On a cold, blustery day you can go down to the Thames estuary and see so much wildlife – the ducks, wintering geese, spoonbills."

The new campaign has work to do as the county tries to distance itself from the Bafta award-winning constructed reality show about "the lives, loves and scandals of a group of real-life Essex guys and girls".

Dan Perrin, manager of Sugar Hut, the nightclub popularised as a backdrop to many scenes in Towie, said: "We have something crazy like 200,000 followers – from all over the country, and all over the world. Usually a club outside a big city would only have a local following."

Bone, the tourism manager, acknowledges the "coachloads coming down from Liverpool and Newcastle to do Towie tours" have spurred investment in the local area. "Total occupancy went from 54% to 98% overnight in Brentwood hotels when Towie aired," she said. "Towie has put us on the map."

The "Essex man" stereotype originated in the 1980s as a description given to working-class, upwardly mobile men who voted Conservative for the first time under Margaret Thatcher.

Whether their descendants enjoy a fresh plate of oysters and a walk along the Essex marshes remains to be seen.

Editorial, page 22

PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN ON 'FLIRTY' BRIGITTE

©DOUGLAS KIRKLAND/PACI CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, COURTESY SILVANA EDITORIALE PUBLISHERS



Brigitte Bardot, draped only in a curtain, pictured during shooting for the comedy Viva Maria! in Mexico in 1965

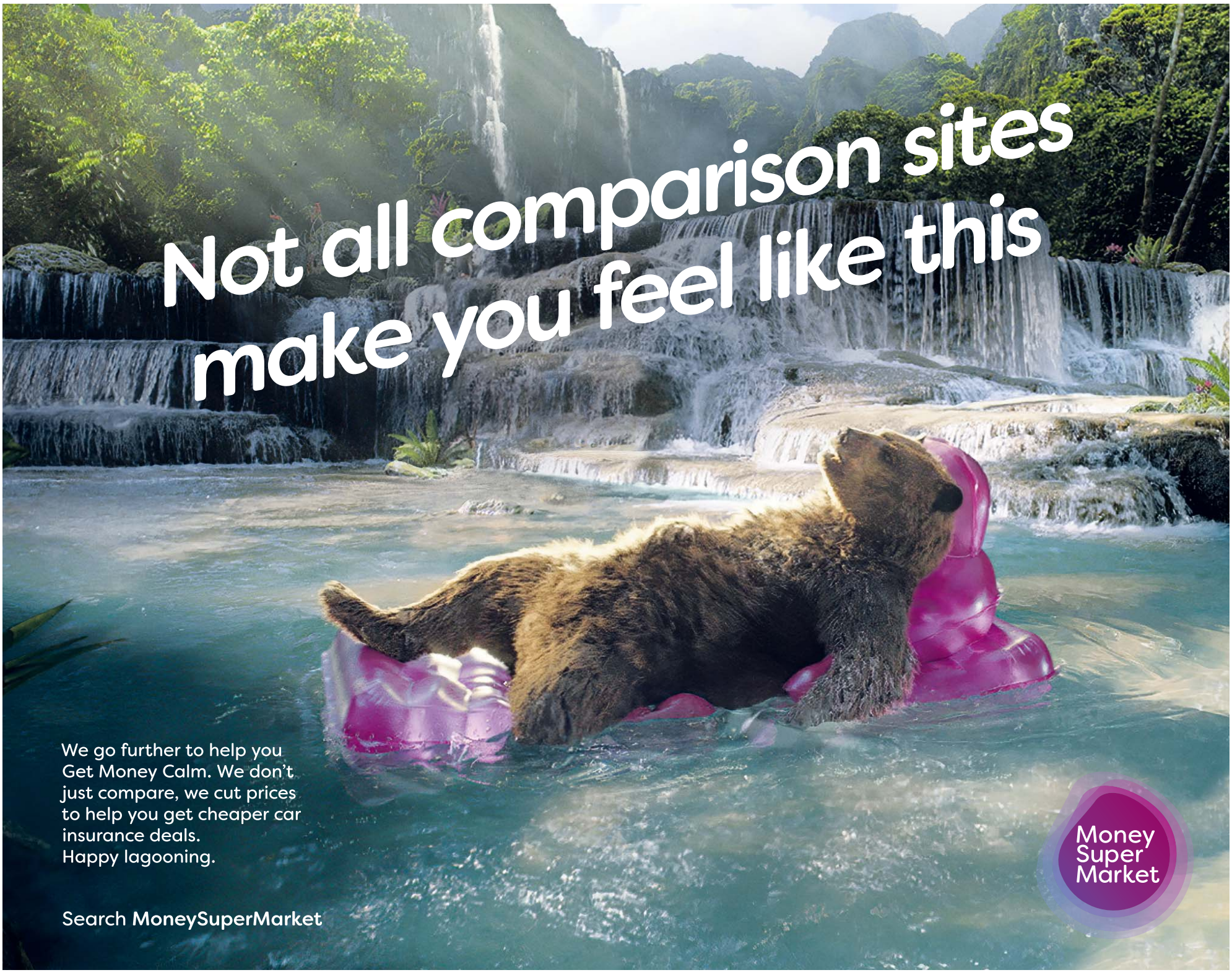
Grant Tucker
Arts Correspondent

Not many men have had the fortune of two leading ladies competing for their attention, but the Hollywood photographer Douglas Kirkland is one who did.

In 1965, he was sent to Mexico to shoot Brigitte Bardot and Jeanne Moreau for the comedy *Viva Maria!*, and ended up spending weeks with the pair. "There had been so many photographers there that the filming was not getting done, so they closed the set and I was the only one who was allowed to shoot," said Kirkland, 85, who captured Marilyn Monroe covered only in a bedsheet.

One set of photos with Bardot from the set appears in a new book of Kirkland's work. The Canadian says both Bardot and Moreau flirted with him, and admits he "did not discourage it".

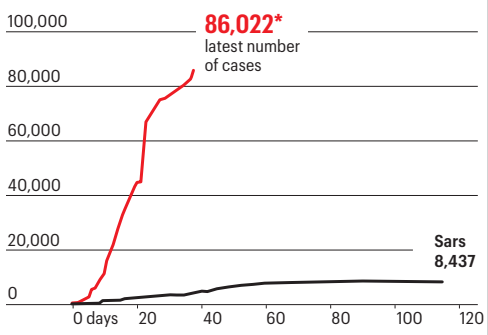
He spent many an evening carousing with Bardot, and describes her as "a very playful thing — always a party".



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES

Days since first World Health Organisation report



Sources: John Hopkins University, Worldometers.info

*Figures accurate at 9pm yesterday

OUTSIDE CHINA

	Cases	Deaths
South Korea	3,150*	17
Italy	1,128	29
Diamond Princess	705	6
Iran	593	43
Japan	241	5

Sources: John Hopkins University, Worldometers.info

*Figures accurate at 9pm yesterday

OLDER PEOPLE ARE MOST AT RISK

Coronavirus death rate by age in China

Years old	
80+	14.8%
70-79	8%
60-69	3.6%
50-59	1.3%
40-49	0.4%
30-39	0.2%
20-29	0.2%
10-19	0.2%
0-9	0%

Sources: Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

CORONAVIRUS DEATH RATE

By pre-existing condition in China

Cardiovascular disease	10.5%
Diabetes	7.3%
Chronic respiratory disease	6.3%
Hypertension	6%
Cancer	5.6%
No pre-existing condition	0.9%

Sources: Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

Hunt for Patient Zero, Britain's virus spreader

Officials are scrambling to find the person who passed Covid-19 to a man in Surrey — before more are infected

Andrew Gregory, Pravina Rudra, Dipesh Gadher and Jon Ungoed-Thomas

Health officials scrambling to identify a mystery coronavirus spreader in the UK are investigating a link to Italy, the worst-affected country in Europe, as three more Britons were told they are infected.

They are urgently tracing everyone who has been in contact with a man in Surrey who became the first to catch the illness within Britain.

Officials need to track down the mystery person, known as Patient Zero, who passed the virus to him. They have established that the man's partner, who has also now developed symptoms, works with at least one person who recently returned to the UK from Italy.

Meanwhile, a further three patients in England tested positive for the virus last night, bringing the total number of cases in Britain to 23. Two had recently travelled back from Italy while the other had returned from Singapore and Hong Kong.

The cases – in Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire and Berkshire – are being investigated and people who had contact with them are also being traced. More than 10,000 people in the UK have been tested for the virus, officially called Covid-19.

Professor Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer for England, said it was not clear if the man from Surrey had contracted the virus "directly or indirectly" from somebody who had recently travelled abroad.

The Surrey victim was diagnosed at the Haslemere health centre, which was briefly closed on Friday for deep-cleaning. Locals said they were bemused and concerned to find their town at the centre of a massive effort to identify the new virus source.

Francis Lipscomb, 85, said: "Where does it all end? My wife, my daughter and my son decided we wouldn't go out. I rang 111 and they couldn't really tell me anything. I'm at risk if I were to catch it, and so is my wife because she's the same age as me."

James Ham, 74, said: "I don't really like it on my doorstep. I've got an alcohol gel that I use before going into any shop or public place, and again when I come out and get into the car.

"I didn't even know anything until I got to the health centre and read the sign on the door. My wife couldn't collect the prescription as she has really bad asthma, so I've come to pick it up.

"I don't think young people have much to worry about, but elderly people like me are vulnerable."

The former health secretary Jeremy Hunt, who is MP for South West Surrey, said he was thinking of "clinicians, staff and patients" at the surgery during this "worrying time".

A British man in his seventies who lived abroad was confirmed as the first UK citizen to die from the virus on Friday. The man, who was on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined off Japan, was the sixth passenger to die.

In the US, officials announced the first fatality, a "medically high-risk" person in their fifties in Washington state. There are two other unexplained cases, in Californian and Oregon, raising concerns that the virus could be spreading there.

Ireland also revealed its first case, associated with the Italian outbreak.

South Korea, which has the highest number of cases outside China, mobilised its army yesterday. Soldiers are disinfecting large parts of Daegu, the south-eastern city that has been at the centre of the outbreak.

More than 50 countries have now reported a total of 83,650 cases of coronavirus. The vast majority of them have been in China, where 78,961 people have been infected and 2,791 have died.

Portugal, Sweden and Malta are among the few countries still unaffected.

Comment, Editorial, page 22, Niall Ferguson, page 23; News Review, Fake news is the virus, page 26

READERS' POLL

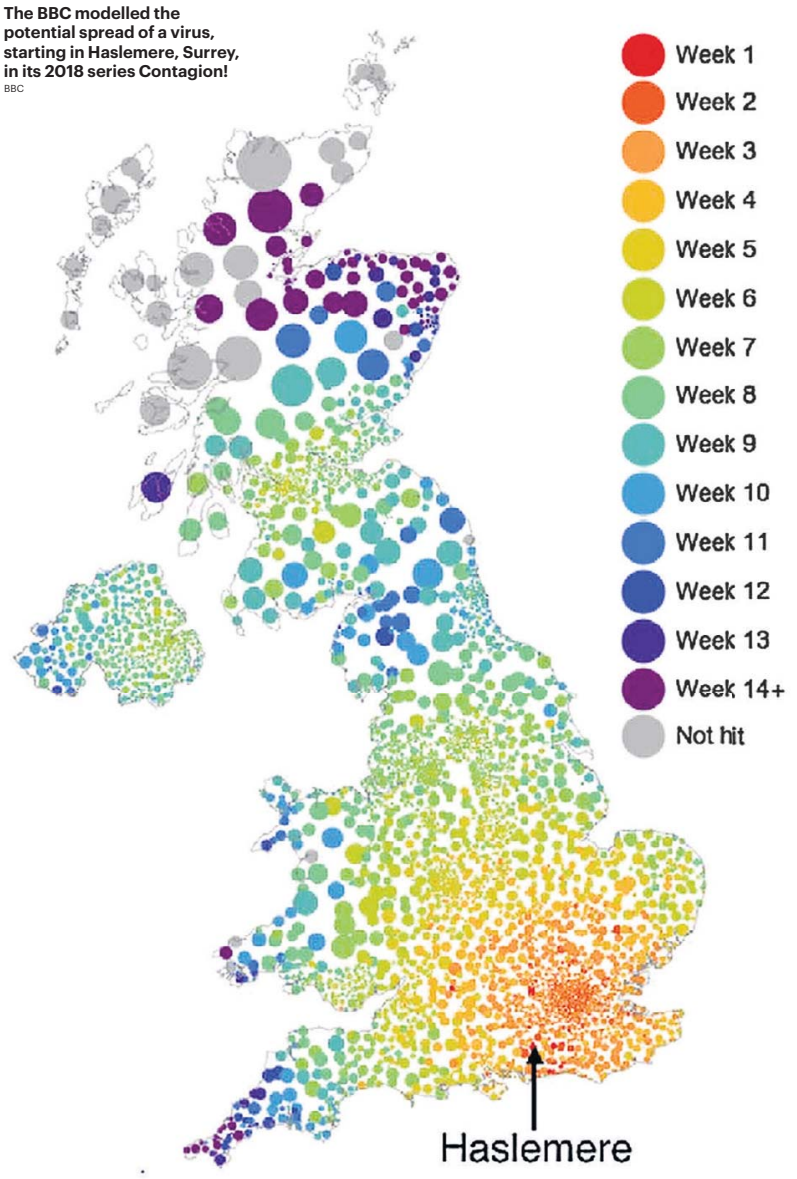
ST DIGITAL

Is the government doing enough to stop the spread of the coronavirus in the UK?

Cast your vote at sundaytimes.co.uk/poll

The BBC modelled the potential spread of a virus, starting in Haslemere, Surrey, in its 2018 series Contagion!

BBC



Diet Coke supplies threaten to dry up

Jon Ungoed-Thomas, Kitty Horlick and Jack Hudson

Some of the most profitable consumer goods in the world from iPhones to Coca-Cola face a slump in sales as the coronavirus spreads globally.

Empty shipping containers have been stacking up in Chinese ports causing widespread disruption in international supply chains.

Coca-Cola said last week that Chinese suppliers of sweeteners used in Diet Coke and Coca-Cola Zero were experiencing delays "in the production and export of these ingredients". The firm said it did not foresee a short-term impact, but there could be "tighter supplies of some of these ingredients in the longer term".

Richard Wilding, professor of supply chain strategy at Cranfield University, said China would be likely to prioritise products such as food and drugs for export.

Supermarkets have not suffered supply shortages, but there has been a surge in demand for hand sanitisers and surgical face masks.

UK team develops four-hour virus test

Andrew Gregory

Scientists have developed a superfast lifesaving coronavirus test that can detect the new infection and nine other viruses.

The test is the first that can identify the new coronavirus strain and other variants with similar symptoms. It also produces results 10 times faster than existing tests.

Designed by experts at Randox Laboratories, based in Co Antrim, test kits will be delivered on Tuesday to Wuhan, the centre of the crisis, and other Chinese cities. The test works by analysing swabs taken from the nose and cuts the time it takes to diagnose the Covid-19 virus to just four hours.

Peter FitzGerald, Randox's managing director, said: "Current technologies being used to diagnose Covid-19 are focused on simply detecting the presence or lack of it," he said.

As a result patients may receive the all-clear for Covid-19 but are not told if they have a different infection.

But it's good news for British hoteliers

Ben Clatworthy
Assistant Travel Editor

The coronavirus may be wreaking havoc in the stock markets, but it has given new impetus to the boom in staycations.

While bookings for foreign holidays have slumped, there has been a surge in people wanting to reserve British holidays for the Easter and summer breaks.

Hoseasons, one of the UK's biggest self-catering holiday groups, said inquiries last week were up by 15% year-on-year. Another operator, Luxury Coastal, based in the southwest, said it has seen Easter bookings rise by 43% in the past 14 days, compared to the same period last year.

Overseas bookings have fallen significantly in recent weeks, especially for cruises. Travel agents say they are dealing with cancellations at "very short notice".

"It is not necessarily the fear of getting ill," one industry source said. "It's the fear of being locked down overseas – trapped in a hotel and told you cannot leave."

Travel, page 2

YOUR CORONAVIRUS QUESTIONS ANSWERED — BY THE EXPERTS

IS THIS ALL A BIG FUSS ABOUT A COUGH AND A SORE THROAT?

I think it's very important to knock that idea on its head from the start. This is clearly a very serious infection. It does depend on how old you are when you catch it, but Chinese data based on 72,000 cases shows a spectrum of disease among those infected with 14% severe, and 5% who are critically ill and need intensive care and usually mechanical ventilation.

We have no reason to think it will be different from China in western countries. If 14% of those infected here develop severe disease and 5% of them have critical illness, this is a massive threat. We must do everything we can to slow down the virus to avoid sharp epidemic peaks that would overwhelm our services.

One of the most difficult things about this coronavirus is that people can be infected and have no symptoms at all. It doesn't present like a common cold and the symptoms can range from completely unapparent to serious disease to going into intensive care.

Generally, you might feel a cough and discomfort around the chest rather than the symptoms of a cold, sometimes accompanied by gastrointestinal discomfort, such as diarrhoea. It makes it so hard to control when there isn't a definite disease syndrome associated with being infectious. It's clear that you don't have to be very symptomatic to pass this on.

From what we have learnt so far, it seems that virus shedding — the transmission stage from infected persons — is going on relatively early during the course of infection. Within a few days of presentation to hospital, tests can quite often become negative — suggesting the virus has gone — but then sometimes go positive again. Whether you can catch the virus more than once is still one of the great unknowns.

One aspect we have noticed from the Chinese data is that so far only 2% of cases are affecting people under the age of 19. In Japan they have closed the schools, which might help if the disease is being sustained by person-to-person transmission among children. With this virus, we do not know that is the case.

In any event, viruses of this kind tend to be susceptible to heat and sunlight. The more we can delay the outbreak until the weather warms up and it's summer, the more it will blunt the peak and the easier it will be for healthcare services to cope — even if the numbers rebound once autumn is with us.



Dr Peter Openshaw, professor of experimental medicine, Imperial College London

WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID IT?

There are practical things everyone can do to reduce the risk of getting infected. These need practice, so start doing them now. It is worth really trying to avoid infection, because the more we slow the spread to buy time, the better.

Stop touching your face. Especially stop touching your eyes, nose or mouth. This is much harder than it sounds and takes getting used to, but you will quickly get a lot better at it.

Wash your hands often, especially before eating or touching food. Don't panic-buy enough food to survive a zombie apocalypse, but have two weeks' worth of provisions, including some chocolate or other treats. Don't forget about pets.

While a mask seems like a good idea, there isn't a lot of good evidence that it can reliably prevent infection when worn by the public. But they are useful to put on a sick person to reduce their spreading of the virus.

Unfortunately, this may not be over quickly. It is probably going to be a marathon, not a sprint.



Alistair Miles, head of epidemiological informatics, Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics

WHAT FOOD SHOULD I BUY IN?

If you are stuck at home for a fortnight, you need to have enough stuff on hand to feed yourself, without having to go out. Be realistic — if you're not into home bread-making and batch-cooking wonderful ragu, you're not about to start now.

So make friends with your freezer. Stock up on the kind of vegetables and fruit that taste as good or even better frozen, such as peas, broccoli, spinach and berries. Try fresh fish fillets. If you've got space, milk, butter and sliced wholemeal loaves freeze well.

Good quality tinned food is a life-saver, and pasta, obviously. Stock up on fresh food to keep in the coldest cupboard or outside in a sealed box: onions, garlic, potatoes, carrots, celery. Plus lemons and ginger.

Vacuum-packed cheeses such as feta and halloumi work best for hunkering down because they last. Parmesan stays good for ages if wrapped carefully. Eggs last a long time in the fridge, too.

Don't forget olive oil, and you may need an extra bottle or two of wine…



Lisa Markwell, Food Editor, The Sunday Times

WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF DYING?

The thing we're most concerned about is what proportion of people infected with this virus will die. It's a challenging question to answer because it's a fast-moving picture and the virus shows different ranges of severity, depending where you look.

China seems to be suppressing transmission at the moment. In Italy we think there are many thousands of cases distributed across the country. In Iran there are tens of thousands, if not more.

To get at a real number [for the likely death rate] we need an estimate of the true number of people infected. Based on what we learnt from the early stages of the virus, we calculated with an enormous amount of uncertainty that 1% of those infected might die — with a fourfold margin of error in each direction.

So a death rate of 0.25% of cases would be similar to the 1957 and 1968 influenza pandemics [both estimated to have killed at least one million people] while a 4% rate would compare with the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic [with a death toll estimated at 40 million to 50 million].



Professor Neil Ferguson, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London (from ICL video)

IS IT REALLY SAFE TO FLY?

Aircraft cabins are absolutely not dangerous and travellers do not need to cancel their plans unless visiting restricted areas.

Passengers should also take into account the various restrictions that airlines and governments are putting in place. The International Air Traffic Association (Iata) maintains an up-to-date list on its Travel Centre website.

The best thing to do in aircraft cabins is to practise proper hand hygiene with alcohol-based rub or gels, and to use coughing etiquette. Make sure you cough and sneeze into your elbow, use a tissue and throw it in a bin. The virus can live on surfaces, but only for a short time.

If someone on your plane appears ill, flight crew are trained to isolate them as much as possible. They will ask everyone sitting within two rows of the unwell person to fill in a personal locator form in case authorities need to contact them. You would then need to monitor yourself for 14 days after the flight for possible symptoms.



Dr Carmen Dolea, head, International Health Regulations Secretariat, World Health Organisation

INFECTED MARKETS

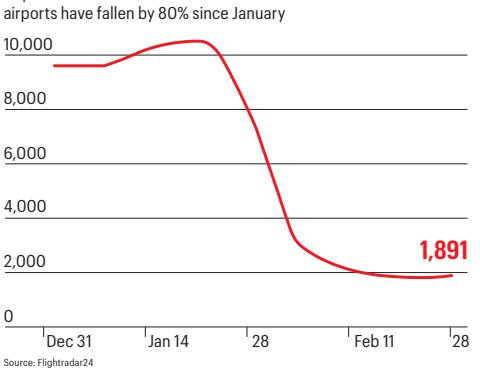
As coronavirus cases have risen, the FTSE 100 index of leading shares has fallen sharply



Source: Sharecast

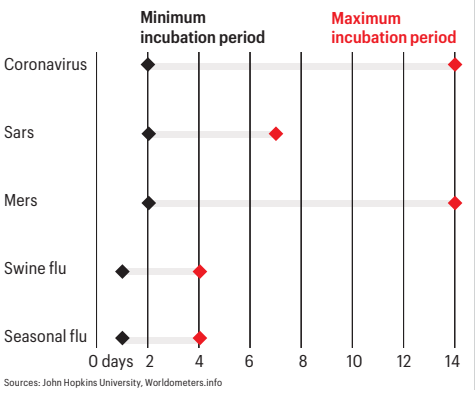
FLIGHTS FROM CHINA HAVE PLUMMETED

Departures from China's 25 busiest airports have fallen by 80% since January



Source: Flightradar24

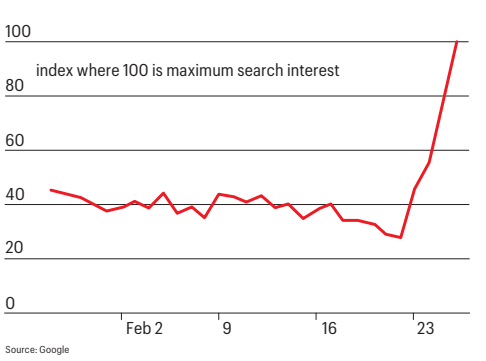
A LONG INCUBATION



Sources: John Hopkins University, Worldometers.info

GOOGLE SEARCHES FOR 'TRAVEL INSURANCE' TRIPLE IN 4 DAYS

UK searches



Source: Google

EBRAHIM NOROOZI/ABEDIN TAHERKENAREH



A train undergoing disinfection in Tehran last week after the Iranian government admitted thousands of people had been infected with the coronavirus. Schools have been closed and Friday prayers were cancelled

Tehran is a ghost town haunted by rumours of 200 dead



LOUISE CALLAGHAN

Iran

The waiters at the upmarket steakhouse in northern Tehran outnumbered customers by about 5:1. Bored and listless, they cleaned the windows with a chamois cloth again and again.

I sat with an Iranian friend at a table in the front, looking out at the deserted street. The only other customers were two women in loose hijabs who sprayed disinfectant on the table. Over the speakers *Hotel California* was playing.

"You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave," said my friend with a laugh. "That's Iran right now."

That is me, too. For the past week I have watched Tehran become a ghost town after the coronavirus hit, infecting many people across the country and killing 43, according to official figures.

Museums and schools are closed as the government tries to combat the virus – while being accused of playing down the risks. Unofficial figures, disputed by the state, suggest that 83,000 might be infected, with more than 200 dead. The great mansions of the city's north are shuttered and the bazaar is eerily quiet. Friday prayers were cancelled for the first time since the Islamic Revolution 41 years ago. Fake ministerial statements and quack remedies – gargling with vinegar and rosewater, drinking an infusion of white willow – are peddled online, adding to the confusion.

Wandering the city, I have looked through the windows of empty carpet shops and made small talk with bored sales assistants. On Friday morning I walked on to a flyover, usually choked with traffic, and looked out across the almost empty streets, eating saffron ice cream and replaying in my mind the opening credits from every disaster movie ever made. I was the only British journalist in Tehran, and it looked like I would be for a while.

This was meant to be a short trip to cover the parliamentary elections. A week ago the streets were rammed with shoppers buying supplies for the weekend, and voters heading to dip their finger in communal pots of blue ink. A couple of days later, the coronavirus hit the holy city of Qom, 80 miles south of Tehran, where thousands of pilgrims gather every week to pray at the shrine of Fatima Masumeh, daughter of the seventh imam of Twelver Shi'ism.

The deputy health minister was shown on television mopping his brow and coughing before the news broke that he too was sick. "It does not distinguish between poor and rich," he said in a video about the virus.

Secular members of the Tehran middle classes battened down with TV streaming services, takeaway pizza and home-made wine – which tends to resemble sherry – to wait out the disease. Others prayed, or crowded to pharmacies to buy masks. Almost all flights were cancelled. Unable to travel, I was on an extended Persian holiday.

Things had become very strange by Tuesday. As I was about to press the button for the lift in my hotel to go down to the lobby, a hysterical older man ran over and gestured for me to put a mask on. I told him that I had sanitised my hands and that according to World Health Organisation guidelines, surgical masks were necessary only when taking care of a sick person. He did not speak English, and continued beseeching me to cover my mouth. I pulled a corner of my headscarf over my face, at which he thanked me profusely and walked off.



Downstairs I got in a taxi, and went for lunch at a restaurant inside the courtyard of a 19th-century palace. The waiter offered me a bottle of disinfectant on a silver platter.

As the week drew on, the streets became quieter. Shopkeepers in the grand bazaar, who had been expecting a bumper few weeks ahead of Persian new year this month, were devastated. "First the sanctions, now this," said one. "Our sales are the lowest they've been."

On the streets and on public transport people seemed increasingly jumpy – they stood far away from each other and covered their faces. Someone wrote on Twitter that sneezing on the Tehran metro was like shouting *Allahu akbar* on the New York subway.

Every day brought reports of new deaths: a 23-year-old female footballer; a newly elected MP. People scoured videos of parliamentary sessions to see who had sat next to the infected.

As I walked around the city, listening to Tehranis who were worried about the future, I tried to figure out what to do. The survival rates for coronavirus are high for people like me – young with no pre-existing health conditions. It was unlikely that I had contracted it.

But as I spoke to embassies and airline companies about ways to leave Iran, a nagging feeling grew that it might be better to stay. If I had been infected, why go home to Istanbul and kill off the elderly people in my neighbourhood? I did not want to go to my parents' house in Sweden and infect them.

Late on Wednesday night I found myself googling "paradise island, population zero". There did not appear to be any with direct flights from Imam Khomeini international airport. My father, a Napoleon fan, suggested Elba.

On Thursday, some hardy young Tehranis were debating whether to go to a psychedelics-fuelled rave outside the city. The rumours were that the police had stopped raiding parties because of the coronavirus. "We're used to crazy things happening," said one friend. "We'll manage this time, too."

I still don't know when I will be able to leave. But when I do, I have decided to self-isolate on a small, luxurious island off Bora Bora. The incubation period of Covid-19 can be up to a month.

@LouiseElisabet

And finally … no bug in me, says BBC's Nick

Nick Robinson

"Good morning from Cambodia Mr Nick," my WhatsApp message said on Friday morning, from the guide who had shown me around Phnom Penh days earlier. "I hope you are doing well."

She was worried because she had heard I had had a coronavirus test. I told her I wasn't ill, but that when I got home with a cough and a croaky voice – and as a cancer survivor – my doctor said a test was advisable, even though my lungs often sound more like an old banger than a purring Mercedes.

I've had more than my fair share of hospital tests but this one felt different. It wasn't because the dreaded virus would punish my wheezy lungs; nor the fact I had to be examined through the window of my car parked outside A&E; nor because the nurse had to wear a full face shield, rubber gloves and a disposable plastic uniform.

What was different was that I was being tested for a virus that has the potential to bring the world to a halt – grounding flights, cancelling sporting events, closing schools and forcing people to lock themselves away.

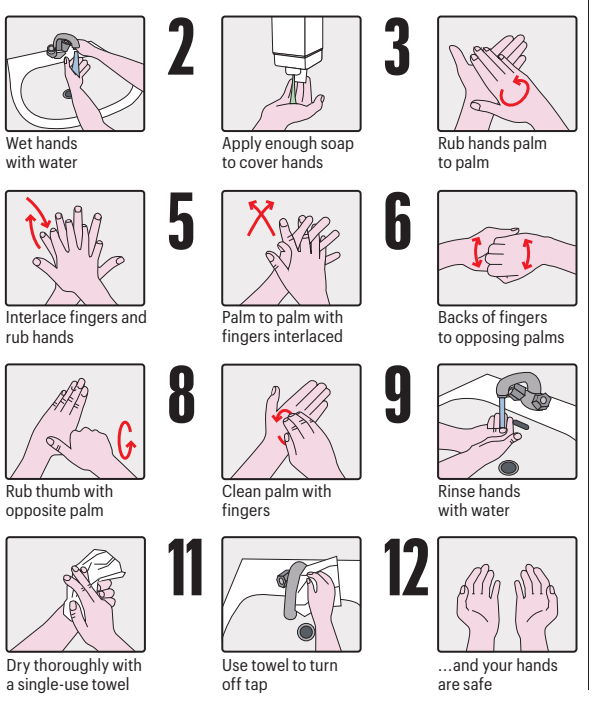
Even after I got the all clear – and despite being told it was safe to return to work – I worried about whom I might have infected if the test was wrong, not just in Phnom Penh but also at home.

There are only about 20 confirmed cases in the UK but worst-case scenarios warn of tens of millions. What last week made me understand was that we are all having to learn to live with what countless other generations took for granted – that there are risks we cannot control uncertainty is part of life. For most of us this virus will be a much greater test of our minds than of our bodies.

Nick Robinson is a presenter on the BBC's Today programme

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION WAY TO WASH YOUR HANDS*

*To do it properly it should take as long as singing Happy Birthday twice



CAN I GET TRAVEL INSURANCE?

It depends where you are going and at what stage you make your booking. Travel insurance is unlikely to cover you if you intend to travel against government advice. Travellers who booked before advice was issued are likely to be covered for cancellation costs if that advice changes.

If the virus has made you change your mind about a holiday you've already booked, you will have to read your policy to see what cancellation or amendment rules apply. If your destination is unaffected by government advice, your insurance may cover changes to your plans.

For people still hoping to get away this summer, bear in mind that insurance is not automatic, but by shopping around you should find the cover you need. Pay special attention to the kind of health coverage on offer.

If your intended return is disrupted by a virus outbreak or quarantine, you will need a policy that automatically extends your coverage and enables you to claim back additional costs incurred.



Malcolm Tarling, spokesman, Association of British Insurers

WHO'S TO BLAME FOR THE OUTBREAK?

We have known since the outbreak of Sars in the early 2000s that many coronaviruses exist in the world in bats. The virus takes its name from the shape of the spikes that help it latch on to cells — under a microscope it looks as though it is wearing a crown.

It does not cause a huge amount of disease in the bats and many different strains have been identified. Most likely this new one, now named Covid-19, is a recombinant (merger) of two bat viruses. But it is not clear whether it came directly from bats to humans or whether there was an intermediate host.

Looking back at Sars it was clear that the civet was an amplifying or intermediate host. That small nocturnal mammal was sold for meat in Chinese markets and carried the Sars virus from bats to humans.

So it is possible that another wild bat virus has found its way into an animal being held in live markets and that provided the interface for Covid-19. However, it is not yet clear what animal that might be.



Professor Wendy Barclay, head of Department of Infectious Disease, Imperial College London

I FEEL ILL — WHAT NOW?

If you have come from one of the most affected areas, you should self-isolate for 14 days and consult NHS 111 online. You should do the same if you think you have any of the symptoms. It's crucial that, after identifying symptoms, you don't go directly to a GP, pharmacy or accident and emergency department.

There will always be challenges in tracking the spread of the virus. It is a novel infectious agent and there is a wide clinical spectrum. While some cases are quite severe and have life-threatening pneumonia, some are milder and some people might not even know they've been affected.

We are not all the same. We vary in our immune systems, in our behaviour and in where we happen to be. All of these things can affect how many people we would transmit to.

By calling NHS 111 online you will get appropriate advice for whether your symptoms are of concern. If they are, you will be told how to go about being tested and how to avoid contact with others.



Professor Christl Donnelly, professor of statistical epidemiology, Imperial College London

HOW BAD IS IT GOING TO GET?

This is a very brilliant virus. It spreads before it even gives you the first cough, and that is what makes it so difficult to control. We know the cases we have seen so far are the tip of an iceberg, but nobody can quite figure out what is the shape, depth and size of that iceberg.

It is really unlike the Sars outbreak, where there was no iceberg at all: everyone who got infected got sick and it was fairly easy to contain. The 2002-3 outbreak resulted in fewer than 800 deaths and no cases have been reported since 2004.

A huge community effort in China has helped bring down the rate of new cases of the coronavirus, but the economy has tanked and has to be restarted. So you would expect to see the numbers creep back up.

The big question is how big the second wave of infections will be, and whether it is controllable. Can you stop very sharp peaks that might overwhelm hospital capacity? That is what the UK strategy is all about — to flatten the peaks and, in effect, delay the epidemic.



Professor Gabriel Leung, dean of medicine, Hong Kong University

NEWS

Strikes hit private schools as teachers down chalks over threat to pensions

A walkout this week at a London school over a gold-plated retirement scheme is likely to spread across the country

Kate Palmer and Sian Griffiths

Teachers at a private school will go on strike this week over changes to their pensions in a row that threatens to spread across the country.

Colfe's, one of the oldest schools in London, will be hit on Wednesday, with others set to follow in a row over staff losing their gold-plated "final salary" schemes.

Teachers at private and state schools are members of the same generous pension scheme – but many private schools are axeing it after a jump in the amount of money they must contribute.

In a letter to parents, Colfe's said the increase would cost the school £440,000 "this year alone". Many schools fear bankruptcy if they cannot take their teachers out of the government-backed scheme.

In the letter, Richard Russell, the headmaster, urged parents "not to engage with staff" about the pensions dispute, and said he was "keenly aware of the many sacrifices that so many of you make to enable your children to attend" the school.

Before Christmas, St Edward's School in Oxford, where Sir Richard Branson's children were pupils, was also affected by a two-day strike. Staff waved signs saying "hands off our pension" as they picketed the school.

Strike action is unusual in schools where parents pay up to £40,000 a year in fees, but 100 private schools could face industrial action after deciding to quit the government-backed scheme.

Andrew Halls, of King's College School in Wimbledon, southwest London, which has decided to stay in the scheme, said: "Private schools are rarely affected by strike action, but this reflects how difficult this issue is."



Russell: warned parents of costs

As a result of government pension changes, schools had to increase the amount they pay into a teacher's pension from 16.4% to 23.6% of their salary in September, at a cost of £191m a year.

Some 107 independent schools have stopped staff enrolling in the Teachers' Pension Scheme, according to a freedom of information request made by Wesleyan Financial Services. The scheme provides one of the most generous pensions in the country and is used by most independent and state school teachers.

Scores of independent schools have set up their own schemes since they were told to foot a 43% increase in the amount they had to pay into the scheme.

One school affected is Wetherby in Notting Hill, west London, where princes William and Harry were educated alongside the children of celebrities. The fees at the pre-prep are £23,130 a year.

Alpha Plus Group, which runs Wetherby and is owned by Delancey Real Estate's DV4 fund, said: "We were not prepared to pass on these increased costs to parents in the form of rises in fees. Offering a good pension is and will remain a priority for us."

Barnaby Lenon, chairman of the Independent Schools Council, said: "There really are schools that have to abandon the pension scheme if they are to remain in business. Clearly, for some schools, abandoning the scheme is necessary for their survival."

The government will help state schools and further education colleges to foot the bill but private schools have to pay their own way.

Some independent schools have passed the cost on to parents, by charging higher fees, while others are taking their staff out of the pension scheme altogether.

The Department for Education said: "We would encourage independent schools to remain in the scheme so that teachers can continue to move between the public and private sectors.

"We are in discussions with independent schools to explore options that could allow those schools to keep as many of their teachers as possible in the scheme. We will continue to engage with key stakeholders, including member and employer representatives."

NEWMAN'S WEEK



"We don't want French fishermen coming over here and catching our coronavirus!"



"No sign of Boris denying he's invisible"



"I'm hoping to land on Heathrow's third runway"



"I'll fight anyone except Priti Patel"

Run out of milk.
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.

RLB challenges Starmer on donors

Gabriel Pogrund

The Labour leadership contender Rebecca Long Bailey has escalated her row with the frontrunner, Sir Keir Starmer, by calling on MPs to "instantly" declare all donations so politics is free of "conflicts of interest or outside influences".

She spoke out the day after Jeremy Corbyn made a similar demand and indicated that he would serve as shadow foreign secretary if asked. "I'm not disappearing," the outgoing leader told his local paper, the Islington Gazette.

Allies of Long Bailey, the left-wing shadow business secretary, have accused Starmer of being funded by "big money". She has disclosed all her donors, and she says Starmer ought to do the same now that ballots have been sent to party members.

Starmer says he will declare donations in the usual way in the parliamentary list of interests, updated each month. The shadow Brexit secretary has not broken any rules.

Long Bailey made the dig as she vowed to end the "gentlemen's club" of Westminster. However, it reveals anxiety on the left as Corbyn's allies increasingly become aware their preferred candidate is unlikely to win.

A new leader is not enough for Labour: it needs a new direction

PAT McFADDEN



You might expect after the biggest electoral defeat since 1935 that the Labour leadership contest would have revealed a hunger for change: a desperate desire to break the pattern of four Tory victories in a row and Labour powerlessness; a moment to face up to the difference between keeping your members happy and building a coalition of voters broad enough to win an election.

Yet, as members start casting their votes, the contest hasn't really felt like this. Yes, there has been talk of lessons to be learnt and change has been mentioned, but too often in the context of saying that we shouldn't have too much of it.

After Labour lost its third election in a row in 1987, Neil Kinnock launched a no-holds-barred policy review in which everything was on the table – including sacred cows such support for unilateral nuclear disarmament. He did that because he knew that fundamental change was necessary if Labour was to win again.

Yet despite last year's terrible election result, the contest to lead the party looks less like a fundamental root-and-branch review than a reaffirmation. If there is to be change, it's in the presentation of what we say. We'll explain it differently – like a monolingual British tourist abroad struggling to order from the menu.

Perhaps we should blame Tony Blair for this. He made winning elections look easy. But abandoning the lessons we learnt the hard way about how to win, putting as much distance as possible between ourselves and the last Labour government and expecting the public to applaud, has failed time after time. If winning was that easy there would have been more than one Labour leader to win a healthy governing majority since England won the World Cup in 1966.

After such a shattering defeat, the key question is direction. The voters who turned away from Labour to vote Tory are not traitors – they are the people we need to convince next time around. That means having a policy platform that looks to the future and offers credible and hopeful answers to the challenges of today and tomorrow, not one that yearns for a better yesterday.

Labour will not regain people's trust by reaffirming the programme on which it has just lost. No one should assume anything about votes only being "lent" to the Tories. After the damage done to the party's standing in recent years, if it does not change enough, it could take a long time for voters to look at it seriously again. Boris Johnson will make mistakes, but we have to be ready to be trusted when that happens.

So Labour doesn't just need a new leader. It needs a new direction, too. Inevitably, there are constraints in a contest where the candidates have to appeal to an internal audience. Everyone understands that, as long as it is not confused with the broader job of appealing to the public.

The immediate choice lies with Labour members, but the ultimate verdict will always lie with the voters.

If getting to a winning position and placing Labour in a position where it can credibly offer prosperity, fairness and security means disappointing some people, that is a prize worth fighting for. And it will be the fulfilment of Labour's founding purpose rather than its negation. We were brought into being in order to govern. And the road to recovery begins by asking ourselves the right question.

Pat McFadden is Labour MP for Wolverhampton South East

Sarah Baxter, page 22

NEWS

Three Weinstein accusers call for ban on gagging orders

In their first interviews, women who worked for the disgraced film boss say there's a vital first step to stop others suffering as they did

Rosamund Urwin

Three of Harvey Weinstein's accusers have called for a ban on "gagging" clauses that cover up criminal behaviour in the workplace, as the role they played in his conviction can be revealed.

Michelle Franklin, who worked as the film mogul's assistant in London in 2012, was among those who gave evidence to state prosecutors in New York, where he was found guilty of rape last week.

Laura Madden, from Swansea, who has accused Weinstein of sexual assault, and a second alleged victim, an Englishwoman who has spoken about her ordeal for the first time, also talked to the district attorney's office.

Weinstein, 67, will be sentenced on March 11. He is facing up to 29 years in prison after being convicted of rape and a criminal sex act.

Franklin, now 39, witnessed some of his behaviour towards women and has said that Weinstein bullied her, including pinning her against the wall and regularly screaming abuse at her.

"The DA's office asked me lots of questions and I gave any information I could," Franklin said. "It helped paint the whole picture: that this was not just about famous actresses, it is about all the other behaviour that went with it."

The three women are calling for the banning of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), confidentiality clauses that helped protect Weinstein by preventing witnesses and victims from speaking out. In exchange they received large sums of money, sometimes running to six figures.

"They should 100% be banned," said Franklin. "I didn't sign one because it would have gagged me. You may get some money but down the line, you feel compromised."

Madden, 49, added: "Covering up criminal behaviour is a crime in itself – you become an accessory to a crime."

The third woman, who accused him of committing rape, called on ex-Weinstein employees who had received payouts in return for their silence to give this money to the tycoon's victims.

"All those who signed NDAs and got paid for them should donate their money back into a victims' fund," she said.

She worked for Weinstein's company and accused some of her former colleagues – including women – of complicity in his behaviour. "The verdict may have had some men shaking in their boots but lots of women have been horrendous too," she said. "Some female employees led women to his doorstep."

The government committed in July 2019 to pass laws to ban NDAs that prevent people from disclosing information to the police or doctors. Nothing has happened since.

Jill Greenfield, a lawyer at the London firm Fieldfisher who is representing six women in a UK civil claim against Weinstein, added: "The use of NDAs to silence victims of sexual assault and harassment has to be stopped. Abuse is a weapon of power and the ability to silence in this way perpetuates that abuse."

Weinstein will now face charges in Los Angeles. He was taken last week to the Bellevue Hospital, Manhattan, after he suffered heart palpitations and chest pains on his way to Rikers Island, a New York prison. The allegations against him ignited the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein has denied any allegations of "non-consensual sex". Speaking after his conviction, his lawyer Arthur Aidala said: "The words he said over and over again to me is, 'I'm innocent, I'm innocent, I'm innocent. How could this happen in America?'"

Franklin said: "It has been an extraordinary journey, from feeling terrified of him to seeing him convicted. I feel really fortunate to have been part of this. It has given me hope and peace."

The Sunday Times tried to contact Weinstein's representatives for comment.
@RosamundUrwin



WENN

Michelle Franklin with Harvey Weinstein in the south of France in May 2012 when she was his UK assistant. She says she felt deeply uneasy almost as soon as she took the job

He threatens to kill you, but no one says it's crazy

THE ASSISTANT

Michelle Franklin thought the medicines that she ferried around for Harvey Weinstein were for diabetes, but they were really injections for erectile dysfunction.

The 39-year-old, who worked as his UK assistant for nine months in 2012, made this discovery when a colleague told her that they could not allow an intern to pick up the drugs from the pharmacy.

"She said, 'This is something you have to do,'" Franklin recalls. "So I looked it up. Viagra takes about 30 minutes but these injections have an almost instant effect."

Franklin had a deep unease about her job almost as soon as she took it. She was often on the receiving end of his temper but also witnessed women going "to his hotel room and looking upset afterwards".

She recalls a casting for Weinstein's Netflix show Marco Polo at the Soho Hotel in London: "When we were meeting the men, we'd have lunch with them, and when it was a woman, it was a private meeting in his room."

Franklin recognised one actress from a previous show she'd worked on, in which she played a prostitute, prompting one of her colleagues to remark: "Life imitating art."

She felt appalled: "She was an actress! Staff would always be dismissing things, saying: 'She's a friend of Harvey, an up-and-coming actress and sometime whore.'" Loyal female employees were nicknamed "brides of Weinstein" and "Weinstein widows".

"I didn't want to become a Weinstein widow," she says. "It was madness. You're exhausted, he threatens to kill you on a regular basis, everyone is acting crazy but no one says: 'This is crazy.'"

The film producer spent much of 2012 in the UK, as he was casting for a musical adaptation of the film Finding Neverland, which was to be performed at the Curve Theatre in Leicester.

He was also in town for the Olympics, at which he had tickets for the women's diving and the beach volleyball. Franklin remembers thinking: "These are athletes, professional women at the height of their sporting prowess – and here he is purely perving at them."

The relationship became increasingly acrimonious as Franklin stood up to him. It reached a nadir when Weinstein said he could no longer bear to have her in his sight.

He still expected her to direct women to his hotel room, though. One got lost, and she insisted Franklin accompany her to the door. "We got halfway down the corridor, and he saw me and went ballistic," she claims. "He said: 'What the f*** are you doing here?'

"I snapped and said, 'What the f*** is going on in there?' And he sort of pinned me against the wall and was like, 'Your opinion doesn't matter. F*** off.'"

Soon afterwards she was made redundant. "I thought I had ruined my career because I couldn't shut up and I couldn't conform."

Franklin has been trying to avoid most of the coverage of his trial in recent weeks. "You can go down a bit of a rabbit hole," she says.

"But, of course, there was a fist pump after he was convicted."

'Don't be an actress — actresses are whores'

THE RAPE VICTIM

One of Harvey Weinstein's alleged victims has claimed that the disgraced film mogul told her, "Don't be an actress – all actresses are whores", before sexually assaulting her some months later.

The woman, who is speaking publicly for the first time, was involved in financing for a film project when she met Weinstein at a restaurant in New York. He was with two famous actors, but the woman, then 19, did not know who Weinstein was.

"He sat down, smoking a cigar, and was asked to put it out, which he refused to do," she recalls. "I told him I was looking to finance a script and he said, 'I want to see it in my office tomorrow'."

By morning, the office had become his hotel room. At first, she says, everything seemed fine. "He asked, 'What do you want to do?' and I replied, 'Frankly I want to go home [to the UK] and learn more about film-making.' He seemed delighted with this."

Then, suddenly, he said: "Why don't I give you a massage?" She refused. He then asked her to give him a massage. "I said, 'I really don't want to'," she recalls. "He started taking off his shirt. It was incredibly awkward. I just wanted to get out."

She tried to massage him as timidly and minimally as she felt she could get away with. He asked what she had done in New York, where she had taken a method acting class, to which he responded: "Don't be an actress – all actresses are whores", before "reeling off the famous women he had slept with".

The woman managed to escape. When she returned to Britain, she was offered a job at a division of Miramax and soon promoted. "There were people more suitable than I was," she recalled. "I wondered why it was me."

Late one weekend evening she received a call about a script meeting at a hotel. She didn't want to go but was told by her manager she had to if she wanted to keep her job.

About seven people met in Weinstein's suite. Afterwards he asked her to stay. "My manager and everyone else walked out," she recalls. What Weinstein did then, she alleges, was "assault to the highest degree".

Her boyfriend had been waiting outside the hotel in his car. "I came down clearly very shaken," she says. "And I didn't say a word: I was just catatonic." She could not face going to the police.

She remembers Weinstein talked about his mother, and that she reminded him he was married: "He said: 'I love my wife very much.'"

Afterwards, colleagues seemed to blame her. No one had ever warned her about him. "That feels particularly unfair, because another woman who worked there has now said she was told: 'Sit in an armchair and always keep your coat buttoned up.'"

She tried to avoid seeing Weinstein, fleeing to Wiltshire when he was in town so she couldn't be called to meetings. She eventually quit the company: "Weinstein told me to buy flowers for my manager because I had left them in the lurch."

She found other work, and briefly moved to Australia, but a stigma seemed to surround her. Once, she was interviewed for a role as an assistant to a well-known director, who phoned her himself to reject her application, saying: "I hear you slept your way up with Weinstein."

> **He took off his shirt. I just wanted to get out**

She added: "People inside Miramax worked in line with his instructions to destroy your career. I was so scared it was going to follow me, when it wasn't my fault. It is a massive power play for him to think that someone can never get out of his reach."

She eventually left the industry. "It was too difficult, with this hanging over my head. It was a dark cloud I sensed was preventing me getting through certain doors. There was a sort of blacklist of people known to be associated with him."

In 2017, just before the allegations against Weinstein came out, she saw him at an event in London. She says he took her aside and said, "Are you all right with everything that happened?" She was so terrified she answered yes.

When The New York Times first reported its allegations, it "opened up a violent wound" for her. "You want to go into hiding - but there isn't anywhere you could hide in the whole world," she says. "It was such an uncomfortable feeling to be part of a crime that was global news."

What has astounded her most is the way those who were not victims but signed non-disclosure agreements covering his behaviour have been forgiven. "Each and every one of them was complicit," she says.



Weinstein arriving in court before his conviction last week

I spoke up because I have teenage daughters

THE MOTHER

It was Laura Madden's teenage daughters who encouraged her to speak out about Harvey Weinstein. She had expected the pair, then aged 14 and 16, to be appalled when she told them that he had sexually assaulted her. Instead she felt overwhelmed by their support.

"They threw their arms around me, and said, 'You have got to speak up: there are girls our age who are constantly being confronted by this,'" she recalls.

Madden, 49 and a mother of four, met Weinstein when she was working on a film financed by his company, Miramax. She was 22 at the time, and assisting a colleague, who revealed that there was a dream job going in London and she should see Weinstein to secure it.

She was told to meet him in a hotel room. "It suddenly turned from a professional conversation to him asking me to give him a massage," Madden claims. "He said he was exhausted from travelling and that was what all his staff do – there was nothing sexual about it, and I should just do it."

She felt "horrified" and frozen in fear and confusion: "I ended up giving him a massage, which he could tell I was upset about."

The situation escalated. "He kept suggesting that he give me a massage to calm me down," she says. "It went from that to me having no clothes on, he was naked, he was masturbating over me, and he was constantly requesting different things from me. He asked me to have a shower with him."

She was distraught. "I had lost all my agency. I remember crying in the shower, and him getting annoyed and saying I could go. I got my clothes and put them back on and left the hotel room."

She worked for Miramax for several years, sometimes still having to assist Weinstein with work in hotel rooms. "You bury it [the trauma]," she says. When she left Miramax, she quit the industry.

In 2017, two months before the story broke, she received a phone call from a woman she had worked with there. "She tried to remind me what a wonderful boss Harvey was, and how we were this happy family. None of it was true. She kept trying to cajole me by saying if I had any scripts, she'd take them to Harvey."

Madden believes this was Weinstein's "tentacles stretching across the Atlantic, trying to silence me". After The New York Times contacted her, she became the first woman to go on the record for the article.



Madden: assaulted by Weinstein when she was 22

NEWS REVIEW



NEWS

Harry champions charity with £1bn youth clubs plan

The duke is backing new centres to keep teenagers off the streets

Sian Griffiths, Shingi Mararike and Tom Calver

He may be settling abroad and stepping back from being a working member of the royal family from the end of this month, but Prince Harry will carry on backing at least one British cause he feels passionately about – youth clubs.

Harry has told the OnSide charity, which has built 12 youth clubs in England, that he will continue to support its work. The charity plans to build a national network of clubs to keep children off the streets, away from knife crime and off their smartphones.

It is one of the first UK charities, in addition to his private patronages, that Harry has publicly committed to in his new role, living mostly in Canada.

John Roberts, 46, the multimillionaire businessman who chairs OnSide, said: "Harry has been an outstanding supporter of the charity and has very recently reiterated his commitment to me personally, which means a lot to us."

Harry has paid several visits to OnSide, including one in January last year when he and Meghan toured a club in Birkenhead on the Wirral. Harry told youngsters: "The more we can build these the better – especially for you guys."

Cuts to youth services over the past decade have coincided with a rise in knife crime and mental health problems among young people. More than 760 youth clubs closed and 4,500 youth workers lost their jobs between 2012 and 2019, according to a survey by the Unison union. A House of Commons report says that the number of under-18s caught with a knife has almost doubled since 2012-13.

Today, Roberts calls on the chancellor to set aside £1bn in next week's budget to support the building of up to 100 youth clubs to give children a safe, fun place to go after school. Backed by an array of the great and good including *Dragons' Den* entrepreneur Theo Paphitis, singer Phil Collins and the carpet tycoon Lord Harris of Peckham, Roberts is urging Rishi Sunak to announce a new infrastructure fund, which charities could use to set up new clubs across England.



Harry and Meghan visiting an OnSide youth centre in Birkenhead

Roberts, chief executive of AO, the online electronics retailer he set up in his twenties after leaving school with no A-levels, has a fortune of about £210m, according to The Sunday Times Rich List.

"What do young people want? They want something positive to do, somewhere safe to go that's got interesting activities and someone to talk to who can inspire them. That's true for all kids, my kids, poor kids, all kids, We want to create that for a generation," said Roberts, a father of five. "There's a youth organisation in America called The Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Rishi Sunak sat on the board of a boys and girls club in Los Angeles. So we hope he will support this idea for British kids."

Children in Oldham, asked in a survey what they would be doing if the OnSide youth club had not opened, replied with answers including "doing drugs" and "hanging out, getting into trouble". Others said they would be "bored at home on the Xbox". The government has said it will give councils £49.1bn this year, the biggest budget rise for 10 years. But as youth service budgets remain a fraction of what they were, councils look to charities and philanthropists to plug gaps.

Each OnSide youth club costs about £8m to build and kit out – and Roberts raises half that from the private sector. Funding from councils and children's admission fees – they pay 50p a visit, if they can afford it – pays the rest.

A day after he returned from his honeymoon with Meghan, Harry addressed a dinner at a marquee in the grounds of Kensington Palace, hosted by the comedian and children's author David Walliams, that raised £14m for the charity.

The *Dragons' Den* entrepreneur Paphitis, who is sponsoring a youth club in Manchester, said: "These are a fantastic investment for society to make.

"I know I have put my money where my mouth is. I fully support the concept of an infrastructure fund to roll these opportunities to young people across the country. I am in."

Roberts, who was involved in saving his local youth club in Bolton when he was a teenager, says the new clubs are "very different to the old ones in church halls with a wonky pool table".

Some may be set in poor parts of England, but boast state-of-the-art facilities, including climbing walls, gyms, dance studios, music suites and skate parks.

Bola Busari, 16, helped set up the OnSide youth club that opened in Dagenham, east London, in May. Bola said he used to spend his evenings bored at home "watching Netflix" and helping care for his brother, who is autistic. Now, he says, "I can come here and play football, badminton, basketball. My brother comes: he does a lot of cooking with the chef. I know I can leave him: it's like a big family. There should be lots of these – round the country."

PHOTOS: RAY WELLS







Owen Ogbemudia, right, Jay Champion, above, and Monique McKenzie, top, are keen users of the Dagenham youth centre

Made in Dagenham – youth centre gives lonely teens new lives

Shingi Mararike and Sian Griffiths

Standing in the doorway of the dance studio at the Future Youth Zone in Dagenham, east London, Owen Ogbemudia looks sheepish.

"I can't really say I'm the best dancer, so I don't really use this room that much. I'd much rather be in the music room, writing lyrics with my boys instead," he says, smiling.

Owen, 16, is one of the thousands of young people between the ages of eight and 19 who spend their weekend evenings at the £8m facility, opened in May last year by the charity OnSide. It has not just turned him into an accomplished footballer, chef and rapper. It has helped him change his life. "I've got friends who have gone down the wrong path. I know at least 10 kids that are in jail, people that are dead, because they didn't have opportunities like this," he says.

Each of the rooms has been named by children from the local community. In the training kitchen, dubbed "Ur Chef", a group is being taught how to bake a cheesecake by a smiling volunteer he calls Auntie Carol.

Young people pay just 50p to use facilities that also include a boxing ring, art room, skate park and homework club, and those who struggle to afford it are let off the charge.

Owen weaves past a throng of boys huddling round a PlayStation, before opening the back door and stopping in front of the outdoor football pitch he trains on.

"A scout from Arsenal came here and watched me recently. He was interested in me, so I'm typing up my football CV to give it to him. If you've got a goal in life, you've got to chase it," he says.

Owen stops to fistbump his friend Jay Champion, 17, who is studying construction at Barking & Dagenham College. He was fostered as a young teenager and moved to east London from Kent, where he admits he was hanging around on the fringes of a gang. "I used to hang around with the wrong kind of crowd . . . people carried knives and drugs. I know people who have been killed, stabbed, shot," he says.

Since he came to London a year ago, Jay says, the centre has helped him hugely. His favourite place is the music room, where he has recorded a song about his experiences – "what I have been through, where I have come from".

The club, which screens people on entry for weapons and plastic bottles after a spate of acid attacks in the capital, has not just helped young people escape trouble. It has also allowed them to chase their dreams.

Monique McKenzie, 16, is a keen street dancer and singer who cites Beyoncé, Nina Simone and Aretha Franklin as her idols. "You can always see me in the dance studio or music room – it's just a space to create," she says.

In November she sang in front of more than 3,500 people, including Prince Harry, at the Royal Albert Hall, supported by her friends from the Youth Zone.

Motivated by the experience, Monique hopes to study at the Brit School – the performing arts free school in Croydon – and then be in a position to give back to society.

"I've always said, if I ever get to the point where I can deem myself famous and have lots of money, I'm putting it into a charity like this, because of the way that it's helped me. I'm so grateful for everybody that's done things like that," she says.

@ShingiMararike

HM Government

NHS

CORONAVIRUS:
PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

The best way to protect yourself and others is:

Wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel, regularly throughout the day.

Catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue, bin it, and wash your hands.

If you have recently arrived back from specified areas follow the returning traveller advice. Check the list of areas and find out more at **nhs.uk/coronavirus**

Path on western front fulfils soldier's dream

Nicholas Hellen
Social Affairs Editor

Most soldiers on the western front in the summer of 1915 stuck to modest daydreams, but one officer saw beyond the carnage to sketch a peacetime vision for the trenches that snaked from the English Channel to the Swiss frontier.

With a few words jotted down in a letter to his former headmaster, Second Lieutenant Andrew Douglas Gillespie, 25, pictured how he would transform no-man's-land "to send every man, woman and child in western Europe on pilgrimage".

Now, more than a century after the guns fell silent, his words are about to become reality with the opening of the 620-mile Western Front Way. On April 19, Gillespie's great-nephew, Tom Heap, 54, a presenter on BBC TV's *Countryfile*, will set off from the Swiss border on a First World War-era bicycle.

He will pedal 60 miles a day along the route of the western front until he reaches the site of the Battle of Loos, near Lille, where Gillespie died three months after he wrote the letter.

Heap will be met by his mother, Peggy, 86, Gillespie's niece, before continuing on to Nieuwpoort in Belgium.

The letter was languishing in the archives of his old school, Winchester, when Sir Anthony Seldon, vice-chancellor at Buckingham University, was researching a book about the role of the public schools in the Great War.

He was much taken by Gillespie's self-styled "sentimental idea" to turn the western front into "the most beautiful road in the world".

He and a team including Rory Forsyth, who runs the Western Front Way charity, enlisted the support of the Belgian and French governments as well as the Germany embassy in London.

The route in Belgium will be fully waymarked by the end of March, and will be inaugurated on April 25. Plaques are being placed along the route in France. It is still, however, far short of the tree-lined path envisaged by Gillespie, who grew flowers from seeds sent from home while he was on the front.

As the sacrifice of war recedes into memory, the walk may change our attitudes. Until now, most visitors to the battlefields have stuck with the mass cemeteries of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and have left in a mood of solemn reverence.

Long-distance walkers, by contrast, will get a better sense of the battlefields in a living landscape. They will see the "iron harvest" of unexploded shells piled up by farmers at the sides of their fields.

They will edge around the forest that sprang up on the graves of hundreds of thousands of French soldiers who fell at Verdun, and walk along the railway siding where the armistice was signed in November 1918, and where Hitler established German occupation in 1940.

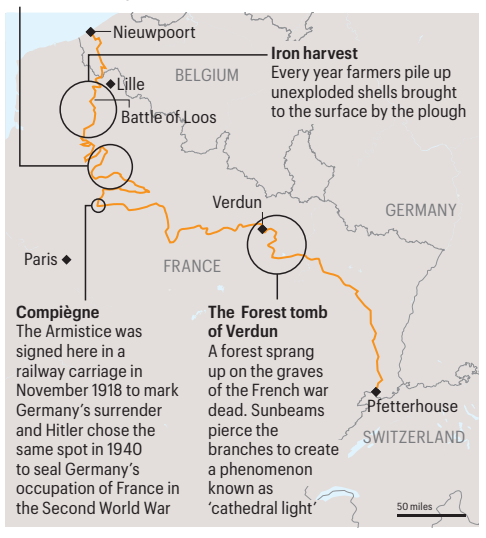
Heap believes his great-uncle would welcome anyone to stroll along the pathways. "They need not do it for remembrance or for military history. If they want to go to wineries along the route, or they enjoy nature, or they want to get fit, that is fine by me.

"The young men who went there – it was not doom and gloom the whole time."
@NicholasHellen

The battlefields of the First World War are to be connected by a 620-mile way from the English Channel to Switzerland



Hikers will be able to visit the places depicted in 1917, the Oscar-winning film, above, and other historic locations



Rethink trespass law, Ramblers urge Patel

Jon Ungoed-Thomas

The Ramblers, the walking association formed after a mass trespass on Kinder Scout in the Peak District, has challenged the government over its pledge to "make intentional trespass a criminal offence".

Campaigners say the pledge in the last manifesto, which was intended to tackle unauthorised travellers' camps, may undermine walkers' rights. It is calling for an "urgent rethink" and has written to Priti Patel, the home secretary, to raise its concerns.

The Ramblers opposes the criminalisation of trespass and any measures that could have a significant impact on access to the countryside.

The letter to Patel is also signed by other organisations including the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the British Mountaineering Council, British Orienteering and Cycling UK.

It says: "We believe that the government's priority should be to make it easier for people to get outside. We oppose any measures that would deter people from accessing the outdoors."

The government wants to strengthen police powers to remove travellers from land they should not be on, and is proposing that intentional trespass for unauthorised encampments is made a criminal offence.

The National Police Chiefs' Council said yesterday a greater number of authorised sites needed to be provided for the travelling community.

The Home Office said: "The focus of our recent consultation is on intentional trespass and so there would not be any adverse impact on law-abiding citizens wishing to enjoy the countryside."
@JonUngoedThomas

The Pick-me-up Papers: Dickens better for mental health than self-help books

Research has shown that our brains are stimulated by the complex language and storylines found in classic works of literature

Andrew Gregory Health Editor

Classic works of literature by William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and other great writers can boost your brain and relieve depression, chronic pain and dementia – while self-help books are a waste of time.

The findings, which emerged in a new book published by Oxford University Press, show that "challenging language" can send "rocket boosters" to the brain and improve mental health.

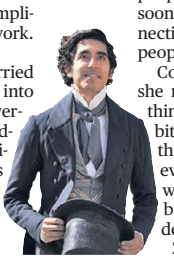
Unusual phrases and unfamiliar words in great works of literature command the undivided attention of readers, provoking moments of self-reflection and helping shift brains into a higher gear.

Modern novels can also spark "aliveness", but only if the storyline is unpredictable, the research found.

Self-help books are not so useful, however, as they do not usually "ignite" the brain, it suggests. People read them to extract information, but that often means the books do not light up parts of the brain linked to memory and emotion.

Professor Philip Davis, the author of the book *Reading for Life*, said great literature "frees emotions and imagination" and can make someone feel "more alive", but that self-help books do not improve mental health. "If you're just scanning for information, you go fast, it's very easy, it's automatic," he said. "But when literature begins to do something more complicated than that, the brain begins to work. It gets excited, it gets emotional."

The book is based on research carried out by the centre for research into reading, literature and society at Liverpool University, which hooked readers up to brain scanners and monitored them as they read classic texts such as Dickens and Shakespeare.



Dev Patel stars in the film of Dickens's David Copperfield

"You could see the brain coming to life," said Davis, whose favourite book is *Middlemarch* by George Eliot.

After seeing that reading can re-engage people with mild or moderate dementia, Davis said there should be "wider promotion" of reading in care homes. In one instance a dementia patient given a book to read stunned researchers by speaking for the first time in months.

Laura Prime, 51, from Crewe, suffers from depression and anxiety, but her health improved after she joined a reading group. "I was finding it difficult to interact and communicate with other people, but through shared reading I soon began to enjoy reading and connecting with others again. I often tell people that I read myself better."

Convinced of the benefits of reading, she now runs three reading groups. "I think everybody should read, get into a bit of a fantasy world, a world that's not their own – and it's so important that everybody has somebody to read with. One of my ladies said, 'I haven't been read to for 50 years and it's wonderful.'"

Zoe Gilling, a director at The Reader, a charity running reading groups in community centres, libraries, care homes, hospitals, prisons and workplaces, said great literature was a powerful tool.

"We define 'great' as literature that has the power to touch diverse people and illuminate what connects us. It can help with inner life, mental health, soul troubles and make us say, 'I never knew anyone but me felt that!'"

There is no evidence bibliotherapy, or reading therapy, can cure mental health disorders, but medics have reported dramatic results in those with poor mental health. Dr Helen Willows, a GP, said she had seen reading "transform the lives of the people that we see day after day at our surgery – those that are stuck, perhaps with low mood or who are socially isolated."

Dr David Fearnley, executive medical director of the Betsi Cadwaladr University health board and one of the longest-serving medical directors in the NHS, goes further. Reading aloud with others in particular, he says, is "the most significant development in mental healthcare in the past 10 years".
@AndrewGregory

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN

SWITCH YOUR MONEY



By joining more than one million investors.

We're confident you'll love our service, so if you're not 100% satisfied with your ISA in the first 12 months, we'll refund our annual account charge*. No questions asked.

Discover our Stocks and Shares ISA at HL.co.uk

Investments | Pensions | Savings

Investments fall as well as rise in value, so you could make a loss.

*Refund requires account closure. Promise doesn't cover stock market movements. New clients only. Terms apply – see www.hl.co.uk/isa-promise

THE VICTIMS

Paul Farmer and his wife Angela were planning a blissful retirement full of walks, gardening and music.

But the former head teacher and local Tory councillor was left severely disabled, blind and brain damaged due to an avoidable error by staff at West Suffolk Hospital.

Angela now looks after him at their home in Bury St Edmunds with the help of round-the-clock carers. To this day, he cannot walk, feed himself or embrace her.

COURTESY OF ANGELA FARMER



Daniel Parsons, seen here playing crazy golf, was an active, healthy 47-year-old who was adored by his wife Dawn and son Jack.

He popped in to see his GP one December morning with tonsillitis, triggering a chain of events that ended with the West Suffolk Hospital accidentally killing him late that evening.

For Dawn, a former nurse at the hospital, it was devastating. "I thought my husband was safe in the hands of the NHS, but he wasn't."

COURTESY THE PARSONS FAMILY



I thought Daniel was safe with the NHS. He wasn't

A hospital obsessed with guarding its 'outstanding' status is accused of covering up errors that left one patient dead and another brain-damaged — and persecuting the whistleblower who tried to expose the scandal

INSIGHT

Just before the stroke of midnight on Monday December 11, 2017 Daniel Parsons's heart stopped beating as he lay unconscious gasping for air in the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds. A healthy 47-year-old man, he had been suffering from nothing more than tonsillitis. Daniel, an engineer, had begun the day at home but had popped in to see his GP about a sore throat and a temperature. It was the start of a chain of events that resulted in the hospital accidentally killing him hours later.

His death was caused by an avoidable error in administering a drug that destroyed the functioning of his heart in a little over half an hour. It should have triggered an immediate patient safety investigation but the hospital was at first reluctant to admit fault.

There was a similar unwillingness to accept mistakes four months later when another avoidable error in the hospital left Paul Farmer, a former head teacher, blind and severely brain-damaged. Previously an accomplished pianist, he can no longer strike a single key.

Their families might not have known what had really happened if it had not been for Dr Patricia Mills, a consultant anaesthetist with 30 years' experience, who was becoming increasingly concerned that summer about the way the hospital appeared to be sweeping patient safety issues under the carpet.

Mills had to intervene and contradict colleagues to ensure that both accidents were properly investigated and blew the whistle on another patient safety case that she believed was not being properly deal with.

Instead of addressing her concerns, the hospital's executives placed her under disciplinary investigation for attempting to undermine colleagues. They also made her their chief suspect in an unprecedented internal inquiry that used National Health Service money to fingerprint and run handwriting checks on their own doctors.

The full story of the events in West Suffolk Hospital can now be told for the first time. It raises important questions about the way the management teams of NHS hospitals are prioritising the goal of gaining top marks in their annual inspections over the care of their own patients.

Doctors at the hospital have expressed disquiet and anger about the way they feel highly paid executives have been suppressing dissent and refusing to heed complaints. They allege that the maintenance of the hospital's "outstanding" status in inspection reports has become more important than patient safety.

The story is even more pertinent because West Suffolk Hospital serves the constituents of the health secretary Matt Hancock, who has championed the cause of whistleblowers in the NHS.

He was alerted more than a year ago to the alleged culture of bullying in the hospital, yet for months he ignored the repeated appeals for help. He has now ordered an investigation.

'OUTSTANDING' STATUS AND £270,000 PAY PACKAGE

On the bright morning of August 1, 2018, Hancock was at an event to promote a new a bus service taking patients to West Suffolk Hospital. The puppyish new health secretary was in buoyant mood, praising the hospital as one of the best in the country.

Alongside him in trademark white shirt, lanyard and spectacles was Dr Stephen Dunn, the chief executive of the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust.

A top performer, he had apparently justified his £270,000 salary and pension package when the Care Quality Commission (CQC) awarded his hospital "outstanding" status in January that year.

It was a coup but Dunn had reason to have much on his mind. The previous day, he had held a fractious meeting with Mills, the consultant who was becoming a thorn in the trust's side.

Mills, 51, worked as an anaesthetist in intensive care and was often one of the first medics at the scene of serious accidents in the county as a regular member of the air ambulance team. She had also taken a part-time role that made it her responsibility to look into medical mistakes at the hospital.

She had been summoned to see Dunn because four days earlier she had written to the chairman of the hospital board, attaching a separate letter to the General Medical Council (GMC), about her latest patient safety concerns. She believed the hospital had badly handled the case of a senior doctor who had been witnessed injecting himself with medication.

> **For months Matt Hancock ignored appeals for help**

The meeting between Dunn and Mills had been stormy. The chief executive is alleged to have angrily demanded to know why she had written the letter to the chairman of the board and accused her of undermining Dr Nick Jenkins, the medical director, on patient safety issues. Dunn is said to have asked: "You think I'm an arsehole, don't you?" and Mills to have replied: "Yes, I do at this moment."

The hospital commissioned an independent report to examine the events of the meeting, which concluded that Dunn had been "justified" in his tough approach. This was effectively the start of a long disciplinary case against Mills – a whistleblower on patient safety – that still continues today.

By coincidence, five months later Dunn was appointed a CBE for services to health and patient safety in the new year honours list. Hancock gleefully tweeted congratulations, describing Dunn as a "brilliant leader".

Last April, the formal disciplinary action began against Mills when a company called Vista Investigations was hired to gather evidence of her wrongdoing. The charges against her were set out for the first time, and many were petty.

But the heart of the hospital's case was the accusation that she had undermined Jenkins. A member of the board, Jenkins had overall responsibility for patient safety cases and was regarded as a rising star who had been paid £550,000 in salary and pensions over the previous two years.

In particular, it was alleged that Mills had widely discussed her view that Jenkins had made the wrong clinical judgments in the Parsons and Farmer cases.

SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION CAUSED BY ANTIBIOTIC

Dawn Parsons left her husband Daniel's hospital bed at 9.30pm believing he was in safe hands and would be fully recovered after a night's sleep. His death that evening therefore seemed inexplicable.

Dawn, a 48-year-old former nurse at the hospital from Thetford, Norfolk, channelled her grief into finding out how her apparently healthy husband could have died so quickly and unexpectedly.

The first clue came the next morning when she was told by a senior consultant that her husband's death might have been caused by anaphylactic shock – a severe allergic reaction – caused by an antibiotic that had been administered in hospital. However, she says the allergic reaction was not mentioned when, three weeks later, she attended an "awful" meeting at the hospital led by Jenkins. "Jenkins gave the impression he had decided it wasn't the hospital's fault," Dawn said. "His attitude seemed to be, 'We don't think we'll find anything.'"

She requested a second meeting without Jenkins – whom she described as "defensive" – because she was unhappy with the explanations given. As a result, Dawn was asked to speak to Mills.

When Mills looked over the case notes, she quickly saw that Daniel had almost certainly been killed by an anaphylactic reaction to the antibiotic.

On the day of his death, Daniel had been admitted to hospital with breathing difficulties that the ambulance paramedics thought were probably an anaphylactic reaction to the penicillin that his GP had prescribed that morning. He responded well to treatment for the allergy in the ambulance.

However, the hospital doctors believed his tonsillitis might be a more serious infection such as sepsis. They therefore gave him an antibiotic called ceftriaxone, which should be given only "cautiously" to patients who have previously shown a sensitivity to penicillin. It caused the powerful allergic reaction that killed Daniel in just over half an hour.

Realising that there had been a grave medical error, Mills persuaded Jenkins that there had to be a serious incident investigation into the case.

Jenkins, according to documents seen by the Insight team, is said to have wanted a lesser investigation, which would have concentrated on learning lessons internally from the incident.

The Parsons family were grateful for Mills's intervention. "Dr Mills was thorough and approachable. She said at the beginning of the meeting, 'Your husband's death was avoidable.'"

> **Daniel had a reaction. It killed him in half an hour**

This view was borne out at the inquest into Daniel's death in April last year. The Ipswich coroner concluded that his death could have been avoided if the doctors had heeded the early signs of anaphylaxis.

Mills had been vindicated for insisting the case should be elevated to a serious incident but it did not stop the disciplinary action against her. Remarkably, the letter from the hospital telling her she faced a formal investigation arrived seven days after the inquest. The letter also referred to the Farmer case.

'A MAN OF HONOUR, HUMOUR, INTEGRITY AND CHARM'

After 31 years of marriage Angela Farmer and her husband, Paul, were inseparable companions sharing a love of gardening, walking and classical music, which he would play beautifully on their grand piano despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Paul, 68, was a high achiever who had been a head teacher before becoming active in local politics and had been made an MBE for services to his community. When he stood down from politics even his opponents were kind. "A man of honour, humour, integrity and charm," a rival councillor said.

He was admitted to West Suffolk Hospital in April 2018 with severe stomach pain, which Angela believed could be a twisted gut – in medical terminology, a sigmoid volvulus – because the consultant treating his Parkinson's had warned it was a possible complication of the disease.

Angela made this clear to the ambulance paramedics and doctors, but the radiologist who reviewed his x-ray failed to spot the signs of the twisted gut condition. He therefore was not given the emergency surgery he required and the next morning went into cardiac arrest.

Angela was by his side. "My world fell apart," she said. "Paul's heart stopped beating for eight minutes. He had four rounds of full cardiopulmonary resuscitation and eventually I heard the words I had been praying for, which were that they had 'got a pulse'."

But the battle had only just begun, as the effects of those eight minutes were devastating. When Paul finally emerged

INSIGHT
JONATHAN CALVERT AND GEORGE ARBUTHNOTT

"Save £300 on an award-winning feature-loaded OLED TV!"
Visit us in-store for these amazing offers and much more!
Steve, Manager, Holborn store
17th year of service
PHILIPS TV & Sound
OLED The difference is real.
Sound by Bowers & Wilkins
0% interest 18 months interest-free credit available on this product. Subject to application, financial circumstances and borrowing history. T&Cs apply.
Philips 55" Ambilight OLED 4K HDR Smart TV 55OLED934
The next generation P5 picture processing engine and up-firing Bowers & Wilkins Dolby Atmos speakers create a stunning visual and sonic experience.
£1699 SAVE £300 6 YEAR GUARANTEE INCLUDED
RRP £1999 Also available 65"
HALF-PRICE Philips HTL3320 TV soundbar & subwoofer, pictured right, when bought with this TV.
The one to watch
Philips 50" Ambilight 4K HDR Smart LED TV 50PUS7394
£449 SAVE £100 6 YEAR GUARANTEE INCLUDED richersounds customer rating
RRP £549 Also available 43" & 55"
HALF-PRICE with Philips PUS7394 series TVs, pictured left.
Philips TV soundbar & subwoofer HTL3320
£269
6 Year Supercare Guarantee £26.90
LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE
Philips over-ear noise-cancelling Bluetooth headphones PH805
£159.95 HOT NEW PRODUCT
For opening times or local store info, visit our website.
Please mention this ad in-store as prices may be cheaper. Offers valid from 01.03.2020 - 04.03.2020 unless stated otherwise, subject to availability. All offers 1 per customer / household. While stocks last. *Lowest Price Guaranteed. We'll beat any genuine advertised price, voucher offer or system deal, online & in-store by up to £100! Products must be brand new, boxed, carry a similar guarantee (in the case of TVs, 5 or 6 years from a competitor) and be in stock at time of purchase. Comparisons to be fair and net of any voucher / trade-in offer. Other reasonable T&Cs apply. See web or ask for details. 6 year guarantee included for VIP Club members on the vast majority of TVs, projectors and wireless multiroom systems. Our VIP Club is completely FREE for ALL customers. Sign up in-store or online in seconds with just an email address. All trademarks acknowledged. E&OE. RRPs are based on information supplied by What Hi-Fi?, manufacturers, Google & Which? Further information is available on request.
Awards 2019 Which? Retailer of the Year
richersounds Experience Better
Proudly employee owned

THE WHISTLEBLOWER

Dr Patricia Mills, a consultant anaesthetist and member of the air ambulance team, wanted the hospital to admit that it had made mistakes in both the Paul Farmer and Daniel Parsons cases so their families would know the truth and measures could be taken to stop such errors happening again. But instead bosses placed her under disciplinary investigation, for allegedly trying to undermine medical colleagues.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DR PATRICIA MILLS

Tweets exchanged by Matt Hancock and Steve Dunn



THE MANAGEMENT

@STEVEDUNNCEO



Matt Hancock, the health secretary (pictured, left), has always been quick to praise the hospital that serves his constituents as "one of the best in the country".

He is also a big fan of the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust's chief executive, **Dr Stephen Dunn**, (pictured, right) who was appointed a CBE for services to health and patient safety in the 2019 new year honours.

Hancock was gushing after the award, making reference to West Suffolk Hospital's recently acquired "outstanding" status.

He said: "A brilliant leader, and how typical he calls it a team effort. It is, of course, a team effort, but outstanding teams need outstanding leaders."

Part of that team is **Dr Nick Jenkins**, the medical director (pictured, centre), who was ultimately responsible for patient safety investigations in the hospital and was described as a health service "rising star".

West Suffolk Hospital alleges that Dr Patricia Mills, the whistleblower, undermined his clinical judgment over the mistakes that led to the death of Daniel Parsons and left Paul Farmer blind with serious brain injuries.

Hancock was alerted more than a year ago to the allegations that doctors who were trying to speak out were being bullied, but for months failed to respond to repeated appeals for help, including from Mills herself.

His department announced an inquiry into whistleblowing at the hospital in Bury St Edmunds after Hancock held a private meeting with Mills.

COVER-UPS AND CHEAT NOTES TO BEAT THE INSPECTORS

Why does receiving an outstanding rating matter?
Only one in 14 hospitals receive a top rating from the Care Quality Commission. It's a much sought-after accolade because a top inspection can boost a hospital's chances of winning NHS contracts and attracting better staff. It also reduces scrutiny by ensuring the next inspection may not be for another five years, whereas an "inadequate" hospital is inspected again within 12 months.

Do hospitals try to dupe the inspectors?
Several doctors have complained about hospitals trying to pull the wool over inspectors' eyes.

A medic who worked at a hospital in west London said ambulances were diverted away from the casualty department during an inspection, to make it look less busy.

One doctor claimed staff secretly "moved all the electronically adjustable beds back and forth" between two hospitals in Sussex in an attempt to try to impress inspectors by ensuring they never saw a non-electronic bed.

Another clinician added: "Two places I have worked in Surrey have had booklets printed essentially telling us what to say [to inspectors]."

Is there a cover-up culture in the NHS?
There is a widespread problem of NHS hospitals prioritising public image over patient safety, according to the Doctors Association UK.

The group says it is being contacted by growing numbers of whistleblowers who have been "persecuted" by bosses for speaking up.

The group said it had experienced hospital's "going into lockdown when concerns have been made public, with staff being intimidated and hushed up".

Have other whistleblowers been targeted ?
There have been several examples of NHS doctors being victimised after speaking out. Recent high-profile cases have included a doctor who lost his job after airing understaffing concerns at an intensive care unit in Woolwich and a surgeon who was forced to resign after raising the alarm over baby deaths at a hospital in Liverpool.

Other doctors are said to have been discouraged by the publicity from speaking out. However, many health workers are still taking whistleblowing cases to employment tribunals.

from beneath the tubes and breathing apparatus 12 days later, he was severely brain-damaged, and to this day he cannot see, walk, feed himself or even hug his wife.

Mills met Angela at Paul's bedside and promised to get the bottom of what had happened. When she reviewed Paul's x-ray, she was convinced that his condition should have been diagnosed. However, Mills was away on holiday for the first meeting about the case and it did not go as she had expected.

When she attended the second case meeting, according to a source close to the investigation, a radiologist explained that it had already been accepted that the x-ray was equivocal, and therefore the failure to diagnose the twisted gut was understandable. Mills was frustrated, the source said, that Jenkins had not properly challenged and interrogated this version of events.

The source said: "Mills didn't believe that it could have been discussed properly if there was no conclusion that a mistake had been made."

Her concerns prompted the hospital to commission a fresh opinion on the x-ray from a radiologist outside the hospital. "If her intervention hadn't happened, the investigation would have been a whitewash and no further questions would have been asked about the x-ray," the source said.

At the next meeting about the case in July 2018, Jenkins was away on holiday. So Mills approached his stand-in as executive lead and told her the hospital needed to hold up its hands to having made a mistake with Paul. She also brought up Daniel's case, arguing that the hospital "seemed to have a real problem with getting to the bottom of cases".

It was her final involvement in the case. Over the next year the hospital produced three serious incident reports on Paul's case, and in each case the family wrote back pointing out inadequacies. As a result, the reports were sent to an independent patient safety consultant, whose report last month criticised the hospital for a lack of candour.

The report contains an admission by the radiologist who failed to spot the twisted gut on Paul's x-rays. "With hindsight, the x-rays are suggestive of sigmoid volvulus," she says. The radiologist said the poor design of the computers may have led to her not seeing the image where the twisted gut was most obvious.

A GMC report into the matter found that there were competing opinions about how clear the indications of sigmoid volvulus were on the x-ray and took no action against the radiologist. The trust's lawyers, however, have admitted the delay in diagnosis led ultimately to Paul's cardiac arrest.

The report identifies a catalogue of failings in the serious incident investigation and recommends that Jenkins should apologise to the Farmer family for not improving the hospital's reports on the case when their weaknesses were pointed out. It also proposes a set of reforms to ensure the same mistake did not happen again.

The family says the process of getting the truth from the hospital had been like "walking through treacle wearing Wellingtons".

DOCTORS FORCED TO PROVIDE FINGERPRINTS

The reason Mills did not play a role in any of the three serious incident reports was that the confrontation with Dunn in July 2018 happened shortly after she had raised concerns over Paul's case.

The immediate trigger for the meeting had been her letter to the trust's chairwoman about an anaesthetist who had injected himself with a magnesium painkiller in front of junior staff. A source said Mills claimed to have raised the issue with Jenkins on five occasions and had been disappointed that there had only been a perfunctory investigation.

After the dressing-down by Dunn, Mills resigned from her patient safety role. "She resigned her leadership roles as she did not feel able to continue in them if she was not allowed to raise concerns without risk of reprisal," the source said.

Less than a month after the meeting there were question marks over the death of another patient, Susan Warby, who had undergone an operation for a perforated bowel. Susan had wrongly been given a glucose drip during her operation. The hospital owned up to the error, which was not ultimately the cause of her death.

> **Getting the truth was like walking through treacle in wellies**

However, a few weeks later Susan's widower, Jon, was sent an anonymous letter alleging a "big cover-up" at the hospital. The letter claimed the glucose drip had been administered by an anaesthetist who "should never have been at work" as he had "injected himself with drugs before while in charge of a patient and it was all hushed up". It was signed simply: "Operating Theatre Staff".

Jon, a retired police officer, passed the letter on to his former colleagues in Bury St Edmunds CID, who carried out a brief investigation, taking fingerprints from the letter and its envelope.

By coincidence, the anaesthetist was the doctor that Mills had raised concerns about, although he has said he was not responsible for the glucose drip. However, the trust was determined to find out who sent the anonymous letter and Mills became top of their list of suspects.

As a result, the hospital asked Mills and a small number of others to submit to handwriting and fingerprint tests. When she refused, Helen Beck, executive chief operating officer of the West Suffolk trust, wrote to Mills's union representative at the British Medical Association demanding to know the "rationale" for her decision.

"Any refusal to provide a rationale … could have a relevance to the fact-finding investigation," Beck wrote. "This is because it could be considered evidence that implicates your member as being involved in the writing of the letter to Patient W's [Warby's] husband."

Mills changed her mind and the hospital sent an example of her handwriting to an expert for comparison with the Warby letter with samples from four other medical staff. The results were all negative apart from the Mills sample.

In October last year the expert found "a number of similarities" with the sample of Mills's writing sent by the hospital. In turn, Mills hired her own handwriting expert, who concluded that she was certainly not the author of the letter. A number of staff also consented to having their fingerprints taken but Mills continued to refuse. By now matters were getting out of hand and the medical staff committee meetings expressed anger about how the doctors who had raised patient safety concerns were being singled out.

On Christmas Eve afternoon, Dunn decided to apologise. He sent out a round robin email to say he was sorry that staff had been asked to provide fingerprints and acknowledged the upset it had caused.

HOSPITAL DOWNGRADED TO 'REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT'

Today Mills is in hospital herself, having been run over by a van in a country lane while walking her dog two weeks ago. She declined to comment last week but is still under investigation over the disciplinary allegations relating to her role in making sure the mistakes in the Parsons and Farmer cases were owned up to.

Hancock initiated a Department of Health inquiry into the treatment of whistleblowers in the hospital. The move was announced after he had held a private meeting with Mills. The CQC downgraded the hospital to "requires improvement" last month. It criticised the executive leadership for not fostering an "open and empowering culture" and found that safety concerns were not identified or addressed quickly enough.

It is all small consolation to Dawn Parsons and Angela Farmer, who are now pursuing legal claims for clinical negligence against the hospital.

"It hurts most on anniversaries," Dawn said. "I thought my husband was safe in the hands of the NHS, but he wasn't."

Angela looks after her husband at home in Bury St Edmunds with the help of round-the-clock carers. "I think you have to be a particular type of person to be a good carer," she says. "I now know that one obvious sign is the look of pleasure on someone's face when Paul achieves a tiny event, like swallowing a centimetre square of toast."

The West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust said: "We strive to provide high-quality, safe and attentive care for all our patients. Regrettably, we don't get it right every time, and on the rare occasion something goes wrong we always endeavour to investigate thoroughly, honestly and transparently.

"We remain incredibly sorry to the families involved in these cases for the mistakes made, and are committed to continue learning, improving and changing our processes."

Additional reporting: Katie Meynell and Andrew Gregory

Bullying executives left hospital staff 'sobbing, shaking, rocking in despair'

INSIGHT

Secret recordings of internal meetings at the West Suffolk Hospital reveal an institution in disarray with furious doctors' accusing "bullying" executives of persecuting staff who raise concerns about patient safety.

Medics are heard on the tapes passionately denouncing hospital executives for being aggressive and treating staff who speak out as if they were "troublemakers".

The chilling effect of a "rotten" management style has severely affected staff morale throughout the hospital, according to the recordings from staff committee meetings held late last year.

The tapes also reveal how the hospital misled the public over the fallout from a serious information technology problem that meant patients at risk of dying from aneurysms were not being safely monitored.

Dr Nick Jenkins, the hospital's medical director, admits on tape that the technical difficulties meant the hospital had failed to keep track of some of the 700 patients who were supposed to be carefully monitored because of their vascular disease.

As a result, he conceded, at least one patient had died after having surgery unnecessarily late. "So harm has been caused," he said.

However, this fact was omitted when the hospital put out a statement to the public in January describing the technology problem. It said: "There is currently no evidence that patients have been harmed."

When challenged by the Insight team on Friday, the hospital still declined to say that any of the patients died. Instead it gave an implicit admission that at least one patient had been adversely affected when it briefed by email that "no harm was caused for 99.7% of patients".

The tape recordings are dominated by the resentment and anger that had built up among doctors by the end of last year. One male clinician spoke of a management style that was "quite clearly rotten" and based on being "aggressive to people".

JOHN D. FIELDING



West Suffolk Hospital: doctors feared losing their jobs

A female doctor described being "shouted at and sworn at". A senior medic suggested executives visit a clinical psychologist to help them with their "dysfunctional behaviour".

One female consultant said the wellbeing of staff had been hugely affected by the way they were made to feel like troublemakers if they spoke up about problems.

Another male consultant described being "left destroyed as a person" after raising patient safety concerns.

He said he was hauled out of surgery "to be bollocked" and "interrogated" as if he were "the one that was causing the problem".

Leaked meeting minutes summed up the feeling of the doctors. "Numerous other consultants related episodes where they had felt similar things ranging from being ignored to outright bullying ," the notes said.

"There was a general perception that the executive team's default response was to be defensive and protect themselves and the trust's reputation at the expense of consultants."

Concerns were also raised that hospital consultants could be quietly pushed out of their jobs. A doctor told a meeting: "I think that's a very concerning prospect for everybody who's going through a hard time because no one wants to be one of the disappeared who everyone doesn't talk about any more."

She added: "It all gets hushed up and swept away."

This newspaper has spoken to a former consultant at the hospital, Dr Jon Cardy, who says a dozen medics have asked him for help after being bullied by hospital executives.

Cardy, who won awards for his work as clinical director of the accident and emergency department, claims two of the doctors were suicidal after being "utterly broken by their treatment from NHS management".

He said some had been subjected to formal investigations by executives as a result of whistleblowing. Others compared the oppressive hospital regime to living in North Korea.

"These were previously strong dynamic colleagues who were among the best at what they do but were then utterly broken by their treatment from NHS management," he said. "It should be a major concern and a wake-up call to hospital bosses when I get home and find their staff sitting on my doorstep in a distraught mess, sobbing, shaking, rocking in despair.

"At the present time all are still alive but permanently scarred and I doubt that most if any will be able to continue working until retirement age. Collectively, that will deprive patients of many years of their expertise, skill and outstanding care."

Yesterday the hospital said: "Any allegations of bullying at our trust are taken extremely seriously and are carefully investigated as a priority."

COMMENT

Rod Liddle



We oldies are invisible and reviled, but we're on the rise so stop ignoring us

A matter of weeks from today I will qualify for cut-price train travel, when I take receipt of my senior railcard. It is a mixed blessing. The money saved will of course come in useful, for tea, boiled sweets and medical pads of various kinds. But as I expect drooling senescence and decrepitude to descend immediately on my 60th birthday, I will be sitting on those trains not knowing where the hell I am going, where I have come from, or who I am.

I will look at station signs – Didcot Parkway, Eastham Rake, Burscough Bridge – in the vain hope of gleaning a clue, but none will come. And as I am circling the country, oblivious to everything except the gnawing pain in my bladder, I will also become that other thing associated with old age: invisible. Invisible to everybody else.

There was a report out last week from the Creative Diversity Network, a survey of some 30,000 submissions from TV productions. The headlines were dominated by the finding that black, ethnic minority and gay people were substantially overrepresented on our screens when compared with their respective proportions of the population. I don't think I care very much about this. Most of those shows were made in London, where the on-screen demographic will have been about right. But London is a very long way from the rest of the country, and the distance increases by the year.

What grabbed my attention, but seemingly nobody else's, was the huge underrepresentation of the elderly – more specifically, the over-50s. Invisible. Television is not a big fan of the ageing. It finds a greater virtue in youth, no matter how magnificently dunderheaded that youth might be.

Television is not alone. In this dismal age of identity politics, the gap between old and young is easily the most striking divide between us all, and the least discussed.

If the elderly had been barred from voting, we would have a large Labour majority in the House of Commons and we would still be in the European Union. The left has the young, which is why the opposition parties wish the voting age to be lowered still further – perhaps, if the SNP has its way, to the point that foetuses are jubilantly enfranchised. The right has those over 39, the age at which you start to be more likely to vote Conservative than Labour.

A common theme among remainers, after the Brexit vote, was the perfidy, selfishness and stupidity of the older generation. One columnist even suggested running the referendum again because in the intervening three years a crucial proportion of the oldsters would have dropped dead.

> **Everyone drifts to the right. Hell, I was once in the Socialist Workers Party**

Aimed at any other self-identifying tranche of the population, this would have been considered grossly offensive and possibly sackable. More pertinently, it ignores the obvious fact that at the same time many previous remain voters will have reached a certain maturity and suddenly realised that the European Union was a hideous entity run by witless, drunken Luxembourgian bureaucrats.

I am only half-joking. It is not only this generation of older people that is conservative. Everyone drifts that way, almost ineluctably, when their world view suffers the gradual, painful impingement of reality. Hell, I was once in the Socialist Workers Party.

TV companies continue to say, sod the elderly: the BBC's election coverage, for example, had special programmes focused on yoof and nothing for the old. But then all companies – and political parties – feel the need to court the young, in the belief that if they do not they will wither and die.

This is kind of counterintuitive. The most rapidly growing demographic sector of our population is the elderly. By 2038 a quarter of us will be over 65. Those between 50 and 65 have higher incomes and greater purchasing power, on average, than the young and are, again, a growing sector. It was the older ex-Labour voters in the north of England who tore down the red wall and allowed Boris in. The elderly are more likely to vote, too.

You have to say, it is a corrosive divide, and politically crucial. Our major cities are getting younger, on average, and thus more left-wing: the capital is but an extreme example. Our smaller cities, towns and villages are getting older and more right-wing. As the population ages, the balance tilts still further towards the right. We – well, "we" from next month – may be invisible and derided, but we make our presence felt.

Johnson responds to pandemic threat



PHOTOBUBBLE: NICK NEWMAN

I'm not entirely sure why judges should be allowed to decide whether or not we can build airports, but the decision to block the construction of a third runway at Heathrow is more good news for the prime minister. He was against the scheme on the deeply principled grounds that it abuts his constituency.

As a bigoted Little Englander I'm fine with the decision, holding that all travel away from this country leaves one exposed to the germs of foreigners, but it had better not mean that Boris reverts to his deranged Thunderbirds Are Go plastic island airport in the Thames estuary, part of his cunning wildfowl extermination programme. I'm with the Extinction Rebellion hippies on this. If we all made one fewer flight a year, would we need another runway anywhere?

By Jorge, our storms deserve better names

So welcome, then, Storm Jorge, which the BBC is pronouncing as if it were a Spanish Eurovision contestant rather than yet another bout of sodden, wind-battered misery. Jorge follows damp on the heels of the mundane Storm Dennis and that even worse one before — Storm Celiac, or something, Britain's first ever gluten-free weather system.

Like you, I would guess, I'm sick to the back teeth of this endless procession of storms with stupid names. We should call them by the manner in which they are expected to affect us: Storm Bit of a Bugger, rising to Storm Total and Utter Bastard. It might make us feel better, even though it will change nothing.

As the wonderful Louis MacNeice had it: "The glass is falling hour by hour, the glass will fall forever, / But if you break the bloody glass you won't hold up the weather."

Harry's green train is a signal failure

The man we once called Prince Harry travelled by train back from an eco-conference in Edinburgh, rather than taking a private jet or being carried on a litter by naked, gold-sprayed dwarfs. Perhaps Harry and his popular wife are finally cutting their cloth a little.

However, their approach to train travel differed a little from the way you and I might go about things. He took over an entire first-class carriage at an estimated cost of £12,000.

I'm not sure that hogging a whole carriage is terribly eco-friendly. I hope one day we will see him in cattle class, eating a microwaved chicken wrap and stirring his coffee with one of those ineffectual, plastic, spoon-shaped implements.



WORLD NEWS

ALL EYES ON TRUMP'S JUDGE IN FIRST ABORTION CHALLENGE
PAGE 18

ARGENTINA'S NEW EVITA WAITS FOR HER CUE
PAGE 19

Refugees are Erdogan's pawns in gambit to thwart Assad

The Turkish leader hopes his threat to throw open the border with Greece will force the EU to take a tougher line against Syria

Peter Conradi Europe Editor

The Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, threatened yesterday to unleash a flood of refugees on Europe as tens of thousands of migrants hurried to take advantage of his vow to throw open his country's western borders.

On a day of chaotic scenes at Turkey's frontier with Greece, whose border guards fired tear gas to drive back the refugees, Erdogan claimed in a speech to party faithful in Istanbul that his country had "opened its border gates" and that about 18,000 people had already left.

"Maybe tomorrow the figure will increase up to 30,000, and we will not keep our border gates closed throughout that process," he added. "The EU should keep its promises, should deliver on its promises, and we are not obliged to care for or host such a high number of refugees."

It was not immediately possible to verify Erdogan's figures. Yet such fighting words looked likely to be greeted with dismay by European leaders, who have been wrong-footed by the Turkish leader's attempts in recent days to use his control of refugee flows to force them into taking a tougher line against his foe, the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad.

Matters came to a head on Thursday, when Syrian forces inflicted a humiliating defeat on Erdogan's troops – killing 33 in airstrikes in a single day in Idlib province, northwest Syria, the only area still held by rebels backed by Turkey.

Migrants, many trapped for several years in Turkey, moved quickly after a spokesman for the foreign ministry in Ankara responded to the attack by floating the idea of opening the border.

In an attempt to ramp up the pressure on Europe, Turkish authorities reportedly organised buses to speed them on their way. Tanju Ozcan, the mayor of Bolu, a town in northern Turkey, said he would lay on free buses for any migrants who wanted to travel the 320 miles to Edirne, just across the border from the Greek town of Kastanies, adding: "We are ready to assure the transport whatever the number."

By yesterday, 3,000 people had gathered on the Turkish side of the crossing into Kastanies, a Greek government official said. Migrants hurled stones and shouted obscenities at Greek border guards, who responded with tear gas.

A witness quoted by Reuters said about 500 people who made it out of Turkey were unable to get into Greece and remained trapped in no man's land between the two countries' border posts. Small groups nevertheless managed to cross into Greece clandestinely. Most were men from Afghanistan, although there were also other nationalities and some families with young children. After spending Friday night in abandoned buildings or in small chapels in the countryside, they began to walk northwards.

"We learnt the border was open and we headed there. But we saw it was closed, and we found a hole in the fence and went through it," Ali Nikad, a 17-year-old Iranian, told the Associated Press yesterday after making it into Greece overnight with a group of friends.

Thousands more were reported to be gathering on Turkish beaches facing the Greek island of Lesbos, where the presence of 20,000 migrants is already causing serious tensions.

The presence of 3.5 million Syrian refugees has placed a considerable burden on Turkey, but has also provided Erdogan with a powerful weapon with which to blackmail his neighbours. Under a deal done in 2016, Turkey agreed to stem the tide of refugees to Europe and in return has received some €6bn (£5bn) in EU financial assistance.

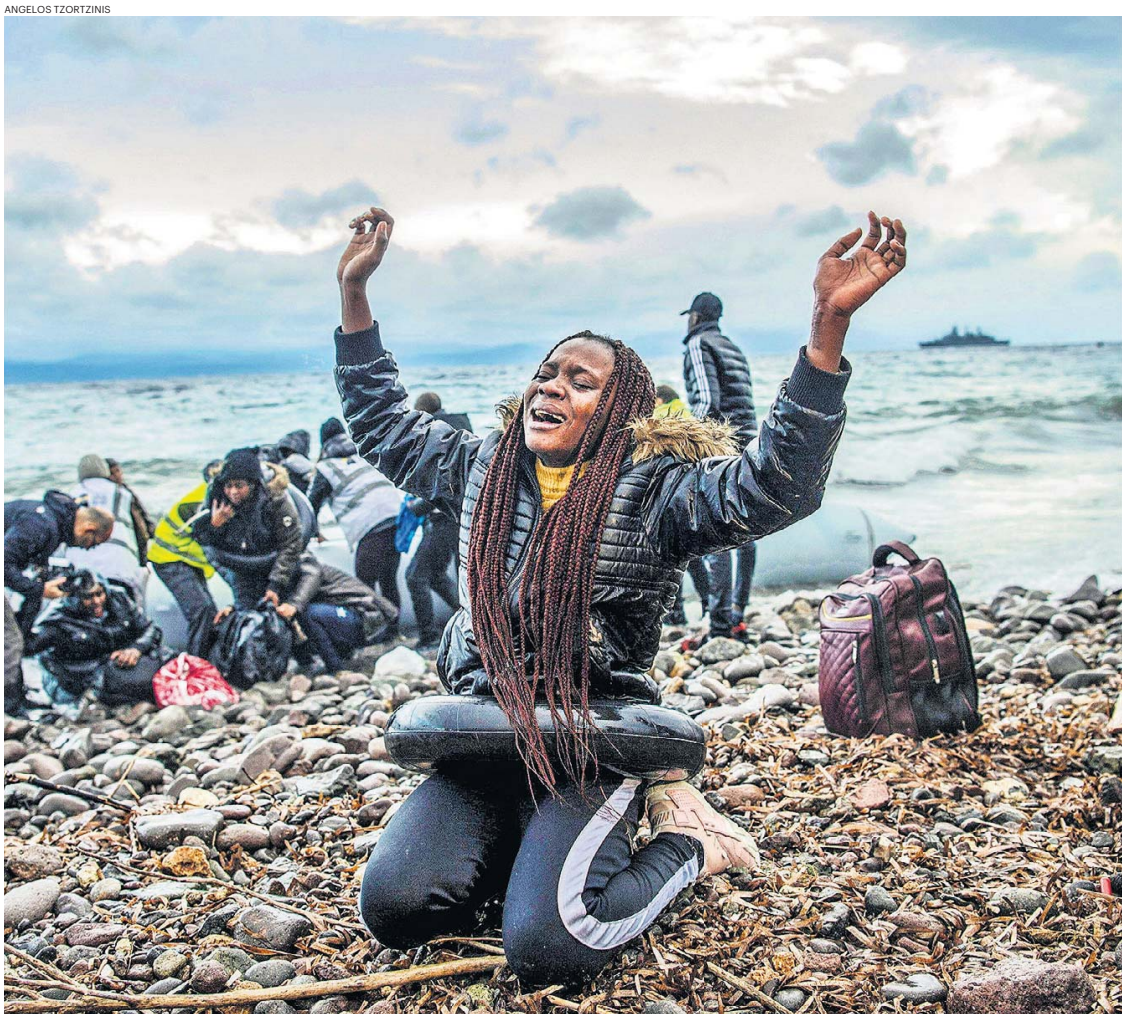
The agreement was hailed at the time by European leaders as a solution to the migrant crisis that engulfed the continent. Turkey has repeatedly accused the EU of reneging on the deal, which appeared effectively dead even before this weekend's crisis.

Erdogan's attempts to link the migrant issue with his disastrous military involvement in Idlib is nevertheless being resisted by European countries. "This has nothing to do with Idlib," said Stelios Petsas, the Greek government spokesman. "The government will do whatever it takes to protect its borders."

At Nato crisis talks in Brussels on Friday, held at Ankara's request, fellow alliance members expressed their "full solidarity" with Turkey. But they rejected Erdogan's call for help in establishing a "no-fly" zone in Syria.

@Peter_Conradi

ANGELOS TZORTZINIS



An African migrant arriving on the Greek island of Lesbos yesterday after a dinghy journey from |Turkey

'We're surrounded by Turkey. That changes the game'

Tim Shipman Political Editor

Britain and France are locked in a diplomatic war of words over fears that Recep Tayyip Erdogan's could allow three waves of migrants into the European Union.

Erdogan confirmed yesterday that he had opened Turkey's border with Syria to allow refugees into the EU via neighbouring Greece.

The French government is angry that the UK has failed to speak out against Turkish military support for the regime in Libya – and is privately warning that Turkey could use its influence there to unleash a second wave of migrants across the Mediterranean into Italy.

Erdogan's government also has growing influence in Bosnia, which sits across the third main route for refugees into Europe from war zones in the Middle East.

A European diplomat said the Turkish government was guilty of "blackmailing" the West as it expands its influence to the greatest degree since the days of the Ottoman empire.

"They not only control the immigration locker in Greece, they also control the immigration locker in Italy," the source said. "And as they are a growing presence in Bosnia, they also control the immigration locker in the Balkans.

"We are surrounded on the continent by Turkey on the three routes. That changes the game."

In 2016, Turkey signed a deal with the EU to stop refugees crossing from its borders. But Erdogan said 18,000 refugees had gathered on the Turkish borders with Europe since Friday and the number was set to double over the weekend.

Turkish brinkmanship has unleashed a behind-the-scenes row between London and Paris. The French have been vocal opponents of Turkey sending military support to the Government of National Accord in Libya, which is engaged in a civil war with General Khalifa Haftar.

France is supportive of Haftar and feels that Britain has not done enough to condemn Turkey.

The tensions between Britain and France have also flared over France's attitude to Russia.

President Emmanuel Macron has been calling for dialogue with the Kremlin to rebuild relations. But British officials believe President Vladimir Putin has done nothing to warrant either dialogue or a lifting of sanctions imposed after the attempt by Russian spies to kill Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury in 2018.

British diplomats do not think Putin should be rewarded for continuing incursions into eastern Ukraine by Russian-backed forces. However, French outreach to the Kremlin continues.

Macron, Putin and Erdogan and Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, are due to meet on Thursday to talk about Idlib, the enclave in northwest Syria that is the last remaining significant area of the country in the hands of fighters opposed to Bashar al-Assad's regime.



Erdogan speaking yesterday

Bred in Asia's wildlife markets: an even deadlier disease

Unsanitary conditions are a 'ticking time-bomb', experts warn

INFECTION

Philip Sherwell Bangkok

Asian wildlife markets where animals are butchered and sold are "ticking time-bombs" for a new and potentially much more lethal epidemic than the current coronavirus outbreak, conservationists and disease experts have warned.

It is only a matter of time before the emergence of the next virus while the markets remain open and wild animals are traded, they said.

The dire prediction was issued amid a worldwide surge of infections outside China from Covid-19, the coronavirus, which is widely believed to have jumped to humans at a Chinese market from animals, possibly the ant-eating pangolin, infected by bats.

Across southeast Asia, different species are crammed together in hot, unsanitary cages in markets frequented by thousands of customers where sellers cut up different animals with the same knife in their bare hands.

It is the "perfect storm" of conditions for the spread of virus and disease, said Steven Galster, founder of Freeland, a Bangkok-based counter-trafficking organisation.

Conservationists and scientists have now urged southeast Asian countries to follow the example of China, which last week announced a ban on a wildlife trade estimated to be worth up to $74bn (£58bn) a year.

"The rest of Asia needs to stop the wildlife trade now and close down these markets and restaurants selling so-called exotic meat," said Galster, as Freeland launched a new investigation into the scale of wildlife trafficking by southeast Asian and African gangs.

"There is all this focus on finding the source of this coronavirus. It really doesn't matter which particular market – close them all, or we will face this again and again.

"This goes way beyond China or pangolin or novel coronavirus. These markets are ticking time-bombs."

Under orders from President Xi Jinping, China's parliament banned the consumption and sale of wild animals in markets, restaurants and online in an attempt to thwart the spread of zoonotic diseases, which jump from animals to people.

> **Sellers cut up different animals with the same knife**

The curbs are far-reaching but temporary, pending a review of China's wildlife protection laws. There are still significant loopholes – wildlife for medicine is not covered – and fears that the powerful players in such a lucrative industry will use their financial heft to water down the regulations when the crisis passes, or take their business underground.

Galster welcomed the initial moves, including the closure of an estimated 20,000 wildlife markets – among them the "ground zero" location at Wuhan where live foxes, wolf cubs, turtles and crocodiles were on offer – as long as they are made permanent and properly implemented.

The demand for wild animals for meat and medicine in Asia, notably from Chinese consumers, has long caused alarm because of the risks for endangered species and horrific treatment of the animals.

But closing the markets and ending the trade is no longer just a matter of conservation and cruelty, say campaigners and scientists. A public health crisis is now at stake, as the world heads towards a pandemic.

Many lament that the lesson had not already been learnt, as the spread of Covid-19 followed an all-too familiar route.

The 2002-3 Sars outbreak was traced to an animal market in southern China. Beijing imposed a limited wildlife trade ban after that epidemic, but the restrictions faded as the virus was controlled. The related Mers coronavirus also spread to people from animals in the Middle East, as did ebola and HIV in Africa.

"We have witnessed a tremendous increase in emerging infectious diseases in the past 50 years due to human-related factors," said Stanley Fenwick, a British veterinarian and scientist who worked for the US emerging pandemic threats programme in Bangkok.

"Some 75% of these diseases are zoonotic, and the wildlife trade is undoubtedly helping to facilitate their spread. So why expose ourselves to the risks from wildlife markets where many different animals are sold and butchered in squalid, unhygienic conditions, highly contaminated with blood and faeces?"

Fenwick, an adjunct professor of infectious diseases at Tufts University in Massachusetts, added: "Shutting these markets would close down one area of potential risk to human health. It would also lead to a reduction in animal cruelty and the loss of biodiversity the wildlife trade is driving."

BEN DAVIES



Rare animal parts on sale at a market in Mong La, Burma

The world is in a flap, but bats are still on the menu

ANIMALS

Bats have been identified as the probable source of the coronavirus outbreak, but on the butchers' stalls at Tomohon meat market in northeast Indonesia, they are still in high demand.

There is little panic here about *paniki*, or bat meat, which is popularly consumed in a curried coconut stew. An instruction from officials to end the sale of fruit bats (£1.65 each) has been widely ignored.

Long before the current epidemic, bats were known as reservoirs for zoonotic diseases – those which jump from animals to humans. But in rural Indonesia they are a traditional medicine for respiratory diseases – the very ailments caused by coronavirus.

At Tomohon, skewered rats are grilled over charcoal and other culinary options include snake, lizard, dog and monkey. The meat from animals that are slaughtered in front of the buyer is viewed as a healthy choice.

Similar wildlife markets elsewhere in eastern Asia are breeding grounds for disease and virus. Throughout the region meat and animal parts are considered to have curative powers, as well as playing an important role in traditional Chinese medicine.

Chinese scientists destroyed proof of virus in December

CENSORSHIP

Chinese laboratories identified a mystery virus as a highly infectious new pathogen by late December last year, but they were ordered to stop tests, destroy samples and suppress the news, a Chinese media outlet has revealed.

A regional health official in Wuhan, centre of the outbreak, demanded the destruction of the lab samples that established the cause of unexplained viral pneumonia on January 1. China did not acknowledge there was human-to-human transmission until more than three weeks later.

The detailed revelations by Caixin Global, a respected independent publication, provide the clearest evidence yet of the scale of the cover-up in the crucial early weeks when the opportunity was lost to control the outbreak.

Censors have been rapidly deleting the report from the Chinese internet.

Caixin reported that several genomics companies sequenced the coronavirus by December 27 from samples from patients who had fallen sick in Wuhan.

There was a striking similarity between the new virus and the Sars (severe acute respiratory syndrome) coronavirus that killed nearly 800 people in 2002-3. But the news was shared with only a small group of medics and party officials.

The laboratory findings were relayed to officials in Beijing at the Centre for Disease Control (CDC). The information should have alerted national health chiefs to a looming crisis, but on January 3, the National Health Commission, China's top medical authority, issued its own gagging orders. Laboratories were told not to release any information and to hand over or destroy the samples.

When a CDC team was sent to Wuhan on January 8, it was deliberately not informed that medical staff had already been infected by patients – a clear confirmation that the disease was contagious.

The cover-up was led by officials in Wuhan as provincial party chiefs prepared to gather for an annual meeting. The city then pressed ahead with a pot-luck dinner for 40,000 families to celebrate the lunar new year.

Only on January 20 was it made public, in an interview with Zhong Nanshan, a respiratory health expert who led the fight against Sars, that the disease was spreading between humans.

Wuhan,with a population of 11 million, was put into lockdown on January 23 as the communist authorities finally tried to control the spread of the disease.

WORLD NEWS

All eyes on Trump's judge in first abortion challenge

Brett Kavanaugh will play a key role in deciding a Louisiana case that could see the procedure outlawed

Josh Glancy Washington

Even by the standards of the Trump era, the confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court in 2018 was a moment of profound controversy.

Not only was the judge accused of adolescent sexual assault, but many felt that his appointment was a direct assault on abortion rights. Kavanaugh, a conservative, is widely considered to view Roe v Wade, the 1973 court ruling that legalised abortion, as a piece of judicial overreach.

It is without doubt the most contentious issue in American life. But since that angry moment in 2018, the Kavanaugh court, which has a clear 5-4 majority of conservative judges, has not ruled on a significant abortion case.

That will change this week, as June Medical Services v Gee comes before the court, with oral arguments due to begin on Wednesday.

Superficially, it is a relatively innocuous ruling, about a Louisiana state law that demands that doctors who work in abortion clinics have "admitting privileges" at local hospitals – that is the automatic right to send their patients to hospital for treatment if the need arises.

In effect, though, admitting privileges can be difficult to obtain, so the law limits where abortions can be performed.

Pro-choice activists say this case is an attempt to negate Roe v Wade and make abortion all but impossible in Louisiana. They also fear it would set a constitutional precedent that could be introduced in other conservative states all over America.

"If the Supreme Court upholds Louisiana's law, then the implications for the country are monumental," said Travis Tu, lead counsel at the Centre for Reproductive Rights, which is acting in the case. "You will see a whole raft of medically unnecessary regulations passed."

He added: "These laws are a sham. What laws like this actually do and what they are designed to do is close abortion clinics and make abortion out of reach for women in states like Louisiana."

Tu's argument is that abortion procedures are overwhelmingly safe. Therefore doctors who perform them do not need admitting privileges.

"If this law goes into effect, then all of the clinics bar one in Louisiana will close," he said. "If the state can do that, then Roe v Wade is basically irrelevant. What is the point in having a constitutional right to abortion access if you can't even exercise it?"

Those arguing in favour of the law say it is merely a health and safety regulation, aimed at protecting women who choose to have abortions.

"This law is aimed at helping women," said Denise Harle, legal counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom, which is also acting in the case. "The legislators passed this in order to protect women and keep them safe based on a record of problems in Louisiana."

> **They will not stop until they have gutted our rights**

Four years ago, a very similar case – Whole Woman's Health v Hellerstedt – came before the court. In that case the judges chose to strike down a Texan law demanding that doctors have admitting privileges.

Tu is "cautiously optimistic" that the court will be wary of overturning this recent precedent, which is based on a similar set of facts.

There are some important differences between the two cases, but the key distinction is the change in the Supreme Court itself. In 2018, President Donald Trump replaced Justice Anthony Kennedy, a centrist who was generally sympathetic to the pro-choice position, with Kavanaugh.

"This is the first big chance we'll have to see whether – as Trump and his supporters think – Kavanaugh is someone who agrees with the view that Roe v Wade is unconstitutional," said Alexandra DeSanctis, a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Centre.

A ruling in favour of the Louisiana law is likely to stir many of the passions on display during the fight over the Kavanaugh confirmation, and lead to a series of legal and political confrontations over a woman's right to choose.

"It would be a big win in terms of showing that states are allowed to regulate abortion laws," said DeSanctis.

In recent years, access to abortion has become increasingly limited in many parts of America. In 2017, 89% of counties in the country had no abortion clinic. Six states have only one clinic.

Although this week's case does not threaten the overturning of Roe v Wade itself, pro-choice groups fear that the steady erosion of abortion rights across the country could ultimately have a similar effect.

"Access to abortion is hanging by a thread in this country, and this case is what could snap that thread," said Alexis McGill Johnson, acting president of Planned Parenthood.

Lurking in the background is the presidential election in November. If Trump wins, he is almost certain to have a shot at appointing one if not two further Supreme Court judges. Liberal justices Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are both in their eighties, and Ginsburg has suffered serious health problems.

Swapping a liberal judge for another conservative would alter the balance of the court for a generation, putting Roe v Wade in serious long-term jeopardy.

"The Trump administration and anti-abortion state politicians will not stop until they have gutted our rights and our freedoms," McGill Johnson said.

SYDNEY'S ROAR OF PRIDE

JAMES GOURLEY



Motorcyclists joining the annual gay and lesbian Mardi Gras parade in Sydney yesterday. An estimated 200,000 people turned out to watch 200 floats in the 42nd such event

A smear campaign is Bibi's last hope of clinging to power

ANSHEL PFEFFER



Jerusalem

The headquarters of Likud, Israel's ruling party, is a 16-floor office block, with the stark lines and bare concrete of the brutalist architectural style. Metzudat Ze'ev – the fortress of Ze'ev – stands in south Tel Aviv and is named after Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the ideological godfather of right-wing Zionism. Taller than the neighbouring buildings, it has been used by the party in elections as a hoarding for massive posters.

In the last election campaign, just five months ago, three sides of the building were covered by photographs of the party leader and prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, in the company of other leaders – one side each for Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin and Narendra Modi.

"Netanyahu is in a different league!" was Likud's slogan for that election. And it failed dismally. The party lost its position as the largest in the Knesset, Israel's 120-member parliament, and Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and religious parties went down by five seats.

Israelis will tomorrow be heading to the polls for the third time in 12 months. For this election, Likud has left the walls of its headquarters bare and has invested little in posters or sloganeering. Instead, it has resorted to brutal tactics.

The elections in April and September last year ended in stalemate. In both, Netanyahu, known as Bibi, failed to gain a majority and his main rival, Benny Gantz, was not able to cobble together a coalition from the disparate opposition parties. Netanyahu, 70, remains prime minister, heading a caretaker government.

Two weeks from now he is due to face for the first time the judges of the Jerusalem district court where his trial for bribery and fraud is set to start. He is no longer fighting just to prolong his hold on power, now spanning a total of 14 years as prime minister, he is potentially also fighting for his freedom, desperate to avoid the fate of Ehud Olmert, his predecessor, who was jailed for taking bribes.

The opposition claims that, should he win a majority, Netanyahu will pass a law granting the prime minister immunity from prosecution while in office. He has denied this and said last week: "I intend to topple the allegations against me in court." However, some of his allies have already publicly supported passing such legislation "to allow the prime minister to work without interruption".

Netanyahu is frantically struggling for a majority, which he believes can keep him out of court. And in that battle for survival all means are legitimate. He has identified his rival, Gantz – a former general and newcomer to politics as leader of the centrist Blue and White party – as the opposition's weakest link.

He believes that by making Gantz the focus of a smear campaign, he can undermine the general and draw voters back to Likud.

Gantz's personal smartphone was hacked a year ago. Netanyahu claims that it was by the Iranians. While he has not specified what could have been in the phone's memory, he has said in interviews in recent days that Gantz is "exposed to blackmail". This has unleashed a torrent of innuendo and worse from his supporters. A pro-Netanyahu website last week claimed the Iranians held videos in which "Gantz is seen naked and pleasuring himself".

These allegations were echoed on Twitter by the prime minister's son, Yair Netanyahu, who also posted a photograph of a young woman who had taken a selfie with Gantz. It seemed to suggest she was having an affair with the 60-year-old.

Gantz and his team have been under surveillance in other ways. On Thursday, quotes emerged of one of his advisers saying that he could be a "risk for Israel" if elected and that he would be "scared to attack Iran". Hours later, it transpired that the words had been taken from a recording of the adviser in a meeting with a rabbi from whom he had sought advice on a "family crisis".

> **Critics say he will pass a law to make himself immune while in office**

The rabbi, who is a known supporter of Netanyahu and was seen with him shortly before the quotes came out, did not respond to media requests for a comment but sources close to him confirmed that he had indeed met Gantz's adviser and that he believed it was important "for Israel's security" that the quotes be made public.

Gantz responded: "Netanyahu has corrupted even the religious connection a man has with his rabbi in his quest for a law which will help him to evade justice."

But some of the mud seems to be sticking and in recent days Gantz's party has lost ground. The bottom line in all the polls remains, however, that, barring a surprise, neither Netanyahu nor Gantz will have a majority to form a coalition and Israel's political deadlock is set to continue.

Anshel Pfeffer writes for the Israeli newspaper Haaretz

Hope trumps doubt as sworn enemies sign Afghan peace deal

Christina Lamb
Chief Foreign Correspondent

For week after week, decade after decade, wedding parties and schoolrooms were blown up; diners gunned down in restaurants; doctors' and patients' throats slit in hospitals; and mosques and gyms bombed. Only the craziest Afghans dared to dream of life without war.

But yesterday afternoon, it became a reality as sworn enemies sat together smiling in a marble ballroom in Doha, capital of Qatar. America and the Taliban signed a historic peace deal aimed at ending America's longest war and bringing peace to a country that has seen more than 40 years of conflict.

The agreement to start the pullout of US troops followed a week-long truce which was mostly judged to have held. But it comes amid doubts whether the Taliban can really be trusted and fears that bitter divisions in Kabul between the newly re-elected president, Ashraf Ghani, and his rival, Abdullah Abdullah, could erupt into a new war.

Taliban leaders warned followers to be careful what they posted on social media, after a series of declarations of victory, proclaiming "Kabul here we come". US officials persuaded Ghani to delay his swearing-in so as not to provoke Abdullah,who disputes the result.

"What we're setting up is not future peace but future instability," warned Tom Tugendhat, Conservative MP and chairman of the Commons foreign affairs committee, who served as an army officer in Afghanistan.

The deal is the culmination of 10 rounds of negotiations spanning more than a year, since Donald Trump decided the war could not be won militarily. A deal was originally agreed last August then torpedoed on the eve of signing by a tweet from the irascible US president.

There were no such tweets yesterday. Trump urged the Afghan people "to seize this opportunity for peace and a new future for their country".

At Doha's Sheraton Hotel, it was all smiles as turbaned Taliban mingled with sharp-suited American officials led by the secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, and Qataris in long white robes. Also present was the foreign minister of Pakistan, the country whose backing of the Taliban was crucial to their holding out against Nato troops.

The last couple of days saw a procession of old friends and foes arriving at the Sheraton and some extraordinary meetings.

Timothy Weeks, an Australian professor who was kidnapped from Kabul's American University, was met at Doha airport by Anas Haqqani, whose brother leads the Haqqani network which held Weeks hostage for more than three years. Haqqani was freed from prison in Kabul in November as part of a swap that saw Weeks and an American lecturer released. "I cannot believe that I am here in Qatar and have met and spoken with Anas," tweeted Weeks.

KARIM JAAFAR



US representative Zalmay Khalilzad agreeing the deal with the Taliban's Abdul Ghani Baradar in Doha yesterday

The agreement provides for a phased withdrawal of Nato troops, with the US pulling out 5,000 of its 14,000 troops over the next few months, and all within 14 months. The UK's 1,100 troops may be among the last to leave as they are responsible for the security of Kabul. In return the Taliban pledged not to allow Afghan soil to be used for terrorism.

Yet for all the optimistic atmosphere, the real challenges still lie ahead.

Next week the first meetings get under way in Oslo to put flesh on the deal. It is unclear, however, who will participate. The Taliban have refused to talk to the Afghan government, branding it "a US puppet".

The fact that election results announced last week after five months of counting gave only the slimmest of victories to Ghani – based on a turnout of just 1.8 million from a population of more than 30 million – means he can claim little mandate. It is unclear what kind of power-sharing agreement the two sides could agree.

Other contentious issues include women's rights. Under Taliban rule before 2001 they were not allowed to work or wear lipstick. Girls were banned from school.

Fawzia Koofi, MP, the first Afghan woman to lead a political party, said: "It's one thing for their negotiators to sit in five-star hotels with Americans and say things to look fancy, but have they actually changed?And who will be the guarantor of any commitments? I'm afraid many in the international community will say our troops will not fight for Afghan women rights."

@ChristinaLamb

AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR

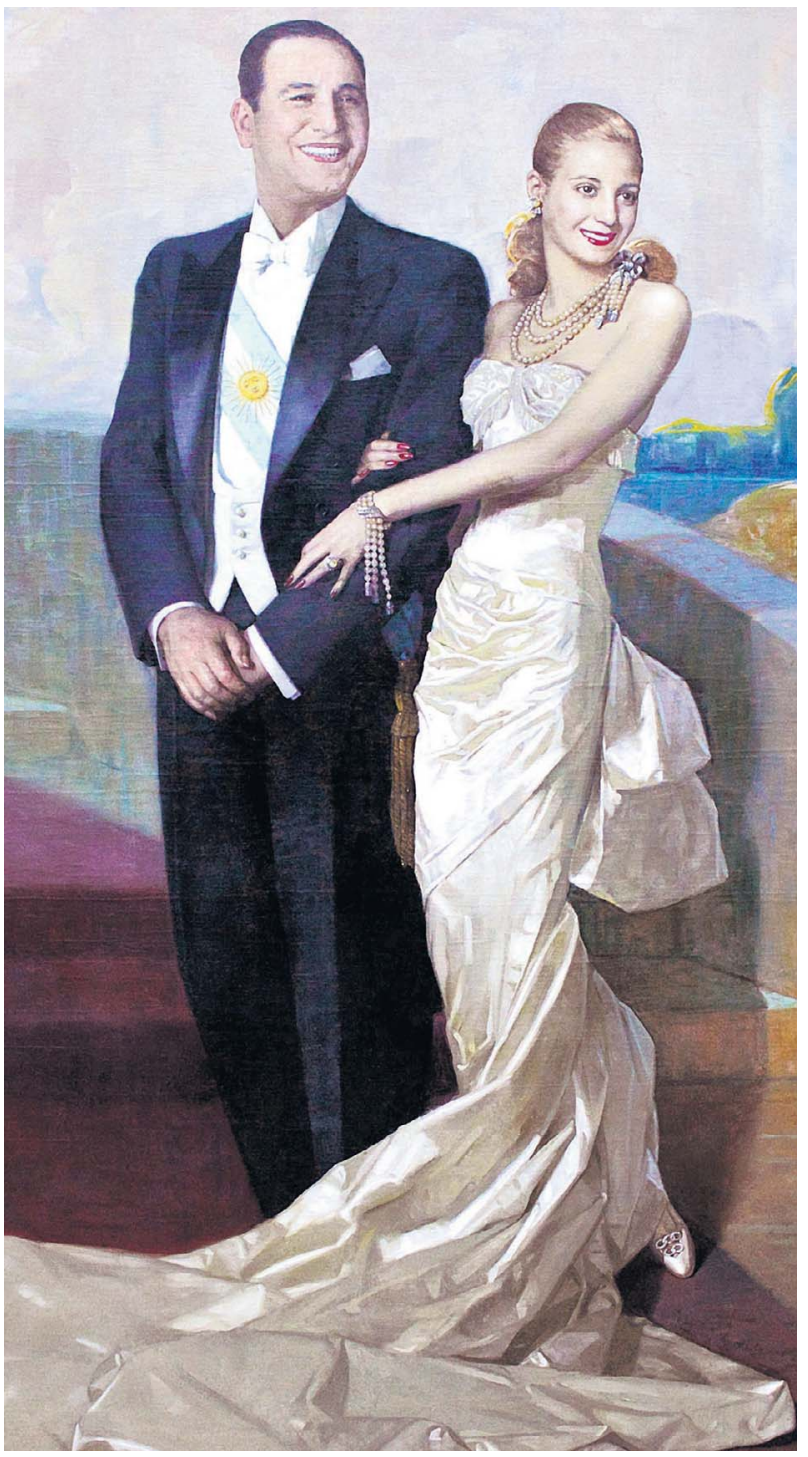
2001 After 9/11, America leads a Nato mission in Afghanistan to fight the Taliban, who are toppled before the year ends.
2002 An Afghan transitional government takes power. The Taliban regroup and violence continues.
2014 The Nato mission formally withdraws, although US and other forces remain.
2015-18 The Taliban insist that all foreign troops should leave the country. Violence escalates, with intense attacks.
2019 The killing of an American soldier leads Donald Trump to scrap apparent peace negotiations.
2020 Trump renews moves towards peace.

WORLD NEWS

Argentina's new Evita calls the tune and waits for her cue

In a country obsessed with its former first lady, Eva Peron's political heir, Cristina Kirchner, plots a return to power

Matthew Campbell Buenos Aires



ERICA CANEPA



General Peron and wife Evita, left, are among the figures represented at Las Palabras, above

The small metal door in a leafy Buenos Aires street gives no hint of what lies beyond: a cavernous den of curiosities, from collections of antique toys to life-size models of Argentina's most sacred figures, among them Pope Francis, General Juan Domingo Peron and his wife, Eva, more popularly known as Evita.

Las Palabras, a former garage workshop turned invitation-only "resto-bar", is the favourite haunt of Argentina's Peronist new rulers. "This is where people overcome their political differences with good food and wine," said Eduardo Valdes, the owner, an affable, corpulent figure who also sits as a parliamentary deputy for Buenos Aires.

It was here, he claimed, that a deal was struck for the return to power last year of Peronism, the fractious mass movement that has thrived for decades on poverty and crisis since putting down roots under Peron and his glamorous first lady in the 1940s.

Known, like Evita, for her formidable political acumen, the former president Cristina Kirchner is the current *jefa* of the movement. Perched on a shelf in Las Palabras is a plastic figurine of Venezuela's late strongman, the leftist Hugo Chavez, who helped to fund one of her presidential campaigns.

Kirchner recently celebrated her 67th birthday with friends in Valdes's antique-strewn lair, which is seen by some as an alternative seat of power to the pink presidential palace in central Buenos Aires where Alberto Fernandez, a more moderate Peronist, holds sway.

Valdes, a former ambassador to the Vatican and a friend of the Pope, pulled out his phone to show off Kirchner's birthday cake topped by an image of her with Florencia, her daughter.

The Italian chef had served burrata, lasagna and steaks. Valdes, ever the diplomat, was keen to point out that the president had come too: he played a video on his phone of Fernandez and other guests singing "Happy birthday" to Kirchner.

Kirchner has not always been on friendly terms with Fernandez. He was chief of staff during the presidency of her husband, Nestor, and in the early months of her own, when she assumed power in 2007, but fell out with her and resigned to lead a rival Peronist wing.

"This is where they were reconciled," said Valdes from behind a marble-topped bar.

Valdes, it turned out, had been an intermediary in the rapprochement. It resulted in a surprise agreement under which Kirchner ran as a vice-presidential candidate in last October's elections while promoting Fernandez as a moderate Peronist champion to win over centrist voters who deeply mistrust her.



Kirchner: former president is the target of a series of corruption investigations



Fernandez: must renegotiate debt without alienating leftist Peronists

It was widely seen as a clever ploy by Kirchner to shield herself from prosecution. She is the target of several investigations for corruption, and one of treason over a deal with Iran that allegedly blocked the investigation into Iranian involvement in the bombing of a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires.

Valdes, whose collection of bizarre mementos includes a life-size figure of Kirchner – for which she provided some of her own clothes – dismissed the idea that she had done anything wrong.

"She is being pursued with hatred through the courts," he said, blaming the previous government of Mauricio Macri, the conservative, anti-Peronist whose failed attempts to reform the economy led to the largest bailout in history from the International Monetary Fund.

It now falls to Fernandez to try to renegotiate the debt without alienating Kirchner's more hardcore, leftist Peronist wing that signed up to the electoral pact on the understanding that she would call the shots. It may not take kindly to any more austerity programmes.

In the Casa Rosada palace last week, a presidential aide insisted that Fernandez, not Kirchner, was in charge and that they were the very best of friends. "They are in permanent contact," he added. "He consults her. But he takes the decisions."

Fernandez recently embarked on a charm offensive around Europe, meeting various leaders, including Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, and Emmanuel Macron of France. Merkel asked: "What is Peronism?" It encompasses extremes of left and right, and is famed for internecine wrangling, but Fernandez stressed its belief in democracy and roots among the poor.

"Until world leaders got to know the president they thought he was a son of Chavez about to lead the second Cuban revolution," said the aide.

Argentina has stumbled from one crisis to the next in recent years, and whether it can avoid another depends largely on Kirchner and her followers. For the time being, she is keeping a low profile.

But Evita, who became a saint-like figure and heroine to the *descamisados*, or shirtless poor, even before her death in 1952 at the age of 33, is everywhere – not just on the banknotes.

"She is deep in our veins – it goes beyond politics," said Florencia Barrientos Paz, owner of the Santa Evita restaurant, which features a candlelit shrine to the former first lady and sells Evita-themed mugs and jewellery, as well as T-shirts portraying the combative Kirchner as a boxer.

At Peron Peron, a bar down the road, walls are plastered with Evita's face and the menu offers a *descamisado* salad. Dinner is interrupted at regular intervals by noisy renditions of the "Peronist march". "Evita knew how to conquer hearts," said Daniel Narezo, the owner. "Cristina Kirchner does, too."

Kirchner, appears to have studied Evita. "She's obviously been listening to a lot of her speeches," said Marcela Gene, of the Evita museum, where tourists are often seen singing *Don't Cry for Me Argentina* while being filmed by their friends.

Gene does not sound optimistic, however, about Argentina's chances of escaping its inflationary spiral. "We'll no doubt be seeing Evita soon on the five-billion peso notes."

@MCinParis

Lenin and McCartney's Soviet label goes for a song

Marc Bennetts Moscow

It boasts perhaps the most eclectic back catalogue on Earth, with releases that range from Vladimir Lenin's speeches to Beatles albums and from classical music to Azerbaijani funk.

Launched in 1964, Melodiya was the Soviet Union's sole record label, producing hundreds of millions of vinyl albums that it distributed across a vast territory stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

For generations of Soviet citizens, the name Melodiya was synonymous with recorded music. For Soviet musicians, there was no other way to get their art to the masses – at least not officially.

After the collapse of the communist system in 1991, Melodiya remained in the hands of the state. Although it no longer had a monopoly on recordings, it quickly adapted to capitalism, licensing music for films and advertisements, and eventually offering digital downloads.

So there was anger when it emerged last month that Melodiya and the rights to its "priceless" archive of about 240,000 audio recordings had been sold off by the state to a little-known private company for just under 330 million roubles (£3.9m).

The auction, at the start of last month, also included two pieces of prime land near the Kremlin with a combined value estimated at £4m.

"The sale of Melodiya came as a shock. These recordings are a national treasure, but they have been given away for the cost of two buildings," said Dmitry Chernov, an editor and musician in Moscow. He said the deal "needs to be investigated".

He added: "This was all done quietly. If people had known it was going to happen, they would have protested."

Andrei Razin, the former producer of Laskovyi Mai, one of the Soviet Union's top pop groups, also expressed concerns. "The government has sold off national property," he told the Gazeta.ru website.



The Melodiya label became synonymous with music

His misgivings were echoed by Alexander Razuvaev, a columnist for Zavtra, a nationalist newspaper. "The proceeds from the sale of our culture are insignificant for the Russian budget," he wrote. "[But] the gentlemen who bought our childhood and youth will earn good money off this."

Aside from much-valued recordings of works by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Sergei Rachmaninoff and other world-famous composers, Melodiya released acclaimed soundtracks to Soviet children's musicals and cartoons, from *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* to *Pinocchio*. The records are still extremely popular across Russia, including with nostalgic adults.

Melodiya's classical recordings won numerous international awards. It had a more complex relationship with rock music – both western and Soviet.

"Melodiya was known for spewing out what my friends thought was 'fake' or 'bad' rock music that had been censored and controlled and they wanted no part of it," said Joanna Stingray, an American who smuggled Soviet underground rock to the West in the 1980s.

As Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms took hold, however, it began releasing once-taboo western rock groups such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. In 1988 Paul McCartney recorded the album *Back in the USSR* with Melodiya. It initially only went on sale in the Soviet Union, quickly becoming a collector's item.

Karina Abramyan, Melodiya's spokeswoman, said it had received no funding from the Russian state in recent years and had been on the list of assets to be privatised for more than a decade.

The new owner is required by law to store the label's archives, said Abramyan. "I understand people's concerns, and it is great that they care so much about Melodiya. But nothing is threatening the archives. They can't be sold, broken up, or got rid of in any way."

The new owner, a company called Formax, said Melodiya's back catalogue would be incorporated into its own business of providing background music for hotels, restaurants and shops.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Catalans travel to Puigdemont rally

Tens of thousands of Catalan separatists have travelled across the Spanish border to France, to join the fugitive former Catalan regional president Carles Puigdemont at a rally in Perpignan. They hope to draw attention to their fight for independence.

Muscovites march against Putin

Thousands of people marched through Moscow yesterday in remembrance of the assassinated Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, and to protest against Vladimir Putin's apparent attempts to retain power through proposed constitutional changes.



Nemtsov: Moscow protest

DRC rebels kill 24 as peace deal fails

Militia fighters have killed 24 people in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo hours after a peace deal was agreed. The government signed an accord with an armed group in the restive Ituri province, which has been racked by violence for two decades.



If you're finding it hard to keep track of your pensions, then now could be a good time to take control and bring them together in a Fidelity Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP).

- Easy to see and manage your retirement savings in one place
- Low cost, so you keep more of your money
- Flexible income options at retirement, with no set up or withdrawal fees

Be better prepared for the future you want. Call us today or visit fidelity.co.uk/cashback

The value of investments can go down as well as up, so you may not get back the amount you originally invest. You cannot normally access money in a SIPP until age 55. Pension transfers can be complex and pensions with safeguarded benefits and advised transfers are not eligible for this offer. Please read our pension transfer factsheet and cashback T&Cs.

For more information:
0800 358 7439
fidelity.co.uk/cashback
Lines open Mon to Fri 8am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 2pm

Fidelity INTERNATIONAL

ISAs | Pensions | Funds | Shares

Issued by Financial Administration Services Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Fidelity, Fidelity International, the Fidelity International logo and F symbol are trademarks of FIL Limited. UK0120/25205/CSO9428/270320

Sanders gets my vote, says his foe in the White House

The president has urged his supporters to back the Democrat he feels he can beat at the ballot box

Josh Glancy Washington

Donald Trump has officially become a "Bernie bro". The president is now openly supporting Bernie Sanders in the race to become the Democratic presidential nominee.

At a rally in South Carolina on Friday night, Trump encouraged his supporters to vote for the man he calls "Crazy Bernie" in this weekend's open primary election, insisting that he will be easier to beat than Joe Biden.

Ever attuned to his opponents' weaknesses, Trump is sowing chaos, seeking to widen the divisions that Sanders's ascendancy is creating in the Democratic Party. But he also genuinely appears to want Sanders to win. Trump and his Republican allies believe they can tear the 78-year-old socialist to shreds in a presidential election.

"President Trump calls him 'Crazy Bernie' for a reason: because he's so far outside the ideological mainstream," said Jason Miller, who was Trump's 2016 campaign spokesman. "Bernie comes across as so old, Trump becomes the youth candidate."

Sean Spicer, Trump's former White House press secretary, agrees. "Sanders would be every holiday present rolled into one," he said last week. "There's a general agreement that he's a gift."

If Sanders does find his way to the nomination, the assault will be brutal and incessant.

"It's the Republican attack machine," said Bob Shrum, a seasoned Democratic strategist. "They're going to tell lies. They're going to rile up their base."

Shrum would know. A veteran of several presidential campaigns, he has been on the receiving end of more Republican attacks than just about anyone.

In August 2004 he was chief strategist to the John Kerry campaign, which was riding high against the incumbent George W Bush when a book came out called *Unfit for Command*, questioning details of Kerry's military service in Vietnam and the awarding of his combat medals.

A group called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth ran a series of well-funded television adverts in which men who served with Kerry called his service into question. The substance of the attacks was highly questionable, but their impact was undeniable. Kerry lost the election.



Police manhandling Sanders during a protest in 1963 in Chicago about equal rights in education

Shrum sees the Swift Boat Veterans' campaign as comparable to the attacks that have been made by Trump's allies on Biden's son Hunter, whose business career in Ukraine has led to allegations of nepotism, corruption and self-dealing.

"There's no substance to the Hunter Biden attacks either," said Shrum. "But if Biden is the nominee, then the Trump forces might have made a mistake. They got the Hunter Biden story out so early, it's kind of old news."

At the moment, Sanders remains a narrow favourite to clinch the nomination, though many Democrats fear that his weaknesses could lead to a crushing defeat.

"If Bernie is the nominee, then the Democrats have serious problems," said Miller. "The election will be about, 'What will Sanders take away from you?' – your healthcare insurance, your border, your paycheck, your military."

Sanders has a long history of being supportive towards some of America's most implacable opponents, if they happen to be left-leaning, and once praised Fidel Castro for "totally transforming Cuba". Even today, he seems reluctant to entirely disavow his support for communist Cuba. During an interview last week, he praised Castro's work on improving literacy rates.

In 1985, while he was mayor of Burlington, Vermont, Sanders visited Nicaragua to attend anniversary celebrations for the Sandinista revolution, and, in 1988, a newlywed Sanders took his wife, Jane, on a trip to the Soviet Union that he described – somewhat tongue in cheek – as a "very strange honeymoon", where he admired the chandeliers on the Moscow underground system.

For most of Sanders's supporters, this is all ancient history, a smear campaign aimed at destroying his movement for social and economic justice. Many of them are young and have no interest in reheated Cold War imbroglios. But in Florida, an important swing state, it will be a different matter. The Sunshine State's Cuban and Venezuelan expat communities are passionately anti-communist.

"Comments about Russia and Cuba will feature very heavily in Republican advertising in Florida," said Shrum.

Yet for all Trump's confidence, Sanders could prove a difficult opponent. He leads Trump in head-to-head polls in key states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania. He can match Trump's enthusiastic and committed base with one of his own, and shares the president's ability to brush past controversies with an angry wave of the arm.

"If Bernie called himself a social democrat and not a socialist then he'd be a lot better off," said Shrum. "But the primary issue in this election is going to be Trump. He's going to have to work out how to reach out beyond his base, which he almost seems congenitally incapable of doing."

MISTY KEASLER



Laura Pullman preparing for takeoff before leaning out of the Robinson R44, below, and taking a shot at the wild hogs. There are six million in the US

My Texas 'pork-chopper safari' helps cut wild pig population down to size

Laura Pullman

Flying over cornfields and copses as the sun rises, we spot a sounder of wild pigs in the trees below. Johnny Stevenson, the helicopter pilot, herds them into an open field.

Craig Meier, who runs this airborne "pork-chopper" safari, barks at me to step outside the helicopter as the dozen hogs race away. That means hanging out of the four-seater Robinson R44 in mid-air.

I get out, stand on a skid and lean into my harness. I steady myself in the buffeting wind, take aim and squeeze the trigger. A hog crashes to the ground. The chopper swoops around to target a large sow that's splintered off solo. During the 20-minute ride, banking and flying barely 20ft off the ground, we kill 15 hogs.

I was warned before we took off that it would be like a rollercoaster, but this barely describes my terrifying first experience of this kind of hunting.

Texas is waging a war against feral swine, which cause $400m in crop damage in the Lone Star state each year.

Shooting the invasive species from a low-flying helicopter is an increasingly popular way to keep the population under control. In farm country, 40 miles south of Dallas, Meier runs Heli-Hunter, whose tagline is: "High on the hog has a whole new meaning."

Business is booming. When I arrive, a group of Iowans are buzzing after killing almost 200 hogs within seven hours.

"We're fully booked. We've had people from China, New Zealand, South America, England, all over," says Meier, 42, who dubs me "the Duchess of Pork".

With the Texas Democratic primary looming on Tuesday, there are also jokes about "shooting donkeys [the party's symbol] on the White House lawn".

Before handing over an AR-15-style rifle, Meier instructs me to "Keep your boogie hook off the bang switch till it's time to bring down the hate".

Stevenson, 56, his army veteran pilot, translates: "Don't put your finger on the trigger until you're ready to shoot."

Is this a bonkers solution to a serious problem? Every year, feral hogs cause an estimated $2.5bn damage across America. They rip up golf courses and cemeteries and have destroyed a $16m F16 fighter jet. They carry diseases, eat sea turtle eggs and livestock, contaminate water supplies and ruin crops.

The wild pig population exploded in the 1980s after they were released into new areas for hunting. Today, about six million hogs are spread across 39 states, from California to South Carolina, but it's Texas where they wreak the greatest havoc. They can be deadly too: a 59-year-old woman was recently killed by hogs outside a home in Anahuac where she worked as a carer.



> **They're vicious. A human without a weapon doesn't stand a chance**



"We actually feared that would happen as pigs occur more and more around urban areas," says Michael Marlow from the feral swine programme at the Department of Agriculture. "We'd be naive to think that was an anomaly. The risk is there, and it could certainly increase."

Meier says hogs, whose tusks can grow to 7in, have charged at him many times. "They're vicious, extremely strong, and a human without a weapon doesn't stand a chance."

With helicopter hunting, however, it's the hogs that have no hope. For minimum cruelty, Meier tells customers to shoot between the shoulder and the back of the ears, "switching off the electricity".

Some locals profess to enjoying wild hog at the dinner table. "I butterfly the loins and eat them with jalapeños and cream cheese. They're a bit tough but have good flavour," says Cotten Davis, a landowner. Meier used to donate hog meat to needy families or send it to be processed into dog food, but now, to my consternation, the carcasses are left for the buzzards hovering overhead.

More than a hundred helicopter operations have taken off since a state law was introduced in 2011 allowing adrenaline-junkie tourists and avid hunters alike to shoot hogs from the air.

"We used to charge landowners by the acre to fly and kill as many pigs as we could," Meier says. "But the 'pork chopper bill' put the financial responsibility on the shoulders of willing sportsmen instead."

Now punters pay Meier $15,000 for six hours' hunting with unlimited ammunition – and free-flowing booze in the evening.

Unsurprisingly, many people are horrified by the practice and Meier has received death threats. "I'm a hero to a lot of people and others hate me, but I don't worry about that. I just try to do what's right," he says.

Some query the helicopter hunters' mission statement of hog eradication.

"It's not in their best interest to eradicate swine because then they're eliminating their enterprise. It's troublesome," says Marlow. "We think the most effective method for eliminating hogs is through trapping the whole sounder."

Meier, who also works as an auctioneer, dismisses the idea that he has a financial incentive to keep Texas teeming with swine.

"If I wanted pigs to remain, I wouldn't kill them by the thousand. If they come up with something that puts me out of business, I'd be fine." *@LFPullman*

Malaysia's king enters 'game of thrones' to head off veteran PM

Philip Sherwell
Asia Correspondent

After a week of extraordinary political turmoil and backroom plots, Malaysia's king made a surprise intervention yesterday in what has become known as its "game of thrones".

The king, Sultan Abdullah of Pahang, upset what had been seen as a political masterstroke by Mahathir Mohamed, the political veteran who at 94 was the world's oldest prime minister.

Early yesterday Mahathir seemed to have cobbled together sufficient backing from MPs to return as prime minister for a third time. He had the reluctant support of Anwar Ibrahim, 72, who has been his on-off political ally, foe and ally again since the 1990s. The coalition led by them both collapsed last weekend.

However, instead of reappointing Mahathir, the king asked Muhyiddin Yassin, 72, a former interior minister, to form a government.

The sudden emergence of Muhyiddin as prime minister gives the Malaysian political drama yet another twist. Two years ago Mahathir and Anwar – who had once served as his deputy prime minister but was sacked and jailed on contested sodomy charges – ousted Najib Razak and his United Malays National Organisation (Umno) in a shock election victory. Najib, 66, is on trial over the multibillion-pound 1MDB financial scandal.

Malaysia was plunged into its week-long leadership impasse last Sunday when Mahathir resigned after some MPs tried to stage a political coup to prevent him from handing power to Anwar – as he had promised in 2018.

He was immediately reappointed as interim prime minister by the king. The resignation seemed designed to force the hand of legislators to back him as prime minister against rivals.

During the week he and Anwar jockeyed for power. But Muhyiddin was also wooing opposition factions. A further complication was the fact that during his previous terms in office Mahathir had had a fractious relationship with the country's sultans, who share the role of king.

Sultan Abdullah's choice as prime minister is, like Mahathir, a former Umno stalwart who quit the party over the corruption allegations engulfing Najib.

To remain prime minister, he will need the backing of Umno MPs, which would restore the party to power despite its electoral defeat in 2018.

The appointment also raises the spectre of Islamic fundamentalism, which has been increasing in public life. Muhyiddin needs the support of a conservative religious party to remain in office. The prospect of a government forged in a backroom deal involving Umno and the Islamic right has infuriated the reformers who voted out Najib. "RIP Malaysian democracy" read a placard carried by a protestor last night.

Muhyiddin was set to be sworn in at the palace this morning, but his term as the country's eighth prime minister could be extremely short lived.

As the drama continued late into the night, the latest Mahathir-led alliance claimed to have secured sufficient backing from smaller parties to form a majority.

Whether the king will need to reappoint Mahathir again shortly remained unclear last night. He has been the country's dominant political figure since he first became prime minister in 1981. Few Malaysians would count him out yet.

Instagram star's dry-ice stunt kills three in Moscow pool

Marc Bennetts Moscow

A birthday stunt by a Russian Instagram influencer went horribly wrong when three people died – including her husband – after dry ice was poured into an indoor swimming pool.

Yekaterina Didenko was celebrating her 29th birthday at the Devyaty Val (Ninth Wave) spa complex in south Moscow on Friday night when 55lbs of dry ice – a frozen form of carbon dioxide – was dumped into the small pool to create "an impressive steam show".

Video footage published by Russian media yesterday showed several guests, some in hazard suits, plunging into the foggy pool to cool off after emerging from a sauna. They were laughing as they vanished into the clouds of smoke.

"He's died!" one joked. "People are disappearing!" shouted another.

One man can be seen emerging from the pool gasping for air. Others appear to choke and lose consciousness.

Police said preliminary reports indicated that the three victims had suffocated after inhaling large amounts of carbon dioxide. Others reportedly suffered chemical burns.



Didenko: birthday party ended in tragedy

Natalia Monakova and Yuri Alferov, both 25, died at the scene. Five others remain in hospital, reports said. Their condition is unknown.

Didenko's husband, Valentin, 32, an IT specialist, who is believed to have been one of those who poured the dry ice into the pool, died in hospital. The couple have two young children.

"Valya is not with us any more. Or Natalia. Or Yuri," she said in a tearful Instagram video yesterday. "I did not cry yesterday. Today I just exploded. I thought it was not true, it was a nightmare.

"[Our daughter] woke up today – 'Where is Daddy?' I do not know what to say to her. She is asking me, 'Why are you crying?' I have no idea what I'm going to tell the children."

Experts say that dry ice is safe to use in well-ventilated spaces, but people risk carbon dioxide poisoning if it is used inappropriately.

Didenko, a qualified pharmacist with 1.2 million followers on Instagram, posts about how to save money on medicines, as well as her family life.

Social media users accused Didenko of insensitivity for posting so soon after the death of her husband and friends. She has since closed her Instagram account to comments. Others questioned how a pharmacist could have been ignorant about the dangers of dry ice.

Dry ice has become popular at Russian birthday parties in recent years. It is also often used to create a smoke effect for drinks at clubs.

An investigation is under way into the incident. Officials at the spa complex have not commented.

COMMENT

LONG BAILEY BOWS TO HER BOY 'KING'. SOME FEMINIST
SARAH BAXTER, PAGE 22

DAVID STEEL WASN'T THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW ABOUT 'BIG CYRIL'
ADAM BOULTON, PAGE 24



Camilla Long

Come on, Johnny, fire off a few more texts and show us what a hell-raiser you are

You may or may not have read the extraordinary set of text messages sent from Johnny Depp to fellow actor Paul Bettany about killing his then wife, Amber Heard. At a pre-trial hearing for Depp's libel case against The Sun on Thursday, it was revealed that the actor had sent 70,000 text messages, some of such a wild and explicit nature you just think: he didn't actually say that, did he?

"Let's burn Amber," said one. "Let's drown her before we burn her!!! I will f*** her burnt corpse afterwards to make sure she is dead," said another.

But it was a third that really caught my imagination, capturing what I feel Depp, 56, has become in the past five years: drunk, listless and sad, unable to think of anything to do except spend $108,000 on suits in one sitting and get mullered on private jets – a walking crisis in masculinity.

"I'm gonna properly stop the booze thing darling," he wrote to Bettany after a trip to Los Angeles. "Drank all night before I picked Amber up to fly to LA this past Sunday. Ugly, mate . . . No food for days . . . Powders . . . Half a bottle of whiskey, a thousand Red Bulls and vodkas, pills, two bottles of champers on the plane and what do you get . . . An angry, aggro Injun in a f***in' blackout, screaming obscenities and insulting any f*** who got near. I'm done."

To which all I can say is: Powders? Champers? This man isn't a hell-raiser; he's just bonkers, lost in his own fictional character. You can just see his titty little Brides of Fu Manchu beard sliding down the PJ's toilet pan as the whistling of the suction drowns out his quavering Russell Brand imprecations.

Every age gets the hell-raiser it deserves, and ours is Captain Jack Sparrow sending text messages. It made me yearn for the genuine insanity of Oliver Reed, who died aged 61 in a drinking match against sailors in a pub called The Pub on Malta. He once called a radical feminist "big tits" on live TV.

As it happens, I don't believe anything about the upcoming trial, in which Depp is suing the paper for calling him a "wife-beater". It isn't really a trial, it is a performance, another farcical episode in the lifelong non-serious performance in which both Depp and Heard are now eternal players – a pair of matching hot messes, the hotness and messiness of whom can be summed up by the fact that the 70,000 messages were "accidentally" disclosed to the defence by Depp's *own* former legal team.

What will seriously happen? There will be more text messages and probably more secret recordings, because secretly recording each other seems to have been the only way this self-destructive couple communicated. We'll all agree she's a piece of work and he's a copper-bottomed pillock who fought over paintings (he allegedly described that fight as a "disco bloodbath") and everyone will go home and laugh about the fact that Bettany is his wet English best friend (at least get Chris Martin, Johnny). And the real terrible meat of the case – whether he abused Heard or not – will get eaten up in the flames of their Oscar-worthy performances.

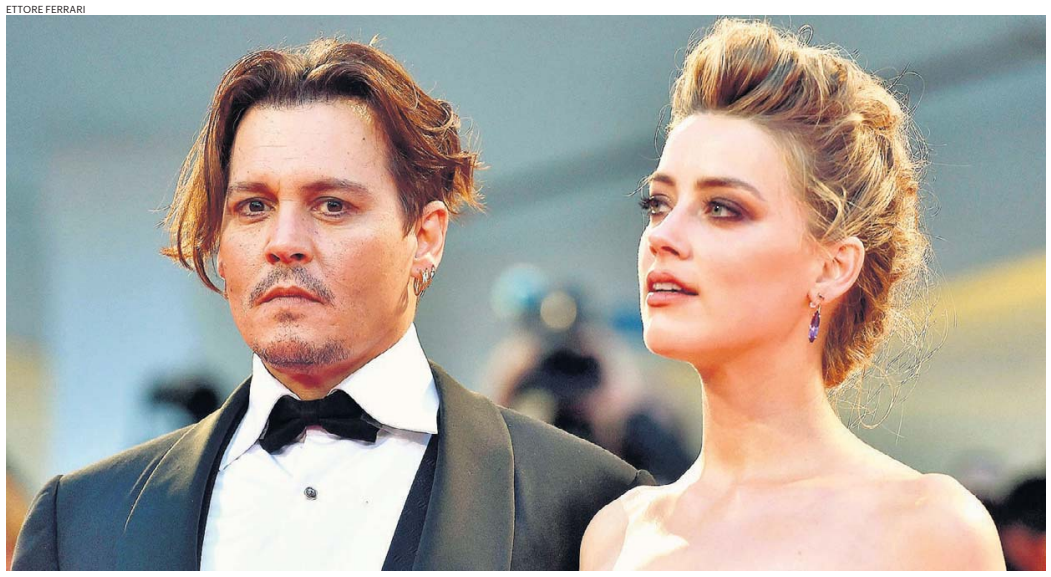
It says everything about the bizarre impermeability of Depp as an icon that the fashion house Dior hasn't even come close to dropping him for any of this. Not the drunken rows or extraordinary pictures of Heard with her sad shiner, even though it is exactly the sort of company to quail at the mere hint of controversy, even canning one of Depp's ads in September, for example, not because it contained Depp, but because it contained Native Americans posing as Native Americans, and that is "racist". It won't come anywhere near to criticising Depp for using the word "Injun" because he is a celebrity, and a toweringly successful one at that.

He has somehow managed to create the impression of being a hell-raiser in an age when daring and controversy and outspokenness are seen as a corporate liability and unpalatable to an infantile, millennial audience. He is, as a result, a child's idea of a rock'n'roller, possessing none of the spontaneous ferocity of, say, Richard Harris who would scream at female journalists in the middle of the Savoy: "You can't understand me – obviously you can't because you've got a female mind . . . I've got a cock and you haven't." If Hufflepuff did hell-raisers, Depp would be that.

Just 18 months ago he was giving the full theme-park experience to journalists who flocked to smoke hash with him during interviews in London. It is the hallmark of today's "hell-raiser" that he spends one minute describing his $2m a month spending habit – what kind of person buys islands? It's what Richard Branson does – and in the next breath says: "We'll talk injustice tomorrow."

@CamillaLong

ETTORE FERRARI



Johnny Depp and Amber Heard in 2015, before their divorce. He is suing The Sun for describing him as a 'wife-beater'

> **Over the past five years Depp has become drunk, listless and sad, a crisis of masculinity**

What a scoop — high-flyer becomes No 10's dogsbody

Imagine being a high-flying, ass-kicking, no-nonsense former ITN exec and ending up walking the PM's girlfriend's dog for a living. But that is what appears to have happened to Sarah Vaughan-Brown, who was hired on a reported six-figure salary as Carrie Symonds's "personal adviser" and has been seen walking Dilyn the dog near No 10. We can only imagine the scenario: a glossy advert for a "comms chief" would have been placed in the Johnson house journal, The Lady. There would have been a gruelling selection process in the largest room in No 10, complete with Fairtrade lattes and chat about "the oceans". At the end, Vaughan-Brown would be looking forward to selecting which peasant dress Symonds could hide in, only for her new mistress to announce: "There's just one more thing . . ." and hand her a pooper scooper. Over £100,000 for that!

All this hoarding for a pandemic is plain crackers

Are you stockpiling yet? On Thursday my sister told me she'd sent her husband out to get coronavirus "supplies". He came back with Mr Kipling's cakes (almond slices) and tins of corned beef, all of which he'd eaten by the time I had spoken to her.

"We're now getting Calpol and vitamin C," she said sheepishly, and she is telephoning our mother, who's working in a mathematics institute, every day to remind her not to touch anyone or speak to anyone, especially if they have just come back from Italy or China. "But all mathematicians are Chinese," wails my mother.

Meanwhile, 38% of Americans have said that under no circumstances would they touch Corona beer as the virus spreads about the globe. What is this madness that infects 90 people a minute, far more than the virus itself?

The only correct response is that of a Mumsnetter on the internet, who is prepping for the "pandemic" with "olive oil", "crackers" and "dips" — pandemic being code for "monster Netflix binge", obviously.

Amber Rudd

Heathrow expansion needn't be an eco no-no



The Paris Agreement on climate change in December 2015 was a triumph of hope over experience. After the successive failure of previous annual gatherings, this one saw nails being bitten way beyond the initial deadline to end the talks.

It finally yielded an agreement between nearly 200 nations to limit carbon emissions.

I led the UK delegation and it was a proud moment for the country that we played such a pivotal role through the now defunct Department of Energy and Climate Change.

The cliff edge moment took place after a week of overnight negotiations, when the catering had been packed away in the vast conference centre far from the centre of the French capital and all its wonderful restaurants. An agreement was more attractive than starvation.

The massive auditorium, which had been specially constructed by the French, fizzed with excitement as the president of the conference, Laurent Fabius, raised his gavel to declare the final document agreed . . . and a lone representative tried to delay proceedings.

It was Bolivia, whose socialist government objected to the potential use of market mechanisms to reduce emissions. The temperature fell in the hall, and huddles of VIPs formed at the front of the auditorium.

The rumour went around the hall that the Pope was on the phone to the refusenik. Delegates held their breath, the VIPs took their seats again and the gavel was raised and banged, to loud cheers.

> **The runway could have gone ahead and met our carbon reduction pledges**

The brilliance of the Paris agreement was getting each country to volunteer its own commitments, and for the other parties to agree that they were sufficient. These "nationally determined contributions" allowed each country to decide how it was going to fulfil those commitments.

The UK's commitment is monitored by the committee on climate change. The chairman, Lord Deben, had already warned that the original proposals for Heathrow expansion did not take enough account of the Climate Change Act.

But he was not saying that expansion should not go ahead, or indeed that we should all stop flying. Instead, any expansion of infrastructure such as Heathrow must go ahead only if it had taken full account of the implications for our legally binding commitments. Airport expansion therefore needed to be part of a serious climate plan.

And this is the key point that was missed last week following the Court of Appeal ruling that existing government plans for Heathrow expansion were unlawful. The runway could have gone ahead and been consistent with our existing commitments to reducing carbon emissions – yes, even with the more recent commitment to net zero CO_2 emissions by 2050. But any sensible approach starts with acknowledging that these environmental commitments are real and important, not an optional extra.

Britain has proudly trumpeted its ability to expand the economy and reduce carbon emissions. The economy has grown by about 70% since 1990, one of the fastest rates in the G7, while emissions have fallen by about 40%.

The UK should not turn away from continued infrastructure improvements, such as Heathrow, in order to meet its carbon reduction commitments. It could and should do both.

So what would a serious plan look like?

First, it would recognise that aviation is undertaxed for the pollution it produces. This will require international agreement and action, but the UK should be leading the way. Polluters should pay for their pollution.

Second, it should be putting serious money into alternative technologies. This means much faster and cheaper rail trips across the UK and Europe as an alternative to short-haul flights (London to Paris by train is so much nicer than by plane). It also means innovation in low-carbon aviation technology – yes, improved efficiency, but also electric, biofuel and even hydrogen-powered flights.

Finally, Britain has to get serious about negative emissions technology, which takes carbon out of the atmosphere. Carbon capture and storage is essential.

All of this needs to be set in an ambitious decarbonisation plan that keeps costs down and improves our buildings, our air quality and our landscape.

Net zero must not equal "hairshirtism". Greening our economy is about doing things differently, not slowing us down.

Amber Rudd was secretary of state for energy and climate change from 2015-16

THE TIMES
Know your times

Recycling? That's so last decade.

The new ways to be an eco-warrior at home.

Only in The Times tomorrow



COMMENT

THE SUNDAY TIMES
ESTABLISHED 1822

It's not enough to lead. Now the PM must be seen to be leading

Under this government, it seems, the extraordinary is in danger of becoming normal. Yesterday brought news not only that the Home Office's top civil servant, Sir Philip Rutnam, had resigned but also that he intends to sue the government for constructive dismissal, after what he described as "a vicious and orchestrated briefing campaign" against him.

Sir Philip's resignation statement not only accused Priti Patel, the home secretary, of being a liar when she denied any involvement in the briefing, but also referred to a wider pattern of behaviour on her part, which included "allegations that her conduct has included shouting and swearing, belittling people, making unreasonable and repeated demands – behaviour that created fear and that needed some bravery to call out".

The Home Office has rarely been a happy ship, and there will be as many supporters of Ms Patel who admire her robust approach as supporters of Sir Philip for the stand he has taken. For most people, however, the reaction will be one of bemusement. In the first two months of the year the country has suffered from widespread flooding and now the arrival of the coronavirus strain. And yet Boris Johnson, when he can tear himself away from one of his grace-and-favour homes, is presiding over a chaotic government. Last night's announcement that Carrie Symonds, the prime minister's partner, is pregnant is a diversion but not an excuse.

To be fair, he has shown more awareness of the coronavirus threat than his political ally Donald Trump, who has described it as a hoax and blamed the stock market meltdown on investors' fears of his Democratic opponents. There is, however, no sense in which the largely invisible prime minister, who ducked out of the floods as well as, until now, the coronavirus, is displaying the leadership people have a right to expect.

Allowing a junior health minister onto Radio 4's Today programme yesterday, ending a Downing Street boycott, merely underlined some of the pettiness at the heart of government. In normal circumstances it was hard to keep Matt Hancock, the health secretary, off the programme.

The prime minister has form. When mayor of London in 2011, he was slow to return from holiday during riots that brought mass law-breaking to the capital. He has relied on juniors in recent weeks to make excuses, insisting that behind closed doors he is fully engaged.

Maybe he is, or maybe he is not. There is a fine line between sowing unnecessary panic and providing the public with the necessary reassurance that the government is doing everything in its power to keep the public safe. Damian McBride, then Gordon Brown's press secretary, tweeted what he described as the basic plan when the Labour government was faced with a foot-and-mouth outbreak. It included a 7am Cobra meeting chaired by the prime minister, an action plan each day, a briefing for opposition leaders and a daily media briefing by the prime minister and chief veterinary officer.

Mr Johnson, who will hold his first Cobra meeting on coronavirus tomorrow, nearly three months after the start of the outbreak in China and a month after the first confirmed case in the UK, gives the impression that all that sounds like hard work. He was slower than other world leaders to talk to Xi Jinping, China's president.

The task of containing this coronavirus outbreak remains a vital one. Britain is not at the centre of it but is gradually moving up the league table of confirmed cases maintained by Johns Hopkins University in America. Even that must be subject to an element of guesswork, with epidemiologists pointing out that data on the extent and spread of the virus are a long way from perfect.

The new threat is from cases where the patient has not travelled abroad recently or had close contact with people who have, as with the latest instance, reported in Haslemere, Surrey. Similar cases have been reported in California, Oregon and Washington State. All of which makes the government's task clear. It needs to be radically transparent about what it knows, and what the public needs to know. Fake news flourishes in a vacuum. The government needs to raise its game.

Ending entrepreneurs' relief is a big gamble for a first budget

Rishi Sunak, the new chancellor, faces a tricky task in his budget on March 11. Not only is the coronavirus changing the economic outlook by the day, but his predecessor, Sajid Javid, has unhelpfully weighed in with a taste of what he would have liked to do had he stayed.

The former chancellor, in an interview with The Times yesterday, surprised many in Whitehall by saying that he wanted to cut the basic rate of income tax from 20p to 18p in the pound, reduce stamp duty and provide businesses with generous allowances to encourage them to invest. He was coy on how these would be funded, save for cutting government waste. Though nothing can be ruled out, it seems highly unlikely that Mr Javid's wish list, which would drive a coach and horses through the fiscal rules he was championing in the Commons last week, will form the backbone of Mr Sunak's first budget.

What is likely to be included, as we report today, is a scrapping of entrepreneurs' relief, the tax break that, at a cost of nearly £3bn a year, allows business owners to sell up and be taxed at a rate of 10% – half the normal capital-gains tax rate of 20%.

Rumours of the impending move to abolish entrepreneurs' relief has already led to a backlash from business champions. The government will counter by saying that it is an expensive tax break that benefits relatively few people and, as the Resolution Foundation think tank points out, does not appear to have been a motivation for entrepreneurs in setting up businesses in the first place.

The government, however, needs to be careful. One of its first acts was to cancel next month's planned and costed cut in corporation tax from 19% to 17%, which jarred with its ambitions to make Britain the preferred post-Brexit location for international businesses. Its new immigration framework and template for trade with the EU will both involve a significant increase in red tape. Business was relieved it did not get a Corbyn government in December. It still has to be convinced that this government is on its side.

Orange county

The cast of ITV2's *The Only Way Is Essex* have spent a decade carefully crafting an image of their county as one of permatans, hair extensions and skimpy outfits.

But the bureaucrats of the Essex tourist board threaten to undo all that hard work by promoting coastal walks and oysters instead. To counter the "negative" effects of the show, they are pushing a rural idyll of ramblers and birdwatchers meandering through an Essex that is more verdant than vajazzled.

What is so wrong with giving the public what they want? Occupancy rates in Brentwood have doubled as hordes of revellers head to the county for debauchery.

Let's ditch the snobbery towards youthful excess and allow Essex girls to enjoy their false eyelashes and orange glow. So goodbye, Constable; hello, Gemma Collins. As the peerless star of *Towie* once said: "I'm 'ere to enjoy myself, GC-style, d'ya know what I mean? I jus' wanna be me."

Dominic Lawson
Even bad men can do wonderful things



The sins of Harvey Weinstein and Jean Vanier do not negate their triumphs

The fall of Harvey Weinstein – found guilty last week of sexual assault and "third-degree rape" – is, in Hollywood terms, the final act in a drama of deicide. For had not Weinstein, in his pomp, been referred to by Meryl Streep as "God"? They laughed in that audience, but nervously, since he was a jealous God. And in fact the producer of such films as *The King's Speech* and *Shakespeare in Love* had been thanked more often than God by actors and directors when collecting their graven idol, Oscar.

Those titles indicate why he was worshipped by the world's most accomplished actors for more than merely commercial reasons: Weinstein genuinely loved to make films that were high-minded and elevating – in contrast to the standard fare of exploitative trash, in which language is so redundant that the actors might as well be mime artists.

Actually, his record remains unimpaired. What changed was the culture outside the bleakly transactional world of Hollywood: I mean the #MeToo movement, which (belatedly) re-litigated the terms of sexual trade in the movie business. The casting couch has been turned from the *droit du seigneur* of the producer or director to exhibit A for the prosecution.

It is the Hollywood sequel of what has taken place in the church in recent decades, where the sexual victims of priests have found the courage – and, perhaps more importantly, the sympathy of their own communities – to expose abuse at the hands of previously unchallengeable authority.

Last week, overshadowed by the Weinstein trial, yet another such scandal emerged to cause consternation, mostly among Catholics, across the globe – and in my own home. Jean Vanier was found to have engaged in what were described as "manipulative and emotionally abusive" sexual relationships with six women in France between 1970 and 2005, seducing them with the notion that these encounters were in some way holy. The French-Canadian Vanier, who died last year aged 90, was not a priest but widely described as "a living saint".

In 1964 he founded a movement known as "L'Arche" – the Ark, as in Noah – which now has more than 10,000 members in 38 countries, including Britain. They are so-called "intentional communities", in which those we used to call "mentally handicapped" live, eat and decide the pattern of their lives alongside their carers. The origin of the movement was a visit by Vanier to an asylum in northern France, where he perceived the profound loneliness and abandonment of the inmates – brought home to him when one looked at him and implored: "Will you be my friend?"

Vanier bought a derelict house in Trosly-Breuil and lived there with two such men, Raphaël Simi and Philippe Seux, who had in effect been discarded by both their families and society. There are now 154 L'Arche communities, including 12 in the UK, all inspired by Vanier's constant proselytising of a mission to live alongside those with learning difficulties – and to learn from them.

My wife Rosa Monckton was inspired by Vanier – whom she had visited in France and got to know – to begin her own charity to provide social enrichment and the chance of paid work for such young adults. It is called Team Domenica, named after our younger daughter, who has Down's syndrome. As Rosa told me, having spent time with Vanier at Trosly-Breuil: "He had an extraordinary facility of engaging completely with people who had multiple and profound disabilities; completely at ease with them, as equals face to face. I have Jean Vanier's voice recorded on my telephone, and when things with Team Domenica are getting fraught, I listen to him, telling me, 'Don't spend time worrying; spend time loving.' He was my lodestar."

And today? "I cannot describe how I feel now: numb, perhaps. I have huge respect for the bravery of those women, whose very souls must be scarred."

Those six women were not among those cared for at L'Arche (at least one of them was a nun) and it was L'Arche, using a British firm of consultants, which investigated the complaints and published the report with its devastating conclusion. That transparency and integrity is itself a tribute to the nature of the organisation Vanier founded.

But that scarcely diminishes the sense of betrayal, not least in this country, where a few years ago his talk at Westminster was attended by both Anglican and Catholic archbishops – and the Queen invited Vanier to a private lunch at Buckingham Palace (for which, to his discomfiture, he had to wear a suit).

In short, I don't believe in saints, dead or alive

The Thought for the Day regular Giles Fraser has written an anguished piece for the website UnHerd entitled "How Jean Vanier abused my trust": "He was the nearest thing to a saint I had ever met. I loved Jean Vanier . . . I have been reeling [that] Vanier used the language of Christian vulnerability in order to persuade women to sleep with him."

Unlike Fraser, and indeed, my wife, I haven't been reeling (while obviously upset on her behalf). One reason is that he was not part of my life, or an inspiration to me, even though I regarded what he did as wonderful. Another is that I am not religious, so I couldn't see anyone as a pure emanation of the divine (and therefore spiritually bereft when the voice of God turns out to be laughter in the dark).

In short, I don't believe in saints, dead or alive. This non-believer can also point to Ecclesiastes 7:20 – "There is not a man upon earth, that does only good, and never sins." That advice, which crops up regularly in the Old Testament, remains sound. Many Christians sometimes seem to forget this, almost as if they believed in that absurd theory of the ancient Greeks, the unity of virtue (which proposed that those in possession of one virtue in fact had the lot).

This ancient fallacy has a particular grip in our own world, especially in the cult of celebrity, which accords its objects either total adoration or damnation, defying everything that is true about the human character. For example, we need to be able to say that Roman Polanski is a film director of genius whose work deserves acclaim – and also that he should long ago have been extradited to America, to face justice for his admitted statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl he drugged and sodomised in 1977.

We need to be able to say that Jean Vanier was a great, good and bad man: and that those abandoned people to whom he gave a community and a true home remain as much the beneficiaries of his public virtues as the women he manipulated were the victims of his private vices.

dominic.lawson@sunday-times.co.uk

The film France is flocking to see — but you won't be able to, News Review, page 27

Sarah Baxter
Long Bailey bows to her boy 'king'. Some feminist



The leadership candidate's child worship echoes Labour's Corbynmania

There was a riveting moment during the Labour leaders' debate on Sky News last week when a member of the audience, Caroline Adam from Perthshire, said: "I am 100% blind. What one thing can the candidates tell me to help me better understand them?" Rebecca Long Bailey gamely took up the challenge. "I'd like to think I'm down to earth. Obviously, I'm northern, so I don't take any messing about from anybody."

Fair enough, you might think, until she confessed – without blinking at the contradiction– that she refers to her young son as "King". Why do you call him that, asked the astonished presenter. "Because we serve him," she explained. "We are his servants. Every day when he gets in from school we have a little routine where he goes, 'Mummy, Mummy, lolly!' and he gets an orange lolly, and then he'll come in five minutes later and ask for hot chocolate and he gets the hot chocolate."

She laughed, clearly thinking this behaviour was adorable. Me? I was wondering: what on earth drives a hard-charging MP, with the ambition to become the first female leader of the Labour Party, to describe herself as a servant and scrape and bow to "a king", even a pint-sized one? And is this what decades of fighting for women's rights has led to: a world in which we no longer defer to our husbands but are bossed around by our children?

That evening I had been at a party to celebrate the publication of *A Bite of the Apple*, a personal history of Virago by Lennie Goodings, my old boss at the feminist publishing house. Virago's best-known authors include Maya Angelou and Margaret Atwood. For all the great books it has published about standing up to the patriarchy, there have been surprisingly few about how to resist the tyrannical demands of your own children.

I shouldn't lord it over Long Bailey too much, because I have done my fair share of helicopter and snowplough parenting, where you hover over your children and shovel obstacles out of their way. As the news presenter Sophy Ridge said at the time of the debate: "Parents of toddlers will recognise a few of the things [Long Bailey] said."

Even so, her idea of parenting appears remarkably indulgent. You can see the spoilt products of our mollycoddling everywhere: on the London Underground, sitting serenely like little emperors while their harassed parents stand; in the supermarket, grabbing chocolates while their mothers reach for their purse; and at school, where the adults are as likely to cry "not fair" as their offspring.

I'm not just talking about toddlers, either. There are the parents who smile benignly as their teenagers skip school in support of Greta Thunberg's climate strike, while ferrying them around in a 4x4 and finishing their homework for them. "We are the change, and the change is coming whether you like it or not," the 17-year-old global superstar warned as 15,000 of her fans brought Bristol to a halt on Friday.

But calling a child "King"? How can treating kids like royalty be good for them? It has been a constant source of amazement to me that members of the supposedly egalitarian Labour Party proved willing to fall in with all that embarrassing, hero-worshipping "Oh Jeremy Corbyn" nonsense. Am I reading too much into Long Bailey's bizarre worship of her son and her submissive veneration of the current Labour leader?

A fascinating YouGov poll last week showed that most of Long Bailey's supporters would vote for Corbyn if they had the chance, leaving her on just 8% of the vote (Sir Keir Starmer would score 40%). Even she might secretly prefer to vote for Corbyn, given her obvious discomfort during the leadership race and her rating of 10/10 for his success in leading Labour to its worst defeat since 1935. For whatever reason, the left remains obsessed with him.

Everywhere, you see the spoilt products of our mollycoddling

This observation has more to do with Virago than might appear at first sight, because it too was in thrall to its leader. These days I think of Carmen Callil, its Australian founder, as rather wonderful, because she had the guts to set up a company from scratch based on her conviction that too many great women writers were being ignored.

Virago, she said, was an idea that "was just sitting there waiting for my generation to say, ''Scuse me'". Callil pushed her way in by sheer force of personality. She wasn't, however, particularly sisterly – and nor were some of the *grandes dames* of feminism.

Goodings's history of Virago was praised by Johanna Thomas-Corr in The Sunday Times Culture section last week. She called it "a romance story about the power of storytelling and the passion required to sustain a precarious literary dream" – and I agree with that verdict. It is an inspiring book. But at the launch, more than a few of us giggled about the parody version in the latest issue of Private Eye, which recounted how, after being shouted at in the Virago office, it was a privilege to go to the "lovely little lavatory" for a cry, or to have "a jug of water thrown over me" by the writer Susan Sontag "for failing to set out her pens properly".

"We were all just girls together, you see," Private Eye continued, "working for the cause of equality and self-determination."

I've never been any good at deference, which is why I remain proud to call myself a feminist (but ended up seeking a new career as a journalist). Can I suggest that, in addition to publishing some robust books on child-rearing, Virago commission one on *The Left-wing Cult of Personality: An Infantile Disorder*?

@SarahBaxterSTM



Buy prints or signed copies of Morten Morland's cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.co.uk

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Only once in the last 40 years have I not been called over by customs"
The bestselling black author Malorie Blackman says airport security invariably searches her bags

"Sue, you're shouting at tea"
The operator of Yorkshire Tea's Twitter account asks one user, angered by chancellor Rishi Sunak sharing a photo of its teabags, to calm down

"I don't intend to dwell further on all the details and the personalities … the comings and goings, if you will"
The former chancellor Sajid Javid takes a public shot at Boris Johnson's chief adviser, Dominic Cummings, during his resignation speech

"We don't want them to become extinct again"
Crystal Palace's 166-year-old concrete dinosaurs are crumbling, warns the Historic England chief Duncan Wilson

"She's the only friend I'd skip school for"
The Nobel peace prize-winner Malala Yousafzai hints she would join Greta Thunberg's climate strike after they met in Oxford



Niall Ferguson

Trump may shrug off the virus. America may not



Covid-19 poses a bigger threat to his presidency than to his health

'As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods. They kill us for their sport." Gloucester's despairing words in *King Lear* have been etched in my memory since I first heard them as a schoolboy. The gods also amuse themselves by sending natural disasters to humble vainglorious leaders.

The world has all four of the horsemen of the apocalypse these days: pestilence, war, famine and death. There is, of course, the pestilence now known as Covid-19, the new coronavirus. There is war in Syria and a nascent civil war in the streets of India. There may well be famine, too, if the locusts continue to ravage the crops of east Africa and south Asia. And there will surely be more death in 2020 than in a typical 21st-century year.

Fortunate is the American president who is not confronted by at least one devastating hurricane or terrorist attack or mass shooting. Fortunate is the president who does not have to console grieving survivors in at least one devastated city. But 2020 is a whole different divine sport.

We had all grown complacent about the threat posed to humanity by disease. I'm not sure quite why. The new diseases of our time did their best to remind us of nature's supremacy over homo sapiens. From Aids to ebola, from Sars to Mers, we were given repeated warnings that we were just one mutant virus away from calamity.

Perhaps our growing preoccupation with climate change gave the lie to our outward insouciance. But the gods have a cruel sense of humour. Even as we were becoming obsessed by the dangers of carbon dioxide emissions and rising global temperatures in the decades ahead, they sent a virus almost perfectly designed to throw us into confusion right now, at this moment.

The great plague narratives of the past were concerned with diseases that were highly lethal. Read Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year* (1722), which starkly depicts the last great plague outbreak in London in 1665. Or read Katherine Anne Porter's *Pale Horse, Pale Rider* (1939), about a wartime romance cut cruelly short by the influenza pandemic of 1918-19. (I especially recommend the latter if illness has never brought you to the brink. Porter's description of near-death is unforgettable.)

By comparison, Covid-19 is not especially life-threatening. According to the best available data at the time of writing, there have been about 85,000 confirmed cases worldwide, roughly 94% of them in China, and 78% of them in the province of Hubei. The implied global mortality rate is 3.4%, but that is surely an overestimate, because the denominator (total cases) is being underestimated by infected people who don't feel sick or don't check themselves in for medical care.

We also know that, unlike the "Spanish flu" of 1918-19, Covid-19 disproportionately kills the elderly and those with existing conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease. Worry about grandparents: the mortality rate for people in their eighties is above 14%, whereas it's close to zero for those under 40.

Yet those who blithely say, "This is no worse than the flu" – which will likely cause between 16,000 and 41,000 deaths in America this season – are missing the point.

What makes Covid-19 dangerous is not so much the threat it poses to the average person's life, but the threat it poses to economic growth. Uncertainty surrounds it because it is so difficult to detect in its early stages, when many carriers are both infectious and asymptomatic. We don't know for sure how many people have it, so we don't exactly know its reproduction number and its mortality rate. There's no vaccine and there's no cure. Last week this uncertainty, crystallised by a leap in the number of Italian cases, gave the US stock market its worst week since the great banking crisis of 2008-9.

I have often been asked in the past few years where the next financial crisis will come from. I have said, time and again, that it will come not from America but from China, now the second-largest economy in the world. Sure enough. A pandemic is very different from a bank run, to be sure, but in each case we witness the same phenomenon, which is characteristic of a networked world: a cascade of consequences driven by fear of the unknown.

> **Uncertainty surrounding the outbreak gave the US stock market its worst week since the 2008 banking crisis**

Though old enough to be in the vulnerable part of the population, Donald Trump, 73, is well known for his high standards of personal hygiene ("Germaphobia"). Yet it is his presidency, more than his life, that is in mortal danger from Covid-19.

Although his administration did indeed take the right decision, early in the Chinese outbreak, to limit travel from China to America, it did little to prepare for the eventuality of a large US outbreak. Worse, last week Trump made the mistake of playing down the risk. "This is a flu," he said at his press conference on Wednesday evening. "It's a little like the regular flu that we have flu shots for … We've done a great job keeping it down to a minimum. Tremendous success at keeping the virus away."

Maybe. But it seems likely that there will soon be an outbreak in California. (Fact: the number of confirmed cases outside China continues to grow exponentially.) No one knows for sure because, we learnt last week, there are just 200 functioning diagnostic kits in the entire state.

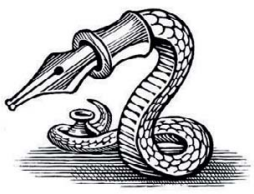
As president, George W Bush had at least four brushes with the horsemen of the apocalypse. The first, the September 11 terrorist attacks, dealt a severe but temporary blow to an economy that was already in recession. Newly elected and initially blindsided, Bush struck the right notes of defiance and vengeance and experienced a surge in popularity. The second was the war of choice he launched against Saddam Hussein. Fortunately for Bush, he got re-elected before the public mood had truly soured on the Iraq War.

Then, in 2005, came Hurricane Katrina, which would have made him a one-term president if it had happened a year before. Finally, there was the financial crisis, which drove his popularity down to its nadir and doomed John McCain's attempt to keep the White House in Republican hands.

A Covid-19 outbreak in one or more large American cities would inflict a September 11-level hit on the US economy and a Hurricane Katrina-level hit on Trump's popular approval. The fact that the principal beneficiary in that scenario would be a lifelong democratic socialist committed to universal public healthcare must be the kind of thing the gods find entertaining.

Niall Ferguson is the Milbank Family senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford

ATTICUS
GRANT TUCKER



If you go to No 10, mind the No 2

There is a foul stench emanating from No 10. Visitors to Downing Street last week noticed a funny whiff in the corridors of power. A recent attendee said: "It was hard to determine whether it was Boris or Dilyn leaving his scent around the place."

When Atticus inquired, No 10 staffers were quick to point the finger at the Jack Russell cross rescue puppy the prime minister adopted last year. The long walk down from the upstairs flat means Dilyn's morning business is not solely limited to St James's Park.

"He's not quite as toilet trained as the PM hoped for," an adviser texts while stepping over the latest present left by the Welsh mutt.

Dalai Lama's chosen one is Dad's Army

Dad's Army has some unusual fans. In a new biography of the Dalai Lama, written by his friend Alexander Norman, it is revealed that the Tibetan spiritual leader loves nothing more than watching the adventures of Captain Mainwaring and his Home Guard platoon, and has even been gifted a box set of the BBC sitcom.

Perhaps, after 60 years in exile, His Holiness is picking up tips from *Dad's Army* on how to take on the Red Army.



● Rachel Johnson is never knowingly underpartied but has been forced to adopt strict rules to avoid contracting the coronavirus during her revelling.

"Down with kissing," Johnson told a diary elf last Thursday at the launch of Daisy Waugh's latest novel. The writer and sister of the prime minister spent much of the night avoiding "sweaty puckered lips" making a beeline for her cheeks. "As I was leaving I completely forgot that I wasn't supposed to kiss anyone," Johnson confesses. "I ended up kissing David Cameron very publicly. In my defence, he looked very healthy."

● While the former prime minister seems more than happy to keep his feet up, Cameron's sister-in-law, Emily Sheffield, is working flat out on her Instagram-based news service, This Much I Know.

The former Vogue deputy editor told friends that starting a new business was one of the toughest things she had done, but she has reasons to be cheery – her company has been chosen for £60,000 of funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport "for public service journalism".

● The Liberal Democrats are less than gruntled. Activists for the leaderless party have raised eyebrows that Jo Swinson, who led the party to a disastrous defeat in December's election and lost her own seat in the process, has been given the prime pre-lunchtime Saturday slot at the party's spring conference later this month in York. Desperate times.

"She should have appeared with Nick Clegg and Tim Farron to explain the last three general election results," a senior party figure suggests wryly.

● It's all kicking off in Wales. Wynne Evans, the opera singer from the Go Compare adverts, hosted the Tories' annual fundraiser last week and even performed a sing-song with Boris Johnson. Colleagues at BBC Radio Wales, where Evans presents the mid-morning show, were up in arms at his role at the party political event.

Corporation bosses have given the singer a stern bollocking. One producer said: "What next? Huw Edwards drawing the raffle at the Plaid Cymru conference?"

NEWS

Adam Boulton

David Steel falls victim to changing times. But Thatcher knew about 'Big Cyril' too



In the early 1980s, my first professional job was as a talks writer for the BBC External Services. The Cold War was still raging and the department was an inverted pyramid: Russian experts on top, then eastern Europe, Middle East and African commentators. Covering UK and US politics, I was at the bottom.

Nonetheless, the Liberal Democrat leader, David Steel, made a splash when he told his party's assembly in 1981: "Go back to your constituencies and prepare for government." There was widespread take-up across the services for my written explainer.

Steel's brag took a lot longer to come to pass than expected, including the trauma of the alliance, and then merger, with the Social Democratic Party, but he can fairly be said to have set the course for the 2010 Conservative-Lib Dem government under David Cameron and Nick Clegg.

This year Steel has been slung out of public life, as surely as Adam and Eve are expelled from the Garden of Eden in Masaccio's Florentine fresco. His fall demonstrates the shifting standards imposed on prominent politicians, with emotion and tokenism increasingly overruling calm consideration of what has happened. Thanks to floods, the coronavirus and the new government's Brexit manoeuvres, the humbling of a once national figure was barely noted. When it was, Steel was vilified.

I can shrug off the abuse routinely chucked at me on Twitter. But I was dismayed when my comment that it was "a shame" Steel's distinguished career should end this way resulted in Steel – not Cyril Smith, the alleged sex abuser he is alleged to have protected – being likened to Fred West, Dr Harold Shipman and, of course, Hitler.

Much of this can be dismissed as yet another example of the consequence-free spite that social media seem to encourage. Steel is actually resigning his membership of the Lords and the Liberal Democrats because he was accused by an official inquiry of "an abdication of responsibility by a party leader" and "turning a blind eye to something that was potentially troubling to his party".

The most significant finding of the report on Westminster from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse (IICSA) is: "There is no evidence to support the most sensational of the various allegations of child sexual abuse made over recent years that there has been a powerful paedophile network operating within Westminster."

The post-Jimmy Savile moral panic was stoked at Westminster by the then deputy leader of the Labour Party, Tom Watson, who warned MPs in 2012 there was "clear intelligence suggesting a powerful paedophile network linked to parliament and No 10". Watson's chief source, "Nick" – real name Carl Beech – has since been imprisoned for perverting the course of justice, fraud and sexual abuse.

The IICSA was also "unable to place any weight" on the "explosive" allegations from a journalist, Don Hale, that a "D-notice" had been misused to stop publication of a news story about "sexual abuse by Smith and other high-profile political figures". Having spent more than £100m of taxpayers' money so far, it has failed to find anything new in its extensive trawl going back to the 1960s. Instead, the IICSA is justifying itself by looking back from today's moral vantage point at past abuse that is already on the record.

Steel's offence is one of omission, not commission. The IICSA says he should have done more once he became aware of the allegations against Smith made in a 1979 article in Private Eye because of "the risk that Cyril Smith posed to children as a powerful Westminster MP".

Steel's defence is that the allegations referred to behaviour in the 1960s, before Smith, a former mayor of Rochdale, was a member of the Liberal Party and before Steel became party leader in 1976.

Steel confronted Smith with the story and says he was "surprised" when he admitted the substance of it. But the matter had been investigated by the police, and the director of public prosecutions had not instigated proceedings. Steel says he was unaware of the quote by a Liberal press officer that "all he seems to have done is spanked a few bare bottoms" in the boys' homes to which Smith had access as a local dignitary. But Steel conceded: "This was a different era. Corporal punishment was permitted. It would be totally illegal now. There would be no question he'd be up for assault now, but in those days it went on."

He has proven his old-world values by accepting he should pay a price as 'a proxy' for the dead Smith

Smith left parliament in 1992 and died in 2010, aged 82. Steel gave up the leadership in 1988, stepping down as an MP in 1997. According to Steel, abuse by Smith during his time as an MP from 1972 "was not known by me or anyone else". In 2012 Chris Marshall broke down in tears on Sky News after alleging he was abused by Smith at Knowl View School in the 1980s.

Steel told the inquiry he was unaware of allegations covering this period. The campaigner Des Wilson, subsequently Liberal Party president, blames "cock-up" and "cowardice" rather than conspiracy. "I think they got the biggest spade they could find, dug the biggest hole in the sand they could manage … hoping the rumours were unfounded."

Steel conceded that another sexual scandal would have been debilitating for the Liberal Party so soon after the Jeremy Thorpe affair. It is also true that there has always been a streak of small 'l" liberal permissiveness running through the party, amounting to conventional wisdom now on gay rights, but viewed with great suspicion when some members called, unsuccessfully, for the lowering of the age of consent. As the baby of the House in 1967, 29-year-old Steel first came to prominence as the backbench sponsor of the Abortion Act.

If Steel recommended Smith for a knighthood in 1988, so did Margaret Thatcher, who was told of the allegations against him. If Steel tolerated Smith, so did the rest of us. At 29 stone, "Big Cyril" was a popular public figure and, almost inevitably, a friend of his fellow Yorkshireman Savile, guesting on a television programme with him. With hindsight, they were both creepy.

My own memory of Smith is of him, his brother and their mother sitting in a row like three boulders waiting for a breakfast television interview. "'Ave yer brought the cake, Mother?" he checked, just in case our hospitality wasn't sufficient.

Whatever Steel could or should have done, he has proven his old-world values by accepting he should pay a price as "a proxy" for the dead Smith. Meanwhile, the West's new batch of strongman leaders successfully evade culpability for their own behaviour. The Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, has put Watson up for a peerage in the teeth of protests from those close to the former prime minister Edward Heath and the politicians Leon Brittan and Harvey Proctor, all wrongly besmirched by the Westminster allegations.

Times are changing here too. This is the last of my regular columns for this great newspaper. Thank you for being a reader.

@AdamBoultonSky

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

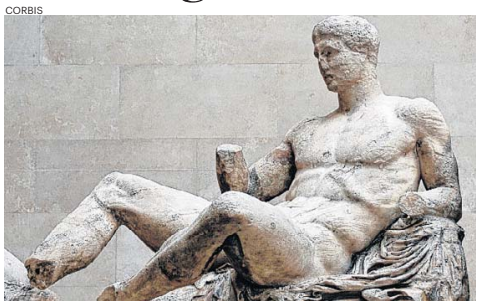
The Sunday Times,
1 London Bridge Street,
London SE1 9GF
Email: letters@sunday-times.co.uk

Greeks should be glad we have the marbles

Sarah Baxter's column on the Parthenon sculptures asks us to imagine how we would feel if Big Ben had been transplanted to Athens ("The sane move is to give Greece back its marbles", Comment, last week). This is to ignore the many buildings and artworks that have been reused, reshaped and often moved across borders, such as Duccio's altarpiece the *Maesta*, elements of which have been removed from Siena cathedral and are held in museums across Europe and America.

The Parthenon sculptures are fragments of a lost whole that cannot be put back together. Only about 50% of the original sculptures survive from antiquity. The Parthenon has become a European monument precisely because its sculptures can be seen not only in Athens but in London and other European cities.

CORBIS



Dionysus reclining, one of the 'Elgin' Parthenon marbles

The public benefit of this distribution and what it means for our shared cultural inheritance is self-evident, and something to celebrate.
Hartwig Fischer
Director, British Museum

Frieze! This is a robbery
Having advised the Greeks on the return of the "Elgin" (sic) marbles, I have looked into the history of their removal from the Parthenon. The 7th Earl of Elgin was from a family of Scottish thieves who were ostracised from polite society after he despoiled the Parthenon and his son looted and burnt the Summer Palace in Beijing.

Such was the scandal over Elgin's criminality that Lord Byron wrote *The Curse of Minerva*, excoriating him. A parliamentary inquiry was held, in which it became clear Elgin had stolen the marbles.

He asked the British government for a huge sum of money and an English peerage in exchange for the marbles. Instead the state reimbursed the bribes he had lavished on the Ottomans to turn a blind eye to his theft. He died syphilitic and alone in Paris.

Thus the British Museum did not get a good title to the marbles. It is acting as nothing more than a fence of stolen goods, and the Greek government is absolutely justified in demanding their return as part of a free-trade deal with the EU.
Mark Stephens, London E11

To the victor the spoils
Baxter believes we should return the marbles to Greece. In a phrase attributed to King Leonidas of Sparta, I would reply, "Molon labe" – "Come and get them". After all, the Athenians funded the construction of the Parthenon with "taxes" extracted at the tip of the spear from weaker neighbouring Greek city states.

The cold reality is that you are well on the way to losing that which you cannot hold. Coincidentally, this theme is depicted in the Parthenon frieze at the British Museum, as human Lapiths battle beastly Centaurs for supremacy.
Daniel McGrath
Burford, Oxfordshire

What's it got to do with EU?
I agree with Baxter that the Elgin marbles should go back to Greece. However, the adoption of this issue by the EU as part of its negotiations with us is ludicrous, and clearly hasn't been thought through. For Barnier and co to clutch at such tactics exposes their desperation.
David Dunbar
Broadway, Gloucestershire

Off target on Lords reform

Your lead story ("House of Lords expenses spiral out of control", News, last week) was misleading. Your claim that "peers paid themselves almost one-third more last year" neglected one important fact. The 2017 general election meant that the house sat for only 129 days in 2017-18. This rose by 25% to 161 days in 2018-19 as the parliamentary calendar returned to relative normality.

Moreover, adding travel expenses to allowances and comparing this with MPs' salaries is unfair. Money reimbursed for travel enables members from all parts of the United Kingdom to get to Westminster but does not constitute an income.

Peers claim an allowance for attending the house on sitting days only provided they have undertaken parliamentary work. Let me emphasise that I do not and will not defend peers who make little or no contribution to the house and continue to claim allowances. They are very much a minority, but there is no place for this in what is first and foremost a legislature.

Looking to the future, there is widespread agreement that the Lords is too large. That is why, as long ago as 2016, I set up a special committee to examine how its membership could be reduced. It recommended that there should be a cap on numbers at 600 and 15-year term limits for new members. These and other proposals were initiatives of the House of Lords itself, not the government.

Since that report we have voluntarily reduced the size of the house, but if rumours are to be believed about the forthcoming list, this progress will be wiped out as numbers will swell to almost 850.

In July 2019, on the eve of his election as leader of the Conservative Party and prime minister, Boris Johnson wrote to me saying Lords reform would not be a priority for his government. That position is no longer sustainable. The prime minister would do well to look once again at the "oven-ready" solution proposed by the Lords itself.
Lord Fowler, Lord Speaker
House of Lords, London SW1

Moving house
In a paper for Bright Blue Scotland last year, I proposed a senate to replace the existing House of Lords. It would be predominantly directly elected and would provide representation for the disparate parts of the UK.

This idea seems to have broad cross-party support, featuring in recent comments made by Gordon Brown. The experience of federal constitutions elsewhere would help inform how a senate would operate – but it should not threaten the legislative supremacy of the House of Commons.
Murdo Fraser
Conservative MSP for Mid Scotland & Fife

Expense shame
I used to work for a charity that had strict rules about expenses. If in doubt, we used to picture the man or woman in the street who had made a donation from their hard-earned income, and decide if our claim could be justified to them.

Perhaps the Lords should try this. I can guess what most taxpayers would say.
Nichola Hugill
Kirdford, West Sussex

Badger versus hedgehog

Rosamund Urwin's thought-provoking article on using hedgehogs as an indicator of the health of our wildlife (News, last week) ignores a black-and-white elephant in the room. There has been an 88% increase in the UK badger population since the 1980s. Badgers have a similar diet to hedgehogs – such as insects and worms – and, being bigger and stronger, outcompete them. They also eat hedgehogs.

The explosion in badger numbers coincides with, and may be a significant factor in, the collapse of the hedgehog population.
Gordon Johnson Houghton
Sudbury, Suffolk

Brock horror
You succumb to current cant when you put down the loss of hedgehogs to the use of insecticides. I have seen only one in the past 20 years here in Powys. No insecticides are used anywhere near – but there are hundreds of badgers. They eat hedgehogs, but no one says so, from fear of offending the eco-loons.
Helen Lewis, Machynlleth

The west is another country

Your articles on the UK's depressed regions (News and Editorial, last week) prove their own point by neglecting the 3 million people who live in the 200-mile stretch of Britain beyond Bristol. Here are some of the poorest coastal and former mining areas in Europe, with services far behind those of the southeast and the much-heralded north of England.

Many businesses are threatened, many villages deserted – except a few weeks a year, when they are filled by the city-dwelling second-home-owners who have priced locals out of the market. Yet the government builds HS2 to serve cities that, although further away, have faster trains to London than Plymouth or Exeter already.

There used to be a graffito on a rock beside the A30 in Cornwall: "Mining's gone, fishing's gone, farming's gone – back to smuggling". I used to think it was funny. It isn't any more. It's getting truer every year.
Richard Giles
Lympstone, Devon

Autistic stereotypes

We were deeply disappointed to read Camilla Long's flippant remark about autism in her TV review of Hunters (Culture, last week). We know she has an outspoken style, but her reference to an "autistic way of strutting" was offensive and damaging.

Autistic people routinely face judgmental attitudes based on misunderstandings of autism. Phrases such as this really don't help – instead they risk reinforcing negative stereotypes. All of us, but particularly commentators, have the power to shape public understanding of autism. We must use this for good.
Jane Harris
National Autistic Society

BIRTHDAYS

Thomas Adès, composer, 49
Javier Bardem, actor, 51
Harry Belafonte, singer and activist, 93
Justin Bieber, singer, 26
Jim Crace, novelist, 74
Roger Daltrey, singer, 76
Jack Davenport, actor, 47
Denis Mukwege, gynaecologist and Nobel peace prize-winner, 65
Lupita Nyong'o, actress, 37



Lupita Nyong'o is 37 today

ANNIVERSARIES

1692 Salem witch trials begin when magistrates interrogate three women
1954 Klaus Fuchs jailed for 14 years for passing nuclear secrets to Soviet Union
1973 Palestinian group Black September storm Saudi embassy in Sudan

POINTS

Disorderly conduct
Your Whitehall source says we have "government by ADHD" (News, last week). Given the creativity, energy and sharp focus that ADHD brings, it is clear that this is not so. Such a government would be considerably more effective.
Charlie Eckton
Plumpton Green, East Sussex

Misfortune teller
Surely if Andrew Sabisky is such a "super-predictor" (News Review, last week), he should have foreseen the inevitable outcome of making public his unacceptable opinions about eugenics.
Mike Barclay
Penn, Buckinghamshire

Beeb sting
Like many others, I am often irritated by the BBC's smugness and box-ticking political correctness (Letters, last week). Yet it is still the finest broadcasting institution in the world. In any case, if it irritates Dominic Cummings and his ilk, it must be doing a good job.
Colin Jordan, London W4

Writer's breeze block
I couldn't agree more with Roland White about big-name authors writing very fat books (News Review, last week). I have just finished *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson. I don't think an editor had been anywhere near it, alas.
Jean Buxton, Exeter

Chores truly
I read India Knight's article on gender equality over domestic chores with a mixture of irritation and sadness (Magazine, last week). How easy it is to insist on tit for tat when everyone is functioning normally. My husband was rendered wheelchair-bound by a spinal cord tumour 35 years ago. Where does that leave the tidy rationale of equality? It leaves me doing it all – but what a privilege it is to serve and bless another human being.
Vivien Cosh
Southbourne, Dorset

Milky why
Kent Brooks (Letters, last week) says of the Earth that humans "are not the main purpose of its existence". It is humans who have a concept of purpose. Without them it is not clear how the Earth can be said to have one at all.
Andrew Whiteley
Consett, Co Durham

Claims eggs-aggerated
Rod Liddle's assertion that Easter egg hunts at our properties would be "no more from 2021" was a bit scrambled. This year will be our last with Cadbury, but that doesn't mean we are removing Easter activities or chocolate. We have a British producer that supplies us with chocolate all year round, in all shapes, including eggs – and we look forward to welcoming thousands of visitors to enjoy them this Easter.
Sharon Pickford
National Trust

Letters should arrive by midday on Thursday and include the full address and a phone number. We may edit letters, which must be exclusive to The Sunday Times

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

ipso Regulated

Our article "House of Lords expenses spiral out of control" (News, last week) stated that Lord Cunningham was not a member of any House of Lords committees. In fact he was a member of three committees during the 2017-19 session. It also stated that the Lords voted in February to award themselves a 3.1% pay rise. No such vote took place, as the Lords' attendance allowance was indexed to MPs' pay in 2018. We apologise for the errors.

Complaints about inaccuracies in all sections of The Sunday Times should be addressed to complaints@sunday-times.co.uk or Complaints, The Sunday Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.

In addition, the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ipso) will examine formal complaints about the editorial content of UK newspapers and magazines.

Please go to our website for full details of how to lodge a complaint.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ONLINE

Your comments from thesundaytimes.co.uk

Should MI5 trust Priti Patel? Most of you don't think so. We reported claims that the security services had reduced the volume of intelligence they share with the home secretary, and the hundreds of comments below were not supportive. "She had unauthorised meetings with a foreign power," said **Robert Smith**, referring to her contact with Israeli officials in 2017. "She shouldn't be trusted with her job, never mind anything else." They weren't very respectful, either. "Shouldn't her department be working to give her more intelligence, not less?" asked **Andrew R**. "It seems, from all accounts, that this is one area in which she is particularly lacking."

The only people with less support than Patel seemed to be the inhabitants of the House of Lords, the costs of which rose sharply last year. "At least the royal family contributes tourism dollars to the public purse. These parasites contribute nothing," said **Astral**. "It's a retirement home for former MPs," said **Crab**. "Look at how Bercow demands to be let in. MPs should be excluded from the Lords. If they want to stay in parliament, they should remain an MP – at the electorate's choice."

Civil servants have been instructed to keep the PM's briefing papers to four pages, we reported. "Very sensible," said **chiaramonti**. "Churchill demanded similar brevity, and he was right. Undue prolixity is a modern-day curse." Enough said.

Finally, we reported that "boys' toys" such as Lego fostered a better sense of direction in later life. "Tosh," said **Sal**. "I had a huge box of Lego and played with it more than any other toy. I was a Brownie and Guide, doing orienteering for skills badges. I have an appalling sense of direction, always have had. I was born this way, and I will die this way . . . probably lost somewhere."

Stephen Bleach

READERS' POLL

Last week we asked:
Should the House of Lords be abolished?

YES 68% — **NO** 32%

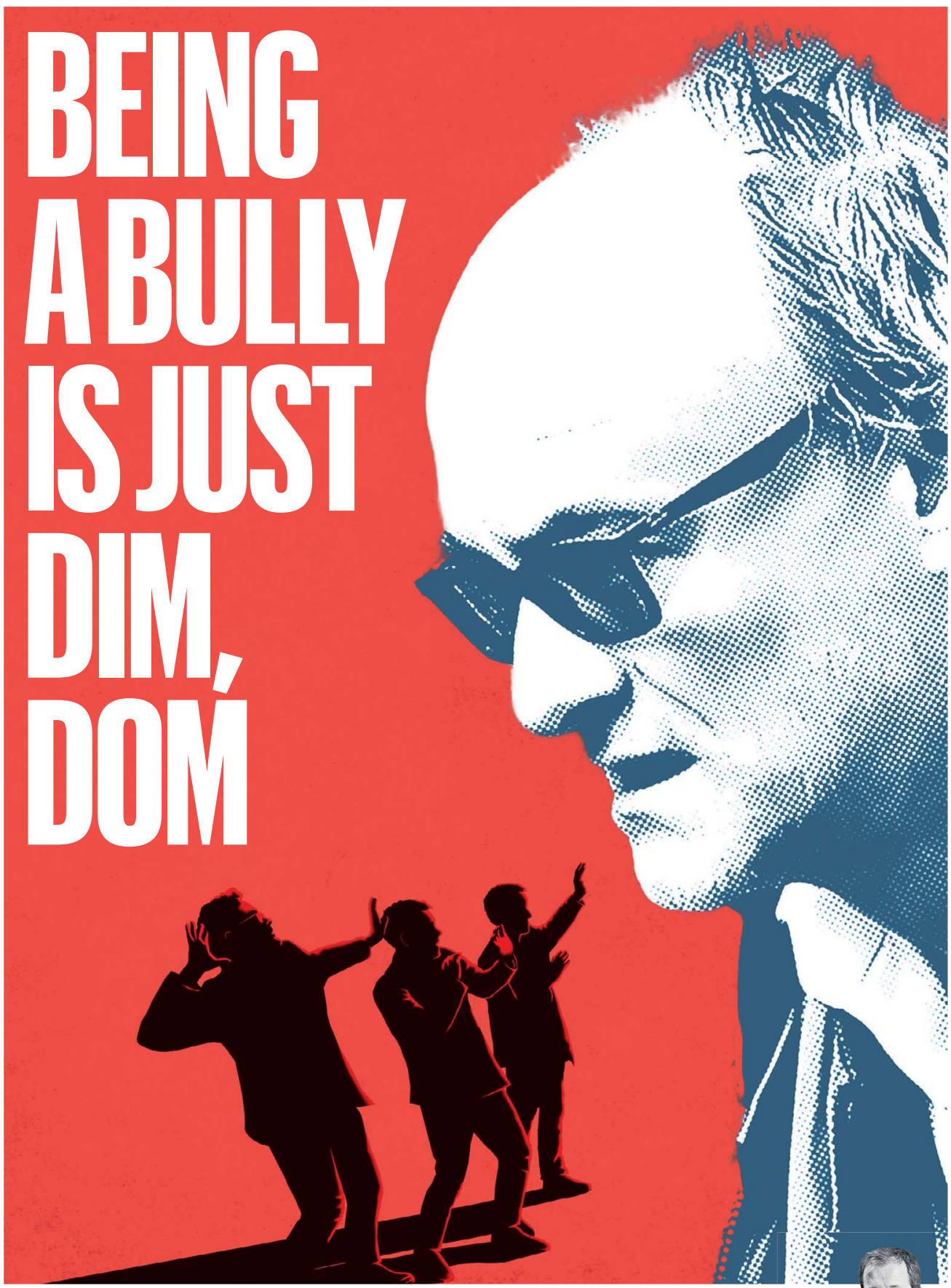
From a poll of 4,444 Times and Sunday Times readers

This week's question:
Is the government doing enough to stop the spread of the coronavirus in the UK?
Cast your vote at sundaytimes.co.uk/poll

NEWS REVIEW

PUZZLES
CROSSWORDS
SUDOKU & MORE
PAGES 28-29

BEING A BULLY IS JUST DIM, DOM



Like Dominic Cummings, *Alastair Campbell* was a control freak in Downing Street. But you can't build a winning team by belittling colleagues, he writes



'Campbell warns Cummings bullying will backfire" the headline of this piece could have read. I have enough self-awareness to know, however, that "pot, kettle, black" will feature among the responses. After all, I was Rasputin once, and Machiavelli. I was Goebbels too. Indeed, at one point I even got Hitler.

It wasn't long ago that journalists were happy to level the charge of bullying and intimidation at me, usually with precious little evidence, and MPs on select committees were keen to have me before them to face that charge. (Unlike Dominic Cummings, I attended, and did not put myself in contempt of parliament.) I can think of two occasions when I went over the top with individual journalists – in both cases I apologised – and one incident when I lost it with a civil servant. It was during the foot-and-mouth epidemic of 2001 and he was not exactly operating at the pace the crisis demanded.

One thing I am proud of, however, is that of the many people who took to print and the airwaves to condemn me, none worked directly for me or was in daily professional contact with me. I don't get the sense that Cummings can say the same thing. Getting an armed police officer to march a special adviser out of the door and out of her job, as he is alleged to have done to Sonia Khan when he suspected she had been talking to her former boss, Philip Hammond; or saying to a team of special advisers, "I'll see half of you next week", are not the acts of a team leader keen on building loyalty, but of a tyrant desperate to shout: "I am bigger than you."

There is a reason details seep out to the media about his threats and his contempt for all but a chosen few. It is that people are entitled to expect basic professionalism and courtesy in the workplace. When decent norms are challenged for no apparent gain, word will get out. Yes, politics is a tough, pressured environment. The stakes are high. Stress levels are high. But there is no reason civil servants and special advisers should not be treated with respect and made to feel part of a team working towards the same goals.

In any workplace, but especially such a challenging one, there will be strains, and sometimes people will struggle, not least with their mental health. If it is true that Cummings said that advisers who are overwhelmed by personal issues – such as bereavement or stress – should think about leaving, then that is not just troubling and offensive but discriminatory. As with the Khan incident, which is now the subject of an unfair-dismissal case, it is almost certainly on the wrong side of employment law. If it is true that Priti Patel does not believe in the rule of law, we can see where the home secretary might be getting her lead.

For a permanent secretary to resign and sue for constructive dismissal, as Sir Philip Rutman announced yesterday, is a real indictment of Patel. He is as professional a civil servant as you could hope for, but he spoke of his treatment being "part of a wider pattern in government". And we know who designed that pattern: Cummings. It is why he cannot last. This is not a Benedict Cumberbatch movie. It is a real government being damaged, and when that happens, the real lives of those it is there to serve get damaged.

I had a few rules underpinning my modus operandi, and one was "maximum openness for maximum trust". Another thing about which I can look back on my time in Downing Street with satisfaction is how infrequently details of my morning meetings with advisers leaked. When it did happen, it was usually because of difficulties higher up the food chain. There were a couple of occasions when I told Gordon Brown I did not trust the people he was sending to the meeting, and usually we managed to sort things out. Fall-outs and difficulties happen in any organisation. The question is whether you resolve or fuel them.

There are two main reasons, other than the law, why bullying, and the creation of a culture of fear, are bad. First, it is morally wrong. Second, it is really, really stupid. When he was elected in 1997, Tony Blair gave a little pep talk to me and the chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, the two special advisers authorised to give directions to civil servants. "Work with them, not against them," was the message. At my first meeting with the cabinet secretary, Sir Robin Butler, I asked if I had the authority to make changes to the government's communications and strategic systems. Yes, he said; as long as I was clear about the reasons, and did not expect them to engage in anything party-political, they were expecting change.

Tony's instruction was not merely the product of good manners and a desire for harmony. He knew that, though ministers and special advisers would be the main drivers of reform, the civil service was essential to its successful implementation. As in any walk of life, there are good, bad and indifferent in Whitehall, hard-working and lazy, confident and shy, innovative and staid. But in the main, at all levels they provided excellent support for a government with a broad and radical agenda, and many were truly exceptional people, some of the cleverest and hardest-working I have met.

Cummings has gone into Downing Street determined to resurrect the battle he and the then education secretary, Michael Gove, launched against what they called "the blob". This meant anyone who did not sign up with enthusiasm to the totality of their agenda. He lost that battle, and lost his job, when David Cameron decided the deliberate creation of enemies had gone too far, without any real gain. I note "the blob" made a return last week, being blamed for the war of words that has erupted around the manner and methods of Patel.

A few years ago, this paper serialised a book I wrote, *Winners and How They Succeed*, which examined high achievers in sport, business and politics to see whether there were general lessons for all. That Cummings is a winner, when measured by strategies for the 2016 referendum and last year's election, is clear (though it helps when your opponents are so poor).

But if campaigns are hard, then government is even harder, and it is obvious he is not making the transition well. One lesson from *Winners* was that building teams is a vital part of leadership. Even stars of individual sports – golfers, swimmers and tennis players – would talk about the importance of the team that made everything tick for them, maximising their potential. The ability to work together is self-evidently even more obvious in team sports, and in collective endeavours such as politics and government. I never met anyone who built a great team and, when asked how, said: "I treated everyone like shit."

Jürgen Klopp has not turned Liverpool into one of the greatest football teams to play the game by undermining, running down or demoralising players and staff. The French rugby coach, Fabien Galthié, has not turned his young squad into what looks like being Six Nations champions by telling them they are not a patch on England or Ireland.

In Cummings's defence, reforming the civil service makes sense: by adapting to technological change, making better use of outside expertise, or, as the former cabinet secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood was trying to do, increasing diversity. However, constantly attacking civil servants as a "roadblock to reform" does not, since you need them to implement any reforms you have in mind. Properly led, fairly engaged, they will do so. I remember during the peace process civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office joking that if things worked out they would be out of work once power was devolved. But still they worked their hearts out to make that happen.

"Work with them, not against them," Tony said, and there is another good reason why. The Northcote-Trevelyan reforms of 1854 were designed to prevent corruption and jobbery, and ensure an impartial civil service. That is why Cummings may find it harder than he thinks to swamp Whitehall with his weirdos and misfits, because recruitment is regulated by the independent Civil Service Commission. Also, it is not wise to make your first big weirdo hire a racist, sexist eugenicist; you didn't have to be a superforecaster to see that one ending in tears.

Once more in Cummings's defence, there is also a perfectly respectable case for seeking closer co-operation between No10 and No11, and merging some aspects of the Treasury with the Cabinet Office, along the lines of the Office of Management and Budget, which prepares the US president's budget proposals and scrutinises the efficiency of other agencies in the administration. But I fear that trying to control the Treasury as a whole, with one set of special advisers for both No 10 and its next-door neighbour – which led to Sajid Javid's resignation as chancellor – will not work.

While the difficulties between Blair and Brown were a problem at times (see diaries, volumes 1-7), you need a bit of creative tension between No10 and the Treasury or you sink into very sterile, and dangerous, mono-thinking. I, like Cummings, was a control freak, in that I wanted us to be driving the agenda. But that is not the same thing as thinking that in the internal debate there can be only one view, and the holders of other views must be marginalised or damaged.

It is remarkable to have got this far in a piece about Downing Street without yet mentioning Boris Johnson. Whatever power a special adviser has is entirely dependent on his or her minister. So we have to assume, for now, that Johnson is happy with the way Cummings operates; happy with the culture of fear, even when it leads to the cabinet secretary having to step in and urge ministers, civil servants and special advisers – he means you, Mr Cummings, and you, Mrs Patel – to apply "candour, confidentiality and courtesy" in their dealings with each other.

We have to assume Johnson is happy with the studied scruffiness, the silly hats and scarves and the backside hanging out of jeans, because Cummings wants to say, "I'm different, and I can," even if everyone else sees it as disrespectful of the office of the boss he is there to serve. That Johnson is happy to have the world think he is some kind of non-executive chairman hanging out in grace-and-favour country homes, and Cummings the real chief executive. Happy even for his adviser to be getting more media coverage than his ministers, and for none of those ministers to be appearing on any media outlet against which said adviser is pursuing a childish vendetta.

It is also remarkable that Johnson has gone from campaign omnipresence to government near invisibility. That Cummings has largely filled the gap strikes me as an accident waiting to happen, rather than the considered strategic choice of a prime minister who knows what he wants to do with the job he spent his entire adult life hoping one day to have. He might be advised to follow another of my little Downing Street rules: "Get a grip." (Pre-"grip" F-word optional.)

Alastair Campbell was Tony Blair's chief spokesman and strategist, 1994-2003, and Downing Street press secretary, 1997-2000



Two tickets to the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort for £20

Join us at the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort and start #buildingmemories with your family. With over 55 unmissable attractions, including the world's first DUPLO® Dino Coaster in DUPLO® Valley, there's something for everyone. Collect four unique codes in the paper between March 8-18, and book your tickets by April 15.

Collect your first code in The Sunday Times on March 8

LEGOLAND WINDSOR RESORT

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

Terms and conditions: Promotion closes 23:59 pm, April 15, 2020. Codes published in The Times and The Sunday Times between March 8, 2020 and March 18, 2020. Open to residents of the United Kingdom aged 18 or over only, except staff of the promoter, its affiliated companies or promotional partners or their families. One entry per person. Subject to availability on a first come, first served basis. There are 29,900 pairs of tickets available only (2,300 pairs of tickets available during school and bank holidays, 5,800 pairs of weekend tickets available). Blackout dates apply. No cash alternative and promotional items are non-transferable. Promoter and LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort reserve the right to refuse to accept your token[s] in accordance with the full T&Cs applicable to the promotion. Your information will only be used to administer this promotion in accordance with our privacy policy. Promoter is Times Newspapers Limited. Full T&Cs, privacy policy apply – see thetimes.co.uk/legoland. Promotion is also subject to Legoland's T&Cs – see legoland.co.uk/terms.



GRAHAM BARCLAY/MICHAEL STEPHENS

At 11am a butler offers cigars to anyone who can face one before lunch

The Barclay twins' home on Brecqhou, in the Channel Islands

NOTHING BUGS A BARCLAY QUITE LIKE HIS BILLIONAIRE BROTHER

A legal battle — and allegations of eavesdropping — show how money can tear the closest families apart, writes *John Arlidge*

What is it about the name Ritz that makes billionaires think it's just the place to settle family scores? Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman of Saudi Arabia imprisoned fellow royals in Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton at the end of 2017 in a crackdown on corruption. Now a family of British billionaires has chosen a gilt and rococo palace to get mad and get even.

The High Court heard last week that the Ritz in London had been bugged, allegedly to record the conversations of Sir Frederick Barclay, one of the 85-year-old billionaire twin brothers who own the hotel. Their other assets include The Daily and Sunday Telegraph newspapers.

An "elaborate system of covert recording" had been used to monitor conversations between Sir Frederick and his daughter, Amanda, 41, since September, the judge heard. Sir Frederick's nephew Alistair, his twin brother Sir David's son, is said to have been filmed in January "handling the bug placed in the conservatory", where his uncle liked to smoke cigars and chat – he thought – privately.

Sir Frederick and Amanda claim Alistair, 30, and Sir David's two other sons, Aidan, 64, and Howard, 60, who run the Barclays' sprawling business empire, and Aidan's son Andrew, 28, were parties to the recording. They are asking the court to force the alleged plotters to hand over "a wealth of confidential business information" in voice files, transcripts and encrypted WhatsApp group messages.

The bugging dispute has sparked speculation about the state of relations in the family and the financial health of their businesses. Sir Frederick and Sir David boast a combined wealth of £8bn, putting them 17th on The Sunday Times Rich List.

Many observers think the motive for the alleged eavesdropping may be related to Sir Frederick's divorce from his wife Hiroko, a Japanese heiress whose family opened some of the first Japanese restaurants in London in the 1960s. The couple have been married for 47 years and lawyers say Hiroko is in line for a hefty settlement – so hefty that Sir Frederick might have to sell some assets to pay it. Much of his wealth is tied up in the family business, and trusts and relatives fear that he may be tempted to try to offload assets cheaply, observers say.

Others close to the family say concerns about how best to trim the brothers' business empire are fuelling rows that have left them on non-speaking terms and seen Sir Frederick's name omitted from a headstone recently erected at the grave of their father in a west London cemetery. Aidan and Howard are rumoured to want to keep the Telegraph, partly for political influence, and sell the Ritz. Younger family members apparently regard the newspaper group as a "legacy asset" that has already lost a third of the amount that the family paid for it and should be dumped before it loses any more.

Few things threaten harmonious family life like shared business interests, as *Succession*, the hit HBO television drama, has shown. Brothers Adi and Rudi Dassler, who founded the Adidas and Puma sports brands respectively, were partners in one sports shoe business before a row turned them into professional rivals. In the media, Shari Redstone has battled her father, Sumner, 96, for control of Viacom and CBS. Gordon Ramsay fell out badly with his father-in-law Chris Hutcheson, who ran the chef's Gordon Ramsay Holdings business. Ramsay ended up firing Hutcheson – and, for good measure, exposing the latter's secret second family.

For the Barclays, who until recently appeared inseparable to the outside world, inheritance concerns may be making matters worse. Under family trust arrangements, Amanda is said to have little or no say in how Sir David's children run the family's businesses. She was dismissed as a director of six Ritz-related companies this year and replaced by Aidan and Howard. No family member has yet commented on any specific allegations, citing a desire for privacy.

The High Court claims are just the latest episode in one of the most remarkable business stories in recent decades. It has involved the reclusive twins, dozens of companies and tax havens on two continents, a rock star, London's most expensive hotels, a British budget retailer and a tiny Channel Island where feudalism is still alive, if not well.

Born to Scottish parents, the Barclay twins spent their early days in west London. After leaving school at 16, they both landed jobs in the accounts department of General Electric. From an early age they were inseparable and began to dress almost identically. The only way most people can tell them apart is by which side their hair is parted. Sir Frederick is said to favour the right and Sir David the left.

Those who have worked with them say their personalities are complementary. Sir David is optimistic and talkative while his brother is quieter and more prone to doubt. "It means they see all sides of a situation, which is rare in business," one associate says.

The pair teamed up in the 1960s to turn old boarding houses into hotels and moved into breweries. Their big break came with the 1983 purchase of Ellerman, a shipping-to-brewing conglomerate, for £45m. Five years later, they sold its brewing assets alone for £240m.

They used some of the proceeds to buy the Ritz for £75m in 1995 and went on to snap up a controlling stake in the Maybourne Group of luxury hotels, which boasts Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Connaught in London. After a protracted battle for control with Irish investors, which included a star turn by the U2 singer Bono, they sold out to the Emir of Qatar in a £2.4bn deal with his country's state-backed hotel investment company.

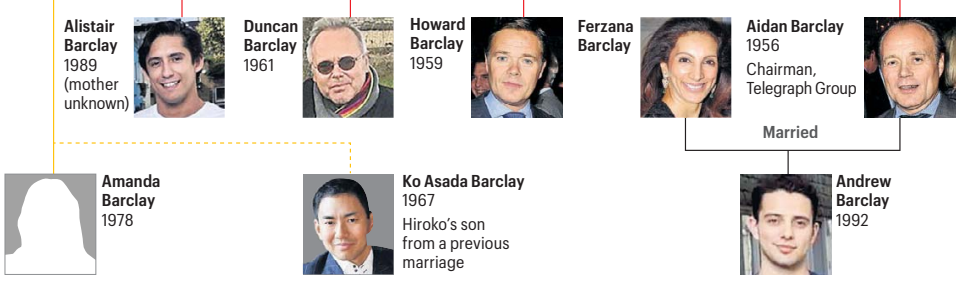
They moved into media in 1992 when they bought The European newspaper. In 1995 they snapped up The Scotsman and, in 2004, the Telegraph Group for £665m. In the 1990s they created Shop Direct, via a merger of the retailer Littlewoods, bought for £750m, and mail-order business GUS, which cost £590m. The budget retailer is now part of the Very group. The delivery business Yodel was spun out of Shop Direct.

To add to two mansions in Belgravia worth an estimated £75m, homes in Monaco, where each brother also berths a superyacht, the twins bought the 80-acre island of Brecqhou for £2.3m in 1993 and built a 92-room castle designed by Quinlan Terry. The banqueting room is said to be more than 250ft long with a gold-leaf ceiling. Cups and glasses used to serve drinks are decorated with the gilt initials D&F. Visitors report that at 11am on the dot a butler wearing white gloves appears with a humidor to offer cigars to anyone who can stomach one before lunch.

The choice of Brecqhou embroiled the Barclays in a seemingly never-ending battle with islanders on neighbouring Sark over the brothers' desire to change its feudal system of governance to make it, in their eyes, more democratic. Sarkees accuse Kevin Delaney, who represents the Barclays' interests on the island, of using a local newsletter he publishes as a "bullying mouthpiece" for the twins.

Bloodline can make the bottom line, as the Barclays know to their benefit, but it can also break the bottom line, as they are finding out. Their only comfort is the decision by one newspaper loftily to rise above the "tittle tattle" and not cover the High Court proceedings: The Daily Telegraph, which is distributed free in the Ritz. Ownership has its benefits.





FAKE NEWS IS THE VIRUS THAT COULD MAKE THIS OUTBREAK WORSE

A lack of information contributed to the spread of 'Spanish flu' a century ago. Disinformation is the modern threat, writes *Laura Spinney*, an expert on the deadly 1918 pandemic

Just over 100 years ago, the so-called Spanish flu killed an estimated 50 million people, in probably the worst pandemic the world has seen. It erupted in the northern hemisphere spring of 1918 and circled the globe over the next three years.

Only the most isolated places escaped and in general the poorest countries suffered most. India, for example, is estimated to have lost 18 million to the disease – roughly the death toll of the entire First World War. One in every four women who died in Paris worked as a maid.

The coronavirus outbreak is still not a pandemic, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), but we should prepare for it to become one. There are many ways in which today's world is more pandemic-proof than that of 1918. We know far more about viruses, for example, which is why a Covid-19 vaccine could be in human trials as early as April. We have antiviral drugs to treat those infected, and antibiotics for treating bacterial complications.

These drugs had not been invented in 1918, and most doctors didn't even realise they were dealing with a virus – believing that a bacterium was responsible. The vast majority of those 50 million deaths occurred in the 13 weeks between the middle of September and the middle of December 1918. Most were caused by bacterial pneumonia – a complication of patients' underlying flu.

Pandemics tend to grow exponentially to begin with, then to peak and burn out – like a fire that starts in a dry forest and uses up all the fuel. A pandemic will recede even if humans don't intervene, in other words, because the bug that causes them either kills those it infects or leaves them more or less immune. The 1918 flu ran its natural course, in much of the world, because many doctors and governments were close to helpless against it.

That's not the case today. Though there have been more than 80,000 cases of Covid-19 infection globally and about 2,800 deaths, a joint WHO-China mission reported last week that the rate of new cases in China peaked at about the end of January and has been declining since then.

If that's true, it means the herculean efforts of the Chinese to contain the virus have had a significant impact, and that even if the outbreak becomes a pandemic, it will probably be smaller – in terms of the number of infections and deaths – than it would have been had they not made those efforts. Time is of the essence where outbreaks of infectious disease are concerned, because of that exponential early growth. If you can slow it down, you buy valuable time for as yet unaffected regions to mobilise their public health defences.

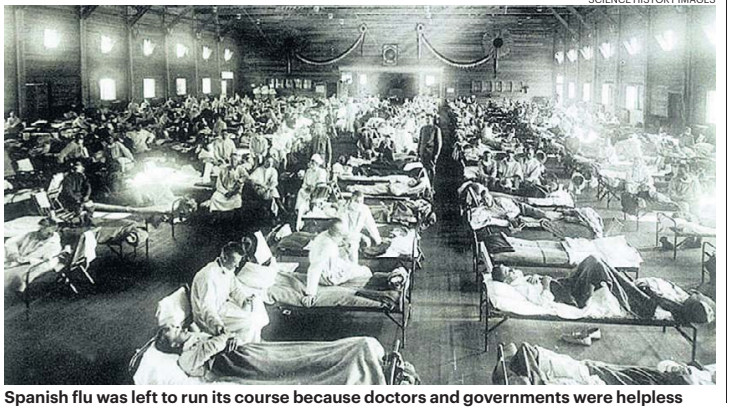
Despite the last century's advances we remain vulnerable to global catastrophes of the kind that struck in 1918. Some of our vulnerabilities are new: we are better connected than we were then, for example, meaning that a virus that might have taken months to circle the globe in 1918 – at the speed of a steamship – can do so in weeks or days.

Another challenge, then and now, is information, or the lack of it. Public health experts know that mandatory health measures tend to be counterproductive in all but the most serious situations: governments' and the WHO's most effective weapon against contagion is people's voluntary compliance. But people won't trust or comply unless they are properly informed.

In 1918, wartime censorship hampered efforts to contain the flu. The name the Spanish flu came about because warring nations that had the disease before Spain kept that information out of their newspapers, to avoid damaging morale, while neutral Spain reported its outbreak as it happened.

We don't have wartime censorship today, but we do have a problem with fake news, which – in its scale and speed of transmission – is unprecedented. It doesn't help that, for younger generations not used to paying for their news, much accurate information is hidden behind paywalls, while fake news is free. The extent to which fake news takes hold over the coming weeks could well shape how effectively the world responds to Covid-19, as the focus of that response shifts from containment in China to community mitigation, maintaining functioning health systems and keeping people onside.

The WHO knows this, which is why it has set up a web page busting the myths about Covid-19. If we all tuned into that still small voice of calm, washed our hands more often and stayed at home when ill, we might realise that whether the WHO calls this global health emergency a pandemic or not doesn't matter. We can still stop it becoming a catastrophe.



SCIENCE HISTORY IMAGES

Spanish flu was left to run its course because doctors and governments were helpless

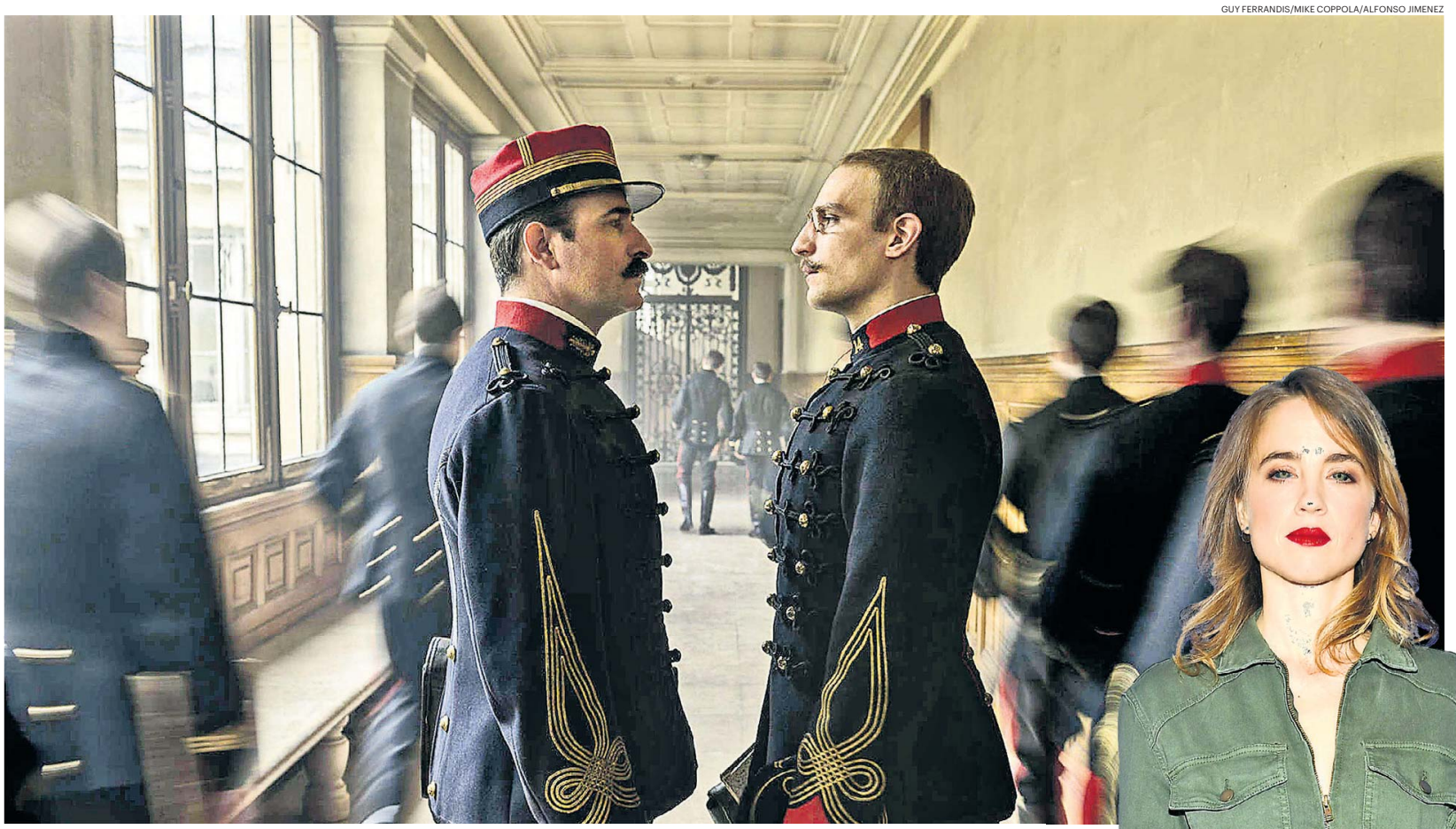
Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How it Changed the World, by Laura Spinney, is published by Jonathan Cape

THE MOVIE FRANCE IS FLOCKING TO SEE – BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO

Roman Polanski's new film isn't coming to a cinema near you. Whose work will be censored next, asks *Peter Conradi*



GUY FERRANDIS/MIKE COPPOLA/ALFONSO JIMENEZ



For a film already into its 16th week of release, it was not a bad turnout for a wet afternoon in Paris. Last Wednesday, at a cinema on the Boulevard St-Germain, a few dozen people sat down to watch *An Officer and a Spy*, Roman Polanski's take on one of the most notorious *affaires* in French history.

Based on Robert Harris's book of the same name, the film tells of the scandal that engulfed the country in the last two decades of the 19th century over the framing of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of spying simply because he was a Jew, and the quest of Colonel Georges Picquart, the courageous head of army intelligence, to prove his innocence.

More than 1.5 million people have seen the film in France alone – where it is known as *J'accuse*, after the open letter written by the novelist Emile Zola in defence of the accused – and it has been shown in cinemas across Europe, from Portugal to Poland. It has gone down well with the critics too: at Friday night's Césars in Paris – the Gallic equivalent of the Oscars – Polanski was controversially named best director, though he was not present at the Salle Pleyel concert hall to savour his triumph.

The announcement at the end of January that Polanski's film had received 12 nominations provoked a massive row that ended with the resignation of the entire French film academy, which runs the Césars. Its head, Alain Terzian, had justified its choice by saying the academy "should not take moral positions" about



An Officer and a Spy, above, drew protests at the César awards on Friday night, left. Among Polanski's critics is the actress Adèle Haenel, right

giving awards, but his situation quickly became untenable and he was gone, too.

After a few false starts, the #MeToo movement, it seems, has finally reached France and the director, who fled California to avoid jail for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl, is in the firing line.

Nor should you expect to see *An Officer and a Spy* any time soon in a multiplex near you: the film is not being shown in Britain, America or almost anywhere else in the English-speaking world. A decade ago Polanski's last significant film, *The Ghost* – another collaboration with Harris – was screened on both sides of the Atlantic. In today's #MeToo climate, distributors, it would seem, are not prepared to risk touching the 86-year-old director's work.

Once more, it raises the question of whether, as the poet TS Eliot argued, films and other artworks should be seen as "autonomous" and judged in isolation from the activities of their creator.

The question is particularly pertinent following Harvey Weinstein's conviction for rape last week. There have been no serious calls to stay away from the many films he financed – but, then, he was a producer rather than a director.

Woody Allen, although never charged with, let alone convicted of, any crime, has not been treated the same way. After striking box-office gold with a string of films – from *Annie Hall* and *Manhattan* in the late 1970s to *Midnight in Paris* at the start of the last decade, he has struggled in recent years in the Anglosphere because of a renewed focus on claims by his adopted daughter Dylan Farrow, 34, that he sexually assaulted her when she was seven – a claim Allen has denied. And then there is Polanski.

Understandably enough, Harris, who has known the French-born director for years, is in no doubt where he stands on the boycott. "I believe strongly that people in a free society have a right to see a movie if they want to, regardless of who made it, and I hope they will get the chance to see this one, both here and in America," he said last week.

That is also the position adopted by the French artistic establishment, which rallied behind Polanski even as his film's launch last November was overshadowed by another *J'accuse* – this time from Valentine Monnier, 63, a French photographer, who claimed to have been raped by him at the director's Swiss ski chalet in 1975 when she was an 18-year-old actress and model. Polanski has denied her allegations.

Feminist groups responded by protesting outside box offices, but most film-goers pushed past them. Polanski has also attracted some high-level backers, among them Edouard Philippe, the prime minister, who vowed to take his children to see what he heard was "a good film", even though several of his female colleagues begged to differ.

Yet even in France the mood is beginning to change amid a wave of scandals in recent months. The author Gabriel Matzneff, 83, who wrote blithely for decades about his predilection for young girls and even younger boys, was finally charged last month with promoting the sexual abuse of children. A spate of equally tawdry tales also emerged in the world of ice skating and other sports.

> **Distributors, it would seem, are not prepared to risk touching the 86-year-old director's work**

Polanski, meanwhile, has not helped himself. He announced he would be staying away from the awards, claiming activists were threatening him with a "public lynching". "What place can there be in such deplorable conditions for a film about the defence of truth, the fight for justice, blind hate and anti-semitism?" he added.

Such attempts by the director to compare his own treatment with the very real punishment meted out to Dreyfus – who spent five years on Devil's Island and another seven trying to clear his name – has only further infuriated his critics.

Adèle Haenel, the French star of *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, claimed in an interview with *The New York Times* that rewarding him for his work was "tantamount to spitting in the face of all victims. It means raping women isn't that bad."

Haenel's views have been given greater force by her own experience of abuse: days before Polanski launched *An Officer and a Spy*, the former child actor rocked the French film world by accusing the director Christophe Ruggia of sexually harassing her from the age of 12 until she was 15. Ruggia, who was formally indicted in January, initially denied the accusations but later asked the actress for forgiveness.

Haenel, in the audience on Friday night, walked out of the ceremony in protest at Polanski's award, which was greeted with only mild applause – in contrast to the loud cheers for Ladj Ly's *Les Misérables*, a tale of immigrants in the banlieues of Paris, which won best film. (*An Officer and a Spy* also picked up two other Césars.) Earlier, police fired tear gas at protesters who tore down security barriers outside the Salle Pleyel and tried to force their way on to the red carpet.

One of the few public figures to speak out in favour of the director was Brigitte Bardot, herself no stranger to controversy, who tweeted: "We should be thankful that Polanski is alive and saving French cinema from mediocrity. I judge him by his talent, not his private life."

If you want to do the same, you will have to travel all the way to Paris to do so – but *An Officer and a Spy* could well be worth the trip.

@Peter_Conradi

MAKING AN ART OF BRUSHES WITH THE LAW

Courtroom artist Priscilla Coleman has spent years drawing people in the dock — Julian Assange was a 'babe-magnet', she tells *Jenny Coad*

Priscilla Coleman has captured everyone, from politicians and celebrities to tax dodgers, terrorists and serial killers. Last week the courtroom artist was at Woolwich crown court in London to cover the extradition hearing of the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who faces espionage and computer hacking charges in America.

The busy, aggressive and angry crowd outside reminded her, she says, of the depictions of hell painted by Hieronymus Bosch.

She has drawn Assange before: last year, when he appeared at Westminster magistrates' court after his arrest, sporting a man-bun and an air of insouciance. Now he has lost weight and looks better. "He was scruffy and getting puffy, but he's really a good-looking guy – a babe magnet," she says.

Coleman, who is in her sixties, came to her profession by accident. Originally from Texas, she grew up watching her fashion illustrator mother paint and went on to study fine art and graphics at Sam Houston State University in the "prison city" of Huntsville.

While there, her tutor put her forward to work as an illustrator for a trial in the court on campus. The case was against Houston police officers who had been charged with murder. "It was fun and fast – I really liked the pace", she recalls.

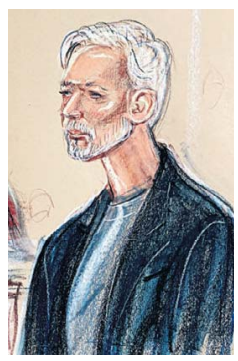
Based in Britain since 1987, she is one of a small group of artists leading this unique field that is overwhelmingly dominated by women.

Katie McCurrach, curator at the House of Illustration gallery in King's Cross, London, who is working on an exhibition to which Coleman is contributing, says that "in my own research [which has been limited to the UK] I have not found any male courtroom artists".

Coleman thinks men are often put off by the freelance lifestyle and the erratic nature of the work. But the buzz of it and working so quickly – and her love of faces – is recompense. "You turn your sensitivity off when you do this job," she says. "Families who have been involved in horrific things are crying. I can hear it but I try not to let it click into my brain."

©PRISCILLA COLEMAN/MB MEDIA





Priscilla Coleman's illustrations of Rose West, above, and Julian Assange

You have to be fairly hardy to view criminals dispassionately and Coleman has depicted the worst: Ian Huntley, Fred and Rose West, Harold Shipman, Abu Hamza al-Masri and the child killers of two-year-old James Bulger.

"Sometimes I do think this is the weirdest situation," she says of the criminals she has observed. "The Bulger killers looked like chalk and cheese – one [Jon Venables] looked sweet and kept crying. The other [Robert Thompson] looked as tough as a boot. He'd yawn and mouth the words, 'I'm bored.'"

How far from the truth that impression has turned out to be, she reflects. Venables was jailed in 2018 for 40 months for possessing indecent images of children.

In England and Wales you're not allowed to make even the loosest sketch in court. Rolf Harris got into trouble for drawing during his trial, Coleman recalls, and had to hand his doodlings over to the judge.

Instead, artists must commit faces, expressions and gestures to memory and recreate them later under the pressure of a deadline. Coleman has worked in the ladies' lavatories at the High Court, in the basement of a hairstylist near Highbury Corner magistrates' court and, during one case, in a nearby cemetery. "You just find a perch that's out of the way. Sometimes you just have to hit the floor and start drawing."

When sent to sketch Margaret Thatcher during the Tory leadership challenge in 1990, she had only the time it took Thatcher to walk in, vote and walk out of the House of Commons – where photography is restricted – to get an impression. "She had good legs," Coleman recalls.

Depicting a well-known face is especially challenging because the public are so familiar with them. Take the criticism of the Harvey Weinstein courtroom drawings by New York artist Jane Rosenberg. The producer looks fatter and not entirely himself compared with photographs of him. "His face doesn't look like him," Coleman agrees.

Aide-memoires are helpful. When she drew Naomi Campbell in 2002, she wished she had had one of the model's Vogue covers in her handbag. Her position gives her access to people in their most unguarded moments. She thinks she saw Campbell calling the prosecution's barrister an "arsehole" under her breath.

All of the trials stay with her. Her worst case? She says she will never forget the 1979 retrial of Elmer Wayne Henley, an accomplice to the serial killer Dean Corll, who murdered and tortured at least 28 boys in Houston.

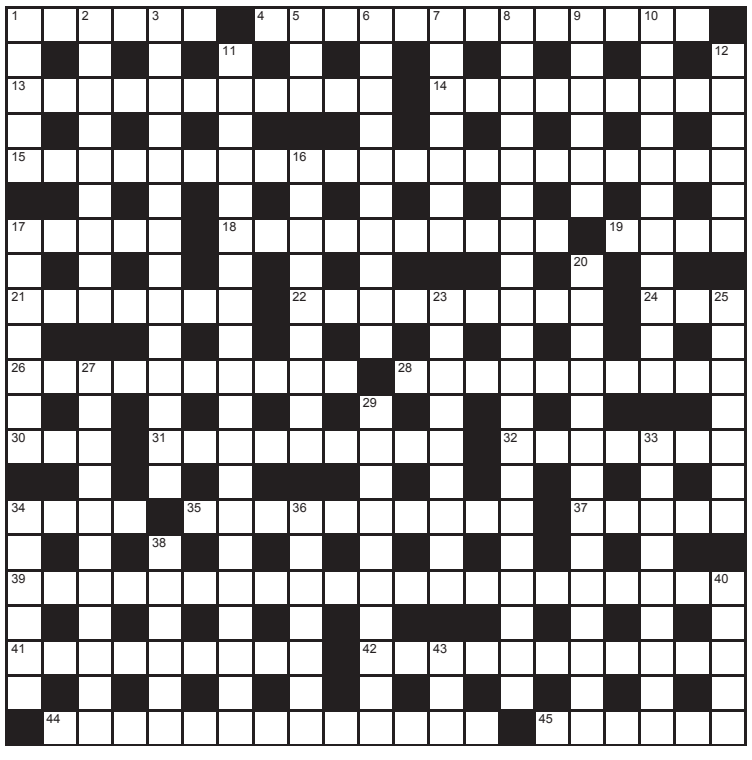
Henley's mother sat behind Coleman in court and asked if she would draw her with her sons. Coleman felt sorry for her and unable to refuse, and delivered it to their dilapidated house in Houston Heights. "She had such pale eyes – so did Elmer Wayne," she recalls. Henley later wrote and thanked her for being kind to his mother. "Some people think I'm all bad, but I hope there is a bit of good in me," he said.

Forensic Art: Illustrating Justice runs from May 22 to September 20 (houseofillustration.org.uk)

PUZZLES

FEEDBACK Comments about our puzzles can be sent to puzzle.feedback@sunday-times.co.uk or Puzzles Editor, The Sunday Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE JUMBO CROSSWORD 203



Across

1 A light form of lava often used as an abrasive (6)
4 Estuary in the US states of Maryland and Virginia (10,3)
13 Pseudonym of former Daily Telegraph columnist Michael Wharton (5,6)
14 "And ___ canker lives in sweetest bud. / All men make faults"(Shakespeare, Sonnet 35) (9)
15 South African group who performed on the 1986 Paul Simon album Graceland (9,5,7)
17 2019 film, a live-action version of a 1941 Walt Disney film (5)
18 1966 Elvis Presley single, released with Spinout on the other side (3,4,1,2)
19 The second-largest moon of Saturn (4)
21 Magazine such as Good Housekeeping or National Geographic (7)
22 In the USA, "heinies" (9)
24 A unit of atmospheric pressure (3)
26 An alternative to "annoy" often seen in the past tense (10)
28 The longest-serving presenter of Tomorrow's World (6,4) (pictured)
30 Name for several rivers in southwest England, including two tributaries of the Taw and three of the Axe (3)
31 "We are in Afghanistan because this is ___ necessary war" (David Miliband, writing in 2009) (5,3,1)
32 Person used to advantage by another (4-3)
34 Bill ___'s Croydon North West by-election win in 1981 was the first parliamentary victory for the SDP-Liberal Alliance (4)
35 Marine reptile, common during the Jurassic period (10)
37 Shipping forecast sea area including the Bristol Channel (5)
39 Final single released by the Beatles (3,4,3,7,4)
41 Skill possessed by safe drivers and pedestrians (4,5)
42 Fasteners with hexagonal sockets (5,6)
44 Boxer who defeated Joe Frazier in 1973 to win his first world heavyweight title (6,7)
45 To intend (4,2)



Down

1 Part of the eye surrounded by the iris (5)
2 ___ and Ben Affleck co-wrote and starred in Good Will Hunting (4,5)
3 Actor famous for playing Count Dracula (11,3)
5 The fruit of a rose (3)
6 Coined during the First World War, a name for the condition commonly abbreviated as PTSD (5,5)
7 Foul-smelling weasel relative, Mustela putorius (7) (pictured)
8 Collection of 39 essays by G K Chesterton, published in 1910 (6,3,11)
9 To disinter (6)
10 Irrational fear of open or public places (11)
11 "___ is a contradiction in terms" (Groucho Marx) (8,12)
12 Type of hat apparently named after a play by Victorien Sardou (6)
16 An Appalachian yokel (9)
17 Remove most of the moisture from something, especially clothing (4-3)
20 In theology, relating to matters of death, judgement etc (14)
23 Acted like Baron Munchausen (4,1,4)
25 Del Shannon's first single, a 1961 No 1 hit in the USA and UK (7)
27 Bread from the northeast, often served with a savoury filling (7,4)
29 Large marine creature sometimes called blackfish (5,5)
33 Vegetable commonly used to fill burritos (5,4)
34 Mary ___ won Olympic pentathlon gold in 1972 (6)
36 Italian city reached at the end of the longest one-day race in professional cycling (3,4)
38 Tanker used to carry or supply fuel, water etc. (6)
40 British manufacturing company which abandoned its electric car project last October (5)
43 An area of open grassland, also a measure of yarn (3)



NEWS QUIZ

1 How much did a Brexit Day coin and signed copy of the UK's withdrawal agreement sell for at a Tory fundraising ball?
2 Who should be least worried about dying from coronavirus…
3 …and what has the NHS banned to curb the spread of the disease?
4 Bobby and Rosie have gone missing from Orpington, southeast London. Who are they?
5 Why was there uproar after someone was arrested for assault at the Lucious and Emma Nixon Academy in Orlando?
6 Britain's Bob Weighton is the new oldest man in the world. How old is he?
7 Which British town has TripAdvisor named among the world's top 20 new destinations?
8 Whose violent end was a cause for crowing on Jersey?
9 Which troublesome priest will return to haunt his old congregation this summer?
10 Who got cauli-wobbles over the state of Donald Trump's dinner?

SUDOKU

Each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. Winners will receive a Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus.

To enter, complete the Very Hard puzzle and call 0901 292 5275 (UK only) (ROI 1516 303 500), leaving your answer (the numbers in the three shaded squares) and contact details. Or text SUNDAY2, followed by a space, then your answer (three numbers) and contact details — eg SUNDAY2 123 John Smith, etc — to 84901 (UK only). Calls cost £1.00 (ROI €1.50) plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Winners will be picked at random from all correct answers received. Lines close at midnight on Saturday. If you call or text after this time you will not be entered but may be charged. When entering by phone or text, please provide your FULL name and address details, as incomplete entries may be charged but not entered. **STUCK?** Call our clue line to get four clues for the Very Hard puzzle on 0901 293 6265 (ROI 1514 515 120). Calls cost £1 (ROI 76c) plus your telephone company's network access charge. For full terms and conditions, visit thesundaytimes.co.uk/comprules. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

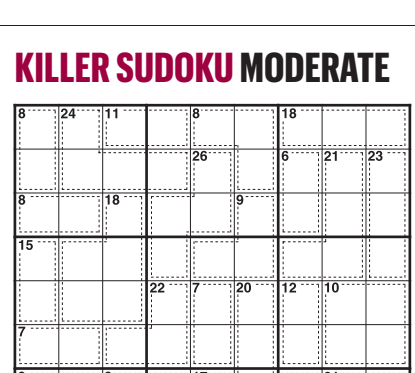
WARM-UP

						8	4	
					7		9	
		3	4		1	5		
9				2	4		1	
2	5			7			4	8
	4		8	1				7
		5	3		6	2		
7		2						
1	6							

VERY HARD — PRIZE 1368

		4						
	5					2	6	1
				1			3	
8					6	3		
4	7		2		1		5	6
		6	5					9
	6			3				
3	4	9					2	
						9		

KILLER SUDOKU MODERATE



Each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. The digits within each group of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the figure in the top-left-hand corner of each group. Within each dotted-line group, a digit cannot be repeated.

POLYGON

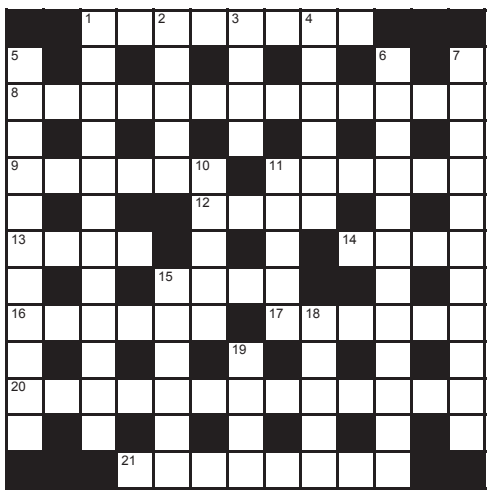


From these letters, make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.

How you rate

17 words, average; 23, good; 32, very good; 41, excellent.

CONCISE CROSSWORD 1667



Across

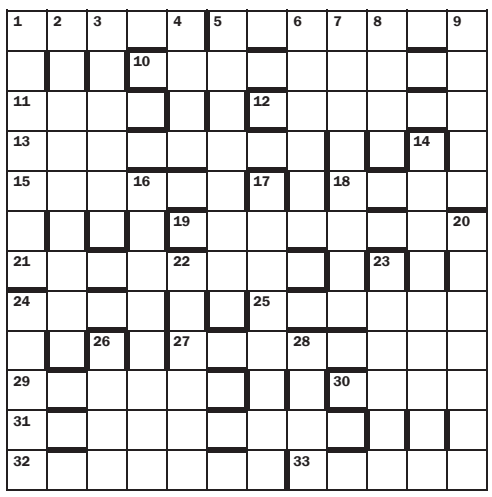
1 Outpace or renovate (8)
8 Low guess (13)
9 Whereness (6)
11 Lighter fuel (6)
12 S-shaped moulding (4)
13 Pinnacle (4)
14 Grammar pedant? (4)
15 Digging (4)
16 Election activity (6)
17 3.26 light years (6)
20 Rash (3-10)
21 Italian almond biscuits (8)

Down

1 Doubtful lore (3,5,4)
2 White heron (5)
3 Ear protection? (4)
4 Nonpareil (6)
5 Major blood vessel in the neck (7,4)
6 Desert inn (12)
7 DNA data framework (7,4)
10 Offspring (5)
11 Jazz genre (5)
15 Notify (6)
18 Accounts check (5)
19 Tech support caller? (4)

MEPHISTO 3105

Paul McKenna



NAME .....

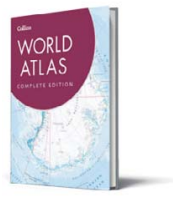
ADDRESS .....

.....

Post your solution to The Sunday Times Mephisto 3105, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ, or email puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk

The first correct solution picked at random after next Saturday wins Collins World Atlas: Complete Edition, worth £30. Four runners-up will each receive £20. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only.

The Chambers Dictionary 13th edition is the primary reference. Readers may email comments or queries to Paul McKenna at paul.auctor@gmail.com



Across

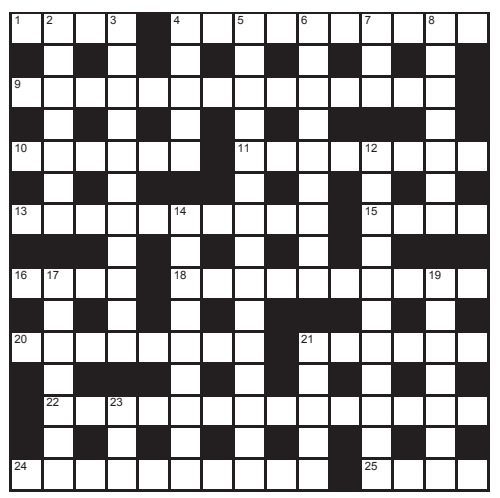
1 Enemy banks on hidden blast (5)
5 Who thumbs that woman taking up passion? (7)
10 New hoard found beside river pub (9)
11 Bread, a loaf (4)
12 Echo standard piffle (6)
13 Virtually disengaged retreat is most perfect (8)
15 No longer together, everyone returned pack animals (6)
18 Writer's book I take round (4)
19 Sauce got hot inside close to grill (8)
21 Right fool donning Celtic poet's armour (8)
24 Finally ignored farce following first from All Souls for French (4)
25 One of the options for a busy (6)
27 This connects room mostly over lower deck, eg (8, two words)
29 Better put Golden Delicious, or similar, on Newton (6)
30 A discussion about change seen in Istanbul (4)
31 Rude wean snapping back of kimmer's knickers, say (9)
32 Pupil left with somebody who's salaried (7)
33 One who'll benefit from exercises – Rab C's always included (5)

Down

1 Loyal group is cool with Billy (7, two words)
2 Across the military board nothing cultivates the lot captured (9, three words)
3 Such as Mnemosyne's daughters, name each in odd piece (6)
4 Middle England dispensed with lightweight (4)
5 Hearts are on brand in plant (8)
6 First of two children could give you a shock (6)
7 Rustic Don escapes diet being a wild dancer of old (8)
8 About to abandon once rustic project (4)
9 Redolent of old caretaker discharging power when upset (5)
14 Indecent and very Irish form of writing (9, two words)
16 Muscle shown by rushing steamers (8)
17 Write off a fighter (8)
20 East-west indicators in desert causing concern for pilots (7, two words)
22 Byzantine censer is separate (6)
23 What got Pericles going? Uninhibited freebootery (6)
24 Cashier turning a blind eye to second to last in yearbook (5)
26 A comic pilot lifted nothing (4)
28 Love being wrapped in soft flannel (4)

CROSSWORD 4892

Dean Mayer



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

Across

1 Something precious from old friend (4)
4 Undermine reason to keep current literature (10)
9 Doorman's voice after calling in advance (14)
10 Person initially into dental work out of touch? (2,4)
11 Mercenary run, a run to intercept goods (8)
13 IO2U? (6,4)
15 Hum – create sounds like this (4)
16 Alien is on the way – leave it! (4)
18 Wanting equaliser, puts away header for Man City (6,4)
20 Pawn most of first teeth (8)
21 Can it eat when cabin opens? (4,2)
22 Notice places where slugs hide in food (8,6)
24 Prolonged parking worked in streets (10)
25 Make a spike point (4)

Down

2 With mobile phone I'll get by in desert city (7)
3 Spill pickle? More flimsy sandwiches (11)
4 Perversely I had fling, being attractive (5)
5 Number he sings in funny duo's closing piece (5,2,8)
6 House with shed in road on river (9)
7 Japanese fish that is regularly seen (3)
8 Couple carrying tiny new child (7)
12 Walk for a mile through exotic tableau (11)
14 When metal is found in loch, is this pollution? (9)
17 Shudder as male breaks into soprano (7)
19 Almost lay beneath trough (7)
21 Shoe to briefly knock up (5)
23 Lions, but not on heraldic device (3)

TETONOR HARD

56	39	18	108
16	63	19	54
38	21	60	48
45	14	24	15

	3				6			8				15		18	

Each number in the main grid can be formed by adding or multiplying a pair of numbers in the strip below the grid. Each pair of numbers should be used twice: once as part of an addition and once as part of a multiplication. For example, a 10 and 24 in the main grid may be solved by the sums, 4 + 6 and 4 x 6, respectively. Enter each sum in the boxes below its answer. Any blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

CODEWORD

8	13	8	2	5	7	25	15	■	11	3	24	11
17	■	4	■	10	■	16	■	11	■	19	■	10
10	11	7	25	15	■	5	16	3	11	16	7	20
7	■	11	■	11	■	24	■	8	■	5	■	21
3	24	5	19	■	9	26	16	2	2	16	20	7
■	■	8	■	3	■	22	■	7	■	■	■	8
18	7	23	23	20	8	■	15	8	22	11	8	26
24	■	■	■	8	■	3	■	11	■	5	■	■
7	25	18	7	23	8	20	11	■	20	7	12	9
26	■	20	■	15	■	24	■	24	■	12	■	8
1	8	24	14	8	26	11	■	9	20	10	18	18
24	■	25	■	11	■	12	■	10	■	20	■	16
22	24	21	11	■	1	24	20	5	6	7	25	15

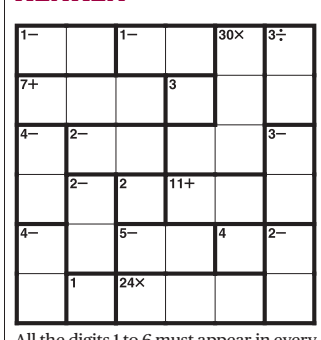
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

B O

In the grid, each number represents a letter of the alphabet – all 26 letters are used. Use the initial clues in the code table to work out the rest of the code. **STUCK?** To get four random extra letter clues, call 0901 293 6266 (ROI 1514 415128) or text STCLUE to 84901 (UK only). Calls cost £1 (ROI 75c) plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

KENKEN



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.



The first correct solution opened after next Saturday wins a 10-carat rolled gold Cross Century II fountain pen worth £240. The next three win £125 Townsend Medalist ballpoint pens. All have lifetime guarantees. Post solutions to The Sunday Times Crossword 4892, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ, or email puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only.

CLUE WRITING CONTEST 1802: DIORAMA

You are invited to write an original cryptic clue for the word above, in Sunday Times crossword style. Email your entry to puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk. The best entry selected after next Saturday wins £25.

Winner 1799: Neil Mondal, Wembley, London
Concierge: One may call a driver egocentric, wanting time off

For a full report, visit thesundaytimes.co.uk/cluewriting

NEWS REVIEW

Martin Hemming



It's a soar point for football fans, but here's my confession: I won't miss the header

What's in a nickname? I haven't had many. Obviously there's "Hemmo", because my name is Hemming and I went to a boys' grammar school, and boys' grammar schools – like the England cricket team – are all signed up to the universal nickname protocol, which states that if you have a two-syllable surname, the second half must be lopped off and an "o" added instead. If you have a one-syllable surname, you simply add a "y": Smithy, Browny and so on. Three syllables or longer afford the nickname-creator an extra degree of creativity, but not much.

So because of its decided lack of imagination or inherent humour, I'm not really counting "Hemmo" as a proper nickname.

I'm not prepared to tell you what my wife calls me during our most intimate moments, but I will volunteer one nickname of mine. I had it only briefly, decades ago, but – now I think about it – I am still yet to fully process the psychological trauma it has left me with.

This nickname was "50p Head" and it was given to me by a so-called team-mate in a not very good amateur football team I used to play for. The name relates to my ability at heading a football: when the ball came flying towards me, and I attempted to head it, there was no way of accurately predicting in which direction the ball would end up going. It could travel in any one of seven directions – as if my head were shaped like a 50p coin. All very amusing. In a similar vein of geometry-based humour, I think the same "team-mate" once labelled me "Toblerone Foot" after a particularly egregious sliced shot.

I always hated heading, partly because I'm 6ft 4in and therefore people expected me to be at least OK at it, which I wasn't, but mainly because it really, really hurts when somebody elbows you in the mouth while you're trying to do it. I have always been deeply suspicious of anyone who, in commentator-speak, "relishes an aerial battle".

So it was bittersweet to learn last week that, under new guidelines, children aged 11 and under will no longer be allowed to head the ball during football training. The lucky so-and-sos! My early football career could have been so much less terrifying.

There are several other sporting regulations I now wish had been implemented during my formative years. In swimming, I would have been totally up for a "no putting your face in the water" rule. And in rugby, boys who had already gone most of the way through puberty would not be allowed to pick up and throw into the mud anyone who still had a high voice and no body hair. I'm opening up some deep school-years wounds for you now.

The logic of the heading ban is that research has shown retired footballers are more likely to die of a degenerative brain disease than those who aren't retired footballers – possibly because of heading footballs. This isn't especially robust science, because who's to say people likely to develop a disease aren't predisposed to want to be footballers? But I'm not about to wish potential brain injuries on little kiddies, so good luck to them. Especially when they turn up for their first "heading allowed" match having never practised the awful art.

This is sport, however, where teams will do anything to gain an advantage – and the system will inevitably be open to abuse. You can imagine the scene: a rainy Saturday morning in a municipal park, parents lining the pitch as their sons and daughters, in brightly coloured bibs, kick a ball through plastic cones in the mud. One dad sidles up to another, furtively looking over his shoulder. "Psst," says the first dad. "If you're interested, I know of another little training session. Tuesday nights. Keep this to yourself, but at this one they do… heading."

My team called me '50p Head'. If I headed the ball it could travel in one of seven directions

The point is: the skills we require – in sport, at work and in life generally – change, and not everybody will like it.

For example, there was a furore last month when Oxford University said that its classics students might no longer be required to read the *Iliad* and the *Aeneid* in Greek and Latin. The complaints about this were obviously mainly from people who wanted it known that they had read the *Iliad* and the *Aeneid* in Greek and Latin. What next, they asked: medical students no longer having to poke dead bodies about? Geographers forgoing colouring pencils? To which the answer is: don't be silly.

And a minor argument broke out on Twitter between "old money" journalists who know how to write in shorthand and the hip young gunslingers who said, nah, I can just record stuff on my phone. I am clearly a multitalented and multiskilled journalist, but I don't have shorthand, which I do find a bit embarrassing and occasionally frustrating – mainly when an interview subject is giving me a boring and convoluted answer and all I can think while they're speaking is: "Oh God, I'm going to have to listen to this again on the tape, aren't I?"

A colleague of mine from a rival newspaper describes the occasion when a "seasoned" hack – who presumably could write shorthand – filed a blank Word document a minute before his deadline. When telephoned to ask if he could please supply the actual words, he replied: "For God's sake. Everybody knows I cannot do copy and paste."

By all means cherish the old skills. But there's no need to be an annoying prat about picking up new ones.

Incidentally, the inventor of the computer copy and paste function, Larry Tesler, died last month. I'd like to think his nickname was something cool like "Copy Cat" or "Pasty" or "Control-V", after the keyboard shortcut for the paste function (which of course you knew).

But I think we know the most likely answer: it was probably "Tezzo".

Jeremy Clarkson is away

TEASER 2997

Stephen Hogg

Cemetery lottery symmetry

Our local cemetery conservation lottery tickets have four numbers for a line. Using eight different numbers, my two lines have several symmetries. For each line: just one number is odd; there is one number from each of the ranges 1-9, 10-19, 20-29 and 30-39, in that order; the sum of the four numbers equals that sum for the other line; excluding 1 and the numbers themselves, the 1st and 2nd numbers share just one factor – as do the 2nd and 3rd (a different factor) and the 3rd and 4th (another different factor) and, finally, the 4th and 1st.

Printed one line directly above the other, my top line includes the largest of the eight numbers.

What is the bottom line?

Send your solution to: The Sunday Times Teaser 2997, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ or email puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk. The first two correct solutions opened after next Saturday win £20. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only.

CHESS

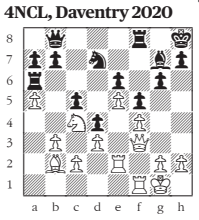
David Howell

The 138th Varsity Match will take place next Saturday, March 7, at the Royal Automobile Club. Cambridge come into the contest as favourites on paper, although they face an Oxford side buoyed by winning the recent British Universities' Championship. Oxford have also won the past three Varsity matches as they aim to cut Cambridge's overall lead.

Having visited the RAC on several occasions, I can attest to the fact that there is something special about the atmosphere. Another player who clearly enjoys the venue is Cambridge top board Matthew Wadsworth. At the age of 10 he beat Michael Adams in a simultaneous display while last year he comfortably held four-time women's world champion Hou Yifan to a draw.

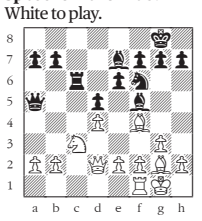
In the following game Wadsworth uses his creative style to dismantle a strong grandmaster.

White: Matthew Wadsworth
Black: Mircea-Emilia Parligras
4NCL, Daventry 2020



We join a seemingly quiet middlegame. Wadsworth, however, has no intention of playing slowly. **22 b4** Undermining Black's centre. **22...b5 23 Nd6 cxb4 24 Qf2** Avoiding 24 Bxd4? Rxd6 25 exd6 Bxd4+. **24...Rxd6** A sensible decision. It was impossible to tolerate White's formidable knight. **25 exd6 Qxd6 26 Rfe1 Re8 27 Rb1 Nb8 28 Bc1 a6 29 Bd2 Nc6 30 Qe1 Bf8 31 h3 Qd5** Chances are balanced after logical play from both sides. Wadsworth now takes drastic measures to open lines for his rooks. **32 g4 Bd6 33 gxf5 Qxf5 34 Qg3 Rf8 35 Qg2 Ne7 36 Rbe1 Nd5 37 Rxe6 Bxf4 38 Re8 Be3+ 39 Bxe3 dxe3 40 Rxf8+ Qxf8 41 Kh1** Not 41 Qxd5? Qf2+. **41...Qf5 42 Rf1 Nf4?** A careless miscalculation. 42...Qh5 was necessary. **43 Qa8+!** Suddenly White is able to execute a deadly series of checks. **43... Kg7 44 Qa7+ Kf6 45 Qd4+ Kg5 46 h4+ Kg4 47 Qxe3 Qd5+ 48 Qe4 Qxe4+ 49 dxe4** The rest is simple. White's rook outmatches the black knight. **49...g5 50 hxg5 Kxg5 51 e5 Ne6 52 Rf6 Nd4 53 Rxa6 Nxc2 54 Rd6 b3 55 Rd3 Black resigns**

Spot the Move 1208:
White to play.



Wadsworth-Adams, London 2011. How can White obtain a sizeable advantage?

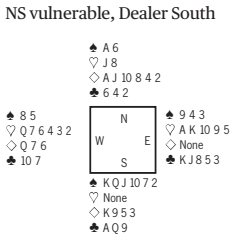
Send your solution (first move only), to Sunday Times Spot the Move 1208, The Sunday Times, PO Box 29, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GZ, or email to puzzle.entries@sunday-times.co.uk. The first correct answer drawn after next Saturday wins £20. Open to 18+ UK & ROI residents only.

BRIDGE

Sally Brock

At the end of a Round Robin match in a major championship, if you finish first you often have the "dubious" pleasure of watching your teammates handle a board you have already played. For example:

NS vulnerable, Dealer South



The auction in our room was not good. I was playing two-over-one (whereby a two-level response to a one-level opening bid is game forcing) for the first time in a regular partnership and confess to some misgivings. Here the auction was:

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	1NT	2 ♠	3 ♠
4 ♡	4 ♠	All Pass	

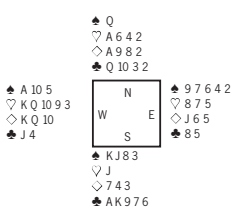
There seemed no way for me to express my strong hand, and the slam was missed. Fiona Brown and I are often the first pair to finish and we came out of the playing room to find that we were 13 IMPs down with this board yet to come. It looked as if we were going to lose another 13 IMPs or so, for a significant loss. We then watched the board on our phones. The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ◇	3 ♡	6 ♠
7 ♡	7 ♠	Dble	All Pass

Here North's three diamonds was invitational. On the strength of the secondary fit, South jumped to slam. We were all on tenterhooks, hoping West would sacrifice in seven hearts. When she did, it looked reasonable for North to bid the grand slam, and then East doubled hoping partner would work out that she wanted a diamond lead.

Time stood still but when Catherine Draper chose a diamond we all cheered and had gained 14 IMPs instead of losing 17, a huge swing.

Last week's problem



West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♣
1 ♡	2 ♡	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	5 ♣
All Pass			

You should lead a top diamond, not a heart. South is much more likely to be valuing heart shortage than diamond shortage as the full deal demonstrates.

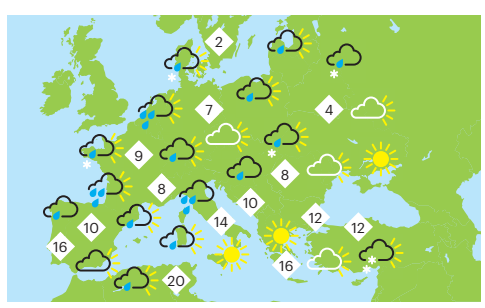
WEATHER

AROUND THE WORLD

Amsterdam	8C	sh
Athens	16	s
Auckland	25	f
Bangkok	35	s
Barcelona	19	sh
Beijing	11	f
Belgrade	16	f
Berlin	10	f
Bogota	19	th
Boston	1	s
Brussels	8	sh
Budapest	10	sh
Buenos Aires	37	s
Cairo	21	f
Calgary	0	sl
Cape Town	29	s
Caracas	26	f
Casablanca	22	f
Chicago	9	f
Dubai	23	s
Dublin	6	sl
Geneva	12	sh
Gibraltar	20	f
Guatemala	28	f
Helsinki	2	sl
Hong Kong	24	s
Istanbul	10	s
Jersey	9	sl
Johannesburg	24	th
La Paz	13	th
Lagos	30	th
Lima	27	sh
Lisbon	16	r
London	9C	f
Los Angeles	18	f
Madrid	11	sh
Mexico City	25	f
Miami	22	f
Moscow	3	f
Nairobi	30	sh
New Delhi	29	f
New Orleans	20	sh
New York	6	s
Oslo	3	sl
Panama	32	s
Paris	9	sl
Prague	11	f
Rio de Janeiro	25	th
Rome	15	r
San Francisco	13	f
Santiago	34	s
Seoul	11	f
Seychelles	29	th
Singapore	31	f
Stockholm	5	f
Sydney	27	f
Tel Aviv	17	sh
Tenerife	18	f
Tokyo	16	f
Toronto	-1	f
Trinidad	28	sh
Tunis	26	s
Venice	10	r
Vienna	7	r
Warsaw	10	f
Washington DC	10	s

Key c=cloud, dr=drizzle, ds=dust storm, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, th=thunder, w=windy

EUROPE



- Cloudy and windy with rain in northern Portugal and Spain. Brighter further south and across the Balearics
- Cloud and showery rain in northern Italy, Slovenia and Croatia will spread south during the day. Mostly dry and sunny in southern Italy
- Dry and sunny in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey and southern parts of the Balkans
- Very windy in parts of the Low Countries and France, with heavy rain at times, perhaps thundery, reaching western Germany later
- Rain and snow in the Alps, Slovakia and Hungary
- Breezy with showers and bright spells in Poland and Czech Republic
- Rain and snow in the Baltic states and Scandinavia

SUN, STREET LIGHTS & MOON

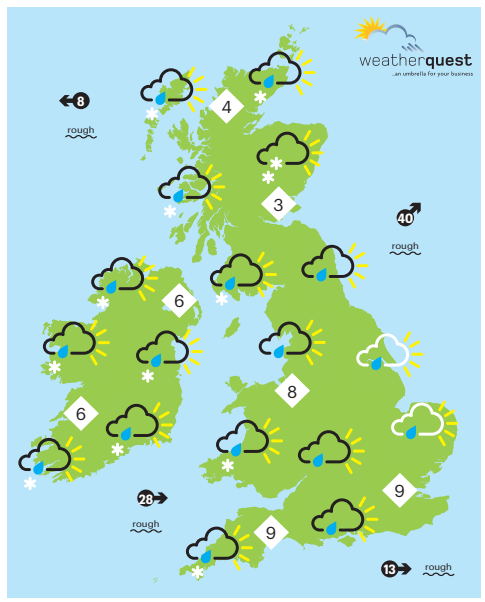
	Sun rises	Sun sets/ lights on	Lights off	Moon rises	Moon sets
Aberdeen	07:00	17:41	06:57	09:21	01:35(Mon)
Belfast	07:11	18:00	07:09	09:47	01:38(Mon)
Birmingham	06:52	17:46	06:50	09:38	01:12(Mon)
Bristol	06:54	17:50	06:51	09:44	01:11(Mon)
Cardiff	06:56	17:53	06:54	09:46	01:13(Mon)
Cork	07:18	18:13	07:16	10:06	01:37(Mon)
Dublin	07:11	18:03	07:08	09:52	01:34(Mon)
Glasgow	07:06	17:51	07:04	09:35	01:37(Mon)
London	06:44	17:41	06:42	09:34	01:01(Mon)
Manchester	06:55	17:47	06:52	09:36	01:17(Mon)
Newcastle	06:54	17:42	06:52	09:28	01:22(Mon)
Norwich	06:40	17:34	06:37	09:24	00:59(Mon)
Plymouth	06:59	17:58	06:56	09:53	01:13(Mon)

NIGHT SKY



The dazzling planet **Venus**, 82 million miles away in **Pisces**, moves from the WSW after sunset to set in the WNW at about 22:15. The **Moon** is below-left of the **Pleiades** tonight and at first quarter tomorrow evening when it stands 3° above **Taurus**'s leading star, the red giant **Aldebaran**. **Mars** is low in the SE before dawn, to the right of the brighter **Jupiter**. *Alan Pickup*

THE UK



TODAY'S WEATHER

UK forecast
Low pressure to the north of the British Isles will maintain a breezy westerly flow with sunny spells and showers across southern and central areas. Some longer spells of rain or snow in parts of northern England and southern Scotland. Fresh to strong southwesterly winds in central areas, lighter elsewhere

REGIONAL FORECASTS

London, SE England
Sunshine and a few showers. Turning cloudier later. Moderate southwesterly winds. Max 9C. Tonight, cloud and rain. Min 1C

Midlands, E England
Sunny spells and showers, mainly across the west. Fresh southwesterly winds. Max 9C. Tonight, dry for most. Min -1C

Channel Is, SW and Cent S England, S Wales
Wintry and blustery showers. Moderate to fresh southwesterly winds. Max 8C. Tonight, rain across the south. Min -2C

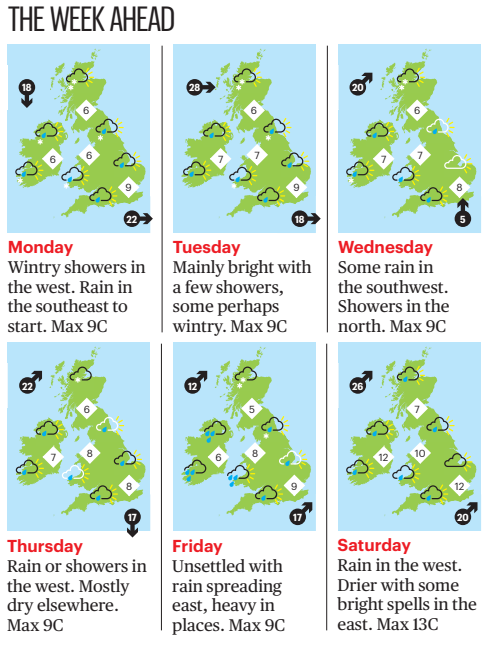
N Wales, NW England, Isle of Man
Windy with rain or snow showers, some heavy. Fresh to strong southwesterly winds. Max 8C. Tonight, a few showers. Min -2C

Cent N and NE England
Rain or snow at first. Strong southwesterly winds. Brighter with showers later. Max 7C. Tonight, showers. Min -1C

Scotland
Persistent rain and snow. Strong southwesterly winds in the south, lighter further north. Max 5C. Tonight, snow. Min -3C

N Ireland, Republic of Ireland
Bright spells and widespread wintry showers. Fresh to strong southwesterly wind. Max 7C. Tonight, wintry showers. Min -1C

THE WEEK AHEAD



Monday
Wintry showers in the west. Rain in the southeast to start. Max 9C

Tuesday
Mainly bright with a few showers, some perhaps wintry. Max 9C

Wednesday
Some rain in the southwest. Showers in the north. Max 9C

Thursday
Rain or showers in the west. Mostly dry elsewhere. Max 9C

Friday
Unsettled with rain spreading east, heavy in places. Max 9C

Saturday
Rain in the west. Drier with some bright spells in the east. Max 13C

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU WARM-UP

2	6	3	1	4	7	8	9	5
4	7	9	5	2	8	1	6	3
5	1	8	9	6	3	7	4	2
3	4	1	6	8	5	9	2	7
9	2	6	3	7	1	4	5	8
7	8	5	4	9	2	6	3	1
1	9	2	8	3	4	5	7	6
6	5	7	2	1	9	3	8	4
8	3	4	7	5	6	2	1	9

CODEWORD

G	L	S		W	A	O	A
A	P	A	R	T		A	B	D	O	M	E	N
Z	V	U		D		J	I	N
U	N	A	I	D	E	D		U	N	T	I	E
M	T			L		S		X
P	R	O	P	O	N	E	N	T		S	U	E
	R		B			E		C	
S	O		S	H	U	D	D	E	R	E	D
M		O		S		U	O
A	W	F	U	L		A	Q	U	A	T	I	C
R		O	E	B		G	I	K
M	A	R	I	T	A	L		L	U	N	G	E
Y	K	E		E	Y		Y	T

SUDOKU 1367

2	4	9	5	3	8	6	1	7
6	5	8	7	2	1	3	9	4
3	7	1	4	6	9	8	2	5
1	2	4	8	9	7	5	3	6
9	8	3	6	5	2	7	4	1
5	6	7	1	4	3	9	8	2
8	3	5	2	7	4	1	6	9
4	9	6	3	1	5	2	7	8
7	1	2	9	8	6	4	5	3

KENKEN

12× 2	6	1	4	2+ 3	4− 5
6 2	1− 3	4	2	5	1
1− 4	5	11+ 6	9+ 3	1	1− 2
9+ 1	1− 2	5	180× 6	4	3
3	1	6× 2	5	6	10+ 4
5	4 4	3	1− 1	2	6

KILLER SUDOKU

4	6	2	7	1	9	8	5	3
3	1	7	4	5	8	9	6	2
8	9	5	3	6	2	1	7	4
2	7	1	5	8	6	4	3	9
5	3	9	2	7	4	6	1	8
6	8	4	1	9	3	5	2	7
7	4	6	8	3	1	2	9	5
1	5	8	9	2	7	3	4	6
9	2	3	6	4	5	7	8	1

TETONOR

154	44	30	14
2 × 77	2 × 22	1 × 30	3 + 11
25	242	31	116
6 + 19	11 × 22	1 + 30	2 + 114
44	33	228	24
4 × 11	11 + 22	2 × 114	2 + 22
79	15	33	114
2 + 77	4 + 11	3 × 11	6 × 19

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE JUMBO CROSSWORD 202

Across: **1** Tastevin, **6** Dimmer switch, **12** Pantechnicon, **13** Scotland, **14** Bagnio, **15** Vatican, **16** Damson, **17** Schmeichel, **19** Rising Damp, **21** Financial Times, **24** Amman, **25** Goitrous, **26** Cleansed, **30** Prion, **31** A Shropshire Lad, **32** Time signal, **34** Loganberry, **36** Static, **38** Wee Free, **39** Lugano, **41** Sarajevo, **42** Angharad Rees, **43** Alan Fletcher, **44** Alkahest
Down: **2** Avalanching, **3** Tutin, **4** Victoria Coren Mitchell, **5** Nineveh, **6** Decathlete, **7** Monochrome, **8** Essenes, **9** Snowdonia National Park, **10** Islam, **11** Condorman, **18** Miami Vice, **20** Damascene, **22** Abuja, **23** Silas, **27** Dead Ringers, **28** Shillelagh, **29** Jolly Roger, **30** Paintball, **33** Newport, **35** Grenada, **37** Train, **40** Garth

MEPHISTO 3104

Across: **1** Carnifex, **7** Uses, **11** Ariège, **12** Hotch, **13** Nintendo, **15** Stress mark, **16** Rally, **19** Epee, **20** St Helier, **21** Chartres, **23** Anne, **25** Ingle, **27** Aristology, **30** Aculeate, **31** Erect, **32** Ennuis, **33** Demy, **34** Sessions **Down:** **1** Cann, **2** Arita, **3** Nettle rash, **4** Fenestra, **5** Ends, **6** Xhosa, **8** Steaming, **9** Écurie, **10** Shikaree, **14** Emalangeni, **16** Rechated, **17** Lead item, **18** The blues, **22** Harare, **24** Stats, **26** Let in, **28** Oche, **29** Mess

CROSSWORD 4891

Across: **1** Agenda, **5** Create, **9** Ogen melon, **10** Item, **11** Afresh, **12** Crossbar, **14** Blowfish, **16** Omen, **18** Sofa, **19** Apposite, **21** Escapade, **22** Pastry, **24** Oslo, **26** Dalmatian, **27** Faster, **28** Esteem
Down: **2** Goodfellows, **3** Niece, **4** Armchair, **5** Condor, **6** Emissions, **7** Tee, **8** Blockheadedly, **13** Agent Orange, **15** What about, **17** Spyplane, **20** Raider, **23** Skint, **25** Sea

SPOT THE MOVE 1207

1...Qxd2! takes advantage of White's weak back rank. White resigned, since 2 Rxd2 runs into 2...Rf1 mate

TEASER 2996

9

CONCISE CROSSWORD 1666

Across: **4** Comic, **7** Flotilla, **8** See, **9** Vertiginous, **12** Jalfrezi, **13** Rice, **15** Plea, **16** Ophidian, **17** Flamboyance, **19** Kir, **20** Umbrella, **21** Exert
Down: **1** After all, **2** Port of call, **3** Wiggle room, **4** Capo, **5** Mass, **6** Cheque, **10** Neighbours, **11** Unrideable, **14** Charcoal, **15** Pinkie, **17** Free, **18** Abut

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

NEWS QUIZ
1 £60,000 **2** Under-10s, for whom the death rate is zero **3** Beards on staff, unless for religious reasons **4** A pair of 80-year-old tortoises **5** The arrestee was a six-year-old girl who had a tantrum and hit teachers **6** 111 **7** Ipswich **8** 65 feral chickens were culled after terrorising islanders **9** Thomas Becket. Canterbury Cathedral is marking the 850th anniversary of his murder there **10** Former White House doctor Ronny Jackson hid the veg in mash to improve Trump's diet

POLYGON
accusatory, actuary, artsy, arty, astray, autocracy, cosy, crusty, curacy, curtsy, cyst, oaty, oracy, outcry, racy, rosy, rusty, ryot, satay, satyr, saucy, saury, scary, scry, soya, stay, story, stoury, stray, succory, tray, troy, tyro, yaar, yatra, your, yours, yous, yuca, yucca, yurt

Winners Crossword 4889 S Dickens, Tonbridge, Kent, P Blackburn, Lewes, East Sussex, RG Cathey, Wrightington, Lancashire, R Jolley, London N22 **Mephisto 3102** A Russell, Comberton, Cambridgeshire, R Bell, Helston, Cornwall, P Cline, Cardiff, S Cray, Bristol, C Tulloch, Glasgow **Teaser 2994** A Smith, Brighton, East Sussex, I Turner, Colchester, Essex **Chess 1205** R Lowen, Grimsby, Lincolnshire **Sudoku February 2** S Luery, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

New BT TV.

The new home for all the channels you love.



Watch TV like never before.

Search BT TV

BT BEYOND LIMITS

90% UK coverage. Content may change. BT TV available with BT Superfast Fibre. Terms apply.

March 1, 2020

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THEATRE
QUENTIN LETTS: ONE STAR FOR THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

BOOKS
LOST IN THE DETAILS: WHAT'S WRONG WITH HILARY MANTEL

TELEVISION
WHY IMELDA STAUNTON IS DANGEROUS TO WATCH



CULTURE



POWER TRIP

ROSAMUND PIKE ON PLAYING MARIE CURIE, DISCOVERER OF RADIOACTIVITY

ON-ICE COLLECTION

TOUR STARTS NEXT WEEK



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
CRYSTAL™

A BREAKTHROUGH ICE EXPERIENCE
2020

06 - 08 MARCH
SHEFFIELD
FLYDSA ARENA

11 - 15 MARCH
GLASGOW
BRAEHEAD ARENA

19 - 22 MARCH
ABERDEEN
P&J LIVE

25 - 29 MARCH
BELFAST
SSE ARENA

01 - 05 APRIL
MANCHESTER
ARENA

08 - 12 APRIL
BIRMINGHAM
RESORTS WORLD ARENA

15 - 19 APRIL
NOTTINGHAM
MOTORPOINT ARENA

CIRQUEDUSOLEIL.COM/CRYSTAL | LIVENATION.CO.UK

VIP TICKETS PACKAGES AVAILABLE FROM VIPNATION.EU/CIRQUECRYSTAL

OFFICIAL PARTNER
ŠKODA

A LIVE NATION PRESENTATION



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL®
Corteo™

GET CARRIED AWAY WITH LIFE

18-21 JUNE
FIRST DIRECT ARENA
LEEDS

24 JUNE-5 JULY
THE O2
LONDON

8-26 JULY
3ARENA
DUBLIN

cirquedusoleil.com/corteo | livenation.co.uk

OFFICIAL PARTNERS
ŠKODA AIR CANADA

A LIVE NATION PRESENTATION

Join My Live Nation for exclusive benefits. Go to livenation.co.uk/register

CONTENTS 01.03.2020

ARTS

4
Cover story
Rosamund Pike doesn't want to be likeable, she tells Louis Wise, but she does want to be challenged. Which is why she is playing scientist Marie Curie

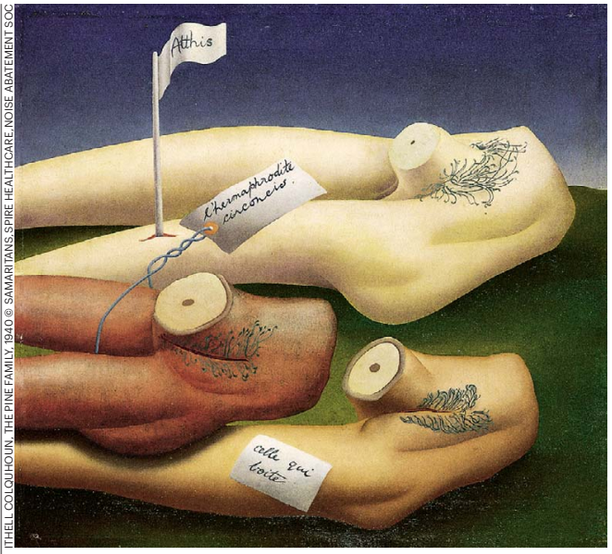
6
Television
Netflix Africa: another first for the global streamer

8
Pop
Rufus Wainwright, dad and husband, has made his most commercial album to date

14
Television
The English Game scores with a portrayal of football on the playing fields of Eton

18
Theatre
The great innovator Robert Lepage returns to the UK with his seven-hour epic

Cover Rosamund Pike as Marie Curie in Radioactive. Photograph by Jason Bell © 2019 StudioCanal



ITHELL COLQUHOUN, THE PINE FAMILY, 1940 © SAMARITANS, SPIRE HEALTHCARE, NOISE ABATEMENT SOC

20
On record
The latest essential releases

21
Music
Beethoven's Grosse Fuge: the last word in how to use notes?

TV & RADIO

37
TV & Radio
The best guide to the week's programmes

Waldemar Januszczak on the mysterious blobs and sinister forests of the British Surrealism show at Dulwich
Art, page 16

BOOKS

26
Lead review
The eagerly awaited final novel in Hilary Mantel's Booker-winning Wolf Hall trilogy

28
Business
An inside look at Zuckerberg and his Facebook empire

30
Memoir
Behind closed doors in the household of Greta Thunberg

35
Fiction
Nick Rennison's pick of the best recent historical fiction

30
The Sunday Times Bestsellers

DIGITAL EXTRAS

Bulletins: For our Culture and Books bulletins, head to thesundaytimes.co.uk/bulletins

Twitter: @ST_Culture
Instagram: @sundaytimesculture

SIMON PAULY



BOOK IT NOW

Joyce DiDonato: My Favourite Things, Barbican, London EC2, Dec 5
The American mezzo performs with a variety of collaborators across the 2020-21 season: this is a recital of 17th- and 18th-century operatic arias.

Sammy, Lyric Hammersmith, London W6, July 28-Sept 19
Giles Terera stars as Sammy Davis Jr in this new musical by Leslie Bricusse, directed by Clarke Peters.

New Order, O_2, London SE10, Oct 10
The hugely influential 1980s band play their only UK show of 2020.

© Times Newspapers Ltd, 2020. Published and licensed by Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF (020 7782 5000). Printed by Prinovis UK Ltd, Liverpool. Not to be sold separately

TIMES+

EXCLUSIVE REWARDS FOR SUBSCRIBERS



Complimentary nationwide previews of Dream Horse

Join us for preview screenings of *Dream Horse*, the true story of a working-class champion starring Toni Collette, Damian Lewis, Owen Teale and Joanna Page. This classic story of triumph against adversity is in cinemas from April 17, but subscribers can see it on March 4.

Book tickets today at mytimesplus.co.uk

WB copyright - © 2020 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved. This Times+ event is open to UK subscribers only. For full terms and conditions, visit **mytimesplus.co.uk**

IN HER ELEMENT



LAURIE SPARHAM

Slow burner Rosamund Pike as Marie Curie in Radioactive

Rosamund Pike is an unpredictable actress who loves an adventure. Which makes her a perfect fit for the pioneering scientist Marie Curie. Do people today still know who she was, she asks *Louis Wise*

On a dark winter afternoon in Prague, Rosamund Pike is pondering where she goes from here. The British actress has built up a diverse portfolio of roles, from the daffy to the intense: recent highlights include the scientist Marie Curie, the foreign correspondent Marie Colvin and, in a Netflix kids' show, the slightly anxious conscience of a chicken called Archibald. Still, she isn't satisfied.

"Y'know, I'd really love to do a Liverpool accent, but I've never been asked to," this native Londoner suddenly says in flawless Scouse. She is sitting in her trailer on the set of *The Wheel of Time*, a mega-budget fantasy series. She still looks quite Pike-like: her blonde hair is cropped short and she's wearing a chunky olive-green woollen dress and even chunkier boots. But her deep, flutey voice has gone lilting and high. "I've always played around with stuff like that," she says, clinging to her new accent quite pointedly, "but nobody looks at me and thinks that's what's going to come out of me mouth!"

With respect, no, they do not. Chances are they'll think prim and proper, thanks to Pike's role in *Pride & Prejudice*. If you have scrutinised the 41-year-old's career closely, though, you'll know she has been concertedly upending that notion from the moment it took hold. In 2009's *An Education,* she showed she could be very funny as a posh airhead, while in 2014's *Gone Girl* she proved she could be deliciously psychotic, too, as the antiheroine Amy. In *A Private War*, she played the notoriously gritty Colvin; in *Hostiles*, a gun-toting 19th-century frontierswoman who has to bury her children.

I had met her once before, so knew full well that the way she tends to be packaged – "classical beauty", "chilly blonde", "Oxford-educated English rose" – has zero to do with how she sees herself. It's something she admits she has in common with Curie, the Franco-Polish scientist she plays in the film *Radioactive*.

"Nobody knew the depths of feeling inside this woman, who people often found quite cold," she says. "And those are the kind of people who excite me." She gives a small look and a laugh. Is this, as they say, "relatable content" for a woman who once starred in a play called *Hitchcock Blonde*?

"Yeah," she nods. "The people whose exterior doesn't tell you anything about what's on the inside. It's so much more valuable."

Radioactive is, then, typical Pike, in that it isn't that typical at all. Directed by Marjane Satrapi, creator of *Persepolis*, it's an eccentric, kinetic biopic charting Curie's journey from being born Maria Sklodowska in Warsaw to moving to Paris and marrying Pierre Curie, then establishing a career during which they discovered radium and polonium, pioneered research on radioactivity and won two Nobel prizes. In between more conventional scenes, we flash forward to the legacies of their discoveries: the nuclear bomb and Chernobyl.

Still, the main aim, Pike says, is simply "to make people realise quite who Curie was. I don't think many people can even put their finger on the fact that she discovered radioactivity. People have a vague feeling about cancer…" She stops. "That doesn't sound good, does it?" (She means the Marie Curie charity, presumably, not radiation-based treatments for cancer.)

Pike feels a deep kinship with Curie, particularly in her refusal to be docile or conciliatory. Her career was controversial not only because of her gender, but for the affair she had after her husband's death with his former student Paul Langevin. It caused a scandal. Curie never dreamt of apologising, though, which you might think we would admire today. And yet.

> Curie said she suffered more from a lack of funding than being a woman. I loved that

"It's odd, you know – we fought for this vision of her," Pike starts. "I mean, everyone says that, since #MeToo, it's OK for women not to be likeable. Then you start showing the film [in test screenings] and 'Oh, Marie's not very likeable' starts coming out," She grimaces a little. "We were, like, 'Yes, if she was likeable, she could be your sister or your mother or your wife, but she wouldn't be Mme Curie, right?'"

There is no getting around it, she sighs. "Likeability is still the big thing." Yet Pike insists stoutly that it's her oddness and stubbornness that ultimately make Curie sympathetic (that and her doting relationship with Pierre, played by Sam Riley).

"I don't really care at what point someone comes around to her," she shrugs. "I know they will come around to her because of what she does." Anyway, she smiles, "the more people try to be likeable, the creepier they become – no?".

Pike shows a similar ambivalence to being likeable. That's not to say she's not fun company, or polite, but you get the distinct sense when you interview her that you are herding conversational cats. Questions are mere inspirations for answers. She'll suddenly talk over you as she enthuses about a new point. Perhaps the best example came when she offered to make me a green tea.

"A French cinematographer told me [the actress] Catherine Deneuve always says that's her secret – a green tea, a beer and a sauna," she says. A pause. "I don't know why I remember those three details, and I have never met Catherine Deneuve, so I have no idea if that's true." OK. And does she swear by those herself? "Well, green tea has become a thing," she deliberates. "I discovered I really like the subtlety of it. What it does. How it just sort of… gently lifts the mind." Considering we have already dwelt on nuclear power, the meaning of dreams, transcendental meditation and the transference of souls, it does feel as if the mind has been lifted enough.

The Wheel of Time, an adaptation of Robert Jordan's cult novel series of the same name, has seen Pike uproot herself and the two young sons she has with her partner, Robie Uniacke, to Prague for the entire school year. (The boys are called Solo and Atom; she promises the latter got his name before Curie came into her life.) Yet she doesn't sell this as a big inconvenience: she had been hankering for an adventure,

and it presented itself. As for the show, there's not much I can tell you about trekking across its gigantic set, a former truck factory, because I signed a scary-looking NDA.

What I can exclusively reveal is that Pike's character, Moiraine the sorceress, will look quite sorceressy. Yet surely this show is a bit of a spa break after Curie, and Marie Colvin before that? "It's interesting that I had these two powerful Maries back to back," she says. The portrayal of the late *Sunday Times* reporter, which Pike spent months preparing for – mimicking the American's voice, her walk – has stuck with her.

"You don't get inside these personalities without some fallout, to keep on with the nuclear theme." In typical fashion, she ponders her intense connection to these characters, walking a tightrope between an admirable commitment and total luvvie madness.

"I'm not saying – *please* – I'm not saying I believe I'm any of these people reincarnated." But then she's musing about reincarnation, and souls and so on. "You are attempting, in being an actress, to take on the persona and soul of somebody to the best of your imaginative powers," she reasons. "And the imagination is strong."

Another striking note of sympathy between Curie, Colvin and Pike is that they were (or are) women who didn't want to talk all day about being women. "Curie said, 'Believe me, I suffered much more from a lack of funding than I ever did from being a woman,'" Pike says. "I sort of loved that." This was in part thanks to Curie's upbringing by parents who didn't limit her in that way.

"I wasn't one of those girls, either," Pike admits. The only child of opera singers, she was encouraged to achieve; a scholarship to Badminton School was followed by studies at Oxford. Still, it's not as though she can dodge the gender wars raging on outside. On the table of her trailer sits a pile of DVDs – Bafta screeners. When we meet, the awards are getting it in the neck for their lack of diversity.

"I haven't been paying attention," Pike pleads. "I think there are lots of problems in the way things are voted for. Sometimes people don't want to watch as much as they say they are, and they're voting for things their friends are telling them to vote for." As for the diversity question: "We've still got a long way to go," she admits, but then points to *The Wheel of Time*, which is stocked with a diverse ▶



PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON BELL © 2019 STUDIOCANAL

► cast of newcomers; Pike is the mama bear of the pack. "If you carry on casting the way *Wheel of Time* is, they aren't going to be able to ignore it."

She is also number one on the call sheet for the show, just as she was on *Radioactive* and *A Private War*. It took her a long time to get there. The general problem is that it's hard to get male actors who will go second to a star woman. I say I found it striking that even on *Gone Girl* she was not at the top of the call sheet, Ben Affleck was. She shrugs this off stoutly. He was the lead, she insists, and anyway, the director, David Fincher, was being strategic. (Those who don't want a spoiler, skip the next paragraph.)

"Had he cast Charlize Theron or Nicole Kidman, people would probably suspect she wasn't really dead. But if I signed on, they'd think, 'Oh yeah, Rosamund Pike will sign on to play the dead girl' – you know? Then it's good, because no one sees the twist coming." She laughs quite happily when she says it. But then, a minute later, she adds: "I was about to say that I would have been embarrassed if I'd been first [on the sheet]. But then what does that say? That probably was revealing."

It's not as though she's always been passive – far from it. "I remember being on a poster for something I objected to, where they sort of enhanced my boobs," she says. She can't recall which film it was, possibly the spy spoof *Johnny English Reborn*. "I was, like, that's not me. It got taken down."

All things considered, it would be hard to deny Pike's autonomy, or her singularity. Also, her basic contentment. "I'm very happy in my skin – I'm happy in my life," she says simply. Her career has turned out "probably better" than she ever imagined. Although it's not so much about being "happy", she says. "It's about being free. A freedom to swing with the punches more."

She dates it roughly from when she had her children. She was, for instance, singularly unbothered about turning 40 last year. "I know it's probably not what you want to hear," she says drily.

Actually, I can believe it; a wildly varied career and the unavoidable fact that she still looks about 28 probably help. She is liking her forties so much, she is pulling together a huge party in Prague, inviting people from all stages of her life and career "to try to represent what this mad 40 years has been". She gets squeamish about giving details, but eventually reveals: "It can't be too rigid. It's got to have the potential to evolve." That's the perfect brief for a party for her, both obviously wafty yet still sharply intimate. C

Radioactive is out on March 20. A screening, plus a Q&A with Rosamund Pike, Sam Riley and Marjane Satrapi, will be in cinemas next Sunday; radioactivefilm.co.uk/showtimes



Original take Pearl Thusi as Queen Sono, left and near right. Dorothy Ghettuba of Netflix, far right

AFRICAN QUEENS

There are more than a billion people in Africa, and Netflix is determined to give them the space to tell their stories from the inside out. *Shingi Mararike* reports

The release of *Black Panther* in 2018 felt like a sea change. It wasn't just another entry in Marvel's endless pantheon of superhero movies, it represented a long-awaited narrative shift. This was a blockbuster with a largely black cast and a black director, depicting Africa as a metropolis filled with highly complex characters. For weeks I could barely log on to social media without scrolling past a picture of someone standing with their arms across their chest in the film's signature "Wakanda salute".

And it wasn't merely a pop culture hit: *Black Panther* was a money-spinner. Eventually taking more than £1bn at the box office, it became the highest-grossing solo superhero movie yet, proving that there is a market for looking at Africa beyond the lens of war and poverty. With the template in place, it was only a matter of time before the global streaming giant Netflix decided to showcase this new African aesthetic, announcing at the end of 2018 that it would be investing in original content from the region.

The result is a raft of original African series, starting with *Queen Sono*, which dropped last week: a six-episode crime drama filmed across 37 locations, including Johannesburg, Nairobi, Lagos, Zanzibar and Tanzania, featuring an all-African cast and crew. It follows the adventures of the eponymous lead character, the top spy at South Africa's equivalent of MI5; she's played by Pearl Thusi, a household name at home, and familiar to British viewers from the television adaptation of Alexander McCall Smith's The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency.

With fierce, full-throttle fight scenes featuring a female character, *Queen Sono* feels a bit like the BBC's multi-award-winning *Killing Eve*. Thusi's Queen hands out beatings with the same dry humour and sadism as Jodie Comer's Villanelle. At first glance, other viewers might be tempted to find similarities between the show and *Kill Bill* or *Tomb Raider*.

Beyond the window dressing, though, it's clear this is meant to be more than a retelling of stories we've seen before. From the costume design to the dialogue – which shifts between English and a number of languages, including Xhosa, Swahili, Zulu and Shona – this feels like a distinctly African story, and one that isn't being watered down for a western audience.

The task of presenting Africa from the "inside out" is being overseen by Dorothy Ghettuba, the former CEO of Spielworks Media, a Kenyan production company. Ghettuba was recruited last year as the company's manager for international originals, and now commutes between Africa and her base in Holland, listening to dozens of pitches from creatives hoping to have their ideas commissioned.

Speaking on the phone from Amsterdam, Ghettuba enthuses about the idea of changing the way the world sees Africa through programming that will be streamed to 167 million people in 190 countries. "We want to challenge dated perceptions, to show multi-dimensional characters with agency, rather than old-time stereotypes," she says. "This is a vast continent of more than a billion people. We will not be defined by a single type of narrative. People will know these are different people, they have different stories."

This idea is best demonstrated in the character of Queen Sono herself, who

> We want to challenge perceptions of Africa, show multidimensional characters with agency

is deliberately difficult to unravel. A complaint frequently raised about the western film and television industry is that black characters are limited, pigeonholed as athletes, performers, criminals or even slaves, with more complicated roles reserved for their white counterparts. Queen Sono, though, is more than a spy. She's the daughter of a slain freedom fighter who is dealing with childhood trauma; a jilted lover; a young South African struggling to come to terms with her heritage – and all of these at once.

"What's interesting about Queen Sono is that she is complex," Ghettuba says. "Which is all of us human beings – we are hardly simple. If we dig deep, we have complexities. She is a modern superhero, and these are universal themes we can tap into across the world, not just in Africa."

Africa has had a film and television industry for years. Nigeria's Nollywood has gained a cult following, and other countries, including Kenya and

ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE CATHRO. ORIGINAL IMAGES: NETFLIX



South Africa, have growing production industries. Yet with a multimillion-pound budget, Netflix has given local storytelling a gloss it has never seen before.

The South African director Kagiso Lediga has filled *Queen Sono* with vast, expansive shots of the continent's landscape, starting with the waterfront in Zanzibar before cutting to a scene in which Queen cycles through Johannesburg to her office. Ghettuba describes it as her favourite in the series: "You can see this metropolis is just beautiful, just amazing."

Queen Sono also delves into some of the issues that plague South Africa and other parts of the continent. Watching *Sarafina!*, a 1992 film starring Whoopi Goldberg about students involved in the Soweto uprising, was what began Ghettuba's love of the arts when she was 15, she says. So perhaps it's unsurprising that her first drama pick for Netflix Africa is overtly political in places.

The show looks at South Africa's uneasy political path since the end of apartheid in 1994. We see state corruption when the security agency is deployed to protect President Malunga, a hapless figure prone to taking seven-figure bribes; meanwhile, South Africa's real-life former head of state, Jacob Zuma, faces corruption charges linked to a £1.98bn arms deal. There are also nods to recent xenophobic attacks in South Africa, as well as the rise of the terrorist groups Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram in other African countries.

Next on the Netflix Africa release slate is *Blood and Water,* due out later this year. The streaming service describes the show as a "teen ensemble mystery set in a Cape Town private school". The trailer hasn't been released and there are no more details; Ghetubba is teasingly evasive when I ask for a synopsis at least. "We're just excited about it, no spoilers," she says, laughing.

As with *Queen Sono*, Ghettuba says *Blood and Water* will be focused on homegrown talent and "African stories from the inside out, not from the outside in. I always say the storytellers are not just the scriptwriters. Everybody is telling a story with whatever craft they have."

I ask what she hopes to achieve in the next year with Netflix Africa, and she croons: "Success for me is that people enjoy the shows, that they see themselves in it. I want them to stay indoors, watch *Queen Sono* and just have a good time. "That for me is success. I want people to find our shows enjoyable and for them to learn about Africa." C

Queen Sono is available now on Netflix

THE BEST POP GIGS TO GO TO

Michael Kiwanuka
Three albums of intense and impassioned songwriting, inspired by early-1970s polemical soul, make the Londoner a compelling live performer. ***Dan Cairns***
O_2 Academy, Birmingham, tonight; O_2 Guildhall, Southampton, Mon; O_2 Academy, Bournemouth, Tue; O_2 Academy, London SW9, Thu; Roundhouse, London NW1, Fri; O_2 Apollo, Manchester, Sat

The Big Moon
Their new album, *Walking Like We Do*, mixes multi-harmony melodies with needle-sharp lyrics. ***DC***
Nottingham Contemporary, Mon; O_2 Academy, Oxford, Tue; Oslo, London E8, Wed; Roundhouse, London NW1, Sat

Sports Team
The Betjeman-loving Cambridge graduates skewer suburban mores and capture the lust for life and flight in small-town teens. ***DC***
Roundhouse, London NW1, Fri

BREAKING ACT

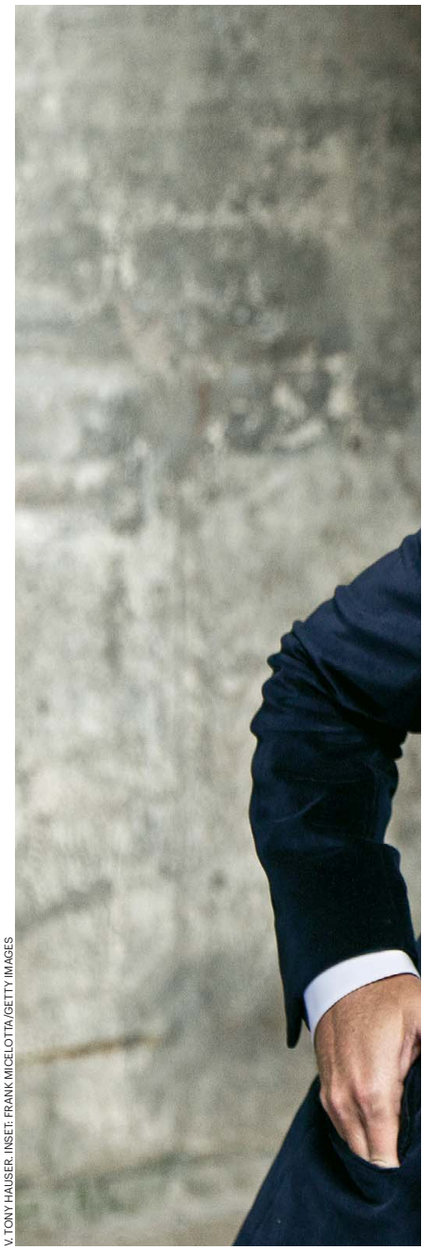
Jeshi
Who is he? A rapper from east London who has toured with Slowthai and collaborated with Mura Masa and Celeste (who appears on Jeshi's forthcoming EP). Jeshi's latest track, *Same Songs*, is sit-up-and-listen sensational: woozy and slurred one minute, before coming sharply into focus on a warm soul swell of a chorus about being "in a room full of people all alone". When the song morphs into prog, then yacht rock, all your instincts are confirmed: this guy is something else. *DC*

When's the music out? Now, on Because; jeshi.lnk.to/samesongs



Rufus Wainwright is back, his ego intact, but his music surprisingly restrained. It's a Laurel Canyon vibe, says *Lisa Verrico*

HIS NEW SWEET SPOT



V: TONY HAUSER. INSET: FRANK MICELOTTA/GETTY IMAGES

Half of Rufus Wainwright's face is beneath a bushy beard. The singer, who took a six-year sabbatical from the pop world to write opera and record Shakespeare sonnets, is, by his former standards, distinctly off-duty in appearance. The last time we met, he wore lederhosen. Today he's in jeans and a fluffy jumper.

His trainers at least make a statement. Emblazoned with Not My President, they are the primary reason he's stopped in the street these days.

"Every time I wear them, which is often, people ask to Instagram them," he says proudly. "They were sent to me, as I'm sure they were to many other musicians, but I've never bumped into any. It seems I'm the only one with the balls to wear them."

Trainers and Trump aside, at 46 and against his own expectations, Wainwright is wholeheartedly embracing middle age. Now a married father living in California, he has toned down not only his flamboyant outfits, but the baroque of his pop. His new album, *Unfollow the Rules*, is remarkable for many reasons, not least its restraint. Lush rather than lavish, more elegant than ornate, it's the most pared-back of his 22-year career, if still far removed from typical Top 40 fare. It could prove his first proper hit.

Inspired by middle age, married life, fatherhood, loss, London and Laurel Canyon, *Unfollow the Rules* captures Wainwright at a crossroads. He calls his ninth pop album a companion piece and bookend to his eponymous 1998 debut. In essence, it's a look back at his life, including forays into the world of high fashion, his failed affairs, his battle with addiction and his relationship with a specific set of British fans.

His singing is spectacular; his lyrics, as ever, are wonderfully witty and sharp-tongued, sometimes savagely so. Perhaps most striking is how settled he sounds. By his own admission, he was mostly crazed during his early years of exorbitant acclaim – *Rolling Stone* named him best new artist in the year of his debut, and he was widely hailed a genius – which fed into his OTT pop.

He summons that side on *Hatred*, an immense orchestral rocker about fighting prejudice, inspired by a Gluck opera and featuring his sister Martha Wainwright on manic backing vocals. Elsewhere he sounds reflective and content. His German arts-administrator husband, Jörn Weisbrodt, and daughter, Viva, 9, conceived with Leonard Cohen's daughter Lorca, crop up respectively on the beautiful *My Little You* and the aptly titled *Peaceful Afternoon*; on the latter, Wainwright sings of "sex and death and trying to keep the kitchen clean".

"I'm in a wonderful sweet spot at the moment – I wish I could freeze it," he says. "I am appreciated as a somewhat iconic figure, but out of the trainers, I can walk unbothered. I still look good in a certain light, I have a loving family and the world is not at war, yet.

"I also have a sense that I have been missed by my pop fans, and that there is a need for what I have to offer. In my absence, the art of songwriting has not been well taken care of. I have definitely seen a degradation of the form. I'm happy to be back to help, shall we say. To remind audiences that pop isn't always about your waistline."

Wainwright's ego, clearly, remains in rude health, although he admits that his forays into opera – first with 2012's *Prima Donna*, then 2018's *Hadrian* – were not as well received as he had expected. The former, in particular, was panned.

"I have in no way given up on opera," he insists, "but I have awoken to the reality of it – ie, I don't think I will ever conquer that world, which is fine. A lot of composers didn't in their lifetime. I would like to write more, but I'm not



ready to sacrifice my entire artistic career to please a select group of idiots."

Among those eagerly awaiting Wainwright's return to performing is a rabid fan base of older women. They are in for a shock. Their idol has written a song about them, the superbly titled, Disneyesque *This One's for the Ladies (That Lunge!)*.

"I have, especially in England, an incredibly loyal following of mature women," Wainwright says. "They are wonderful. They tail me on tour. They wait at stage doors. They knit me sweaters. They allow me to be Cliff Richard. My husband adores them – no threat whatsoever!

"A couple of years back, at a show at Bexhill-on-Sea, I was exhausted and the ladies were there, being, well, I wouldn't say aggressive, but they have their territory. I felt overwhelmed, and that's when I wrote the song. Was I hiding at the time? Possibly.

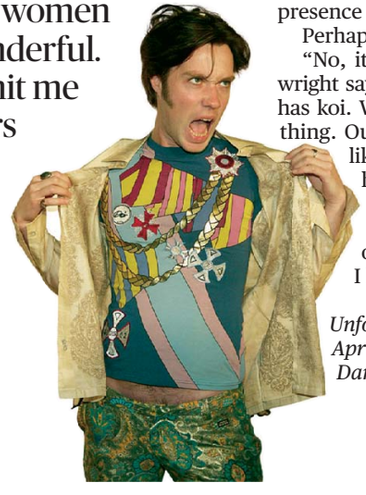
"I'm a little worried what they'll make of my tribute, but I think they'll be happy. I hope so. Either that or there will be an oestrogen-filled revolt against me."

Born in New York to the celebrated singers Kate McGarrigle and Loudon Wainwright III, who divorced when he was three, Wainwright grew up mostly in Montreal, and until three years ago was splitting his time between Toronto, where his husband worked, and his longtime base in New York.

His return to California, where he recorded his debut – an album so expensive, he claims he's still paying it off – was prompted by Chrissie Hynde, the Pretenders singer, whom he met on a bizarre cruise hosted by Paul Allen, the late co-founder of Microsoft.

Middle age suits him Rufus Wainwright, father and husband

> Mature women are wonderful. They knit me sweaters



"Paul was a great patron of mine – he used to lend me his studio to record my demos," Wainwright says. "Every few years he'd hire a liner and invite a few hundred of his friends to go somewhere exotic.

"This one was to Vietnam and Borneo, and on board was a strange mix of scientists, Jeremy Irons and John McEnroe. I'll be honest, 200 people on a ship for 2,000 could be a bit *The Shining* at times, but one night Chrissie and I got talking and she basically told me I had to live in the same city as my daughter. Of course it had occurred to me, but I guess I needed prodding."

Life in Laurel Canyon seems to suit Wainwright. He mixes with famous neighbours, including the actresses Martha Plimpton and Beverly D'Angelo, while a new friendship with Joni Mitchell inspired his current single, *Damsel in Distress*. "Our plan had been to hang out with Carrie Fisher, but sadly she passed away almost as soon as we arrived," he says. "But we've settled in, and it's been fantastic, both for our family and for this album. It's still going on in the canyon, albeit in a less decadent way.

"Joni I had never been a fan of, thanks largely to my mother. Joni was banned from our house. Her music, I should say, not her. My late mother, a real purist, felt that Joni fell short – too pop, too ephemeral. That said, I think she was tremendously jealous. They were both Canadian folkies, but Joni was so beautiful. She had this glam life that my mum couldn't, partly because she stayed home for us kids.

"Jörn is a huge Joni fan, so we went to meet her, and I can honestly say that getting to know her has been one of the most profound experiences of my life. She is a goddess among us.

"One time, when we went to her house, I was in a very dark place. There had been a lot of fires, and everyone was scared for their homes. I had also been on the road too much and was exhausted and depressed.

"We were waiting in Joni's garden by a beautiful fountain, watching the koi in her pond. Suddenly she was there in her wheelchair and, in a second, all of my sadness and anxiety evaporated. I can't explain it. Just being in her presence is powerful."

Perhaps the koi calmed him.

"No, it was definitely Joni," Wainwright says. "Everyone in the canyon has koi. We have koi. It's a celebrity thing. Ours are mid-sized, Joni's are like whales. In the past I'd have had koi envy, but I'm in too good a place for that. Of course I check out the size of other people's koi, but now I let it slide."

Unfollow the Rules is released on April 24 on BMG; the single Damsel in Distress is out now

Not enough flesh on the bones

CAMILLA LONG



Flesh and Blood *ITV, Tue*

Royal History's Biggest Fibs *BBC4, Tue*

The Rise and Fall of a Porn Superstar *BBC4, Mon*

This Country *BBC1, Mon*

Baghdad Central *C4, Mon*

It is with great pleasure that I announce ITV has remade the BBC's *Gold Digger* just three months after it aired. You will remember that wonderful miniseries for its naked hot-tub romps and its heartwarming moral universe, in which a relatively young and beautiful actress, Julia Ormond, at 54, was made to play an elderly, sad, sexually desolate and dithering divorcee of 60 who angered her family by daring to fall in love with a gorgeous young man she met at the British Museum.

For six whole episodes, her sad and grasping children stood round in a raging circle, telling their mother she was a disgusting, stupid, libidinous slag for allowing even one ray of love in. It felt wrong and misogynistic, but didn't we love it – how did she get her hair like that? Where did she buy her endless rural shagwear? Which Devon village contains that many "casual" extras?

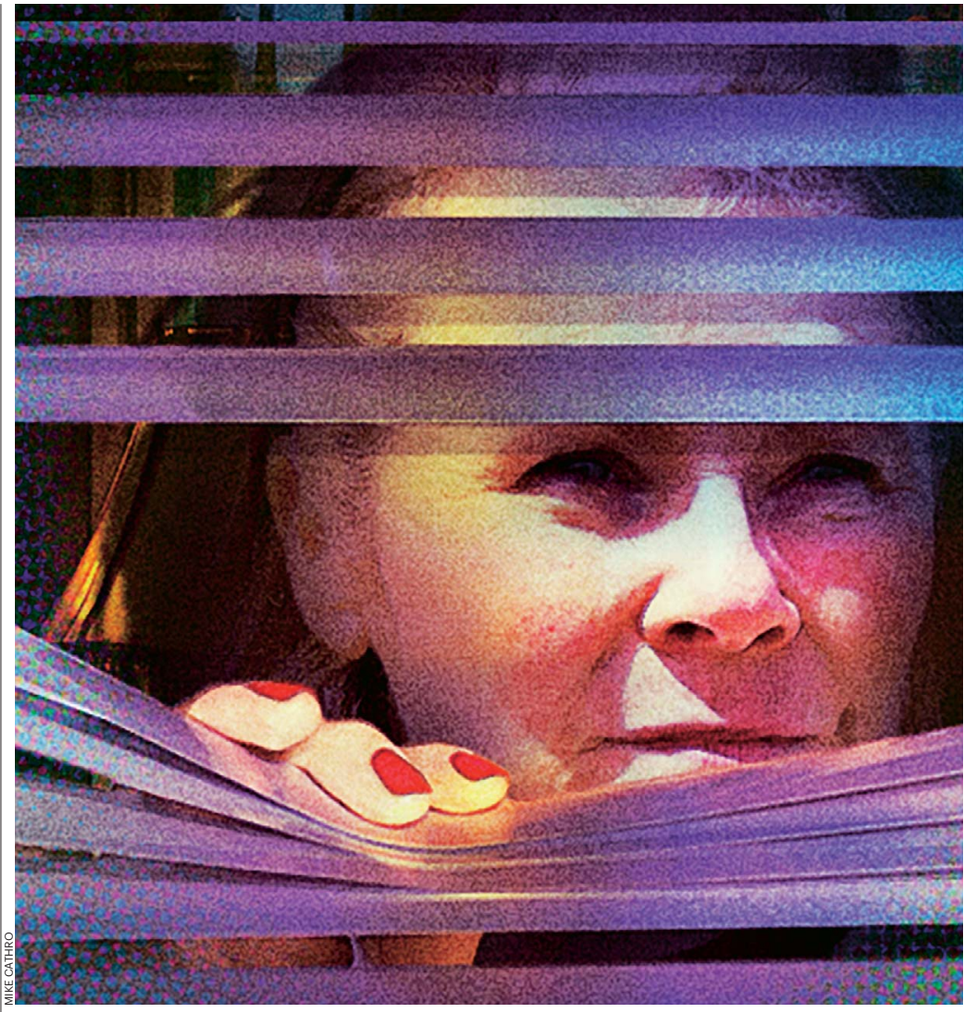
Now there is **Flesh and Blood**, a swooning four-parter on the rival channel. It revisits many of the same niche middle-class issues, only Vivien, played by Francesca Annis, has in her widowhood picked not a hunky and sexually voracious toyboy, but a "retired surgeon" played by Stephen Rea. It says everything about the priorities of weeknight television that this is the only solid piece of information they felt we needed to know about this preternaturally waffling and creepy slobberer.

I kept thinking, why is she with him? Does she like sloppy kisses and being endlessly pawed and face-cupped and given needy tragic presents like the red vintage sports car that gets mysteriously flamed in episode 2?

But didn't I understand – don't I *get* the intemperate and hostile televisionscape these poor, crushed older women must inhabit? Anyone who's nearly 70 should be grateful for anything, even men with the same crap wardrobe as Charles Saatchi who might be trying to murder them by putting drugs in their G&T.

Anyway, the plot. Hmm, yes. We knew it was all going to end badly because the beginning showed Vivien's beautiful house on the beach crawling with policemen. If that weren't sinister enough, the person who was supplying detectives with information, *Big Little Lies*-style, was a skittish Imelda Staunton. It is testimony to this great actress that I can't even describe the type of tiny-eyed, meaty malevolence she manages to convey with a single flicker of that nervous, rodenty smile. Let's just say the nicer and more chipper Staunton gets, the more like a Marigold-wearing boa constrictor she seems, slowly tightening her rictus coils. She feels dangerous to watch.

She didn't have a bad word to say about her too-beautiful neighbour, whom she'd known for 40 years, oh no. Nor anything unpleasant to say about Vivien's three unhappy children, including



MIKE CATHRO

> "This was a terrific cast for a mediocre thriller... Staunton threatened to outdazzle them all

THE CRITICS

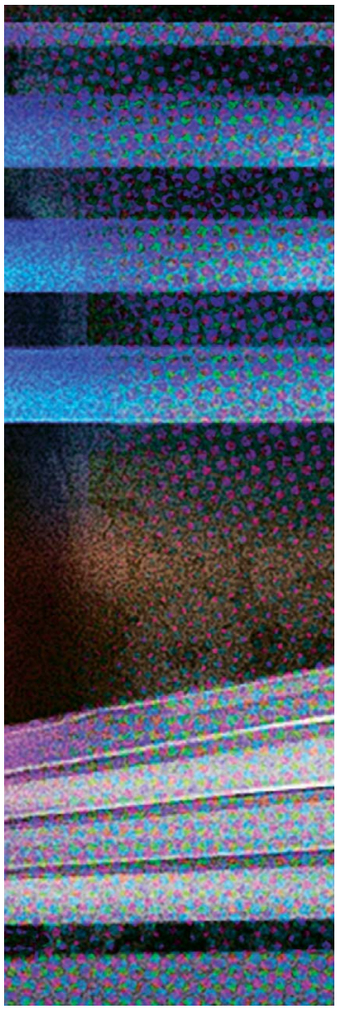
Helen, a drunk "acting CEO" played by Claudie Blakley, who looks taut and up for it, like a shagger bridesmaid. Or Jake, played by Russell Tovey, a personal trainer who's being paid for sex by an actress who looked like a hot, ancient Sophie Dahl. (Could we have more of *her* story, please? Why are there no primetime thrillers focusing on women who set up their young lovers in flats in return for three "personal training sessions" and two "massages" a week?)

This was a terrific cast for a mediocre thriller, with a turn from Staunton that threatened to outdazzle them all. In fact, her performance was so fizzy and suffocating, it almost ruined things: could there ever be a scenario in which her character *didn't* play a key role in the retired surgeon being muntered to death?

In BBC4's **Royal History's Biggest Fibs**, Lucy Worsley exuded yet more big dick energy as she swaggered around a selection of quailing corridors, declaiming about the "troof" behind the "Brodestant" and "Cafolic faif" at the time of Queen Elizabeth I. I have a huge amount of time for Worsley and her propensity to hammer along on her bandy little Princess Anne legs, squealing: "This cowwidor led to Henry's cockfighting pit!" Just as Elizabeth devoted her body to England, Worsley has devoted hers to wigs and codpieces.

It has actually got to the point where it doesn't matter what she is presenting – in this case, a series about royal propaganda. You just spend your time wondering how many horses she will ride and, in the case of this week's Spanish Armada special, how many ships she will bestride, or how many times she will turn up wearing a gigantic studded XXL Henry VIII tribute package to present a scene on hedgehogs or bowling.

What was it that drew me to *Storyville*'s high-minded



documentary **The Rise and Fall of a Porn Superstar** on Monday? It told the tale of an Israeli named Jonathan Agassi who became famous for his "landmark" film *Men of Israel*. If I were to describe his acting style, I'd say "confused into sex". One clip showed him confused into fighting naked under a pier, and not even a nice one; another showed him confused into getting into a truck full of semi-naked men on a post-apocalyptic island. Nearly every scene of this documentary showed him getting similarly confused into a series of increasingly horrifying events: passing out during interviews, smoking crack in a nightclub, learning how to inject his penis with a drug to keep it "stone hard" for four hours. "Afterwards it's really painful," he said.

What a chaotic and depressing film this was – some of the most extraordinary and horrible television I've watched. The self-abusive depths to which this broken man flung himself made me wonder if they should be shown on television, and that's before we even got to his weird co-dependent relationship with his mother. We watched as she happily indulged his appalling lifestyle, including a decision to wear white lace stockings, stripper heels, a harness, a face mask and a leather dong-holder on the streets of Tel Aviv. She accompanied him on shoots, watched as he picked up men. His porn, she said, was "awesome".

This Country is back for its third and final series. This week there was a focus on Francis, the show's doormat vicar. Francis finds direct comic ancestry in Lou from *Little Britain*'s Lou and Andy: a man who prostrates himself for cynical and grasping parishioners such as Len, who shouts at him to fetch his bog roll, and June, a prissy, self-interested matron who complains of "scuffage" on the sprinkler she has lent him.

Most comedies would leave him as a two-dimensional stooge, but he was given two mellifluous monologues about his past. It's not a revolutionary comedy, nor is it filled with terrific acting or zinging storylines – you wouldn't say any of the episodes were "classic". But it's quiet and bucolic and beautifully written, more like a nature documentary than anything.

I've been meaning to write about **Baghdad Central**, Channel 4's lavish thriller set in Iraq in 2003. You spend a lot of time drinking in the epic sets and high production values, the dedication to recreating the teetering teapots and fake flowers that form the backdrop to Iraqi life. The Iraqi characters all speak with ridiculous purring passion: "She wanted a life… to work… to dance and sing… to be free, like we all do," says one girl to her father, the chief of police, who is looking for his missing daughter.

Strip back the stirring Lawrence-of-my-labia monologues, however, and there doesn't seem to be much going on. The police chief is boring and noble, the plot dragging and self-regarding, leaving the heavy lifting to Bertie Carvel, as the 'tached and nervous Met officer to whom our hero is assigned. C

Lend us your years

GILLIAN REYNOLDS



Absolute Radio 20s
From Mon

John Humphrys
Classic FM, Sun

One Better Day
Radio 6 Music, Sun

The Californian Century
Radio 4, Mon-Fri

Music is what makes radio's wheels go round. That's why so many stations broadcast every kind of it. Radio 2 remains the BBC's biggest audio attraction; commercial radio's market lead is built on songs and tunes.

Absolute Radio is a chain of stations within the wider ownership of Bauer (the second largest of the UK's commercial groups) that targets age-defined listenership. Absolute stations each offer, specifically, music of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s and 2010s. On Monday it added the 2020s.

What is the music of the 2020s, or any decade? How is it different from the decade each side of it? Sometimes it isn't. Stevie Wonder crosses age barriers. Cher isn't limited to the 1980s. All these Absolute stations share presentation, news, sport, traffic, weather. What comes between, the music, is what's particular to each station: that essential illusion of being closer to you, the listener. Plus the general promise that there will be no repeats.

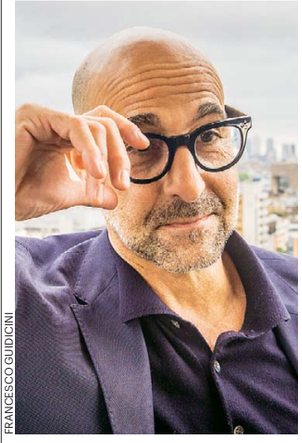
Don't try finding all the Absolutes on your radio. There isn't enough space on the dial. It doesn't matter. Listening via apps and smart speakers is where the competition is. When you sign up for a station's app, you provide data that will help it target you for advertising and promotion, as well as music. Don't shudder. When you sign on for BBC Sounds, it's a similar transaction.

John Humphrys, star of Radio 4's *Today* programme for decades, now presents a Sunday-afternoon music show on Classic FM, part of the portfolio of the largest of the commercial operators, Global. Even after a couple of months in the new job, he still keeps announcing himself. Sometimes he adds a half-chuckle, showing he's not about to pounce on some passing politico. He reads listeners' letters, excoriates a young man he saw on the Tube, chopsticking away at a Chinese meal with no regard to the effects of its smell on other passengers – ie, him. He tucks into the Classic menu himself, sharing the tunes in the Classic FM Hall of Fame, a top 300 that comes out every Easter. Easter, of course, is coming soon. Just like the next disc.

BBC 6 Music is about to embark on a big live season at the Roundhouse, the London venue that was once a derelict railway building, but over the years has become a place to expect the unexpected in music, theatre, performance. Setting the scene came **One Better Day**, a documentary about the venue, its history and its changing place in London life. Presented by David Rowntree, Blur's drummer and someone with the ease and grace to get on with anyone, it was a lovely listen even in its two episodes separated by 12 hours.

I once lived round the corner from the Roundhouse, still remember the pubs that watered rising rock stars, recall the Camden tingle of the adventurously illegal – and here it all was, told by people and bands who lived it. Mark Simpson produced with care and grace.

Radio 4's 10-part **The Californian Century** has the immense benefit of the documentary champ Laurence Grissell producing and the American (but London resident) actor Stanley Tucci presenting. It labours, however, under the illusion that making each episode sound like a screenplay is endearing. Maybe this is to attract people who don't usually listen to documentaries. (That is, those young listeners the BBC is desperately seeking.) The stories are good, the research is impressive. But if they want to invent an engaging new style, Radio 4's documentary unit really need to listen to more 6 Music and Absolute. C



FRANCESCO GUIDICINI

Focus on California
Stanley Tucci

PICK OF THE WEEK HOW TO ARGUE WITH A RACIST

BBC Sounds, the corporation's avenue to the audio future, is eating network funds like a rampaging ogre and is plugged on air so often, you could strangle your radio. Yet last week I blessed it. Adam Rutherford reading his latest was a recent *Book of the Week* on Radio 4, and, life being what it is, I couldn't catch it every day. But what I heard of episodes 1 and 3 was so good, I signed in (oh yes, Sounds is ready should the BBC switch to subscription) and listened to all five episodes end to end. It's marvellous. There's none of the cutesy banter that makes his Radio 4 show with Hannah Fry hard to abide. Here's a fine mind using logic to make, with passion and humour, a clear and urgent case for us to comprehend our humanity. It's also the ideal antidote to ingesting too many phone-ins.

SIX OF THE BEST FILMS TO SEE NOW



Emma
Autumn de Wilde's take on Jane Austen's novel is assured and, in its casting of Mr Knightley (Johnny Flynn) and Emma (Anya Taylor-Joy), spot-on. ***TS***
U, 125 mins

Parasite
Bong Joon Ho's multiple Oscar-winner is a lustrous, vibrant genre mash-up of Hitchcock thriller, social commentary, art film and Korean schlock cinema. ***TS***
15, 132 mins

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood
As the beloved American children's TV presenter Fred Rogers, Tom Hanks offers a masterclass in observational acting. ***TS***
PG, 109 mins

The Personal History of David Copperfield
Armando Iannucci lends an absurdist wink to Dickens's eye in this sublime and sure-footed adaptation. ***TS***
PG, 119 mins

1917
Sam Mendes's First World War drama is visually riveting. ***TS***
15, 119 mins

Little Women
Greta Gerwig's adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel is close to unimprovable. ***TS***
U, 135 mins

ST DIGITAL
THE FULL CRITICAL LIST IS AVAILABLE ON TABLET OR AT **THESUNDAYTIMES.CO.UK/CULTURE**

This French tale of art and passion can feel like a lecture — but a beautiful one. By *Tom Shone*



Let her put you in

Sea change Adèle Haenel, left, and Noémie Merlant

"A man looks, he sees, he reacts," Hitchcock once said, giving a definition of cinema that feminist scholars have picked at ever since. What if the person doing the looking is a woman? Céline Sciamma's elegantly conceived and exquisitely executed **Portrait of a Lady on Fire**, nominated last month for 10 César awards, supplies an answer.

In pre-revolutionary France, an artist named Marianne (Noémie Merlant) undertakes a treacherous sea voyage to a remote island in Brittany, where she is to paint the portrait of a young woman named Héloïse (Adèle Haenel); the picture is to be sent to the woman's intended husband in Milan, whom she has never met. The twist is that Héloïse has just left a Benedictine convent. Angry at the prospect of losing her freedom, she refuses to pose. A previous attempt resulted in a figure without a face: Marianne gives a small gasp when she sees it. Her mission is thus simple but unusual. "You must paint her without her knowing," says Héloïse's mother (Valeria Golino).

The promising thing about this set-up is that it could go in any number of directions. There are trimmings of gothic, for example, in the big house filled with shadows and shrouded furniture, and echoes of Hitchcock's *Rebecca* in the cliff lashed by waves, over which Héloïse's sister recently propelled herself rather than be similarly married off. Our first glimpse of Héloïse, from behind, in her emerald dress, sets her up as a Hitchcockian object of desire, like Kim Novak in *Vertigo*, while Marianne is haunted by visions of Héloïse in her white wedding dress, as if to preview her horror of looming domesticity.

Lit largely by candlelight and fires, the stone halls of Héloïse's mansion rustle with the distant sound of the wind and waves. Sciamma and her cinematographer, Claire Mathon, make silhouettes of the women, turning their compositions into sinuous exercises in line and luminosity that echo the simple, tactile beauty of Marianne's furtive sketches of Héloïse's ears, her hands, the folds in her dress.

"Is that me?" Héloïse asks when she finally sees the portrait, challenging the supposed objectivity of a painting by a stranger, using academic rules and traditions.

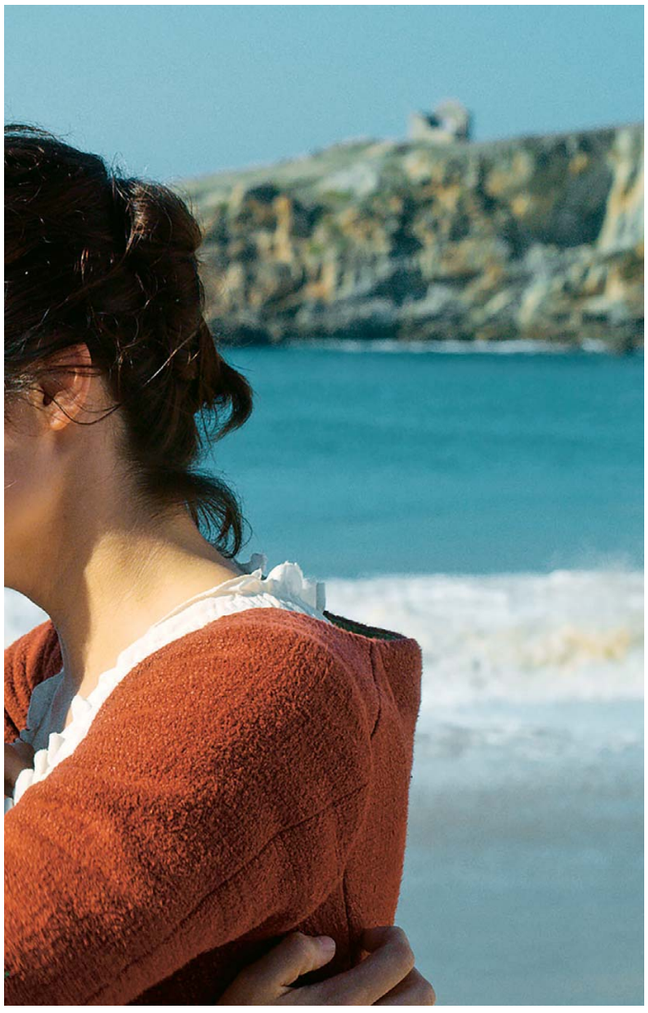
> **Lit by candles, the halls rustle with the sound of the waves**

In the boldness of Héloïse's gaze and the necessarily fragmented method forced on Marianne, you sense Sciamma's desire to jolt her film out of classicism and into modernity – a heady revisionist enterprise, and in some ways the least successful element of the film.

There are pockets of exposition about the marginalisation of women in the art world; in one scene, the two women swap places to deconstruct the notion of a neutral observer. While this would provide rich pickings for essays with titles such as "The Erotics of Looking: The Female Gaze in *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*", they lend the film a dry, didactic tone, as well as a bossiness unbecoming in a historical drama: as if the past existed to be lightly reprimanded by the present for its creakiness.

Far more successful is the meat of the tale, in which the longing implicit in the minute observance of one woman by another overflows into an actual love affair, as we somehow knew it must. "Do all lovers," Héloïse wonders, between kisses, "feel as though they're inventing something?"

At the centre of the film is an idyllic few weeks when Héloïse's mother goes away. Attending a gathering on the beach where Breton women encircle a bonfire and sing a wild, ritualistic a cappella song (*La jeune fille en feu*), Héloïse's skirt catches alight. For a few seconds she just stands there, before being doused with blankets. The slow burn of passion? The self-destruction implicit in the



the picture

THE CRITICS

two women's love? But she looks so calm. A discussion of Orpheus and Eurydice asks how Orpheus could possibly have turned to look, fatally, at his love. Could it be, as Marianne thinks, that he had "a lover's view, and not an artist's"? Rather thrillingly, Sciamma's film proves you don't have to choose.

From its opening shot – a haunting aerial view of a man in a white dress galloping on a horse through a forest of twisted trees at night – Justin Kurzel's unruly, uneven **True History of the Kelly Gang** announces its theme and intent. A feverish, full-tilt remix of the life of Ned Kelly, Australia's most notorious cattle thief, bank robber and folk hero, the film, freely adapted from Peter Carey's wildly imaginative novel, turns him into a hounded innocent motivated by a mixture of gallantry and desperation, driven to live outside the law by the viciousness of his upbringing and the bigotry of his colonial oppressors.

Garbed in a wardrobe of fine ladies' wear to throw the enemy off balance – based on the reported cross-dressing of gang member Steve Hart – he emerges as a damaged and angry, Oedipally fixated punk anarchist bent on death and glory, like a mixture of Jesse James and Sid Vicious. In chiffon.

The film is divided up into three sections – Boy, Man and Monitor – and the first is the most involving, with Orlando Schwerdt as the young Ned, growing up in a corrugated shed on the edge of the outback. His Irish father, Red (Ben Corbett), is a drunk with a secret penchant for cross-dressing, mocked by the locals, forcing his wife, Ellen (Essie Davis), to earn money by sexually servicing the lawman Sergeant O'Neil (Charlie Hunnam) while Ned watches through a slit in the tin wall.

A fierce, indomitable matriarch given vivid banshee life by Davis, Ellen towers over the film as over the book, instilling in Ned a hatred of the British and sending him up north to be apprenticed in the wild ways of the grizzled bushranger Harry Power (Russell Crowe), who wreaks revenge on a naked Hunnam by pointing a gun at his "pizzle". By the time the second section arrives – "Man", scrawled in blood – it's clear what the film is really about: putting the squeeze on balls-out masculinity.

Released from prison and now played by George MacKay, Ned befriends a louche English constable in sock suspenders (Nicholas Hoult) at the local brothel, where he also falls in love with the shy Mary (Thomasin McKenzie), but when the womanising policeman moves in on Ned's little sister Kate (Josephine Blazier) and throws Ma Kelly in the slammer – "You're not the man you pretend to be, you're a boy looking for a captain to tell him what to do," he sneers – all the slights to the Kelly family honour are in place for what follows: a life of crime as one last stand for his endlessly assaulted masculine pride.

A big improvement on Mick Jagger's dandyish Ned Kelly of 1970, and a slight improvement on Heath Ledger's from 2003, MacKay's is not some Aussie Robin Hood, but a volatile, pathological wolverine, spurring Kurzel to operatic flourishes – the final shootout is a sensory assault of blood, bullets and strobe lights – that may leave you with a headache. But you will not have been bored. C

Portrait of a Lady on Fire
15, 122 mins ★★★★

True History of the Kelly Gang
18, 125 mins ★★★

MORE NEW RELEASES

The Invisible Man
15, 124 mins ★★★

All's not Wells in Leigh Whannell's latest popcorn horror flick, a newly concocted present-day story. Elisabeth Moss plays a woman who flees an abusive boyfriend, only to find he has a unique way of hounding her: he can turn invisible and scare her senseless, and of course everyone else thinks she's just imagining things. It's essentially silly stuff, and overextended, but Moss is great and there are several good flourishes. At his most devilish, the indiscernible psycho is worth seeing.

Color out of Space
15, 108 mins ★★★

Based on an HP Lovecraft story and starring Nicolas Cage, this tale of a family attacked by a nebulous presence was never going to be genteel. The gruesome events and Cage's varied performance (opposite Joely Richardson as his wife) make steady entertainment for fans of weird horror. Given its potential, though, Richard Stanley's film is a touch disappointing. It has only a few bits of exceptional freakiness (one involving a strange case of mother-and-son bonding).

Dark Waters
12A, 127 mins ★★

Even if you don't care for superhero films, this true tale of a lawyer exposing pollution might have you wishing its star, Mark Ruffalo, would turn back into the Hulk, just to shake up the action and scatter the paperwork that fills so many scenes. Ruffalo's portrait of a dutiful crusader is fine for what it is, and the character's fight against the chemical company DuPont does have dramatic moments, but generally the mood is grey and stodgy. As director, Todd Haynes has few chances to show his inventiveness, and Anne Hathaway is stuck with that clichéd role, the wife frantic over her husband's obsession with his cause.

Downhill
15, 86 mins ★★

Will Ferrell struggles to escape his usual comedy persona in this step towards comic drama. His character's big misdeed — at the start of a skiing holiday with his wife (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and children — is supposedly a grave, marriage-threatening sin, but it comes across as just another of Ferrell's goofy blunders. Louis-Dreyfus is on form, but her co-star's miscasting and the script's general thinness mean Nat Faxon and Jim Rash's film can't live up to *Force Majeure*, the 2014 Swedish movie on which it's based. That film's terrific opening is best seen without foreknowledge: don't spoil it by watching this remake first.

Edward Porter

★★★★★ **KO** ★★★★ **A-OK**
★★★ **OK** ★★ **So-so** ★ **No-no**



Not a smash *Mark Ruffalo as a dutiful crusader in Dark Waters*

OfficialLondonTheatre.com

■ **Shaftesbury**
Tel: 020 7379 5399
& Juliet
Tue-Sat 7.30pm
andjulietthemusical.co.uk

■ **Savoy**
Tel: 0844 471 7687*
9 to 5 The Musical
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
9to5themusical.co.uk

■ **Duke Of York's**
Tel: 0844 871 7623*
Blithe Spirit
Thu-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm
thedukeofyorks.com

■ **Prince of Wales**
Tel: 0844 482 5110*
The Book of Mormon
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
thebookofmormonmusical.com

■ **Garrick**
Tel: 0330 333 4811*
City Of Angels
Mon-Sat 7.30pm
cityofangelsmusical.co.uk

■ **Phoenix**
Tel: 0844 471 7629*
Come From Away
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
comefromaway.co.uk

■ **Criterion**
Tel: 0330 320 2895
The Comedy About A Bank Robbery
Tue-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm,
Sun 3pm & 7pm
bankrobberycomedy.com

■ **Nöel Coward**
Tel: 0344 482 5138
Dear Evan Hansen
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
dearevanhansen.com

■ **Old Vic**
Tel: 0344 871 7628*
Endgame/Rough For Theatre II
For full schedule see website
oldvictheatre.com

■ **Apollo**
Tel: 0330 333 4809
Everybody's Talking About Jamie
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
everybodystalkingaboutjamie.co.uk

■ **Victoria Palace**
Tel: 0844 248 5000*
Hamilton
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Thu & Sat 2.30pm
hamiltonmusical.com

■ **Palace**
Tel: 0343 208 0500
Harry Potter And The Cursed Child - Parts One And Two
Part One: Wed & Sat 2pm, Thu 7.30pm, Sun 1pm
Part Two: Wed, Fri & Sat 7.30pm, Sun 6.30pm
harrypottertheplay.com

■ **Ambassadors**
Tel: 08439040061*
Kunene And The King
Mon, Tue, Thu-Sat 7.30pm
Wed & Sat 3pm
theambassadorstheatre.co.uk

■ **Wyndham's**
Tel: 0844 482 5151*
Leopoldstadt
Mon-Sat 7.30pm
leopoldstadtplay.com

■ **Lyceum**
Tel: 0844 871 3000*
Disney's The Lion King
Tue-Sat 7.30pm,
Wed, Sat & Sun 2.30pm
thelionking.co.uk

■ **Vaudeville**
Tel: 0300 333 4817
Magic Goes Wrong
Tue-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm,
Sun 2pm & 7pm
magicgoeswrong.com

■ **Novello**
Tel: 0844 482 5115*
Mamma Mia!
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Thu & Sat 3pm
mamma-mia.com

■ **Prince Edward**
Tel: 0844 482 5151*
Mary Poppins
Mon & Thu-Sat 7.30pm, Wed 7pm,
Thu, Sat & Sun 2.30pm
marypoppins.com

■ **Cambridge**
Tel: 020 7087 7745
Roald Dahl's **Matilda The Musical**
Tue-Fri 7pm, Wed 2pm,
Sat 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Sun 3pm
MatildaTheMusical.com

■ **Sadler's Wells**
Tel: 020 7863 8000
Message In A Bottle
Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm &
7.30m, Sun 2pm & 6pm
sadlerswells.com

■ **Sondheim**
Tel: 0844 482 5151*
Les Misérables
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed and Sat 2.30pm
lesmis.com

■ **St Martin's**
Tel: 020 7836 1443
The Mousetrap
Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
Tue & Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm
the-mousetrap.com

■ **Trafalgar Studios 1**
Tel: 0844 871 7615*
On Blueberry Hill
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Thu & Sat 2.30pm
www.onblueberryhill.co.uk

■ **Theatre Royal Haymarket**
Tel: 020 7930 8800
Only Fools And Horses The Musical
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
onlyfoolsmusical.co.uk

■ **Her Majesty's**
Tel: 020 7087 7762
The Phantom Of The Opera
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Thu & Sat 2.30pm
thephantomoftheopera.com

■ **Duchess**
Tel: 0330 333 4810
The Play That Goes Wrong
Tue-Sat 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm,
Sun 3pm & 7pm
theplaythatgoeswrong.com

■ **Piccadilly**
Tel: 0844 871 7630*
Pretty Woman: The Musical
Tue-Sat 7.30pm, Wed, Fri & Sat
2.30pm
prettywomanthemusical.com

■ **Dominion**
Tel: 0345 200 7982
The Prince Of Egypt
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Thu & Sat 2.30pm
theprinceofegyptmusical.com

■ **Gillian Lynne**
Tel: 020 7087 7750 Closes today!
School Of Rock - The Musical
Sun 3pm
schoolofrockthemusical.com

■ **Lyric**
Tel: 0330 333 4812
Thriller Live
Tue-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm,
Sun 3.30pm & 7.30pm
ThrillerLive.com

■ **Aldwych**
Tel: 0345 200 7981
Tina - The Tina Turner Musical
Mon, Wed-Sat 7.30pm, Tue 7pm,
Thu & Sat 2.30pm
tinathemusical.com

■ **Harold Pinter**
Tel: 0844 871 7622*
Uncle Vanya
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
unclevanyaplay.com

■ **Gielgud**
Tel: 0844 482 5151*
The Upstart Crow
Mon-Sat 7.30pm (17 Feb 7pm),
Wed & Sat 2.30pm
upstartcrowthecomedy.com

■ **Adelphi**
Tel: 020 7087 7753
Waitress
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
waitressthemusical.com

■ **Apollo Victoria**
Tel: 0844 871 3001*
Wicked
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 2.30pm
WickedTheMusical.co.uk

■ **Fortune**
Tel: 0844 871 7626*
The Woman In Black
Tue-Sat 8pm, Tue & Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm
thewomaninblack.com

Shows by venue

■ **London Coliseum**
Tel: 020 7445 9300
londoncoliseum.org
Luisa Miller
6 Mar 7.30pm
Madam Butterfly
5 Mar 7.30pm, 7 Mar 6.30pm

■ **National Theatre**
Tel: 020 7452 3000
nationaltheatre.org.uk
Death Of England
Tomorrow 8pm

■ **Royal Opera House**
Tel: 020 7304 4000
roh.org
Dances At A Gathering/ The Cellist
2, 4 Mar, 7.30pm
Fidelio
3, 6 Mar 7.30pm
Swan Lake
5 Mar 7pm, 6 Mar 12pm

■ **Shakespeare's Globe**
Tel: 020 7401 9919
shakespearesglobe.com

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse: The Taming Of The Shrew
4, 6 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm,
5 Mar 7.30pm
Women Beware Women
2, 3 Mar 7.30pm,
7 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm

OFFICIAL LONDON THEATRE .com **TKTS**

Theatre tickets for today & tomorrow.
Find the booth in the heart of Leicester Square.
Visit TKTS.co.uk

*Calls cost 7ppm, plus your telephone company's network access charge
Full show details and online booking at **OfficialLondonTheatre.com**

For a drama about football's origins to be credible, the actors were trained by Man Utd. By *Benji Wilson*

HOW TO BE PITCH PERFECT

The rule with sport in films is there shouldn't be too much sport. Unfortunately, a sports film has to have some footage of famous actors pretending to score wonder goals when patently the closest they've been to a white line recently was in the Groucho – which is why you get so many on-screen abominations (see box, right).

The irony is that if you want emotive footballing drama with jeopardy, characters and season-long intrigue, you can just watch live football. It's readily available on Sky and BT four nights a week. So when Netflix came to tell the story of the origins of football in a new drama, *The English Game* – from its creation in the 19th century in British public schools to its evolution in the mill towns of the northwest, professionalised and democratised – the challenge, as the show's executive producer, Rory Aitken, says, "was always going to be how you would play the football".

The English Game's approach has been to cast the best footballing actors around. Then they trained them up. Watching the cast at the end of a two-month boot camp at Manchester United's Carrington training ground last year suggests it has worked. The actors were chosen in part for their footballing ability. "It was almost a prerequisite of getting in the room in front of the execs," says Kevin Guthrie, who plays the lead role of the Glaswegian pioneer Fergus Suter and was seriously good as a junior. "In the same year that I played in a local cup final, with scouts from Celtic and Rangers there, I was offered a film and opted to take it down that road. I'd like to think, in another reality, I might have gone on to play for a club at least."

Gerard Kearns, who plays one of his teammates, will have been seen waltzing through tackles at Soccer Aid; he is compact but pacy. Edward Holcroft, cast as the Etonian visionary Arthur Kinnaird – who saw that the public schools needed to let go of the game they had created – is also a useful player. As they run through shooting drills, it's readily apparent that, as their Manchester United academy coach, Dave Price, says: "The boys can play." One left-footed shot from James Harkness, who plays Suter's friend Jimmy Love, makes that bass-drum thunk that you only get with a pure strike. It sings into the goal, barely spinning.

These footballers have to act as well, though, and part of that act is not merely playing football, but playing football as it was played in the early years of the game. As the story picks up, football, as devised by the public schools, looks much more like rugby, a tussle of pushing, shoving, whacking and kicking that ploughs upfield like a rolling maul. The opposition are there to be cleared out of the way.

"Suter created the prototype for what we now know as tiki-taka football – the widespread passing game that has gone on to be played in Europe and across the world," Guthrie says. "He was the first one to bring that to England. Scotland had been playing that way for years because they were slighter in build. They couldn't just run through people. He created the idea of tactics, positions… he transformed



OLIVER UPTON/NETFLIX

Boot camp Kevin Guthrie, left, and Edward Holcroft in The English Game

NOT SO BEAUTIFUL GAMES

Bend It Like Beckham (2002)
Not a bad film, but the idea that Keira Knightley could kick a football was about as convincing as Neil Ruddock playing Ophelia.

Dream Team (1997-2007)
A decade of the fictional Harchester United on Sky 1 pioneered a process of putting fictional players into real-life footage. Better that they hadn't.

The Goal! trilogy (2005-09)
The actual football sequences weren't too bad, except that the Mexican actor Kuno Becker was plainly substituted for a footballing double most of the time.

Kicking and Screaming (1995)
The highest-grossing "soccer" film of all time featured Will Ferrell as a frustrated manager. The football sequences are the worst thing about the film, though it's a close contest.

what it was to win a game of football – it wasn't just driving the ball over the line in the way the Etonians did."

The scripts for *The English Game* come from the creator of *Downton Abbey* and *Belgravia*, Julian Fellowes, a man who, based on his work, you'd assume wouldn't be remotely interested in football. And he wasn't, until this.

"Am I a football man? No. No, no. I hated rugby at school, too… I hate exercise, really."

Fellowes calls West Ham East Ham and couldn't tell a Pogba from a Drogba, but he writes about class in history as well as anyone, and when you see the story *The English Game* tells, it's obvious why he's the right man to be telling it.

> The mill and mine owners needed pastimes to distract their workers

By the mid-19th century, the public schools all had their own forms of football, so they came together and created standard rules so they could play against one another. They created the Football Association, the body that governs English football to this day. The main competition was the FA Cup, and all the public schools competed in it – hence the pub-quiz staple that Eton and Charterhouse have both won the cup more times than Leicester City.

"Around the same time," Aitken says, "with the late industrial revolution going full tilt, a lot of legislation came in that basically created the concept of a weekend for the working classes." Even if it was just for one day, the mill and mine owners in the north-west needed pastimes to distract and placate their workers. Football took off fast and, after only a few years, the working men's teams started to challenge the superiority of the public schools. (Blackburn first won the FA Cup, beating Old Etonians, in 1883, 11 years after the first competition.)

The English Game crystallises the inevitable clash that was to come by opening with an FA Cup quarter-final between Darwen, a mill team from just outside Blackburn, and Old Etonians. It ends in a draw, and the Etonians refuse to play extra time – so Darwen have to go to London for a replay the following week, by which time they are exhausted and unable to compete. The self-styled gentlemen are putting one over on the proles. Now you see why this is a Julian Fellowes drama: there's an upstairs, there's a downstairs, and history has set them in conflict. As Aitken says: "It's *Downton Abbey* with football."

"What fascinates me about it is the core story," Fellowes says. "It is really the upper class trying to obtain control of the game and being undermined and faced with the reality that, whatever they like, the truth is that the game has outgrown them. It is unrealistic to think they can continue to control it, which is kind of the narrative, and I felt that was such a good reflection of what was happening in western Europe anyway. That the working class was gradually taking over and becoming the key class that had to be appeased, if you like, and dealt with, as opposed to ignored or brushed under the carpet. I liked that idea of this sort of miniature play-out of the larger struggle."

Fellowes has been gifted with his footballing protagonist, in the remarkable historical figure of Fergus Suter. "He had a wonderful football ego, as all good footballers have," says Guthrie, the actor playing him; with the addition of a moustache, he's a dead ringer for his man. "He knew in every dressing room he was the best player in the team. If we equate him to someone nowadays, I've always gone down the line of a Billy McNeill or a Danny McGrain [who played for Celtic]. But in England he's in the Paul Scholes world, the Ryan Giggs world. It's how he uses his ability, his feet and his brains – and the social movement that was created as a result of his decision to come down to England and take wages to play."

With that, Guthrie, who has taken a break from training to talk, jogs back onto the astro at Carrington. He receives the ball, looks up, picks a pass and moves. As his teammates find space and the ball follows up the field, it looks like proper football.

The English Game is on Netflix from March 20

FIVE OF THE BEST ART SHOWS TO SEE NOW

David Hockney: Drawing from Life
Portrait drawings from the 1950s to the present by the UK's most famous living artist. ***Sarah Crompton***
National Portrait Gallery, London WC2, until June 28

Masculinities
This exploration of what it is to be a man is more woke than bloke in places, but full of humour and wisdom. ***WJ***
Barbican, London EC2, until May 17

James Turrell
An engrossing installation that confirms the miraculous power of this master of light. ***WJ***
Pace Gallery, London W1, until Mar 27

Picasso and Paper
This torrent of a show isn't really about Picasso and paper. It's about the magic of his hands. ***WJ***
Royal Academy, London W1, until Apr 13

Radical Figures
It's been clear for some time that painting was heading for one of its inevitable returns. This show places a finger on that pulse. ***WJ***
Whitechapel Gallery, London E1, until May 10

Ball stories *Masculinities, at the Barbican*



ST DIGITAL
THE FULL CRITICAL LIST IS AVAILABLE ON TABLET OR AT **THESUNDAYTIMES.CO.UK/CULTURE**

A new exhibition shows that too many British surrealists substituted whimsy and pretension for a darker art

The spirit is weak

WALDEMAR JANUSZCZAK



Lucian Freud pops up in the final room of the British Surrealism show at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, and hits a big nail on the head when he explains why he stopped going to surrealist meetings during the Second World War. "I objected to the fact that under the laws of doctrinaire surrealism … it was easy for people of no talent to practise art," he grumbles in a caption next to one of his own paintings from the period that emphatically proves his point.

The clunky early Freud, *Landscape with Birds*, shows two awkward stick figures, one white, one black, playing in a spiky winter landscape while a flock of absurdly caricatured starlings – part bird, part fishbone – parachute wonkily through the sky. If LS Lowry had tried surrealism, he would have produced better stick birds than these. It's a tragic fusion of faux seriousness and a wooden touch.

Take the word "doctrinaire" out of Freud's complaint and you pinpoint the problem with surrealism in general, and this show in particular. By offering such a roomy bandwagon to jump on, by being so easy to do badly, surrealism was a magnet for the lightly talented. The problem was universal – every artistic nation in the world produced bad surrealists (and in some cases is still doing so). Here, however, the results were particularly feeble because something hard-wired into the British psyche – a reserve, a self-consciousness, an entrenched politeness? – made British surrealism timid.

It's a point made recurrently by a show whose default mood is as mildly flavoured as a cup of darjeeling. The first picture we see, Paul Nash's *Opening*, from 1931, is typical. A set of receding doors, pale and wan in the manner of Piero della Francesca, opens eventually onto a glimpse of beach and a sliver of sea. Nash's art usually has a fragile presence to it. It's a deliberate English mood. But the gentle brand of poetry he strives for, with his mysterious doorways and his slivers of beach, only works when it seeks to have a gentle impact.

Not so the big landscape by Ithell Colquhoun hanging next to him. Pretentiously entitled *La cathédrale engloutie* – "the sunken cathedral" – it's a billboard-sized whopper in which fragments of Stonehenge and the Avebury rings poke out of a rolling Teletubby hillside, as if a prehistoric cathedral were buried there. If you've ever seen an episode of *Midsomer Murders*, you'll recognise these cod-druid moods. The vicar done it, and human sacrifices were involved.

The show is split into themes. The opening room is devoted to dreams. When surrealism started out, in France in the 1920s, its founder, André Breton, announced that the new movement was going "to resolve the previously contradictory conditions of dream and reality". As the show's captions point out, memories of the recent war – the psychological terrors it triggered – were a crucial part of surrealism's original mix. Reality had failed. It was time to give unreality a go.

Yet the darkness and anarchy of these first ambitions is conspicuous here by its absence. When Marion Adnams tries to get nightmarish on us, with a moonlit forest through which an origami ghost dressed as a Spanish Renaissance princess is wandering, it's more Alice in Wonderland than 1917.



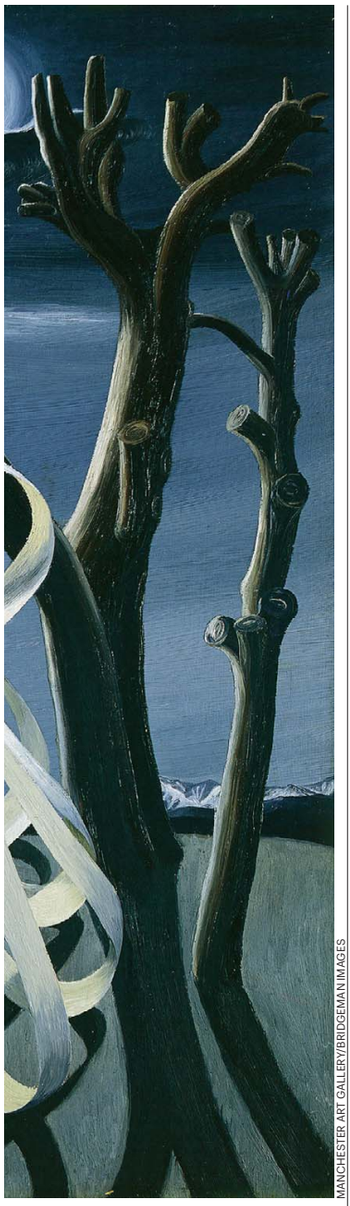
Into the woods L'enfante égarée by Marion Adnams

Nothing here comes close to matching the oily and throbbing viscerality of Dali. Or Hans Bellmer's evil psychosexual torturings of the human body. Or the unfathomable perversity of Georges Bataille. Instead of plunging deep into the blackness of the human condition, British surrealism goes for walks along the beach and collects pebbles and seashells. It reads lots of Lewis Carroll and paints pictures as polite as doilies. Some will wish to defend this unshakeable native reserve. But the evidence here is conclusive. As a nation, Britain wasn't cut out to be surrealist.

> **Nothing here comes close to Dali's oily viscerality**

It's an impression heightened by the gallery's desire to keep the show family-friendly. All the way through, chummy wall captions try to keep visiting Daisies and Harrys amused. "Think of a dream you've

RUSTY, 2008 © CATHERINE OPIE, COURTESY REGEN PROJECTS, LOS ANGELES AND THOMAS DANE GALLERY, LONDON



MANCHESTER ART GALLERY/BRIDGEMAN IMAGES

had," says the instruction opposite Nash's grim 1918 scene of broken trees and muddy graves filled with First World War dead. "Act out this scene using only actions and no words." The situation gets interesting when we reach the room dealing with the key surrealist interests of desire and sexuality. What will Daisy and Harry make of *The Pine Family*, which only works if you recognise Colquhoun's anthropomorphic tree stumps as naked humans displaying their genitalia? Or, in the case of the male tree, what's left of its genitalia, because the relevant symbolic branch has been brutally truncated. As I said: pure *Midsomer Murders*.

Colquhoun is one of an impressive number of female artists here. It is certainly to surrealism's credit that it opened its doors to lots of feminine involvement. But the female surrealists are no better served by these circumstances than the male surrealists. Eileen Agar is weakly represented. Paule Vézelay is easy to miss. And no amount of crossing your fingers and hoping will ever turn Leonora Carrington into a good painter. With her anorexic ghosts and tremulous Day of the Dead storylines, she is always naff. The only female contributor to emerge with credit is Grace Pailthorpe, full-time Freudian and part-time painter, a genuinely spooky artist who feels as if she found her surrealist imagery on the far edges of her consciousness, not in the first few pages of Lewis Carroll.

So. Plenty of mysterious blobs that turn into humans. Lots of birdmen. A few spooky seasides. Scores of eyes that follow you around. A sinister forest, now and then. And many a gaping mouth filled with many a hungry fang. How weird that out of all the things surrealism could have depicted, it managed to arrive at this international consensus of its favourite clichés.

It is left to the extras – the precursors, the almost surrealists – to lift the proceedings. Nash's 1918 warscape is the first of the standouts. And what should loom up around a corner but a gripping William Blake close-up of a screaming head, based on one of the damned in Henry Fuseli's depiction of Dante's *Inferno*. Fuseli himself is here, with his trio of witches from Macbeth.

But for me the show's outstanding exhibit is a tiny watercolour by Richard Dadd called *A Hermit*. It shows a bearded mystic in biblical robes, sitting on a bleached desert rock. Above him is a crucifix. At his elbow are a skull and an hourglass. Dadd is notorious for going mad and murdering his father. Yet here everything is miraculously still and clear. And it's that stillness and clarity, rather than any inserted weirdnesses or clunky distortion, that make this such a gripping image. C

British Surrealism, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London SE21, until May 17

Making the show her own

David Dougill enjoys a varied programme from Alina Cojocaru

The delectable ballerina Alina Cojocaru, a principal of English National Ballet and formerly of the Royal Ballet, has taken to curating her own shows. The latest – the first to be seen in London – had the title **Alina at Sadler's Wells**.

Cojocaru couldn't fail to be watchable even if she tried. While her choice of pieces – some new, one a classic – is focused on herself, that's not to the exclusion of others. She brings a select team of dance partners, as well as three outstanding musicians who make prominent contributions. Music opens the show, with the cellist Margarita Balanas and the violinist Charlie Siem delivering a Handel passacaglia as an intense instrumental dialogue with a strong physical element.

For the first dance item, Balanas joins the pianist Sasha Grynyuk to play Arvo Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*. Here, its limpid tones support *Reminiscence*, a pas de deux by Tim Rushton for Cojocaru and her partner (on and off stage), Johan Kobborg. Gentle and tender, with Kobborg handling Cojocaru like a precious object, it is beautifully danced and seems a perfect summation of their artistic and personal togetherness. Though small-scale, it is also a reminder of how magnetic a partnership they made in their Royal Ballet years.

Two short films by the choreographer-director Kim Brandstrup gave Cojocaru a breather. *Faces* showed her in close-up, "marking" a dance while listening to music (Couperin); *Kiev* was a poignant record of her revisiting her first ballet school in Ukraine (where she went from her native Bucharest at the age of nine) and seeing her influential teachers there for the first time in 25 years. The accompanying music, again by Pärt, has the title *Für Alina*.

Juliano Nunes, the Brazilian choreographer, offers a new three-part dance trio, *Journey*, which has a programme note overburdened with themes that don't cross the footlights. It is busy in its music (by Luke Howard) and equally busy in its knotted dances, in which Cojocaru is lugged and splayed between Nunes himself and Dominic Harrison. By contrast, Kobborg's piece, *Les Lutins* (The Imps), is sheer delight: a witty display of rivalry between the Royal Ballet's Marcelino Sambe and the Australian Ballet's Takahiro Tamagawa – dazzling footwork from both – courting a flirtatious Cojocaru, who falls instead for the bewitching violinist (Siem) and his virtuosity.

This disjointed programme ended with a fully staged performance of Frederick Ashton's *Marguerite and Armand*, from 1963, to Liszt. Francesco Gabriele Frola, of ENB, danced the romantically impetuous Armand; Kobborg was his stern father. But Cojocaru's dance-acting as Marguerite, her first time in London, was on a plane higher in its subtlety, and heart-rendingly moving. This was her best showing of the evening.

At the Barbican, **Isadora Now**, a new programme from the Viviana Durante Company, aimed to evoke the spirit of Isadora Duncan, the American pioneer of "free dance", whose influential, often controversial performances brought her international fame in the early 20th century.

Her art was the antithesis of ballet, but she left indelible impressions on the future choreographer Ashton, whose *Five Brahms Waltzes in the Manner of Isadora Duncan* (1976) was liltingly and jubilantly danced by Begoña Cao (ex-ENB), replacing an injured Durante. Durante and the Duncan specialist Barbara Kane recreated one of Duncan's own works, *Dance of the Furies* (1911, to Gluck): a dark, seething, hurtling quintet.

The all-female troupe of six rounded off with a new commission, *Unda* (Waves), by Joy Alpuerto Ritter, an eclectic dance-maker expressing her updated view of Duncan's ethos. It is dramatic in its chiaroscuro staging, ritualistic, esoteric; the dancers pack a punch, to Lih Qun Wong's music, but structurally and conceptually it feels all over the place. C



ANDREJ USPENSKI

Togetherness
Cojocaru with Johan Kobborg

THE CRITICS

HE'S MAKING HISTORY

Robert Lepage, the great theatre disrupter, tells *Sarah Crompton* why the time is right to revive one of his truly epic shows



V TONY HAUSER. INSET: ELIAS DJEMIL-MATASSOV

Robert Lepage remembers David Bowie talking about turning 50. "He said, 'When you are young, you know very little, but you are sure of it and defend it. When you're 50, you know a lot and doubt everything.'" He pauses. "That's true. My work has evolved. It is still close to what I was doing 30 years ago, but I am less of a fighter, more of an absorber."

They are strange words to hear coming from Lepage. With his Quebec-based company Ex Machina, the French-Canadian, 62, has been one of the great theatrical pioneers of recent years. He uses speech, film, illusion and great imaginative leaps to create thought-provoking stagings, covering huge subjects with an extraordinary economy of means.

In *The Far Side of the Moon*, he told the story of the space race with one man on stage next to the revolving window of a washing machine. *The Dragons' Trilogy* was a 5½-hour epic about two Quebecois sisters and a China both real and fictive. *Tectonic Plates* veered between Montreal and Manhattan as it used continental drift as a metaphor for human separation. *The Seven Streams of the River Ota* traced the survivors of Hiroshima over five decades and seven hours of live theatre, encompassing the Holocaust and the Aids epidemic in its embrace.

It is this groundbreaking show we are sitting down to discuss: the 75th anniversary of the Americans dropping a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, and the Tokyo Olympics this summer, have prompted a revival. "It's representative of what my company has become," Lepage says. "Many styles, many theatrical vocabularies, seven different parts."

The company now has access to Japanese actors, which it didn't in 1994. "We had never been to Japan at that time. Now, every year, we have projects there. I can read Japanese. That brings a whole glow to the production, a deeper understanding of what the subject matter was."

Lepage recently found himself mired in unaccustomed controversy when his planned production of a play called *Kanata*, about the early history of Canada and the relationship between the colonisers and the indigenous population, was attacked for "cultural appropriation" by indigenous advocates. Co-producers in North America withdrew their support and the production was cancelled.



Turning Japanese Robert Lepage, top. His Seven Streams of the River Ota, left, is at the National

"There was clumsiness on my part," he admits. "I'm sorry if I have offended people." He has continued to talk to First Nations communities in an attempt to resolve the issues, but he feels the argument is being created by "different communities that have nothing to do with these communities".

"I am a Francophone artist from Quebec who mainly works in English," he says. "So I am very multicultural in a way. All of those different cultures have a radically different view on this subject – and I have been caught in the middle. English Canada is about cultural appropriation and saying, 'You don't do that.' French Canada is saying, 'Well, no, theatre is about playing the other in order to understand the other.' My impression is that the confrontation is between the colonisers."

He admits it is now impossible to cast someone who is not Chinese to play a Chinese character, as he once might have done. "Something has evolved. So that's why I have never felt like the culprit. The world has changed and suddenly we have to renegotiate with different cultures – 'How far can I push it? Do I have your consent?' In the 1990s, it just came out spontaneously and naively. We are in a different time."

He pauses again. "But the basis of theatre is that you pretend to be somebody else, and you share his or her drama and try to see how that finds an echo in your own culture. If you're not allowed to do that…" His voice trails away. "I can agree with the protocol, but you still have to be allowed."

It is not only new sensitivities he finds he is negotiating. The man who has blazed a trail for many young theatre-makers enjoys the sense of challengers coming up on the rails. "I love being aggressed by the new generation, and I think they do great stuff." But he worries about the lack of cultural memory. His one-man show about his childhood, *887*, which he is performing in the UK this month, is about memory itself.

"We are in a youth culture, and what is scary is that if you look for information on the web about someone in the 1980s, it is not there. Often the new generation of artists think they are inventing things. But it was done before. That's not to diminish what they're doing, but it is important they know that. I find it a bit frustrating at times."

The same sense that history is slipping away informs the fact that the events shaping *Seven Streams* now have to be explained. "Concentration camps, even Hiroshima and the Cold War, don't resonate in the same way as they did. We have had to take that into account."

Lepage has also fulfilled a long-held ambition and created Le Diamant, in Quebec, a performance and rehearsal space open to the public. It will stage opera and theatre, but also wrestling and circus. "So the audience are exposed to things they haven't been exposed to before." Wrestling? His smile is broad. "Wrestling is the most theatrical of arts! My work has been influenced by all of these art forms."

It has also drawn people into the communion of theatre – hence his willingness to put on events of great length. "Eventually you feel you are part of a community. You are not a bunch of lonely people sitting there, you are part of a marathon group, and the people on stage are in the same marathon as you. It takes time to tell the story, to be immersed. You become part of something."

The Seven Streams of the River Ota, Lyttelton, National Theatre, London SE1, from Friday until March 22

It never comes to the boil

QUENTIN LETTS



The Prince of Egypt is a mushy Moses musical that's sorely lacking Old Testament grit

Having forsaken artificially sweet things for Lent, I was relieved to catch **The Prince of Egypt** before Ash Wednesday. The surprising thing about this Hollywoodised take on the Book of Exodus is that they did not call it *Moses the Moosical* or *Now Ya Red Sea It, Now Ya Don't*. Did it make me laugh? Yes. In all the wrong places.

It began life as a 1998 DreamWorks animated film with mushy songs by Stephen Schwartz. He has turned it into a lowbrow, big-budget stage spectacle directed by his son Scott. Pharaohs may not be alone in their dynastic cravings. Things open, amid a lash of whips and stirring syncopation, with a song called *Deliver Us*. Dateline: Cairo, 1300BC. Hebrew slaves, the blokes showing their abs and the girls giving us the odd flash of honeyed thigh, lug stones as they build pyramids for their Egyptian captors. This necessitates much grimacing – "Boulder-shifting faces please, sweeties" – but is marred by the ease with which they toss these rocks above their heads. Anyone for a game of beach ball? I couldn't decide if the stones were made of polystyrene or that Oasis stuff my wife uses for flower arranging.

The great tale unfolds: the infant Moses is found in a basket by the Nile, is reared in the royal family as brother to Ramses, is ejected amid political intrigues by the nasty high priest (a nostril-flaring, cross-eyed turn from Adam Pearce, our new Donald Pleasence) and finally rescues his people. Back projections throb with orangey suns and craggy wildernesses, the illustrations in the style of a children's Bible and only partly obscured by a clunky blob inexplicably suspended over the stage. For the river, the chorus wear blue costumes and roll on the floor, pretending to be water. Come the plague of boils, the high priest's face is – abracadabra! – covered with stick-on baked beans.



TRISTRAM KENTON

Death on the Nile The cast of The Prince of Egypt

The score occasionally tries to thrust us into period and place with Middle Eastern flourishes worthy of Eartha Kitt doing one of her Turkish songs. The costumes are fruity, Ramses (Liam Tamne) at one point mincing on in a white military uniform evocative of mid-20th-century Italy. Luke Brady's Moses is a bearded millennial, so insufferably earnest you wonder what his sharp-clawed popsy, Tzipporah (Christine Allado), sees in him.

> **This is a lowbrow, big-budget stage spectacle**

Old Testament grit is rather absent. Moses, wailing at life's unfairness, complains to his adopted parents: "Ramses is going to get a pyramid, but all I'm going to get is a souvenir from Midian!" Some scenes involve flaming torches, the whiff of paraffin drifting across the stalls. Gary Wilmot pops up briefly as a Midian tribal leader. He looks as if he could be en route to Glastonbury.

Finally comes the parting of the Red Sea, done with a few more video projections. The high priest vanishes into a pothole of dry ice and, as the stage tilts, his soldiers slide into the orchestra pit, where they must have been lucky not to twang the double bass or put a foot through the much-used drums. At curtain call, Brady looked close to tears. Understandable.

Be More Chill, also American, is about Jeremy, a high-school weed who takes a magic pill to overcome his social geekiness. It downloads a "squip" (a sort of genie) into his brain and, for a while, this transforms his love life and popularity. Eventually Jeremy realises that magic pills are a bad thing and that he must throw off his addiction. Scott Folan leads an energetic young cast in a spirited but rather strenuously teenagerish show. A packed audience of twentysomethings loved it and fell on the interval £25 T-shirts like internet-hyped merchandise junkies. C

The Prince of Egypt
Dominion Theatre, London W1 ★

Be More Chill
The Other Palace, London SW1 ★★★

ALSO SHOWING

Pass Over
Kiln, London NW6 ★★★★

On an American street corner, under a half-assed streetlight and a Walk sign stuck on red, Moses and Kitch wait for something better. Homeless black men, they're fixing to get up off the block, to pass over — maybe to the penthouse of a promised land they conjure up in their fervent joshing. They're waiting then and now: in biblical Egypt, in slavery, in a modern world dashed with white-on-black violence. The original Chicago production of Antoinette Nwandu's 2017 play was filmed by Spike Lee. Indhu Rubasingham's staging looks grungier: you'd swear pollution hangs in the air. The friends bring their own joy — intricate handshakes that morph into dance, play fights and pipe dreams. Gershwyn Eustache Jr is an achingly vulnerable Kitch, while Paapa Essiedu is masterclass level as Moses, electrifyingly wired and wary. Their hope is tested by two white men: one preppy, with a full picnic basket and default privilege; the other a police officer whose armoury is all too familiar. Alexander Eliot plays both. Nwandu draws on *Waiting for Godot* for her vision of something stuck, but her text's looping rhythms and its slide away from hope are distinctively her own. *David Jays*

★★★★★ KO ★★★★ A-OK ★★★ OK ★★ So-so ★



MARC BRENNER

A gripping tale
Eustache Jr and Essiedu

POP, ROCK AND JAZZ

ALBUM OF THE WEEK



Soccer Mommy
Color Theory
Loma Vista

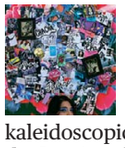
On her astonishing fourth album, Soccer Mommy (Sophie Allison) plumbs a troubled adolescence of mental health issues and family trauma, arriving at songs both startling and deeply moving in their candour. The Nashville musician's deftest touch is to set these to soundscapes that are restrained and minimalist, which gives the knife an extra twist. The extraordinary *Yellow Is the Color of Her Eyes* epitomises this: a finger-picked guitar, shimmering background dynamics, a vocal like a sigh — and lyrics of unblinking matter-of-factness about her mother's terminal illness. *Up the Walls* is similarly affecting, with squally, Elliott Smith-like textures accompanying words about a failed relationship; while the spiky dissonance of *Lucy* underpins a muse about the strange allure of embracing your dark side. "The days thin me out or just burn me straight through," Allison despairs on *Circle the Drain*. Yet *Color Theory* — divided into three sections, Blue, Yellow and Grey — never succumbs to self-pity. It's far too emotionally intelligent for that. *Dan Cairns*

Christine and the Queens
La Vita Nuova
Because



Musically, the six tracks on Héloïse Letissier's new EP construct a bridge between *Chaleur Humaine* and *Chris*, rather than to new creative territory. But that's fine, because Letissier does her thing so immaculately. If *Off the Wall*-era Michael Jackson remains a touchstone, *People, I've Been Sad* might be a lost Michael McDonald song; the forlorn *Mountains* pulls from the singer some of her most beautiful vocals to date; and the title track, with Caroline Polachek, is a skittering delight. *DC*

Angelica Garcia
Cha Cha Palace
Spacebomb



You'll rarely hear music more full of life than this. A bonkers, kaleidoscopic joy, steeped in the Los Angeleno's Mexican heritage (her mariachi-singer mum and gran both feature), it sets tortilla tales, Latina life and playful politics to multiple genres, with a ranchero twist. *Karma the Knife* has the sass of the Slits; *It Don't Hinder Me* recalls PJ Harvey; *Guadalupe* conjures up a Mexican Missy Elliott. Sensational. *Lisa Verrico*

Caribou
Suddenly
City Slang



"Suddenly" is right. We expect Dan Snaith's tracks to come with a warm, soothing glow, and this happens reliably enough on his new Caribou album – but suddenly it gets weird. Pianos detune, looped samples wander off the beat, voices are processed to the point of unintelligibility. *You and I* starts out with smooth keyboards, but then mutates into shouting over trap beats; *Sunny's Time* is pretty piano, but then aggressive rap and thumping machine kick drums. Fascinating. *Mark Edwards*

Lauv
How I'm Feeling
Awal



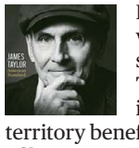
Teenagers love Lauv, whose perky-sounding pop is anything but. The California-born, part-Latvian DIYer with a whopping three billion streams pours digital-age struggles into seemingly simple, ferociously catchy electro bangers and Ed Sheeran-style ballads. Loneliness, parties, phones and depression dominate 21 singalongs; guests include Anne-Marie, Alessia Cara, Troye Sivan and the K-pop superstars BTS. *LV*

Disq
Collector
Saddle Creek



Though they're barely in their twenties, Disq create a sound that owes much to the indie rock of the 1990s and the classic pop of the 1960s. With a video spoofing the TV show *The Monkees* ("Series 1, Episode 11, Accidental Arsonists"), *Daily Routine* exemplifies everything wonderful about this band. The frontman, Isaac deBroux-Slone, sings "This is my daily routine/Spend my hours on computer screen" to sounds that somehow combine Weezer's power-pop riffs with Pavement's air of impending collapse. *ME*

James Taylor
American Standard
Fantasy



Everyone wants to sing standards. Taylor's move into this territory benefits from its air of homespun simplicity; and, unlike Dylan, his voice can handle the challenge. Helped by the guitarist John Pizzarelli, the singer-songwriter cuts a gentle but cultured path with the opener, *My Blue Heaven*, but he also takes risks: who would have thought he would dip into *Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat*, from *Guys and Dolls*? *Clive Davis*

CLASSICAL

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Schoenberg
Violin Concerto, Verklärte Nacht
Isabelle Faust (violin) and friends, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, cond Daniel Harding
Harmonia Mundi
HMM902341

Two Schoenbergs: the Lutheran convert who styled himself Schönberg and composed his most famous work in 1899 — the string sextet inspired by a Richard Dehmel poem — and the Jewish exile (now calling himself Schoenberg) in California, where he wrote his Violin Concerto in 1936. Faust — joined by Antoine Tamestit, Christian Poltera and Jean-Guihen Queyras — plays them in reverse chronological order, as though the heady, chromatic nostalgia of *Verklärte Nacht* is a reward to listeners for their endurance. The pairing underlines the composer's extraordinary journey out of tonality, and Faust delivers the most beautifully played account — gritty, intense — with Harding. It's not easy listening, but both musicians make a case for the concerto as one of the 20th century's greatest. *Hugh Canning*

Offenbach
Maître Peronilla
Orchestre National de France, Choeur de Radio France
Bru Zane BZ1039



Buried treasure unearthed for last year's bicentenary celebrations: *Maître Peronilla* is nominally an opera bouffe, but it is closer in spirit to true *opéra comique* than to *Orphée* or *La Belle Hélène*. Written in 1878, this is vintage Offenbach with a Spanish accent, sung delightfully by stylists such as Véronique Gens, Eric Huchet, Antoinette Dennefeld and Anaïs Constans. Markus Poschner conducts with vivacious Hispanic elan. *HC*

Ed Hughes
Time, Space and Change
New Music Players/Orchestra of Sound and Light, cond Ed Hughes/Nicholas Smith
Métier MSV28597

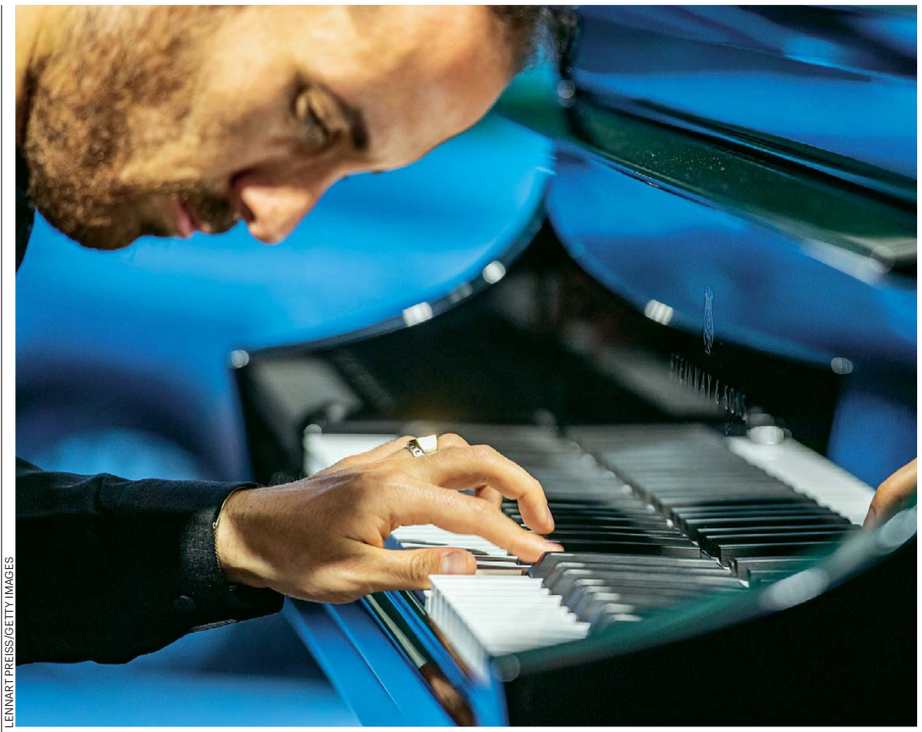


The title of this rich disc alludes to England and its music. *Cuckmere: A Portrait* is the transformed score for a film about a river, the idiom a sort of cheerily naturalised minimalism. Repetition yields to free-floating metrics in the piano trio *Media Vita*, based on John Sheppard's motet; historical revisiting is the formative principle of the *Sinfonia* (Smith conducts). The technique recalls Peter Maxwell Davies; the sensibility is different. *PD*

Schubert
Piano Trio, D929, and Notturno, D897
Hamlet Piano Trio
Channel CCS41719



Rude things are still said about Schubert's E flat trio, especially its finale, yet the critics do but themselves confound. The excellent British, Serbian-Russian and Dutch-Italian Hamlet piano trio, on period instruments, give the richly inventive finale uncut — all 19 minutes of it — and it's not a second too long. Occasionally, the 1826 piano's bass chords sound uncomfortably gruff. Otherwise, all is pleasure. *David Cairns*



LENNART PREISS/GETTY IMAGES

Simply the best

A week of works by Beethoven reveals the composer as 'the greatest mind', says *Paul Driver*

Key moments Igor Levit at the Barbican

There were moments during **Igor Levit** and **Markus Becker**'s Barbican performance of Beethoven's astounding piano-duo arrangement of his *Grosse Fuge* when I recalled the stark opinion of the writer Hans Keller: that Beethoven's was the "greatest mind altogether". Not just the greatest of composers – he trumps Plato, Shakespeare, Einstein and the few others on such a plane. Seeming, as Keller elsewhere claimed, to be philosophising about music, not in words but in the language of music itself, Beethoven devised such a far-reaching, fantasticated yet sublimely inevitable discourse that the work still feels challengingly, even uncomfortably, modern: a modernity that, by art's paradox, will never relinquish its grip on the future.

Levit and Becker, their hands incessantly entwined on the congested – for Beethoven, all too limited – keyboard, made things still more exciting for us by their driven speeds and air of critical earnestness. I wondered if they or we would get to the end in one piece, but I was sure none of us will ever get to the end of what the piece has to say. In its non-verbal way, it speaks, I feel, of music's ultimate capacity to be meaningful. One has the impression hearing this work – especially in keyboard form, more "analytical" than the original string-quartet texture – that nothing further is to be done with notes; that Boulez and Stockhausen toiled in vain.

A fanciful notion, but difficult otherwise to account for the sense of desperate urgency the players conveyed. In a work deeply influenced by late Beethoven, Bartok's Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion – for which they were joined by Klaus Reda and Andreas Boettger – they were rather more relaxed, as they had been for Brahms's beautiful two-piano version of his *Variations on a Theme of Haydn*. This was the close of Levit's residency at the Barbican, and a stimulatingly high-minded occasion it proved.

Beethoven's modernity again made its mark in an ingenious concert for his 250th anniversary, given by the venerable but unmistakably go-ahead **Gürzenich-Orchester Köln** and its conductor, François-Xavier Roth, at the Royal Festival Hall. The programme offered itself as a dramatic entity, interrupted only by the interval, with lighting effects and performer choreography; and it ventured a linking of Beethoven items (mainly excerpts) – both to each other and to music of the 20th and 21st centuries – that recalled Keller's wordless "functional analysis". Where Keller sought to illuminate the unity of a piece by rescoring it so as to bring related ingredients up against each other, Roth took us through a sequence of arresting, if harmonious, mind-freshening juxtapositions.

Isabel Mundry's specially written *Resonances* supplied transitions, and the first Beethoven extract was four of the Op 119 *Bagatelles*, played with a crispness bordering on vehemence by Pierre-Laurent Aimard. After a pointillistic bit of Mundry came what was for me the concert's early peak, when Aimard launched into the opening cadenza of Beethoven's *Emperor* Concerto (given entire); and that elementary E flat figuration seemed possessed, in the context, of an eternal newness; to be somehow more modern – because ultra-decisive – than anything that could follow on the programme.

Francesco Filidei's *Quasi una bagatella*, for piano and orchestra, drew, quite humorously, on stomping scales from the *Emperor*; and collaged amid the amazing, dissonant densities of Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Photoptosis* (1968) was a quote from Beethoven's Ninth; but it was the irresistible creative force of the *Emperor* that stuck in the mind. And that of movements from the First and Seventh Symphonies, and the Op 111 piano sonata's arietta, powerfully realised (though with its ending cut off) by Aimard. It was a magical moment when the opening chord of the First Symphony materialised at the close of Helmut Lachenmann's *Tableau* (1988); and clever to segue from the A major chord initiating the symphony's development section (stopped in its tracks) into the A minor allegretto of the Seventh Symphony. I haven't enjoyed a concert so much in ages – well, there was the Levit recital two nights before.

Back at the Barbican for the BBC Symphony's Total Immersion Saturday devoted to the excellent Swedish composer **Anders Hillborg** (born 1954), I expected to find Beethoven in absentia, but, lo, the fourth item of the Guildhall School's lunchtime recital at Milton Court was *Kongsgaard Variations* (2006), a compelling 16 minutes for string quartet drawn from the theme of that arietta. Hillborg's admitted influences go from Boulez to Paul McCartney – but Beethoven is always there in the end. C

THE CRITICS

THE BEST OPERAS, CONCERTS AND PLAYS TO GO TO

Fidelio
The German director Tobias Kratzer makes his UK debut with a new production of Beethoven's only opera, starring Lise Davidsen and Jonas Kaufmann. Antonio Pappano conducts. ***HC***
ROH, London WC2, today, Tue, Fri

Susanna
Handel's pastoral opera gets a rare staging with young artists from the Royal Opera House's Jette Parker programme, in association with the London Handel Festival. Patrick Milne conducts. ***HC***
Linbury Theatre, ROH, London WC2, Thu, Sat

BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
Donald Runnicles conducts Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, with Elizabeth Llewellyn, Christine Rice, Thomas Atkins and Brindley Sherratt. ***PD***
Barbican, London EC2, Wed

CBSO
Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla conducts Brahms's *A German Requiem* and Mozart's Wind Serenade in C minor. ***PD***
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed

Leopoldstadt
Tom Stoppard's sad and unforgettable family saga spans more than 50 years of Jewish life in Vienna. ***Quentin Letts***
Wyndham's, London WC2, until June 13

A Number
A fine revival of Caryl Churchill's drama about cloning, coercion and family strife. ***David Jays***
Bridge Theatre, London SE1, until Mar 14

ST DIGITAL
THE FULL CRITICAL LIST IS AVAILABLE ON TABLET OR AT **THESUNDAYTIMES.CO.UK/CULTURE**

THE APPRENTICE TURNED SORCERER

The conductor François-Xavier Roth explains the thinking behind his London Symphony Orchestra series to *Hugh Canning*

The French conductor François-Xavier Roth has been an annual guest with the London Symphony Orchestra since winning its Donatella Flick conducting competition in 2000 and being appointed assistant conductor for two years. In 2017 he was made principal guest conductor, joining Gianandrea Noseda as a complementary component of the team headed by the music director, Simon Rattle.

Since assisting John Eliot Gardiner on his famous production of Berlioz's *Les Troyens* in 2003, Roth, 48, has become France's most passionate advocate for a composer once neglected, even despised, there. He has also founded a period instrument orchestra, Les Siècles (The Centuries), that has won laurels for its recordings of 19th- and early-20th-century repertoire.

As he prepares to conduct three LSO programmes over the coming months, I ask him whether Gardiner's Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique was his introduction to period performance practice.

"Not really, because as a student in Paris I used to attend concerts by Pierre Boulez's Ensemble Intercontemporain and everything done by [the baroque specialists] Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Gustav Leonhardt. So all the new, and a lot of the old, music became a part of me. My work with Les Siècles is something to do with my generation. I was always interested in different genres and feel we should experience the gourmandise of lots of eras.

"Don't get me wrong, I understand musicians who focus entirely on one composer or period, but I see myself as a *généraliste* – a general practitioner, like a doctor."

Roth's work with Les Siècles has brought him a dedicated audience for their trailblazing recordings of Stravinsky in particular: *The Firebird*, *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring*, a recreation of the version played at the scandalous premiere in 1913. What was the impetus for this "project" band?

"The idea was a dream, an *utopie*, for an orchestra to change instruments for different music. We have an amazing collection of instruments, the best existing one for Berlioz, for example. Our musicians bought and renovated them, and sponsors helped us to find others, such as the early-20th-century ones for Debussy, Ravel and Stravinsky. We can also go back to the 'classical' period for Beethoven and his French contemporaries Gossec and Méhul."

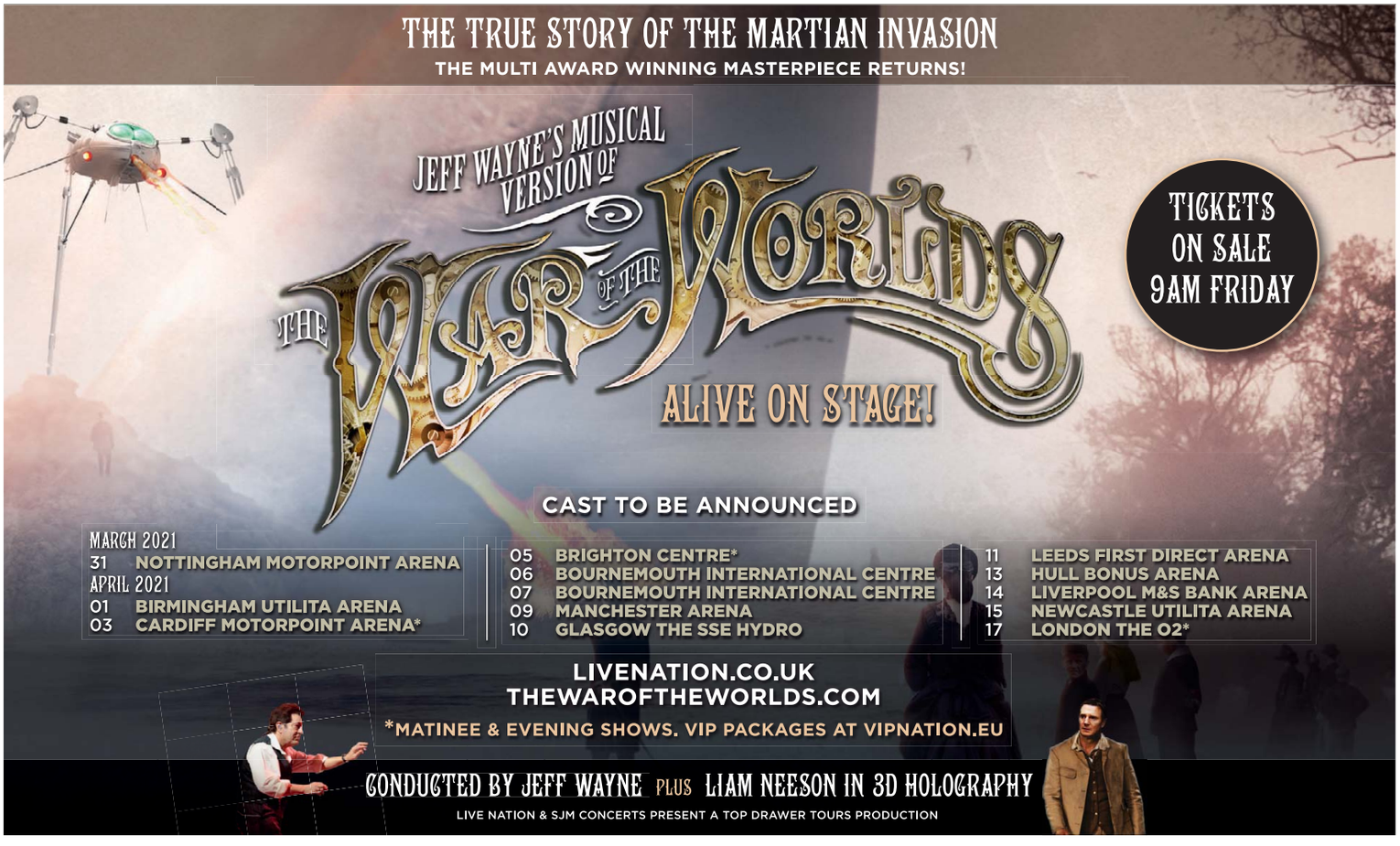
Their next project is a recording of Ravel's orchestration of Musorgsky's piano masterpiece *Pictures at an Exhibition*, which usually sounds more Russian than French. "I didn't know that Koussevitzky, who conducted a lot of Ravel in Boston, changed many details of the score, so it was fascinating for me to go back to the source."

His LSO concerts will continue his exploration of Bartok's big orchestral works. But one programme stands out for its rarity value: a day devoted to Paul Dukas, the teacher of Messiaen who composed the tone poem *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. "I don't like to be pigeonholed as a French conductor doing French repertoire, but I wanted to devote a programme to Dukas, a composer people don't really know.

> "I love to conduct less familiar French Romantic music

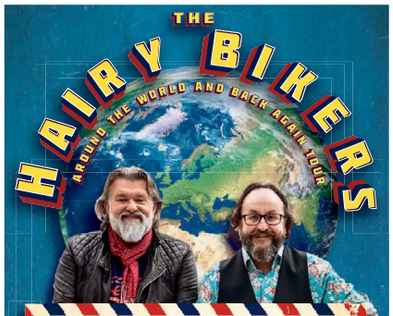
His symphony is a masterwork, and I don't understand why it is so rarely performed. It's part of my mission to conduct less familiar French Romantic music. I love [the Paris-based Belgian] César Franck, Gounod, Massenet, Chabrier. We owe so much to British conductors like Beecham, Barbirolli, Colin Davis and John Eliot Gardiner for championing their music here when it fell out of fashion elsewhere." C

Roth will conduct the LSO at the Barbican, London EC2, in Bartok, March 18 and 19; Dukas, March 22; and Stravinsky, June 11



THE HAIRY BIKERS

AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN TOUR



SEPTEMBER 2020
TUE 29 ISLE OF MAN VILLA MARINA
OCTOBER 2020
THU 01 HARROGATE ROYAL HALL
FRI 02 HULL CITY HALL
SAT 03 HALIFAX VICTORIA THEATRE
SUN 04 BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
MON 05 NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL
THU 08 YORK BARBICAN
FRI 09 BLACKPOOL OPERA HOUSE
SAT 10 LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL
SUN 11 SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
MON 12 LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL
THU 15 LLANDUDNO VENUE CYMRU THEATRE
FRI 16 STOKE VICTORIA HALL
SAT 17 NORTHAMPTON DERNGATE
SUN 18 BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL
WED 21 BATH FORUM
THU 22 CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL
FRI 23 TORQUAY PRINCESS THEATRE
SAT 24 SWANSEA BRANGWYN HALL
SUN 25 SOUTHAMPTON O2 GUILDHALL
THU 29 WARWICK ARTS CENTRE
FRI 30 CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE
SAT 31 READING HEXAGON
NOVEMBER 2020
THU 12 PERTH CONCERT HALL
FRI 13 ABERDEEN MUSIC HALL
SAT 14 EDINBURGH QUEENS HALL
SUN 15 GLASGOW THEATRE ROYAL
THU 19 GRIMSBY AUDITORIUM
FRI 20 MANCHESTER BRIDGEWATER HALL
SAT 21 MIDDLESBROUGH TOWN HALL
SUN 22 GATESHEAD SAGE
WED 25 GUILDFORD G LIVE
THU 26 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION
FRI 27 IPSWICH REGENT
SAT 28 BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL
SUN 29 FOLKESTONE LEAS CLIFF HALL

An Evening of Food, Frolics and Tales from a Life on the Road

SJM CONCERTS AND METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH SAM

BECK

09/07 Manchester
O2 Victoria Warehouse

11/07 London
SOLD OUT my Brixton

EXTRA DATE ADDED

12/07 London
O2 Academy Brixton



GIGSANDTOURS.COM
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
BECK.COM

BRYAN FERRY



UK TOUR 2020
March
SOLD OUT GLASGOW *SEC Armadillo*
05 NEWCASTLE *O2 City Hall*
SOLD OUT MANCHESTER *Palace Theatre*
SOLD OUT LEICESTER *De Montfort Hall*

CHOIR SEATS JUST RELEASED
11 LONDON *Royal Albert Hall*
13 LONDON *Royal Albert Hall*

BRYANFERRY.COM
GIGSANDTOURS.COM TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH WME

NewOrder

The O2 London
Saturday 10 October 2020
Only UK date in 2020

Gigsandtours.com
Ticketmaster.co.uk
Axs.com

Presented by SJM Concerts by arrangement with X-ray

MORRISSEY

LIVE IN CONCERT 2020



FRIDAY 06 MARCH
LEEDS
FIRST DIRECT ARENA

SATURDAY 14 MARCH
LONDON
THE SSE ARENA WEMBLEY

GIGSANDTOURS.COM
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK - AXS.COM/UK

NEW ALBUM
"I AM NOT A DOG ON A CHAIN"
COMING 20 MARCH 2020 FEATURING THE NEW SINGLE
"BOBBY DON'T YOU THINK THEY KNOW"

étienne BMG YMOU

AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ITB

KATHERINE JENKINS



PERFORMING SONGS FROM HER
NEW ALBUM 'CINEMA PARADISO'
& FAVOURITES FROM
THROUGHOUT HER CAREER

JANUARY 2021
24 SOUTHAMPTON O2 GUILDHALL
25 GUILDFORD G LIVE
27 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION
28 BATH FORUM
30 LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC
31 LONDON ADELPHI THEATRE

FEBRUARY 2021
02 CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE
04 GATESHEAD SAGE
05 YORK BARBICAN
06 NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL
08 BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL
09 MANCHESTER BRIDGEWATER HALL
11 LLANDUDNO VENUE CYMRU
12 CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL

GIGSANDTOURS.COM TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
VIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT SJM-VIP.COM

NEW ALBUM
CINEMA PARADISO
OUT 17 APRIL

AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UTA & MODEST!

A NEW SHOW FOR 2020

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW

Featuring classics from
Meddle, The Dark Side of The Moon, Wish You Were Here, Animals, The Wall
and more...



ALL THAT YOU FEEL
WORLD TOUR 2020

OCTOBER
THU 29 SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
FRI 30 HARROGATE CONVENTION CENTRE
SAT 31 NEWCASTLE O2 CITY HALL
NOVEMBER
MON 02 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION
TUE 03 MARGATE WINTER GARDENS
THU 05 HULL BONUS ARENA
FRI 06 CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA
SAT 07 BIRMINGHAM ARENA
MON 09 NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL
TUE 10 IPSWICH REGENT
THU 12 CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE
FRI 13 BATH FORUM
SAT 14 BOURNEMOUTH INTL CENTRE
MON 16 OXFORD NEW THEATRE
TUE 17 GUILDFORD G LIVE
THU 19 READING HEXAGON
FRI 20 BRIGHTON CENTRE
SAT 21 LONDON EVENTIM APOLLO
MON 23 LLANDUDNO VENUE CYMRU
TUE 24 LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL
THU 26 BLACKBURN KING GEORGES HALL
FRI 27 MANCHESTER O2 APOLLO
SAT 28 GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO
SUN 29 LIVERPOOL EMPIRE

Iconic Songs - Original Artists - Full Symphony Orchestra

80s Classical

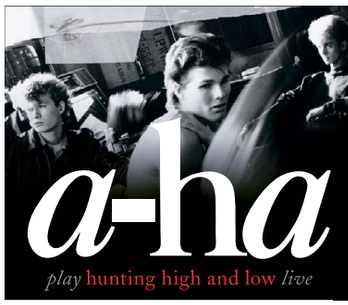
Hosted by Gary Davies with special guests
Jimmy Somerville
Belinda Carlisle
Howard Jones
Nik Kershaw (Except Brighton)
Carol Decker
Go West (Brighton Only)

Performing Live with the
Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra

Sat 31 Oct LONDON THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY
Thu 05 Nov NOTTINGHAM MOTORPOINT ARENA
Sat 07 Nov MANCHESTER ARENA
Thu 12 Nov CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA
Sat 14 Nov BRIGHTON CENTRE

a-ha

play hunting high and low live



NOVEMBER 2020
TUE 10
BOURNEMOUTH
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
WED 11
LIVERPOOL
M&S BANK ARENA
FRI 13
BIRMINGHAM ARENA
SAT 14
LONDON
THE SSE ARENA WEMBLEY

gigsandtours.com | ticketmaster.co.uk | a-ha.com
VIP packages SJM-VIP.com

PHOTO CREDIT: JUST LOOMIS



May 2020

17 Glasgow SEC Armadillo
18 Birmingham Symphony Hall
19 York Barbican
21 Gateshead Sage
22 Manchester O_2 Apollo
23 Sheffield City Hall
25 Cardiff St David's Hall
26 London Royal Albert Hall
27 London Royal Albert Hall



May 2020

24 Edinburgh Usher Hall
26 Nottingham Royal Concert Hall
28 Manchester O_2 Apollo
29 Cardiff St David's Hall
31 London Royal Albert Hall



April 2020

23 Guildford G Live
24 Brighton Dome
25 Oxford New Theatre
27 Ipswich Regent Theatre
29 Dublin Convention Centre

May 2020

01 [illegible] SOLD OUT
02 Leicester De Montfort Hall

May 2020

04 Southampton Mayflower
05 Cardiff St David's Hall
07 London Royal Albert Hall SOLD OUT
08 Liverpool Philharmonic SOLD OUT
09 Sheffield City Hall
11 Birmingham Symphony Hall
12 Bath Forum
14 Gateshead Sage
15 Manchester O_2 Apollo
16 Edinburgh Usher Hall



November 2020

01 Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
02 Gateshead Sage
03 Manchester Bridgewater Hall
04 London The Palladium
06 Birmingham Symphony Hall
07 Cardiff St David's Hall

A KILIMANJARO Presentation

VIP & Hotel Packages available at myticket.co.uk/vip on MY VIP

Tickets available at: myticket.co.uk









To advertise call 020 7680 6183
culture

A SPECIAL EVENING WITH THE ORIGINAL JERSEY BOY

FRANKIE VALLI

AND THE FOUR SEASONS

BACK BY HUGE POPULAR DEMAND



GREATEST HITS

"DECEMBER, 1963 (OH, WHAT A NIGHT)" • "SHERRY"
"WALK LIKE A MAN" • "CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU"
"BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY" • "RAG DOLL" "MY EYES ADORED YOU"
"GREASE" • "WORKING MY WAY BACK TO YOU" • "WHO LOVES YOU"

JULY 3RD, 4TH & 5TH • LONDON ROYAL ALBERT HALL

JULY 7TH • NOTTINGHAM MOTORPOINT ARENA

JULY 8TH • LIVERPOOL M& S BANK ARENA

TICKETLINE.CO.UK • TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
BOOKINGSDIRECT.COM

PRESENTED BY KENNEDY STREET AEG LIVE NATION WWW.FRANKIEVALLIFOURSEASONS.COM

KENNEDY STREET ENTERPRISES PRESENT

10CC

IN CONCERT

DONNA ★ RUBBER BULLETS ★ I'M NOT IN LOVE
ART FOR ART'S SAKE ★ DREADLOCK HOLIDAY
THE DEAN AND I ★ I'M MANDY, FLY ME
THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE ... & many more

2020

OCTOBER

08 CARLISLE SANDS CENTRE
09 HALIFAX VICTORIA THEATRE
10 HULL CITY HALL
11 NORTHAMPTON DERNGATE THEATRE
13 ABERDEEN MUSIC HALL
14 EDINBURGH USHER HALL
15 PERTH CONCERT HALL
17 STEVENAGE CONCERT HALL
18 BASINGSTOKE ANVIL
19 HIGH WYCOMBE SWAN THEATRE
20 CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE
21 BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
23 RHYL PAVILION
24 MARGATE WINTER GARDENS
25 STOKE VICTORIA HALL
26 READING HEXAGON
28 DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE
29 ST. ALBANS ARENA
31 CROYDON FAIRFIELD HALLS

NOVEMBER

01 LEICESTER DEMONTFORT HALL
02 SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
03 WEYMOUTH PAVILION
04 EASTBOURNE CONGRESS THEATRE
06 COLCHESTER CHARTER HALL
08 SALISBURY CITY HALL

www.ticketline.co.uk • 0844 888 9991

www.10cc.world



GREGORY PORTER

& HIS BAND MAY2020

9TH MANCHESTER ARENA MANCHESTER-ARENA.COM
10TH CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA MOTORPOINTARENACARDIFF.CO.UK
11TH LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA FIRSTDIRECTARENA.COM
13TH GLASGOW SSE HYDRO THESSEHYDRO.COM
14TH NEWCASTLE UTILITA ARENA UTILITAARENA.CO.UK
16TH BIRMINGHAM RESORTS WORLD ARENA RESORTSWORLDARENA.CO.UK
17TH HULL BONUS ARENA BONUSARENAHULL.COM

19TH, 20TH, 22ND & 23RD
LONDON ROYAL ALBERT HALL
ROYALALBERTHALL.COM

25TH BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE BHLIVETICKETS.CO.UK
26TH BRIGHTON CENTRE BRIGHTONCENTRE.CO.UK

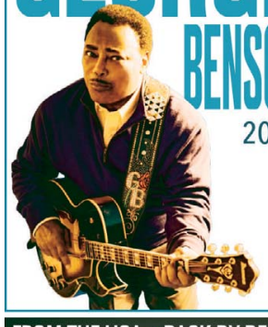


ORDER THE NEW ALBUM ALL RISE - OUT APRIL 17TH
LISTEN TO THE NEW SINGLE 'REVIVAL' NOW

TICKETLINE.CO.UK • 0844 888 9991
gregoryporter.com kennedystreet.com

GEORGE BENSON

2020



KENNEDY STREET BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED TALENT AGENCY PRESENTS

SUN JUNE 21 MANCHESTER BRIDGEWATER HALL bridgewater-hall.co.uk
TUE JUNE 23 GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL ticketsglasgow.com
WED JUNE 24 LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA firstdirectarena.com
FRI JUNE 26 CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk
SAT JUNE 27 BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE bhlivetickets.co.uk
MON JUNE 29 BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL thsh.co.uk
TUE JUNE 30 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION SOLD OUT thecliffspavilion.co.uk
THU JULY 2 LONDON ROYAL ALBERT HALL royalalberthall.com

TICKETLINE.CO.UK • TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

The Revolution

PRINCE'S FORMER BAND IN CONCERT



BROWNMARK · WENDY · BOBBY Z · DR FINK · LISA

4 & 5 JULY 2020
02 SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE

7 JULY 2020
02 RITZ MANCHESTER

TICKETLINE.CO.UK
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

A KENNEDY STREET BY ARR WITH OUTER MOST AGENCY PRESENTATION

FROM THE USA ★ BACK BY DEMAND ★ BACK TO BACK HITS



THE TEMPTATIONS & THE FOUR TOPS

BALL OF CONFUSION ★ GET READY
CLOUD NINE ★ TREAT HER LIKE A LADY
MY GIRL ★ PAPA WAS A ROLLIN' STONE
REACH OUT I'LL BE THERE ★ WALK AWAY RENEE
LOCO IN ACAPULCO ★ SUGAR PIE HONEY
STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF LOVE ★ BERNADETTE

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS ODYSSEY

USE IT UP AND WEAR IT OUT ★ INSIDE OUT ★ GOING BACK TO MY ROOTS ★ NATIVE NEW YORKER

29 OCT CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA MOTORPOINTARENACARDIFF.CO.UK
30 OCT NOTTINGHAM MOTORPOINT ARENA MOTORPOINTARENANOTTINGHAM.COM
01 NOV MANCHESTER ARENA MANCHESTER-ARENA.COM
02 NOV LIVERPOOL M&S BANK ARENA MANDSBANKARENA.COM
03 NOV LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA FIRSTDIRECTARENA.COM
04 NOV BIRMINGHAM ARENA BIRMINGHAM ARENABHAM.CO.UK
07 NOV BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE BIC.CO.UK
08 NOV LONDON O2 ARENA THEO2.CO.UK

WWW.TICKETLINE.CO.UK WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

A KENNEDY STREET ENTERPRISES & LIVE NATION PRESENTATION

A KENNEDY STREET AND REGULAR MUSIC PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH UTA

THE ISLEY BROTHERS

Feat. Ronald & Ernest Isley

YOU MAKE ME WANNA SHOUT!

FIRST UK TOUR FOR 10 YEARS! PLAYING ALL THE HITS!



SHOUT! SUMMER BREEZE
THIS OLD HEART OF MINE
PUT YOURSELF IN MY PLACE
THAT LADY TWIST AND SHOUT
HARVEST FOR THE WORLD
BEHIND A PAINTED SMILE

2020

June 24 GLASGOW Royal Concert Hall glasgowconcerthalls.com
June 26 LEEDS First Direct Arena firstdirectarena.com
June 29 BOURNEMOUTH International Centre bhlivetickets.co.uk
July 01 LONDON Hammersmith Eventim Apollo eventimapollo.com
July 02 NOTTINGHAM Royal Concert Hall trch.co.uk
July 03 MANCHESTER O2 Apollo o2apollomanchester.co.uk

WWW.TICKETLINE.CO.UK • 0844 888 9991

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ESTATE OF WHITNEY E. HOUSTON

BASE HOLOGRAM PRESENTS

AN EVENING WITH WHITNEY

THE WHITNEY HOUSTON HOLOGRAM TOUR
BACKED BY LIVE BAND, SINGERS AND DANCERS



MARCH 2020

01 GLASGOW SEC ARMADILLO SEC.CO.UK
04 BIRMINGHAM ARENA BIRMINGHAM ARENABHAM.CO.UK
05 BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE BHLIVETICKETS.CO.UK
06 CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA MOTORPOINTARENACARDIFF.CO.UK
07 BRIGHTON CENTRE BRIGHTONCENTRE.CO.UK
09 NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL TRCH.CO.UK
10 LONDON HAMMERSMITH EVENTIM APOLLO EVENTIMAPOLLO.COM

TICKETLINE.CO.UK • TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

A KENNEDY STREET PRESENTATION



Troubles at home

The family stresses that led to Greta Thunberg's campaigning life

30



Building a leviathan

An insider look at Facebook paints an unflattering picture of Mark Zuckerberg

28

BOOKS



GILES KEYTE/BBC

The final instalment of the Wolf Hall trilogy can be magnificent, but ultimately the novel sinks under the weight of its own detail

Too much of a good thing

FICTION

Peter Kemp

The Mirror & the Light
by Hilary Mantel
4th Estate £16 pp901

The Mirror & the Light could hardly have arrived amid more fanfare. Eight years in the writing, Hilary Mantel's concluding volume of her Tudor trilogy (begun in 2009 with *Wolf Hall* and continued with *Bring Up the Bodies* in 2012) has generated a remarkable buzz of anticipation. Accolades heaped upon the first two novels (both of which won the Man Booker prize, among numerous other awards), followed by an acclaimed RSC dramatisation and an outstanding television serialisation, have kept expectations for this book high.

Plunging you into the moments after the beheading of Anne Boleyn, with which *Bring Up the Bodies* ended, its opening pages are a masterpiece of gruesome finesse. Fallen belly down on the scaffold, the small body "swims in a pool of crimson". Sliding in the gore and sidestepping the now blood-sodden cushion on which the queen had knelt, her veiled ladies "lift what is left of her, holding her by her clothes... afraid the cloth will rip and their fingers touch her cooling flesh". A shuddering attendant handed the linen-swathed head "genuflects with her soaking parcel". Drenched in stomach-turning sensuousness, sharply focused, vivid, fast, it's a magnificently rendered scene – but, sadly, untypical of what follows in this 900-page chronicle of the last four years of Mantel's hero, Thomas Cromwell.

In her excellent 2017 Reith Lectures about historical fiction, Mantel declared that it should "put the reader in the moment, even if the moment is 500 years ago"; it should be fiction that "frees people from the archive". Present-tense narration gives her trilogy (whose first words are "So now") such immediacy. Freeing people from the archive proves more problematic, as reams of archival material are constantly dragged out with them.

Clogged with researched data, *The Mirror & the Light* can be a painfully slow read, sometimes like wading through a Sargasso Sea of Tudor haberdashery, 16th-century foodstuffs, aristocratic genealogies and dynastic matrimonial entanglements.



Inventories are reeled out for everything from the music of the period ("The duets of Francesco Spinacino, the saltarellos of Dalza the Milanese, the pavane alla veneziana, pavane alla ferrarese: a new toccata from Capirola...") to drapery ("Fourteen yards of black satin at six pounds and six shillings. Thirteen yards of black velvet for a nightgown and taffeta lining... kirtles, partlets, bodices, sleeves, sundries"). There are lists of defunct Knights of the Garter, legendary outlaws ("Clym of the Clough, Adam Bell, Will Scarlet, Reynold Greenleaf...") and debunked saints ("Guthlac and Gertrude, Hilda and Hubertus... Odilia, Aiden and Alphege, Wenta, Walburga..."). Emblems of noble families receive copious attention: "the Tudor rose", "the Seymours' phoenix", "the Howards' silver crosslets", "the Rochfords' sable lion", Katherine of Aragon's pomegranate, Anne Boleyn's white falcon, Anne of Cleves's swan.

Ominously prefaced by a five-and-a-half-page list of characters and two five-generation royal family trees, the novel is as overpopulated as it is overloaded. Some artistic pattern is imposed by structural symmetries: *Wolf Hall* started with the 15-year-old Cromwell lying in his own blood on the cobbles of Putney after a brutal beating from his father, *The Mirror & the Light* closes with the 55-year-old Cromwell lying in his own blood as he dies by the executioner's axe on Tower Hill. His beheading and that of Anne Boleyn strikingly bookend this novel.

Severed heads aren't uncommon in Mantel's fiction – and not only in her Tudor trilogy (Thomas More's in *Wolf Hall*, Boleyn's alleged lovers' in *Bring Up the Bodies*). Her novel set in Saudi Arabia, *Eight Months on Ghazzah*



End game Mark Rylance as Thomas Cromwell in the television adaptation of Wolf Hall; left, Hilary Mantel

Street (1988), depicts a nation infamous for its decapitations. In her fictional panorama of the French Revolution, *A Place of Greater Safety* (1992), the guillotine is kept busy and her eye lights on macabre details such as a coffee cup from the Sèvres porcelain manufactory decorated with a cameo of Louis XVI's head held in the executioner's golden hand, dripping golden drops of blood.

At one point in that novel, someone says: "Writing's like running downhill; can't stop if you want to." Extremely lengthy, *A Place of Greater Safety* did sometimes seem interminable, but irresistible momentum wasn't one of its features. The same is true of *The Mirror & the Light*. Since its main events are well known – Henry VIII's short-lived marriage to Jane Seymour, his distaste for her brief successor, Anne of Cleves, and the ruin this brings to her supporter, Cromwell – there's little suspense to tighten its story line.

Things are slackened further not just by multiple digressions into side issues but by a high proportion of recapitulation. Episodes from the preceding novels are repeatedly harked back to: Cromwell's brutalised childhood at the fists and boots of his violent father, his years as a soldier and merchant on the Continent, his time in the congenial service of Cardinal Wolsey until the prelate's fall from favour. Themes prominent in the previous books – caste resentment of the commoner Cromwell by the grandees of ancient families, Henry's unnerving personal and religious vacillations – recur. So do rather one-note characters: the splutteringly belligerent Duke of Norfolk, the spitefully scheming Lady Rochford, the always snarling Bishop Gardiner. For all its bulk, this book adds little new to Mantel's already profuse and at times hazy-edged portrayal of Cromwell.

Clogged with research, the book is a painfully slow read

Paradoxically, the novel seems at once voluminous and limited. Its concentration on the silky reptile pit of the court and the doublet-and-hose tribalism of the great families means that there's only a very distanced sense of the shattering cataclysms wreaked by Cromwell's religious policies. Though Mantel doesn't flinch from conveying pain – there's a searingly horrible scene of an agonised death by public burning – she is less effective at transmitting dread, the clammy terror overshadowing the period. Fighting for his life under interrogation as a prisoner in the Tower, Cromwell verbally spars with his enemies with what can sound surprisingly like Senior Common Room smartness and sarcasm.

In her acknowledgments, Mantel expresses gratitude to the "unseen army" of curators, librarians and academics who preserve "what is left of the world of Thomas Cromwell". Formidably knowledgeable about that world, she is paramount as a preserver of it herself. Her trilogy is a phenomenal achievement, but in *The Mirror & the Light* it's more a phenomenon of amassed information and tireless enthusiasm than triumphant creativity. C

This account of a family's tragic wartime history is flooded with human warmth

Fragile lives

BIOGRAPHY

Victoria Segal

House of Glass
The Story and Secrets of a 20th-Century Jewish Family
by Hadley Freeman
4th Estate £16.99 pp448

As children, Hadley Freeman and her sister used to "whisper to one another at night about how we wouldn't exist if it hadn't been for Hitler". If their grandmother Sala hadn't been urged by her brother Alex to marry an American she barely knew to escape the encroaching Nazis, then the Freeman siblings wouldn't even have been "cells or ether". It was a strange legacy. "I lived only because of the pain and loss of others," writes Freeman in this profoundly resonant family memoir, "and in particular the pain of one person – Sala."

Always unsettled by her grandmother's unmistakeable melancholia – "sad adults are confusing for children" – Freeman began this story 12 years after Sala's death, when the journalist, researching a book about fashion, found a shoebox inside her grandmother's wardrobe. Among the contents were a copy of a note declaring that the Jewish family Glass were hiding in Paris; a Red Cross telegram "apologising for the 'distressing news contained within' "; photographs and a drawing of a round-spectacled man labelled "Jacques", and – almost an afterthought – a small sketch by Picasso. With these secret relics, Freeman set out to answer painful questions her parents' generation knew not to ask: "They learned it from how hastily their mothers turned off the TV when Holocaust documentaries came on."

Originally from the Austro-Hungarian town of Chrzanow, the impoverished Glahs family were driven to France by the virulent pogroms that erupted after the First World War. In Paris, Sala, Jakob, Jehuda and Sender became Sara, Jacques, Henri and Alex Glass. Only gentle Jacques stuck close to what he knew, marrying a cousin from home and later acquiescing to the authorities' demands that he register as a Jew, despite his siblings' warnings. "After all," writes Freeman grimly, "if you did what they said, why would they hurt you?"

Alex's life, meanwhile, veered into wilder territory. He became a successful couturier, employing a young Christian Dior. Like Jacques, he joined the Foreign Legion and fought in Norway's battle of Narvik; later, he leapt from the train speeding him to a death camp, hiding out in a fairy-tale Auvergne farm. A biographer's gift, he later became an art dealer, befriending Picasso and living in a home full of works by Matisse, Manet and Renoir.

His story glitters, but there are other biographical riches. Henri pioneered microfilm – a spy story itself – and spent the war hiding in Paris with his wife Sonia. She would return, perilously, to their flat to tear down the letters of denunciation that appeared on their door. Sara, meanwhile, who only agreed to marry Bill, a Yiddish John Wayne from the Lower East Side tenements, under the ultimately mistaken impression it might help save her family, is sensitively shown as the victim of a "specifically female tragedy": self-erasure though marriage, its bitterness accentuated by the expectation of gratitude.

Bearing witness is a powerful motive, but Freeman also frames *House of Glass* as a warning against a backdrop of rising nationalism and anti-semitism across the world. In 2018 the Polish president Andrzej Duda made it illegal "to attribute responsibility or complicity for the Holocaust to the Polish state". Freeman reminds readers that on July 4, 1946, in Kielce, 40 Jews were killed in a pogrom. Who could blame Henri and Sonia for sending their grandchildren outside as they lit Friday night candles? "You don't need to see this," they would say, shutting the door on their Jewishness, trying to protect them.

"Haunting" is an insufficient description of *House of Glass*. It lingers, chilling the room when you think about cousin Rose scrawling a final goodbye to Sara on a postcard as guards boarded the bus she had hoped would take her to Switzerland, or Jacques, on a train to Auschwitz, realising his trust in France was misplaced. Yet it's not a book of ghosts; these people exist in high definition, Freeman catching their foibles, feuds, physical quirks and flashes of heroism. Researched with diligence and written with love, it triggers the same shock of recognition that comes from colourised film; black-and-white history flooded with bright detail, human warmth. *House of Glass* opens the door on to the past, and its light spills sharply across the present. C



Mystery A secret shoebox left by Sara Glass led to Hadley Freeman's search for the truth about her family

It's all about domination

Mark Zuckerberg dreamt of conquering the world from an early age

BUSINESS

Danny Fortson

Facebook The Inside Story
by Steven Levy
Portfolio Penguin £20 pp592

Mark Zuckerberg was feeling reflective. It was September 2016, and the Facebook billionaire was unwinding in a hotel room in Abuja. The capital of Nigeria marked the last leg of a whistle-stop tour of Africa where the boy king of social media was feted – and rightly so, it seemed. He had built the biggest empire in human history through unbounded ambition and many lines of code.

Little did he know that just two months later Donald Trump would be elected president, setting in motion an almighty reckoning that would see him hauled before Congress, and Facebook's image transmogrify from a place to share your life to the app that destroyed democracy.

With him that night in Africa was Steven Levy. Zuckerberg had only recently invited the respected tech journalist into his inner circle. He was there to write the definitive Facebook story. Or short of that, to at least pen an account that would counterbalance Zuck's image as the underhanded, awkward anti-hero portrayed in the blockbuster film *The Social Network*.

In an illuminating exchange in the hotel room, Zuckerberg idly reflected on how he approached problems, Facebook, the world, everything really, through the same lense: as an engineer. "There's this fundamental thing that from an early age, you looked at something and felt, 'This can be better. I can break down this system and make it better,' " he said. "I remember thinking about that when I was young. It didn't dawn on me until I was older that this isn't the way that everyone thinks of things. I do think that's the engineering mindset – it may even be more of a value set than a mindset."

Reading *Facebook: The Inside Story*, those lines return to the reader often as the book follows how Zuck built a leviathan used by nearly 3bn people. He trampled privacy. He went back on his word. He ruthlessly destroyed, bought or copied rivals. All in pursuit of one goal: growth. Or as he would regularly shout out at the end of meetings in the early years: "Domination!"



The collateral damage of his crusade, astounding in its breadth, depth and consistency, truly doesn't appear to cause Zuckerberg a wink of lost sleep. The United Nations named Facebook as an accomplice to genocide – of the Rohingya people in Burma. State organs of espionage have used his creation to manipulate elections and sow hate. For child sex traffickers and terrorist recruiters, it is a useful tool.

But nowhere in these pages is Zuckerberg seen flagellating himself, or thinking particularly deeply about Facebook's manifest problems. "I don't look back on stuff we've done," he told a student in Kansas. "People will criticise you and beat you up when you make mistakes. But it's optimists who build the future."

Zuckerberg, if you haven't gathered, is an optimist. And Facebook? It is a tool of that optimism, a system that simply needs to be improved, its algorithms tweaked. Levy's book shows that the company knew about "fake news" months before the 2016 election, for example, but chose to do nothing, paranoid



KRISTOFFER TRIPPLAAR/ALAMY

Zuck it and see The Facebook supremo

The collateral damage of his crusade doesn't seem to have caused him to lose a wink of sleep

that any changes would be portrayed by the right as lefty West Coast techies seeking to sway the result of an election.

So on Zuckerberg's orders, Facebook took the decision to sit on its hands. Part of the calculus was that, relative to the billions of posts on the platform, misinformation made up an infinitesimal portion. How big a problem could it be? To be fair, Zuckerberg and everyone else thought that Hillary Clinton was going to win easily. But what is clear is that election interference was evaluated as if it was a maths problem.

Zuckerberg was always this person, it seems. He grew up obsessed with Roman emperors and strategy games such as *Civilisation* or *Alpha Centauri*, the latter being a contest to control the galaxy. If Hollywood dreamt up such a foreshadowing, it would seem too facile. He has a long history of wantonly violating people's privacy. When he launched Facemash, the app at Harvard that compared people's looks, he did so by scraping data from university databases, conscripting people into public humiliation without their consent. It almost got him expelled. His takeaway was not contrition. Rather, he told a lawyer years later that the primary lesson was that: "People are more voyeuristic than I would have thought."

As Facebook grew, Zuckerberg flip-flopped. At times he was so awkward and nervous that his PR person had to blow-dry his armpits. At others he was imbued with a cockiness, or what a former classmate dubbed a "weird self-confidence".

And whenever he got caught, he apologised, pledged to do better, then crossed a new line – an approach that would become the Facebook playbook.

Sheryl Sandberg does not come off particularly well. Hired as the "adult in the room", she is seen screaming at colleagues, obsessed by her image and subtly disempowered. She runs everything that is not "product", which includes sales, policy, legal, communications. Internally, her empire is known as "Sheryl-World". (Nick Clegg, whom she recruited, has said she was "pretty remorseless" in her pursuit, and it appears he helped stabilise morale after he joined.)

The problem is that product – the apps and the engineering – is Zuckerberg's domain and it is paramount. And what becomes salient is that Zuckerberg's internal compass, his default settings, are different from most people's. He is an emperor like the ones he so admired as a child, and his authority is absolute.

If you want a play-by-play account of Facebook's rise, this is the book for you. It is told, however, almost exclusively by the players themselves. They have an interest in recasting the narrative after years of scandal, but what the narrative likely won't do is fill you with hope. Zuckerberg's engineering "value set" – to relentlessly build a better machine – virtually guaranteed that Facebook would end where it is now: vilified by politicians, stalked by regulators and still growing like a weed.

The next time Zuckerberg is caught doing something he shouldn't, he'll apologise. He'll pledge to do better. And by Levy's telling, will assuredly find a new line to cross. C

The only way is ethics

SOCIETY

Ian Critchley

Vexed Ethics Beyond Political Tribes *by James Mumford* Bloomsbury £16.99 pp224

James Mumford is far from the first commentator to state that western democracies have become increasingly polarised, entrenched in partisan positions on either left or right. However, in this book he comes at the argument from a fresh angle. By adopting such positions, he says, we have been forced to adopt all the beliefs of one faction or the other, buying in to what he calls the "package deals" of liberalism or conservatism, with no space for any crossover.

Mumford seeks to expose the contradictions inherent in these package deals, exploring topics such as abortion, environmentalism and criminal justice. If, for example, US conservatives believe in the sanctity of life, how can they also oppose gun control? Similarly, the left struggles to square its anti-consumerist, pro-sexual liberation beliefs with apps such as Tinder, where "sexual consumerism" is a central feature. To break out of these entrenched positions we need "moral imagination", the ability to see ourselves in the shoes of those we might consider strangers.

I'm not entirely convinced we fall into the categories of left or right as neatly as Mumford suggests. However, he leads us through some complex moral mazes with admirable clarity and the book is a thought-provoking exploration of some of the most contentious problems of our time. C

ST DIGITAL
FOR OUR PAPERBACK PICKS, AND OUR CHOICE OF THE BEST OF 2019 AND 2020, GO TO **THESUNDAYTIMES.CO.UK/CULTURE**

Climate change is a global threat, but the Thunbergs have fought their own demons

The family emergency

MEMOIR

Rosamund Urwin

Our House Is on Fire
Scenes of a Family and a Planet in Crisis
by Malena and Beata Ernman, Svante and Greta Thunberg
Allen Lane £16.99 pp288

There's a vast island of rubbish floating in the Pacific Ocean. Known as the Great Pacific garbage patch, it consists of plastic and other debris trapped by the currents: a man-made scar on the sea. A few years ago, Greta Thunberg cried as she watched a film in school about it. Her classmates were moved, too, but they reverted to their old behaviour as soon as they left the room, chatting about their next shopping trip or holiday abroad. Greta, of course, did not.

Our House Is on Fire documents the period leading up to the start of her climate strike in August 2018, when Greta, aged just 15, skipped school to protest about climate change outside the Swedish parliament. Her parents expected her to be "home by lunch"; instead she launched a global movement.

This is an English translation of a book by her mother Malena, titled *Scenes from the Heart*, which has been updated by the whole family, including father Svante and younger sister Beata. Malena describes its subject as "the crisis that struck our family – but above all about the climate crisis". It makes for a fascinating, if slightly chaotic read, jumping between chapters on Malena's career as an opera singer, Greta and Beata's problems, and the climatic havoc humanity is wreaking on the planet. At times, it feels like there is more than one book here: I was not especially interested in Greta's mother's mission to "take high culture down a notch"; I wanted to understand what drives the teenager who finally got the world to talk about climate change.

As Malena documents the family's struggles – from Greta's autism diagnosis to her own and Beata's ADHD – she makes the case that such conditions can be an advantage. "[These] neuropsychiatric functional impairments are not handicaps per se," she writes. "In many cases, they can be a superpower, that out-of-the-box thinking you so often hear performers, artists and celebrities talk about."

It means Greta sees the cognitive dissonance afflicting the rest of us about the environment. We may feel disgusted by that floating rubbish island, but we keep adding to it. This makes us all climate change deniers, she says. "Greta has a diagnosis, but it doesn't rule out the fact that she's right and the rest of us have got it all wrong," her mother notes. "She was the child, we were the emperor. And we were all naked."



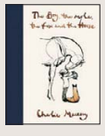
MICHAEL CAMPANELLA/GETTY IMAGES

Opening people's eyes Greta Thunberg starts her protest

THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLERS

Lists prepared by and data supplied by and copyright to Nielsen BookScan, taken from the TCM for the week ending 22/02/20. Figures shown are estimated sales for the seven-day period followed (in brackets) by the estimated total sale since BookScan records began in 1998. *Includes sales of more than one edition in the same format and at the same RRP.

GENERAL HARDBACKS

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	 **The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse** *Charlie Mackesy* (Ebury £16.99) An illustrated fable containing gentle life philosophy *18,445 (534,855)*	1	20
2	**Letters on Motherhood**/*Giovanna Fletcher* (M Joseph £16.99) A podcaster's letters to her sons, husband, family and friends *4,655 (4,655)*	—	1
3	**Unspeakable**/*John Bercow* (Weidenfeld £20) The former Speaker on his life in politics *2,820 (11,125)*	2	3
4	**Behind the Mask**/*Tyson Fury* (Century £20) Former heavyweight champion reveals the truth about his life *2,170 (147,140)*	9	10
5	**Not a Diet Book**/*James Smith* (HarperCollins £16.99) A rebuttal to diet and fitness industry misinformation *2,165 (44,910)*	3	5
6	**How to Argue with a Racist**/*Adam Rutherford* (Weidenfeld £12.99) A modern understanding of human evolution and variation *2,080 (5,425)*	11	1
7	**The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read** *Philippa Perry* (Penguin Life £14.99) Parenting wisdom, free from judgment *1,790 (149,510)*	15	30
8	**Hinch Yourself Happy**/*Mrs Hinch* (M Joseph £12.99) Social-media star shares cleaning tips and reflects on her life *1,695 (479,575)*	6	35
9	**My Wild and Sleepless Nights**/*Clover Stroud* (Doubleday £16.99) An examination of what it means to be a mother *1,635 (1,640)*	—	1
10	**The Body**/*Bill Bryson* (Doubleday £25) A fact-packed exploration of the human body *1,565 (254,055)*	13	19

GENERAL PAPERBACKS

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	 **The Five** *Hallie Rubenhold* (Black Swan £9.99) The untold stories of the women killed by Jack the Ripper *7,545 (27,185)*	2	4
2	**The Volunteer**/*Jack Fairweather* (WH Allen £7.99) Costa-winning story of a resistance fighter who infiltrated Auschwitz *7,390 (61,905)*	1	5
3	**Too Scared to Tell**/*Cathy Glass* (HarperCollins £7.99) Foster carer's story of a boy left in the care of "friends" by his mother *5,680 (5,750)*	—	1
4	**This Is Going to Hurt**/*Adam Kay* (Picador £8.99) Comic's account of what life was like on the NHS front line *5,550 (1,061,640)*	3	97
5	**Reasons to Stay Alive**/*Matt Haig* (Canongate £9.99) How Haig came through crisis, beat illness and learnt to live again *4,265 (278,485)*	—	16
6	**Surrounded by Idiots**/*Thomas Erikson* (Vermilion £9.99) How understanding personality types can improve human interaction *3,955 (73,985)*	6	13
7	**War Doctor**/*David Nott* (Picador £9.99) Memoir from the surgeon who volunteers in high-risk war zones *3,590 (34,980)*	4	8
8	**The Secret Barrister**/*The Secret Barrister* (Picador £9.99) An anonymous insider's stories of the law and how it is broken *2,610 (243,800)*	9	46
9	**First Man In**/*Ant Middleton* (HarperCollins £8.99) Autobiography from the soldier and television personality *2,300 (240,360)*	7	31
10	**Good Vibes, Good Life**/*Vex King* (Hay House £10.99) How positive thinking and self-love leads to lasting happiness *2,270 (79,755)*	12	6



When Greta first found out about climate change, she recalls, "I remember thinking it couldn't be true. Because if it were, we wouldn't be talking about anything else."

The family's own crisis started when she was 11. They had been a happy, affluent group – Malena was a successful opera singer who won *Melodifestivalen*, the Swedish version of *The X Factor*; her husband was an actor. Suddenly, Greta began to cry all the time. Only Moses, her golden retriever, could comfort her.

Then she withdrew from the world: "She stopped playing the piano, stopped laughing, stopped talking and she stopped eating." For two months, little food passed her mouth. When she did eat, she licked, sucked and chewed, taking tiny bites, and would consume only three foodstuffs: rice, gnocchi and avocado. Her parents tried everything. The experts at the eating disorder unit told them to count and time every meal Greta ate. It took two hours and 10 minutes for her to swallow five gnocchi.

Eventually, Greta announced she wanted to start eating again, and the painful process of returning her to health began. She was put on an antidepressant and was diagnosed, not with anorexia, but with high-functioning Asperger's syndrome. Meanwhile,

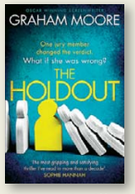
"At 11, Greta suddenly began to cry all the time

her sister Beata, a musical prodigy, had been overlooked. When she was on the cusp of puberty, she too started acting out, hurling abuse – and DVDs – at her mother. Even Moses cowered under the piano to get away from her. She was later diagnosed with ADHD. These issues repeatedly overwhelmed the family. They struggled to find sufficient help, even though they were relatively privileged, having the time and money to focus on their children.

I am sure these chapters on the family's struggle will be picked over by Greta's critics. And she has a lot of those, both right-wing trolls and past-their-prime columnists who hate her – for what, exactly? Being a teenage girl with a brilliant mind and a platform? They can't draw analogies to Meghan Markle and a private-jet style hypocrisy, as profits from the book are going to environmental charities. They can't claim these are "first-world problems": the Bangladeshis will drown before we do. So their best shot against Greta is that the world has elevated a clearly unwell teenager to the status of global messiah. But this is also a book about finding purpose as a route to recovery: Greta seemed to thrive when she realised she wasn't helpless, that she could make people open their eyes. A girl who struggled to talk to strangers without feeling sick was suddenly happily giving interviews to journalists.

The book ends before Greta becomes a global icon – and there are fair questions about how any teenager could handle that, child stars being the archetypal nervous-breakdowns-in-waiting. Yet it strikes me that this 17-year-old may be the true adult among us and the rest of us, always taking more, are the ones who are really behaving like spoilt children.

MUST READS
THE BEST RECENT BOOKS



The Holdout *by Graham Moore* (Orion £12.99): an update of *Twelve Angry Men* makes for a scintillating legal thriller

Wayfinding *by Michael Bond* (Picador £20): a skilful study of how we find our way

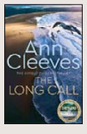
The Beauty and the Terror *by Catherine Fletcher* (Bodley Head £25): a history that reveals the violence behind Renaissance art

ST DIGITAL
FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES AND THE TIMES'S FULL LIST OF 2020'S BEST BOOKS SO FAR, GO TO **THESUNDAYTIMES.CO.UK/CULTURE**

FICTION HARDBACKS

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	 **False Value** *Ben Aaronovitch* (Gollancz £18.99) Peter Grant takes a job at a tech genius's new London start-up *7,165 (7,235)*	—	1
2	**Grown Ups**/*Marian Keyes* (M Joseph £20) Uncomfortable secrets are revealed at a family gathering *5,495 (22,805)*	1	3
3	**The Guest List**/*Lucy Foley* (HarperCollins £12.99) Murder mystery set during a wedding on an isolated island *3,945 (3,970)*	—	1
4	**Into the Fire**/*Gregg Hurwitz* (M Joseph £12.99) Assassin Evan Smoak comes to the aid of a beleaguered man on the run *2,950 (3,095)*	—	1
5	**The Foundling**/*Stacey Halls* (Manilla £12.99) London, 1754; a mother searches for her missing daughter *2,750* (9,030*)*	2	3
6	**A Springtime Affair**/*Katie Fforde* (Century £14.99) A mother and her daughter navigate new relationships *2,590 (2,635)*	—	1
7	**American Dirt**/*Jeanine Cummins* (Tinder £14.99) A mother and her son flee their Mexican home after a family massacre *1,520 (10,480)*	5	5
8	**The Lantern Men**/*Elly Griffiths* (Quercus £18.99) Dr Ruth Galloway is lured back to Norfolk at the behest of a serial killer *1,480 (8,975)*	3	3
9	**Queenie**/*Kimberley Chambers* (HarperCollins £12.99) The story of Queenie and her journey to East End gangland notoriety *1,410 (17,320)*	4	5
10	**Two Sisters**/*Josephine Cox and Gilly Middleton* (HarperCollins £14.99) Sisters toiling on their father's farm yearn for a different life *1,355 (1,375)*	—	1

FICTION PAPERBACKS

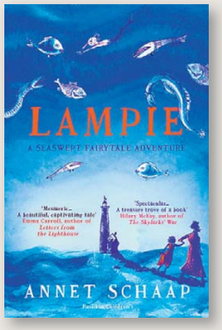
		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	 **The Long Call** *Ann Cleeves* (Pan £8.99) A detective probes a murder in a strict evangelical community *13,715 (13,865)*	—	1
2	**Big Sky**/*Kate Atkinson* (Black Swan £8.99) Jackson Brodie finds a sex-trafficking ring operating in a village *12,725 (76,140)*	2	5
3	**How the Dead Speak**/*Val McDermid* (Sphere £8.99) Human remains are found in the grounds of an abandoned convent *10,790 (42,440)*	1	3
4	**Tidelands**/*Philippa Gregory* (Simon & Schuster £8.99) The first book in a new series set during the English Civil War *9,950 (10,020)*	—	1
5	**A Rose Petal Summer**/*Katie Fforde* (Arrow £8.99) A woman takes a job as a companion to an elderly man on a country estate *8,800 (30,185)*	3	3
6	**Unsolved**/*James Patterson and David Ellis* (Arrow £7.99) An FBI analyst suspects a serial killer is behind a series of "accidental" deaths *7,515 (7,550)*	—	1
7	**No One Home**/*Tim Weaver* (Penguin £8.99) The residents of a Yorkshire village disappear on Halloween night *7,255 (7,345)*	—	1
8	**The Family Upstairs**/*Lisa Jewell* (Arrow £8.99) A woman uncovers a sinister legacy when she inherits a run-down mansion *6,915 (113,910)*	5	11
9	**The Beekeeper of Aleppo**/*Christy Lefteri* (Manilla £8.99) A couple flees Syria for the UK after their life is destroyed by war *6,805 (6,805)*	—	1
10	**Knife**/*Jo Nesbo* (Vintage £8.99) The first killer Harry Hole put behind bars seeks revenge *6,535 (57,600)*	4	5

MANUALS

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	**Pinch of Nom: Everyday Light** *Kate Allinson and Kay Featherstone* (Bluebird £20) Slimming recipes *11,410 (479,105)*	1	11
2	**Pinch of Nom** *Kate Allinson and Kay Featherstone* (Bluebird £20) Slimming recipes from the popular food blog *7,815 (1,189,505)*	2	49
3	**Lose Weight & Get Fit** *Tom Kerridge* (Bloomsbury £22) High-flavour healthy recipes from the chef's BBC TV series *4,800 (65,235)*	3	7
4	**Five Minute Mum** *Daisy Upton* (Penguin £14.99) Five-minute activities for busy parents to do with their little ones *3,200 (12,280)*	5	3
5	**Feel Better In 5** *Rangan Chatterjee* (Penguin Life £16.99) A daily five-minute plan for a healthier, happier life *2,810 (54,285)*	4	9

CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK

NICOLETTE JONES



Lampie
written and illustrated by Annet Schaap, trans Laura Watkinson
Pushkin £7.99, Age 7-12

Translated from Dutch, this story is included on the prestigious CILIP Carnegie medal longlist, just announced. It is absorbing, old-fashioned storytelling, reminiscent of *The Secret Garden*, in which a motherless young girl, the good-hearted lighthouse-keeper's daughter Lampie, arrives at an unhappy house and gradually transforms the lives of the inhabitants, including a gentle giant with learning difficulties called Lenny, and an isolated, angry boy who has what he thinks is a "deformity". It also has old-fashioned villains: cruel, negligent fathers, and the manager of a fairground "freak show". It has a magical, fairy-tale element, mermaids, kindly pirates, surprises, suspense, evocative black-and-white scenes by the author (who is known as an illustrator) and a forgiving ending.

WATCH OUT FOR

Nine Lives Newton
by Alice McKinley
Simon & Schuster £6.99, Age 3-6

The story of a dog who thinks it has nine lives and a cat who risks his own trying to protect his friend, this delightful picture book is notable for the comedy of its illustrations and its action-packed scenes.

A British historian berates the elites who have cheated and abused Spain for 150 years

Plagued by its past

SPAIN

Dominic Sandbrook

A People Betrayed
A History of Corruption, Political Incompetence and Social Division in Modern Spain 1874-2018
by Paul Preston
Wm Collins £30 pp750

It was almost half past six on the evening of February 23, 1981. In Madrid, Spain's Congress of Deputies was voting to install a new prime minister. Then, in full view of the television cameras, something extraordinary happened. A commotion broke out at the back of the hall; the cameras cut to a moustachioed man in military uniform, waving a pistol. More men with sub-machineguns burst into the chamber. Somebody shouted: "Nobody move!" Shots rang out and the deputies scrambled under their desks.

Today, the failed coup of February 1981 looks more like a comic-opera aberration than a genuine threat to democracy. But it might have turned out very differently. While Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero was seizing the Congress of Deputies, tanks were rolling through Valencia. Just five years after the death of the tyrannical General Franco, many army officers were itching to strangle Spain's new freedoms at birth. Only when King Juan Carlos made a live television address to condemn the coup was it certain that the revolt would fail.

It is odd to think that even as Spain's armed forces were launching a rebellion against the principle of democracy, hundreds of thousands of British families were looking forward to their summer holiday on the Costa del Sol. Today, outsiders still tend to associate Spain with golden sands, gothic churches and gorgeous food rather than civil strife, ideological hatred and rampant corruption.

Yet, as the historian Paul Preston points out, the failed revolt of 1981 was the rule, not the exception. In the previous two centuries Spain had seen more than 25 coups, as well as countless incidents of terrorism, repression, mass rape and mass murder. Between 1936 and 1939, the Spanish Civil War killed perhaps half a million people, while under the victorious Franco tens of thousands were executed and a further million thrown into prisons or labour camps. Many Spaniards are understandably irritated by the enduring "Black Legend" of a land of "fanaticism, cruelty and uncontrolled emotion", epitomised by the opera Carmen and the travel books of writers such as Gerald Brenan. But as Preston's tremendously rich and learned new history shows, the legend only endures because it has more than a grain of truth.

Based at the London School of Economics, Preston is one of Britain's finest historians, as well as a major public intellectual in Spain itself. His book *The Spanish Holocaust* (2012) provoked an intense debate about the legacy of the civil war, and this book – massively researched, occasionally dense but powerful, persuasive and utterly fascinating – is also likely to stir controversy.

The basic argument is simple. For the past 150 years, Preston says, the Spanish people have been systematically misled, cheated, fleeced and abused by their political masters, with the army and the Catholic Church particularly culpable. Partly because Spain remained a vastly unequal agrarian economy for so long, which meant it was slow to develop an urban middle class, its politicians never learnt the virtues of compromise. Time and again they reached for repression when moderation was the wiser option. Even in 2017, when the Catalans held an illegal independence referendum, Madrid's response was to send in baton-wielding police and issue arrest warrants for the secession leaders, who are still unable to return home for fear of imprisonment.



GETTY IMAGES

One, Great and Free
A Francoist poster

> **In two centuries, Spain has seen over 25 coups**

For anyone with fond memories of Spanish holidays, Preston's book makes for harrowing reading. Although it appears to be a straightforward highly political history, somebody is assassinated, tortured, maimed or imprisoned on almost every other page. And many of his characters seem more like escapees from some chamber of horrors than traditional parliamentary politicians.

One recurring figure, for example, is the Radical demagogue Alejandro



Lerroux, who came to prominence in 1906 after urging his followers to "enter and sack the decadent and miserable civilisation of this unhappy country, destroy its temples, finish off its gods, lift the veil of the novice nuns and raise them up to the status of mothers to make the species more virile". By the time Lerroux became prime minister in 1933, he was outstandingly corrupt, flogging offices, monopolies and licences with breathtaking shamelessness. He fell from office only after getting involved in a scheme to install crooked roulette wheels in Spain's casinos, which seems an insane thing for a prime minister to do.

But few of Preston's other characters were much better. The dictator Miguel Primo de Rivera, who ruled Spain in the 1920s, told the king that he had learnt to govern "in the casino in Jerez" and, like some Hispanic Donald Trump, inserted a passage in his semi-official autobiography about his prowess as a "great lover".

And General Franco, who claimed to be restoring clean government after years of republican chaos, emerges as a mind-bogglingly cruel and corrupt figure. In just three years after the end of the civil war, he stole property worth some €388 million today. His wife Carmen was so greedy that provincial jewellers locked their doors when they heard she was visiting their city, and stores in Madrid and Barcelona reportedly set up "unofficial insurance syndicates to indemnify themselves against her visits".

Yet despite his ruthless cunning, Franco was astonishingly stupid. Among his wilder fantasies were a tunnel under the Strait of Gibraltar and a canal from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean – and this at a time when Spain was so poor that thousands were starving. Bizarrely, he seriously believed that any international criticism was inspired by the Freemasons. When the Attlee government criticised him in 1945, for example, he explained to his cabinet that "there were 15 million Freemasons in England who all voted Labour".

Although Franco's era now looks like ancient history, his shadow remains. For as Preston points out, Spanish politics today is haunted by memories of the civil war. Only last October, enormous controversy surrounded the removal of Franco's remains from the vast Valle de los Caidos, a Fascist monument built by thousands of prisoners of war. When the dictator's body was reburied in Madrid, the man his family asked to say mass was an Andalucian priest called Ramon Tejero. He just happened to be the son of Antonio Tejero, the man waving his pistol in the parliamentary chamber in 1981. Poor Spain: a country doomed to remember its history.

All life is here

A brilliant explanation of how the universe grew — and how it will end

SCIENCE

Stephen Bleach

Until the End of Time
Mind, Matter and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe
by Brian Greene
Allen Lane £25 pp442

On the face of it, this should not be an enjoyable book. It opens with Brian Greene's observation that we are all going to die relatively soon; several hundred pages later, it has explained in abundant and fascinating detail why this applies not just to us as individuals, but to life and consciousness, the planets and stars, to all matter and to reality as we know it. And yet it is, for the most part, a cracking read.

You can't fault it for ambition. Greene, the director of Columbia University's Center for Theoretical Physics and a pioneer of string theory, sets out to explain the functioning of the universe from fiery beginning to desolate end, and along the way explores how a bunch of outlandishly unlikely collections of particles – us – briefly developed the consciousness that enables us to ask: what does it all mean?

First, the how. The universe is as it is, and time flows as it does, due to entropy, the deceptively simple idea that things tend to move from an organised state to a disorganised one. The fact that we see organisation all around us – in complex molecules, in other living beings, in our own brains – is explained by the competing force of evolution, a concept that Greene rips from Darwin's grasp and applies to the tendency of many organised systems, living or not, to reproduce themselves.

Taken together, the two processes explain why the universe is doomed to a lingering death and how, for the vanishingly brief moment that the conditions for it exist, intelligent life has popped up to wonder why.

Greene serves up plenty of revelatory detail along the way. There's the eccentric method all known life uses to extract energy from its environment: of the innumerable mechanisms available (fusion, fission, electromagnetism and so on), living entities stubbornly choose just one: a baroque series of chemical reactions involving electron transfer called redox reactions. Or there's the terrific explanation of entropy involving the smell of baking bread: the way the molecules carrying that smell disperse through your house is one delicious example of the way the universe is drifting inexorably from order to chaos.

He wraps up the book with a strangely compelling menu of the ways in which, modern science believes, the cosmos might end. It's not cheery. The sun fades to black; Earth, its orbit slowed by gravitational waves, eventually spins into its dead husk; the stars go out, one by one, leaving the universe populated by charred cinders; the cinders are hoovered up by black holes that then waste away through Hawking radiation; matter itself disintegrates through proton decay; and infinite space is left dark and empty save for the finest mist of lone drifting particles. Oh – that's if all matter isn't destroyed earlier in a Big Rip caused by dark energy, or a change in the Higgs value isn't already annihilating reality as we know it in an ever-expanding wall of doom.

Greene is less sure-footed on the "what it all means" bit. His musings on the human condition can feel gauche; like an excited undergraduate, he name-drops furiously – from Noam Chomsky to Steven Pinker to Robin Dunbar on language, from Dostoevsky to Sylvia Plath to Douglas Adams on creativity.

The results are disappointingly platitudinous. John Lennon's *Imagine* "embodies the simple power of envisioning the possible". Religion isn't true, but is valuable for the "grandeur of heritage". When such a powerful mind considers the human implications of the natural truths it has discovered, you would hope for something more profound.

In fact, it's apposite that Greene cites Adams. His search for an underlying purpose has a ring of Arthur Dent's quest for "the Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything", and Greene's conclusion – we have to make our own meaning – isn't much of an improvement on "42".

That said, he frames the question superbly. The origins of matter, life and consciousness, and their grisly fate, are laid out here with elegant clarity. If you want to know how everything got here and where it's going, read this book. For the purpose of the journey, look elsewhere.


ALAMY

We're doomed A scene from the film of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (2005)

How to make society fairer

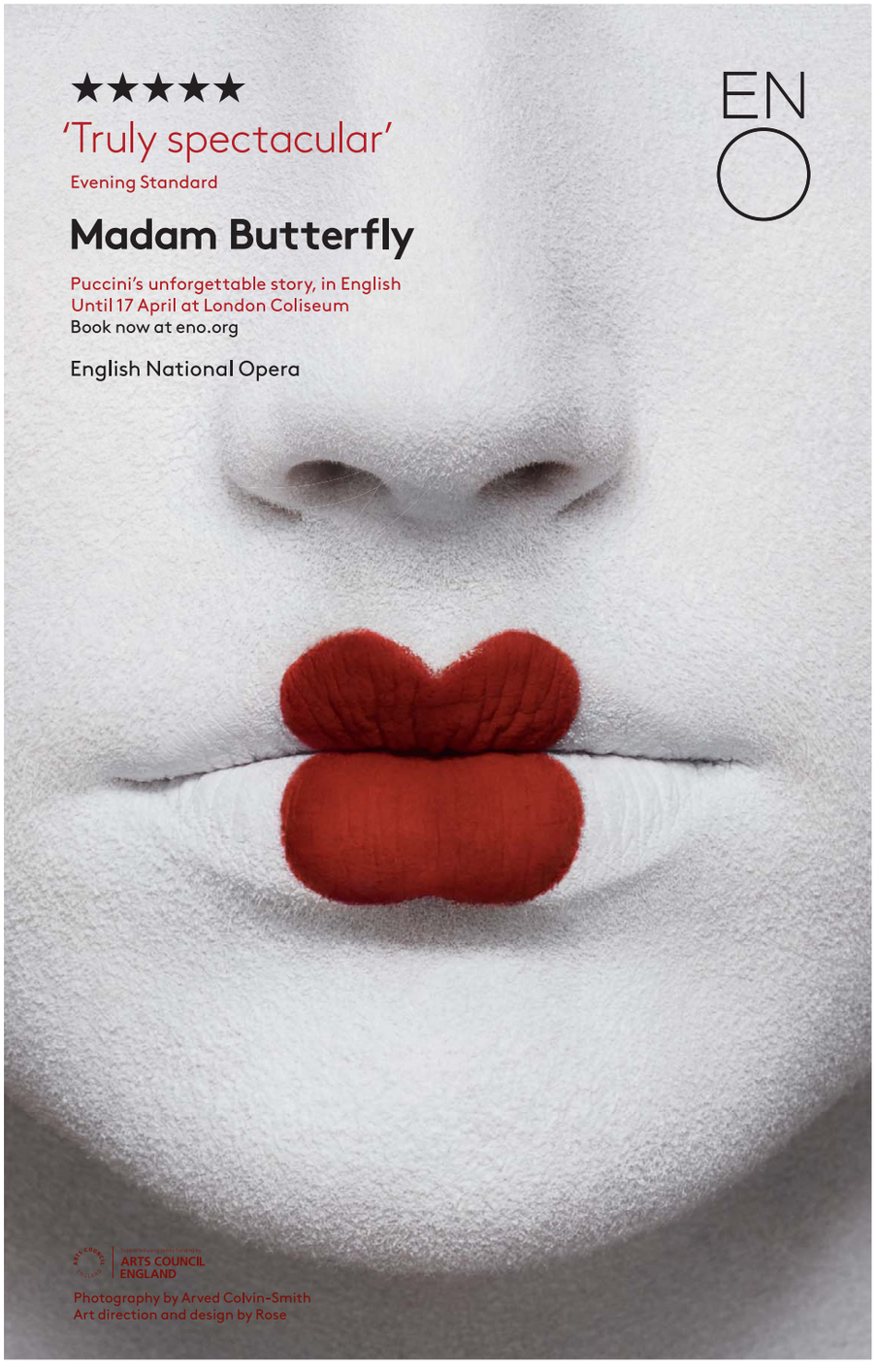
The 'rock star' of economics is back with some radical solutions to inequality

ECONOMICS

David Smith

Capital and Ideology
by Thomas Piketty
Belknap Press £31.95 pp1,103

After a surprise bestseller like *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, Thomas Piketty's 2013 hit that sold 2.5 million copies, many people would have rested on their laurels.



Not him. Instead, the Frenchman, dubbed a "rock star" of economics for putting inequality at the top of the agenda, has written an even bigger, more ambitious book.

If the earlier work focused on how inequality came about – his story of the past 100 years or so was one in which the tendency of capitalist societies to greater inequality had been interrupted by two world wars – this one looks at what to do about it.

"Every human society must justify its inequalities; unless reasons for them are found, the whole political and social edifice stands in danger of collapse," he writes. Much of the new book is devoted to a historical analysis of what he describes as "inequality regimes", which in the modern era include postcolonial and "hyper-capitalist" societies and the communist and social-democratic regimes that were a response to them.

Piketty's journey through these regimes is, to be honest, a bit of a slog. Some have accused him of biting off more than he can chew by moving from economist to historian of multiple countries, and seeing everything through the prism of inequality. It's fair criticism.

He has some good points to make, however. Cuts in the highest rates of income tax in Britain and America in the 1980s were justified by the argument that they would bring about an improvement in economic performance. Although that seemed to be the case initially, the long-term record for both economies was worse rather than better.

Piketty also argues with some justification that while populations in both countries appeared to have accepted the rise in inequality of the 1980s at the time, it festered, so that "the feeling on the part of the middle and lower classes that they had been abandoned" was instrumental in the Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump in 2016.

Trump, a billionaire, responded to his victory by cutting taxes for the better off and for corporations. If populism was a staging post on the road to what he describes as "participatory socialism", there is no sign of it yet. Jeremy Corbyn went down in flames in Britain's 2019 election, and neither Bernie Sanders nor Elizabeth Warren, carriers of the Piketty flame, are regarded as having much of a chance of beating Trump in November.



PETER MACDIARMID

Doing the sums French economist Thomas Piketty

Piketty's vision of a "just society" is clearly stated. It does not mean complete equality of incomes or wealth: "A just society organises socioeconomic relations, property rights and the distribution of income and wealth in such a way as to allow its least advantaged members to enjoy the highest possible life conditions."

That does not sound too much to ask, but Piketty has eye-watering suggestions on how to bring this about. His "triptych" of progressive taxes – income tax, an annual property tax and inheritance tax – would each be set at 90% for the very rich. The easiest way to become a millionaire under his regime would be start off as a billionaire.

None of this is remotely likely, or feasible. The surest way to kill the goose with the golden egg is to smother it with high taxes. He has no time for billionaires, whether or not they achieved their wealth through their own ingenuity, or whether they have become philanthropists. He asks: "Would Bill Gates and his fellow techno-billionaires have been able to build their businesses without the hundreds of billions of dollars of public money invested in basic research over many decades?"

Maybe not, but the fact that only a few did build such businesses shows that there was something special about the tech billionaires. Piketty would level them down, as he would anybody who had made a success of their life. And that is as depressing as it is wrong-headed. C

An offbeat manhunt in tsarist Russia kicks off our latest monthly roundup

A woman out for justice

HISTORICAL FICTION ROUNDUP



In a small town in tsarist Russia's Jewish "Pale of Settlement", Mende Speismann falls into a depression after her good-for-nothing husband deserts her for the bright lights of Minsk. Her sister, Fanny Keismann, outraged by her brother-in-law's departure, sets out to track him down. **The Slaughterman's Daughter** (MacLehose £18.99), an offbeat, picaresque novel by the Israeli author Yaniv Iczkovits, follows the fortunes of Fanny and the travelling companions who join her quest as they venture into the unknown. It is a narrative full of invention and surprises. Stories nest inside stories, like Russian dolls; memorable characters, from a ferryman with a mysterious past as an entire army's saviour to an itinerant cantor with an unquenchable thirst for liquor, appear, vanish, then reappear. Iczkovits mixes real history, fable and the products of his imagination into an intoxicating, thoroughly enjoyable brew.

In **Damascus** (Atlantic £16.99) Christos Tsiolkas, the author of novels about contemporary Australian society such as *The Slap*, has unexpectedly turned his attention to the early history of Christianity. Christ has died on the cross and, for the next few decades, his followers await his promised return. From a variety of perspectives, most notably that of Paul, tormentor of Christians turned travelling apostle, Tsiolkas explores the experiences of the new, revolutionary creed's adherents. *Damascus* is a highly coloured, visceral read – full of blood, appalling violence and the miseries of life – but it is also a powerful testament to spiritual yearning and the human desire to transcend the physical world.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Lost era Visconti's adaptation of Lampedusa's The Leopard

The inhabitants of St Kilda, Scotland's remotest island, unable to sustain their way of life, were evacuated to the mainland in 1930. Much of Elisabeth Gifford's **The Lost Lights of St Kilda** (Corvus £14.99) takes place three years earlier. Cambridge student Fred Lawson arrives on the island and falls in love with its wild beauty and a young St Kildan, Chrissie Gillies. A decade later Fred is an escaped prisoner of war, fleeing the Germans through occupied France, sustained by his memories of Chrissie and tormented by thoughts of loss and betrayal. Gifford has created an undeniably haunting love story, although her evocation of St Kilda's lost community carries more conviction than her account of Fred's wartime odyssey.

Jane Healey's **The Animals at Lockwood Manor** (Mantle £14.99) is set in the early years of the Second World War. With London likely to face aerial bombardment, the mammal collection of a big natural history museum is despatched to a home counties mansion for safekeeping. Accompanying the taxidermy specimens is Hetty Cartwright, a dedicated young curator determined they will survive the war unharmed. In her new home, she encounters the thinly veiled hostility of Lord Lockwood, but embarks on an unexpected affair with his troubled daughter Lucy. Long-suppressed secrets emerge as Hetty seeks the truth about Lockwood Manor and its inhabitants in a story that, while never less than engaging, sometimes struggles to combine romance and gothic mystery successfully.

The Leopard is one of the great European novels of the 20th century. It was the only significant work by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, the last in a long line of Italian aristocrats. In **Lampedusa** (Picador £14.99), the Canadian novelist Steven Price has meticulously recreated the author's last two years, as he struggles against melancholy and ill-health to finish his masterpiece. Acutely aware that he is a relic of a world destroyed by two wars, Lampedusa yearns to leave some kind of artistic legacy. In subtle and intelligent prose, Price invites us into the mind of a man striving to make sense of memory and mortality.

HISTORICAL FICTION



NICK RENNISON'S CHOICE

AT A GLANCE FICTION

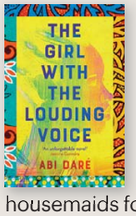
Nightingale *by Marina Kemp*
4th Estate £12.99 pp432



Why would a young Parisian woman move to a sleepy village in southern France to work as a live-in nurse? This is the question asked by neighbours when 24-year-old Marguerite arrives to look after a dying patriarch. Gradually – but not so slowly that the story loses momentum – we learn the woman's secrets, as the narrative switches between Marguerite and Henri, a beautiful but intellectually and sexually unfulfilled farmer, one of the few villagers to be kind to the Parisian.

While it contains plenty of sadness, this novel never feels dreary. Kemp has a playful turn of phrase – a head of lettuce is described as "splayed open so generously she could have worn it as a bonnet". We get vivid pictures of her characters, too, who are far more complex than we are led to expect. The result is an elegantly formed and gripping debut.

The Girl with the Louding Voice
by Abi Daré
Sceptre £12.99 pp320



Nigerian-raised Daré was inspired to write this novel, her first, after her daughter turned eight – the same age that girls from her home country can be sent to work as housemaids for middle-class families. Her protagonist Adunni is still young when she is forced into an abusive marriage. Told in Adunni's phonetically written broken English, the novel sees her flee her husband and become a housemaid, where she is also subject to abuse. How she will escape her terrible situation becomes obvious fairly early on, making the ending somewhat anticlimactic. But that doesn't stop us rooting for the bravely determined heroine.

Theft *by Luke Brown*
And Other Stories £11.99 pp320



Set against the backdrop of the 2016 EU referendum, Brown's astute and funny second novel follows Paul, a bookseller and reviewer who knows that he can't live in his cheap east London flat for ever, and that his book column will soon be axed. After an interview with the novelist Emily Nardini, he becomes part of a *Conversations with Friends*-esque entanglement with Emily, her boyfriend Andrew, and Andrew's daughter Sophie, which all makes for vibrant passages of dialogue. Whether we're meant to empathise with Paul is a moot point, but for someone so obnoxious to land on his feet so often throughout much of the novel — he turns up hungover to interview Emily, yet she still befriends him, and argues with and patronises Sophie, 10 years his junior, but she still goes out with him — feels at best unrealistic.

Lucy Knight

A tale of sanctioned violence and sexual abuse echoes down the years

School for scoundrels

FICTION

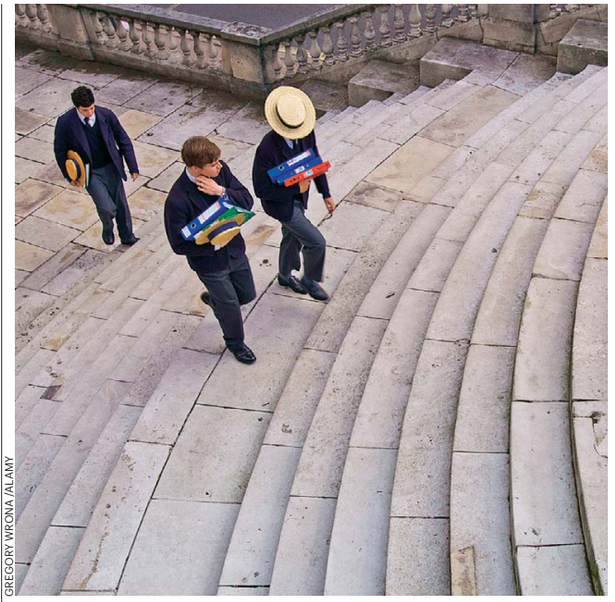
David Grylls

English Monsters
by James Scudamore
Cape £16.99 pp368

James Scudamore is a talented English novelist whose earliest works favoured exotic locations. Having grown up in Japan and Brazil as well as the UK, he set his first novel, *The Amnesia Clinic* (2007), in Ecuador and his second, *Heliopolis* (2009), in Brazil. *English Monsters* moves closer to home in both location and genre. Centring on an English boarding school, it deals with the impact and aftermath of sexual abuse – a recurrent theme in modern fiction, a key concern of our culture.

In 1987 10-year-old Max Denyer is wrenched from the freedom of his grandfather's farm to attend a nearby boarding school (the coverage of its fees a perk from his globe-trotting father's company). Max's first-person narrative vividly describes the shock of this upheaval, then moves forward to 2015. The ensuing fortunes of Max and his friends alternate with frequent flashbacks to the traumas that brought them together.

The school's ethos is one of sanctioned violence. Within its battlemented buildings, the dormitories have names like Agincourt and Hastings, but it's those called Somme and Passchendaele that seem best suited to its rituals. A mud-caked Hare and Hounds game culminates with pummelling of childhood prey. Boys compete to fashion vicious tools – "shanks of compass points... art-room razor blades" – or torment others' pet hamsters ("Squeeze them hard enough and their eyes pop out"). The most sadistic teacher, Eric "Weapons" Davis, who lectures on siege engines and battering rams, bashes boys against the wall or strips them for beating with a knotted cord (blistered buttocks stick painfully to pyjamas). Davis's cruelty is openly apparent but only later do questions arise about the deputy head, affectionately known as Crimble, a soothingly sympathetic figure who gives "treats" and cultivates closeness.



GREGORY WRONA /ALAMY

Trauma School life in English Monsters is haunted by abuse

When the story moves on, what propels it is not so much Max's own experiences as the question of what happened to others and whether he should expose it. Here, though, the book starts to fall apart. Its account of the peregrinations, guarded friendships, postponed bonding and painful confessions of a group of boarding-school survivors comes across as repetitive and rambling. The narrator seems unduly fascinated by the coke-fuelled raves and brilliant inventions of this gilded but damaged band of brothers. Intelligent, disturbing questions – about loyalty, complicity and justice – are lost in a welter of detail.

> **Boys compete to fashion vicious tools**

Another stumbling block is Max's grandfather, who offers a "heaven" of idyllic release from the "hell" of the school's confinement. Presented as a life-affirming old rip – drinking, cursing, frankly sexual, but honest, loving and plain-speaking – he clearly represents a form of adult nurturing that contrasts with the brutality or twisted tenderness of the teachers. Yet he seems a somewhat unreal figure, a heroic primitive from Romantic poetry.

English Monsters is a very readable addition to the growing genre of child-abuse fiction. It has echoes of Edward St Aubyn's (more sardonic) Patrick Melrose series and Hanya Yanagihara's (more lurid) *A Little Life*. It contains resonant phrases ("a fizzing cloud of midges", "the depth charges of phlegm-hindered coughs") on almost every page. The trouble is it brings in too much: its central contrasts, stark in conception, get swamped by myriad digressions. C

Taking too many liberties with Livingstone

FICTION

Houman Barekat

Out of Darkness, Shining Light *by Petina Gappah*
Faber £16.99 pp320

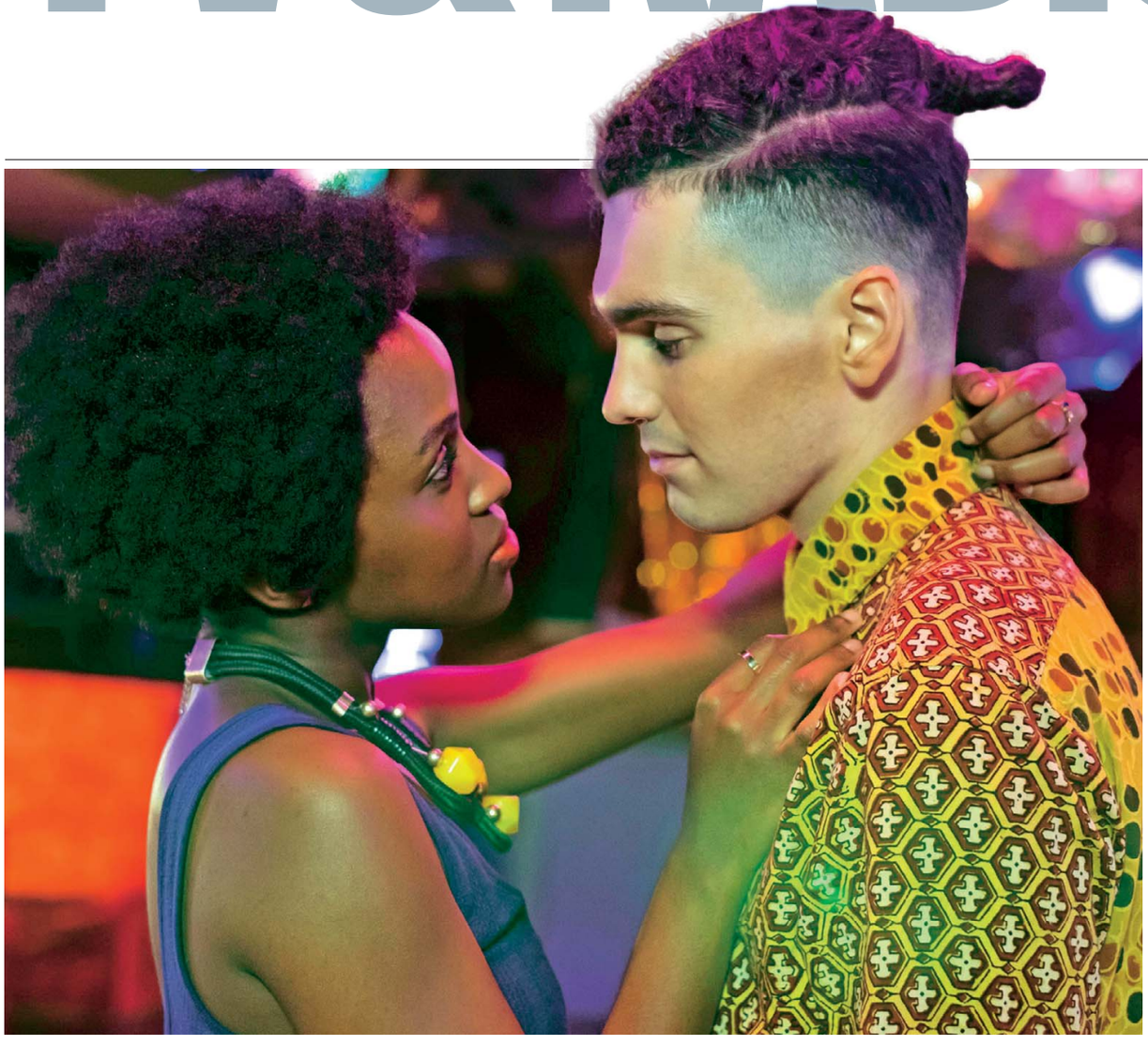
When the Scottish explorer David Livingstone died of dysentery in a Rhodesian village in 1873, his African entourage dutifully carried his body over a thousand miles to the British consulate in Zanzibar. *Out of Darkness, Shining Light*, the second novel by the Zimbabwean author Petina Gappah, is a fictionalised account of this expedition, narrated from the perspectives of two members of the retinue: Livingstone's cook Halima and his pious attendant Jacob Wainwright, both former slaves. Halima is a cynical wisecracker with an irreverent sense of humour; Jacob, an aspiring priest, is self-important and sanctimonious, forever wringing his hands about his companions' loose morals. Needless to say, he is secretly having it away with a female member of the party.

The journey is beset with adversity: internal squabbles, bouts of sickness, confrontations with hostile elements. A number of the company perish en route. The plot centres on an intrigue involving one member of the group, Chirango, whose extreme servility ("something in his manner feels oppressive ... It is almost as though he is too obliging, too agreeable") belies mutinous tendencies. Railing against his comrades for their loyalty to Livingstone's memory, he snipes at Jacob: "You loathe your own skin, and your own kin." Chirango is malevolent and duplicitous – undoubtedly the villain of the piece – but also a Cassandra figure whose distrust of the white explorers is prescient. He warns: "More of them will come, mark my words." A few years later the Scramble for Africa will begin in earnest, and prove him right.

This central moral ambiguity is cleverly framed, but in other respects the novel falls short. Telling the stories of marginal historic figures is a worthy literary endeavour, but the task of portraying them with due dignity and conviction is hindered by the stylistic limitations of Gappah's prose. Halima's narrative voice, with its inordinate use of animal similes, is cloyingly folksy: within the space of just three pages we have "confusion, like chickens before a rainstorm", a woman "with the brains of a baby goat" and a man "lazier than a herd of sleeping hippos". Meanwhile Jacob's narration, which takes the form of a series of journal entries, is pointedly verbose. While this helps the reader to place him as a recognisable type – the pompous religious prig – it reads like a caricature. (Interestingly, the real journals of Jacob Wainwright were made public for the first time last spring, after this book was completed. They are written in a relatively rudimentary English, with short, matter-of-fact sentences. The prose is simple but elegant, and understatedly expressive.)

Out of Darkness, Shining Light is assiduously researched – it even comes with a bibliography, like a scholarly monograph – but, historical interest aside, this is not a very intellectual novel: the story is punctuated with insipid musings on wanderlust and how good things can emerge from bad situations. It's perfectly serviceable, workaday schmaltz. But there is a bigger question here about developing-world narratives in contemporary Anglophone fiction: why must they be steeped in such trite sentimentalism? Would people not read them otherwise? Or would publishers not publish them otherwise? C

TV&RADIO



PICK OF THE WEEK
NOUGHTS + CROSSES

Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

"A Nought will rise from nothing," reads the graffiti on a wall behind Callum, a young member of the white underclass ruled over by the black Crosses in a segregated country. Violence and unrest simmer through this adaptation of Malorie Blackman's bestselling 2001 novel, an examination of race and injustice that twists the narrative into stark shapes. Until they were 10, Callum (Jack Rowan) and Sephy (Masali Baduza) were friends, brought together when his mother, Meggie (Helen Baxendale), worked as a nanny at a Cross house: now they are at opposite ends of the social spectrum, a harsh reality that still fails to quell their attraction to each other. When a violent incident further radicalises the Noughts, their relationship tips them further into peril. This drama creates the sense of a world at boiling point, while the cast – including Paterson Joseph and Ian Hart – maintain high tension in a dangerous game. *Victoria Segal*

THE WEEK AHEAD

All The Queen's Horses (Today, C5, 7pm)
St David's – Britain's Smallest City (Monday, ITV, 8pm)
Panorama (Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm) Spying On Scammers
Britain Underwater – Fighting The Flood (Tuesday, ITV, 9pm)
100 Kilo Kids – Obesity SOS (Wednesday, C4, 9pm)
Villages By The Sea (Thursday, BBC2, 7.30pm)
Greg James' Sport Relief Heroes (Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm)

FILM OF THE WEEK

Manchester By The Sea
Today, BBC2, 11.15pm
A triumph of low-key realism, Kenneth Lonergan's 2016 drama stars Casey Affleck as an insular Boston caretaker grudgingly reeled back by unwanted family obligations to the chilly blue-collar fishing town where a tragedy previously unravelled his marriage. The film is a masterly study of a character caught in the undertow of pain, grief and regret.

DEMAND PICK OF THE WEEK

Narcos — Mexico *Netflix*
The appeal of Chris Brancato, Carlo Bernard and Doug Miro's crime series might seem obvious: a drug-smuggling story liberally punctuated with bloody operatic deaths; but this is also a (largely) subtitled Spanish drama that deals in the dark complexities of Mexican-US relations. Gripping and exquisitely acted, this is a terrifying lesson in political history disguised as a Tarantino-style shoot-em-up.

RADIO PICK OF THE WEEK

50 More Things That Made The Modern Economy
Today, World Service, 3.50pm
Tim Harford's excellent 10-minute think chunks have become a series to treasure, quote and nudge other people about. The 49th choice for this 50 is the slot machine: once something of a joke, it is now a surprise essential of the digital world.

SUNDAY 1 MARCH



Bath sorts: are Tala Gouveia and Jason Watkins being led up the garden path? (ITV, 8pm)

CRITICS' CHOICE

McDonald & Dodds (ITV, 8pm)
From Midsomer Murders to Death In Paradise and Father Brown to Shakespeare & Hathaway, tongue-in-cheek crime TV is everywhere. This latest example of the subgenre brings together DCI McDonald (Tala Gouveia) and DS Dodds (Jason Watkins) – she a brash high-flier, he a meek, bumbling, usually desk-bound veteran – to investigate a murder at the Bath mansion of a dodgy tycoon (Robert Lindsay). The odd-couple chemistry works well enough in a whodunnit that's the first of two initial outings – but will the pair's quirks (Dodds's habitual fiddling with his specs, for instance) pall if the show becomes a series? *John Dugdale*

My Left Nut (BBC3, from 6am)
A play that began life as a one-man-show about a Belfast teen has been rejigged as a series with a cast. Like the Derry Girls, Mick (Nathan Quinn-O'Rawe) is given to obsessing, but instead of changing from week to week, his obsession is always the same: a testicular bulge that leads schoolmates to assume he is well-endowed, but which he fears may be cancerous. *(JD)*

Last Tango In Halifax (BBC1, 9pm)
Sally Wainwright deftly guides viewers further into the fifth series of her family story as romance fades between Alan and Celia. She's worried that he is bored in the bungalow, but the arrival of brother Ted (Timothy West) from New Zealand, accompanied by two mysterious women, livens things up. *(Helen Stewart)*

Win The Wilderness — Alaska (BBC2, 9pm)
This has been a surprisingly moving series, one that purported to be a contest to win a house in the forest but was always the love story of Duane and Rena Ose, who made their home on the mountain for three decades. "It's time for a new chapter in our lives," he says, with tears in his one good eye. "Perhaps the final chapter." *(HS)*

Football Stars In Bad Cars (BBC1, 11.30pm; BBC1 Scotland, 12.15am)
Jolly japes for Sport Relief involving trios of footballers in the same pimped car – a "cringe-worthy" hatchback painted fuchsia and gold. As they drive around, players from Fulham and Norwich are posed questions by Radio 1's Chris Stark, and pay forfeits if they fail to answer. *(JD)*

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
7.35 Match Of The Day Action. (R)
9.00 Andrew Marr Political chat.
10.00 Politics News and discussion.
10.30 The Big Questions Debate.
11.30 Wanted Down Under (R)
12.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.15 Songs Of Praise Aled Jones and Alan Titchmarsh set out to explore Kew Gardens.
1.50 Garden Rescue Designs. (R)
2.50 Puss In Boots — The Three Diablos Animated short. (R)
3.00 FILM: Shrek 2 With the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy and Julie Andrews. The grouchy ogre meets his wife's parents. The cat's whiskers. (2004, U)
4.25 Blue Planet II Footage of baby turtles using debris as life rafts and sperm whales hunting for squid. (R)
5.25 News; Weather Reports.
5.55 Countryfile The team visits the Gwent Levels to find out more about a project celebrating the area's fishing and farming heritage.
6.50 Doctor Who The Cybermen are on the march and as the last remaining humans are ruthlessly hunted down, Graham, Ryan and Yaz face a fight to survive. (Last in series)
8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce and the team visit Battle Abbey in East Sussex, where items brought along include an incredibly rare Beatles guitar that turns out to be one of the most valuable items ever seen on the show.
9.00 CHOICE Last Tango In Halifax Alan and Celia's relationship comes under increasing strain; Ted's arrival from New Zealand raises questions; and Raff is left speechless when a giraffe turns up at Far Slack Farm. (S5, ep 2; see Critics' choice)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.30 Match Of The Day 2 Mark Chapman and guests review recent Premier League action.
11.30 CHOICE Football Stars In Bad Cars Three Fulham players drive a £2,000 hatchback for the day. (See Critics' choice)
11.55-6.00 News; Weather

SCOTLAND 11.30 Sportscene. Including St Johnstone v Celtic and Hearts v Rangers **12.15** Football Stars In Bad Cars. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 The Instant Gardener (R)
7.35 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip In West Yorkshire. (R)
8.35 Countryfile In Dorset. (R)
9.30 Beechgrove Repotted
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
11.30 Holiday Of My Lifetime (R)
12.00 FILM: Scott Of The Antarctic Stars John Mills. The explorer and his team race to the South Pole. Splendid drama. (1948, U)
1.45 Cycling Coverage of day five of the UCI track-cycling world championships, live in Berlin.
4.30 Winter's Weirdest Events (R)
5.00 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes Exploring homes in Israel. (R)
6.00 Back In Time For The Corner Shop A family of five works in corner shops from different historical eras. (R)
7.00 Russia With Simon Reeve The traveller's journey takes him from southeast Siberia to the far southwest and the Caucasus Mountains. (R)
8.00 Top Gear Paddy McGuinness, Andrew Flintoff and Chris Harris put the fire brigade, the police and the ambulance service to the test to see whose vehicles are the fastest. (Last in series)
9.00 CHOICE Win The Wilderness — Alaska The two remaining couples visit the empty property without Duane and Rena, to get a sense of what their new life in the wilderness will be like. (See Critics' choice; last in series)
10.00 The Ranganation Topical comedy show hosted by Romesh Ranganathan, with guest Sara Pascoe. (R)
10.45 Frankie Boyle's Tour Of Scotland The comedian takes a journey from Oban to Glasgow, meeting a comic-book writer in Bannockburn. (Last in series, R)
11.15 CHOICE Manchester By The Sea Stars Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams and Kyle Chandler. An irritable loner is forced to return to his home town when his brother dies and he is named guardian of his teenage nephew. (2016, 15; see Film of the week)
1.30 Question Time (Signed, R)
2.30 Fraud Squad — The Hunt With Michelle Ackerley. (Signed, R)
3.15-5.10 Holby City (Signed, R)

FILM CHOICE

Ice Age — Continental Drift (C4, 1.55pm)
Parents forced to sit through three previous movies with the prehistoric critters may find watching glacial erosion more fun than this so-so sequel, but while the film's sugar-rush energy is strictly for the under-8s, its artistry is evident. Dirs: Steve Martino, Michael Thurmeier. (2012)



Stoker (C4, 1.05am)
Partly a homage to Alfred Hitchcock's Shadow of a Doubt, with a dollop of Tim Burton thrown in, this intriguing if overcooked gothic potboiler by the South Korean director Park Chan-wook is not a patch on his pulverising thriller Oldboy; yet he cranks up the psycho-sexual tensions proficiently enough in the story of a grieving young woman who is attracted to her sinister interloper uncle. (2013). *(Trevor Lewis)*

ON DEMAND

Bored To Death (Sky/Now TV)
Jonathan Ames is one of the great unsung sitcom writers of the modern age. Best known for his literary efforts – most specifically the 2013 crime novella You Were Never Really Here, which became Lynne Ramsay's 2017 revenge thriller – he is also responsible for two of the decade's most cruelly overlooked comedy series.

ITV

6.00 Children's Shows Fun.
9.25 News; Weather Reports.
9.30 Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen A tour of Dominica. (R)
10.30 Living On The Veg Recipes for spicy cauliflower wings and miso glazed aubergine.
11.35 The Voice A battle round. (R)
12.55 News; Weather Update.
1.05 Saturday Night Takeaway (R)
2.35 FILM: Uncle Buck Stars John Candy and Macaulay Culkin. An unreliable but good-natured slob is called upon to look after his nephew and nieces. Enjoyable. (1989, 12)
4.35 Celebrity Catchphrase (R)
5.30 News; Weather Update.
5.45 Regional News Headlines.
6.00 Dancing On Ice Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield host the semi-final of the skating competition, in which the celebrities must each perform twice.
8.00 CHOICE McDonald & Dodds Drama about chalk-and-cheese police partners solving crime on the streets of Bath, beginning with the murder of a homeless man in a deserted mansion. With Jason Watkins and Tala Gouveia. (1/2; see Critics' choice)
10.00 News; Weather Update.
10.15 Harry Redknapp's Sandbanks Summer The former football manager welcomes John Barnes and Chris Kamara to his home, and they go powerboating on the Solent. (2/4, R)
10.40 Car Crime — Caught On Camera Documentary. (R)
11.35 Heathrow — Britain's Busiest Airport Staff are forced to contend with an extra load of passengers after a closure at Gatwick. (R)
12.00 Teleshopping Purchasing.
3.00 Australian Wilderness (R)
3.25 Nightscreen Information.
5.05-6.00 Judge Rinder Cases. (R)



Mad for it: Affleck (BBC2, 11.15pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The King Of Queens (R)
6.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
7.40 The Big Bang Theory (R)
8.25 Beat The Chef Cooking. (R)
9.30 Sunday Brunch Guests include Tony Blackburn, Ricky Wilson and Matthew Morrison.
12.30 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
1.55 CHOICE Ice Age — Continental Drift With the voice of Ray Romano. The animals become lost at sea on a drifting iceberg and try to find a way to return home. (2012, U; see Film choice)
3.35 The Secret Life Of The Zoo Keepers introduce a new male to the spotty chocolate poison dart frog colony. (R)
4.35 A Place In The Sun Advice. (R)
5.35 News; Weather Reports.
6.05 Amazing Spaces A Cornish couple work to restore a luxury American trailer. (R)
7.00 The Great Pottery Throw Down In the quarter-final, the five remaining potters face two challenges, including producing two ginger jars around a pit fire. (R)
8.00 My Family And The Galapagos As their stay on the Galapagos draws to a close, Monty Halls and his family find out what is being done to protect the islands and their endangered wildlife. (Last in series)
9.00 Homeland Carrie arranges a meeting; Haqqani finds trouble at home; and Saul cuts a deal. (Series 8, ep 3)
10.05 Gogglebox The households' opinions on recent TV. (R)
11.00 FILM: Paper Towns Stars Nat Wolff, Cara Delevingne, Austin Abrams and Justice Smith. A teen follows a series of clues to find a mysterious girl who he once enjoyed a night of adventures with. Engaging mystery. (2015, 12)
1.05 CHOICE Stoker Stars Mia Wasikowska, Nicole Kidman, Matthew Goode and Dermot Mulroney. A grieving teenager becomes infatuated with her mysterious uncle. (2013, 18; see Film choice)
2.40 Come Dine With Me (R)
3.35 Grand Designs Property. (R)
4.30 Location, Location, Location Properties in Kent. (R)
5.25 Cooking Up A Fortune (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
10.00 Spongebob Animation.
10.15 The Loud House (R)
10.25 Access Showbiz gossip.
10.30 WWE Raw Highlights
11.35 Friends Four episodes. (R)
1.35 Hailey Dean Mysteries Crime drama, with Kellie Martin. The sleuth looks into a series of missing persons cases connected by a dating app.
3.25 Hailey Dean Mysteries The sleuthing therapist attends her niece's school recital, only to learn that the music teacher has vanished.
5.10 News; Weather Reports.
5.15 Balmoral — A Hidden History Documentary going behind the scenes at the secluded royal retreat. (R)
7.00 All The Queen's Horses Documentary examining the monarch and her family's love of horses, with insiders revealing how a passion for all things equestrian developed.
8.00 When All Inclusive Holidays Go Horribly Wrong unlucky holidaymakers discuss breaks that went awry, including the story of a nurse whose family trip to Crete was ruined by a construction site next to their hotel.
9.00 Rich Holiday, Poor Holiday A Cheshire entrepreneur and her family have a caravan break in Devon, while a hard-up clan from Peckham enjoy a villa in Morocco.
10.00 Secrets Of The Mega Cruise Ship Documentary following life aboard the MSC Seaside, one of the biggest cruise ships in the world, uncovering the work of an army of people who keep the huge vessel afloat. (3/3, R)
11.30 When Cruises Go Horribly Wrong & Other Travel Nightmares A cruise ship off the coast of Norway is caught in a dangerous storm; and a passenger witnesses the casing of an aircraft engine being ripped off mid-flight. (R)
12.50 Access Showbiz gossip.
1.00 The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show Interactive gambling.
3.00 Access Showbiz gossip.
3.10 The Hotel Inspector — Checking In, Checking Out At a Redditch hostelry. (R)
4.00 Tattoo Disasters Designs. (R)
4.45 House Doctor Advice. (R)
5.10 Nick's Quest Anaconda. (R)
5.35-6.00 Wildlife SOS Animals. (R)

SKY

6.00 Hour Of Power Faith. (R)
7.00 Monkey Life Primates. (R)
8.00 Modern Family Sitcom. (R)
10.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
12.00 Magnum PI (Series 2, ep 9, R)
1.00 NCIS: Los Angeles Drama. (R)
4.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
6.30 The Simpsons Bart and Milhouse take over the comic-book shop. (R) **7.00 The Simpsons** Bart becomes an expert tennis player. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** The family faces a series of Thanksgiving nightmares. (R)
8.00 Magnum PI Thomas, flooded with memories of his tour in Afghanistan, helps a fallen friend's brother search for a now-grown Afghan boy who may have been a victim of trafficking. (Series 2, ep 10)
9.00 Hawaii Five-0 Adam's girlfriend Tamiko is kidnapped in front of him and he breaks the rules to get her back; and the team investigates three seemingly unconnected deaths. (Series 10, ep 10)
10.00 NCIS: Los Angeles A former black ops agent who was recruited and trained by Hetty returns to seek revenge on her for the life she introduced him to. (Series 11, ep 10)
11.00 Seal Team Ray takes over as head of Bravo team, leading the unit on a mission to rescue a pilot shot down in enemy territory. (S3, ep 8, R)
12.00 Swat (Series 2, ep 10, R)
1.00 Brit Cops — Law & Disorder The work of London Police. (R)
2.00 NCIS: Los Angeles Drama. (R)
4.00-6.00 Air Ambulance ER (R)

ATLANTIC

6.00 Hotel Secrets Insights.
8.00 The British Documentary.
9.00 Without A Trace Drama.
4.00 Blue Bloods Frank is asked to downplay a murder. (Series 2, ep 1) **5.00 Blue Bloods** Danny shoots an undercover cop. **6.00 Blue Bloods** A bank robbery turns into a hostage situation, and Danny discovers one of the perpetrators is a friend of Frank's.
7.00 Blue Bloods Erin reopens an 18-year-old rape case that was originally investigated by Frank. (S2, ep 4) **8.00 Blue Bloods** Danny tries to juggle work and his love life as he spends a romantic weekend with Linda while keeping one eye on an investigation.
9.00 Game Of Thrones Ned tries to stop Robert from entering the tournament after a suspicious death threatens to overshadow the event; and Catelyn takes Tyrion to her sister's fortress. (S1, ep 5) **10.10 Game Of Thrones** Ned is reinstated by Robert and hears rumours that associates of the Lannisters have begun stirring up trouble.
11.20 The Outsider Claude reconnects with his brother; and a family visiting a cave festival narrowly avoids a dangerous encounter. (8/10)
12.30 Oz Drama. (Series 4, ep 10)
1.45 Life Itself Film preview.
2.00 The Outsider Horror. (9/10)
3.10 The End Drama series. (3/10)
3.50 Dolittle A look at the film.
4.00 Urban Secrets In Glasgow.
5.00-6.00 The British Insights.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 1.50 Puss In Boots — The Three Diablos. With the voice of Antonio Banderas **2.05** FILM: Shrek 2 **3.25** Blue Planet II. Exploring eildlife that live thousands of kilometres from land **4.25** Weatherman Walking — The Welsh Coast **4.55** Tudur's TV Flashback **10.30** BBC Wales Live Debates **BBC2 WALES 6.00** Scrum V Sunday. Action from the Pro14, including Edinburgh v Cardiff Blues **10.00** Frankie Boyle's Tour Of Scotland **10.30** Match Of The Day 2 **11.30** The Ranganation **12.15** Live At The Apollo **1.00** Grand Tours Of Scotland **S4C 6.00** Cyw **8.50** Penblwyddi Cyw **8.55** Pen-Blwydd Pwy? **9.00** Clwb Rygbi **11.15** Byd Pws **12.00** Yr Wythnos **12.30** Dan Do **1.00** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol **1.30** Rygbi Pawb **2.10** Dudley Ar Daith **2.40** Ffermio **3.40** Clwb Rygbi **5.25** Pobol Y Cwm **7.15** Newyddion A Chwaraeon **7.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol. Celebrating St David's Day **8.00** Priodas Pum Mil. Trystan Ellis-Morris and Emma Walford help a couple from Pwllheli **9.00** Bang. The discovery of a second body leads police to believe they are searching for a serial killer **10.00** Pobol Port Talbot. Taking a look at the community in the evening **10.30-11.35** Corau Rhys Meirion. Rhys Meirion attempts to form a new choir in the Pen Llyn area

Most recently there was the perverse, adorable Blunt Talk, which starred Patrick Stewart as a British newscaster hosting a struggling cable news show; and before that was this oddball effort in which Jason Schwartzman was "Jonathan Ames" a New York author moonlighting as a private eye. Amiable and aimless, poignant and endearing, it also gave Ted Danson one of his finest late career roles, as the charmingly libidinous magazine editor George Christopher.

Next In Fashion (Netflix)
While we wait to see what kind of new-fangled fashion show Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn will return with after having left Project Runway in 2018, this design competition show will fill in just fine. Alexa Chung and Queer Eye's Tan France possibly lack the same kind of warmth of Klum and Gunn but the format is there and the contestants are a delight, which is half the battle won. *(Andrew Male)*



YOU SAY

In **Endeavour** (ITV), I'm sure I heard Morse's (until-now-not-so) prescient colleague describe the witness with the failing memory as "confused dot com". Life on Morse?
Stephen Mottram

As this episode was set in 1970 and the .com domain wasn't in existence until 1985, I am at a loss to why none of the actors noticed this error.
Jane Mason

The company was founded in 2002 and the World Wide Web was not invented until 1989.
Tony Goodhew

BBC4

7.00pm Natural World The world of frogs. (Last in series)
8.00 The Science Of Doctor Who Prof Brian Cox examines the science behind the series.
9.00 Britain's Lost Masterpieces Assessing the value of works at the Ulster Museum and Stormont. (Last in series)
10.00 Britain's Outlaws — Highwaymen, Pirates And Rogues Piracy during the early 18th century. (2/3)
11.00 Alan Bennett's Diaries A profile of the writer.
12.00 FILM: The History Boys Stars Richard Griffiths. Two teachers take different approaches to mentoring pupils. Efficient. (2006, 15)
1.50 The Secret Life Of Children's Books Five Children And It.
2.20-3.20 As 9pm

DRAMA

12.00 The Bill Police drama series.
12.25 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates Double bill.
2.25 Cranford Drama adaptation.
7.35 Miss Marple With Joan Hickson. The spinster is sent to convalesce in Barbados, where she finds life dull until a double murder breaks the monotony. (Series 3, ep 2)
10.00 The Casual Vacancy Drama, with Michael Gambon and Julia McKenzie. Villagers go to war over an empty seat on the parish council. (1/3)
11.20 The Last Post Joe is sent to recover incriminating photographs taken by Martha, but finds himself dangerously attracted to her. (3/6)
12.40 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates Double bill.
2.50-4.00 The White Princess Period drama series. (2/8)



Keeping their own council: Gambon and McKenzie (Drama, 10pm)

ITV2

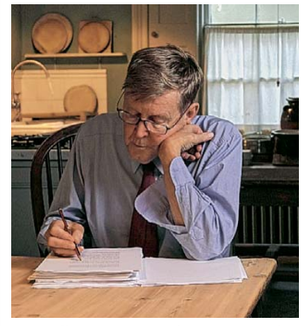
6.00 Teleshopping Purchasing.
7.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records Feats.
7.10 You've Been Framed Clips.
7.40 Ellen DeGeneres Chat show.
9.15 Dress To Impress Dating.
12.15 Celebrity Catchphrase
1.15 You've Been Framed Clips.
2.20 FILM: The Secret Life Of Pets With the voice of Louis CK. Two hounds put their differences aside while lost in New York. Runs out of steam. (2016, U; includes FYI Daily)
4.10 FILM: Sing With the voices of Matthew McConaughey and Seth MacFarlane. A theatre-owning koala organises a singing contest in a last-ditch effort to stay afloat. On song. (2016, U; includes FYI Daily)
6.20 FILM: Rogue One Stars Felicity Jones. A scientist's daughter and the Rebel Alliance try to steal plans for a lethal battle station. Thrilling sci-fi prequel. (2016, 12; includes FYI Daily)
9.00 Ibiza Weekender Reality.
10.00 Family Guy Peter stars in his own children's TV show. (S10, ep 18) **10.30 Family Guy** Meg is kidnapped while travelling across Europe. (Series 10, ep 20) **11.00 Family Guy** Meg and Quagmire become a couple. (Series 10, ep 10)
11.30 American Dad! Animation.
12.25 The Cleveland Show Animation. (Series 3, ep 9)
12.55 The Stand Up Sketch Show
1.25 Timewasters (S2, ep 1)
2.25 Don't Hate The Playaz
3.20 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV3

6.00 That's My Boy Comedy.
6.30 Coronation Street Soap.
9.25 Emmerdale Rural soap.
12.45 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. Barnaby and Scott investigate when a man's body is found in the river during the Midsomer Regatta. **2.50 Midsomer Murders** A rare orchid triggers a spate of killings.
4.50 Poirot The sleuth looks into a murder in his own apartment block — after watching a theatre whodunit with Captain Hastings. (S1, ep 5)
6.00 Midsomer Murders With Neil Dudgeon. A dairy worker is crushed to death by a giant round of cheese at the home of the world-famous Midsomer Blue.
8.00 Animal Orphans Paul O'Grady heads to Borneo, visiting an orang-utan rehabilitation centre and learning about the damage that overfishing is doing to sea turtles' natural habitat. (Series 3, ep 1)
9.00 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure The actress embarks on a 6,400-mile journey using the Trans-Siberian Railway. (1/3)
10.00 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. A man collapses and dies outside a pub after a fight with his brother-in-law.
12.10 Scott & Bailey Horrific events begin to unfold after a killer's arrest. (Series 1, ep 2) **1.10 Scott & Bailey** A man acquitted of rape and murder is found dead; and Rachel receives devastating news.
2.10 The Halcyon Drama. (5/8)
3.00 Emmerdale Rural soap.
5.45-6.00 Nightscreen

ITV4

12.45pm Snooker Live coverage of the opening eight frames of the final of the Players championship, held at the Waterfront in Southport.
4.30 The Sweeney Drama series.
5.35 Mr Bean A trip to the dentist ends disastrously. **6.10 Mr Bean** Rowan Atkinson's alter ego performs first aid and jets off on holiday.
6.40 Goals Of The 90s Featuring a selection of memorable goals scored in the 1990s.
6.50 Snooker Rishi Persad presents live coverage of the concluding session of the final of the Players championship in Southport.
11.15 FILM: Zero Dark Thirty Stars Jessica Chastain. Intelligence operatives try to track down Osama bin Laden. Vivid fact-based drama. (2012, 15; includes FYI Daily)
2.20 Football Rivalries Featuring Manchester Utd and Liverpool.
2.40 Nightscreen Information.
3.00-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.



Dear diary: Bennett (BBC4, 11pm)

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

12.00 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters An agency tries to tackle an army of giant creatures. (2019, 12)
2.15 Killers Anonymous Stars Gary Oldman. Killers try to determine who is responsible for an assassination attempt on a senator. (2019, 15)
4.00 The Top Ten Show Countdown.
4.15 The Curse Of La Llorona In 1970s LA, a social worker and her children are drawn into a spirit's wrath. (2019, 15)
6.00 American Woman A woman raises her young grandson after her daughter goes missing. (2018, 15)
8.00 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters As 12noon. Fantasy sequel.
10.15 Killers Anonymous As 2.15pm.
12.00 UFO A brilliant student and his maths professor investigate a series of mysterious sightings. (2018, 12)
1.45 Extracurricular (2018, 18)
3.30 Hot Air Drama. (2018, 15)
5.30 Final Score A look at the film.

SKY CINEMA THRILLER

12.40pm Enemy Of The State A lawyer is pursued by agents capable of anticipating his every move. (1998, 15)
3.05 The Recruit Thriller. (2003, 12)
5.05 Lone Survivor American soldiers face a battle for survival. (2013, 15)
7.10 Greta A waitress gets more than she bargained for after returning a lost handbag to its owner. (2018, 15)
9.00 Enemy Of The State As 12.40pm.
11.15 Midnight Express An American student jailed in Turkey for drug offences plans to escape. (1978, 18)
1.25-3.15 Feedback Horror. (2019, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS

6.30am Remember The Titans Fact-based sports drama. (2000, PG)
8.30 Labyrinth A teenager travels through a magical maze to rescue her brother from a goblin king. (1986, U)
10.15 Fantastic Beasts — The Crimes Of Grindelwald Newt Scamander tries to scupper a sorcerer's plans. (2018, 12)
12.30 Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince The wizard uncovers the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past. (2009, 12)
3.15 Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows, Part 1 The wizard sets out to destroy the evil Voldemort. (2010, 12)
5.45 Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows, Part 2 The young wizard faces a final battle with Voldemort. (2011, 12)
8.00 Fantastic Beasts — The Crimes Of Grindelwald Details as 10.15am.
10.15 The Hand That Rocks The Cradle A widow seeks revenge after her husband commits suicide. (1992, 15)
12.10 Psycho Thriller. (1960, 15)
2.05 Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome Sci-fi adventure sequel. (1985, 15)
4.00 Barefoot In The Park (1967, PG)



You slay me: Oldman (SCP, 10.15pm)

SKY CINEMA SUPERHERO

2.45pm Captain Marvel (2019, 12)
5.00 Avengers — Endgame The reunited heroes make a last stand against the evil Thanos. (2019, 12)
8.00 Thor The Norse god of thunder is banished to the Earth, which he must defend from his evil brother. (2011, 12)
10.00 Thor — The Dark World The thunder god must form an uneasy alliance with his evil brother. (2013, 12)
12.00 Kick-Ass Action. (2010, 15)
2.00 Kick-Ass 2 Sequel. (2013, 15)
3.50-6.00 Batman & Robin (1997, PG)

FILM 4

11.00am Kung Fu Panda 2 (2011, PG)
12.55 Anna And The King (1999, 12)
3.50 Back To The Future Part III Sci-fi comedy sequel. (1990, PG)
6.20 A Beautiful Mind (2001, 12)
9.00 Daddy's Home 2 A father and a stepfather deal with intrusive relatives over the holiday season. (2017, 12)
11.05 The Impossible A family spending Christmas in Thailand is separated by the 2004 tsunami. (2012, 12)
1.15-3.40 Force Majeure (2014, 15)

TALKING PICTURES TV

2.15pm The Lady With The Lamp Biopic of Florence Nightingale. (1951, U)
4.20 Kipps Comedy. (1941, U)
6.00 Get Some In! Sitcom.
6.30 Terminus Documentary.
7.10 Simon And Laura A husband and wife whose marriage is falling apart are cast in the same TV series. (1955, PG)
9.00 Sunday Night At The London Palladium Variety show.
10.00-12.00 Are You Being Served? The Grace Brothers staff arrive in Spain for their annual holiday. (1977, PG)

ENTERTAINMENT

GOLD

7.15am The Piglet Files **7.40** You Rang, M'Lord? **8.40** As Time Goes By **9.20** Only Fools And Horses. Back-to-back episodes **8.40** Dad's Army **9.20** The Royle Family **10.30** Harry Enfield And Chums **11.10** Upstart Crow **1.20** Black Books **2.40** Harry Enfield And Chums **3.10-4.00** Marley's Ghosts

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm Parks And Recreation **8.30** AP Bio **9.00** Saturday Night Live. Sketch show **10.30** Pete Holmes — Faces And Sounds **11.40** The Righteous Gemstones **12.20** Work In Progress **12.55** Curb Your Enthusiasm **1.35** Ballers **2.10** Rosie O'Donnell — A Heartfelt Standup **3.25-5.00** Everybody Hates Chris

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Nothing To Declare **7.00** Ghost Whisperer **9.00** The Rookie. Officers Bradford and West take on a community policing project **10.00** Criminal Minds. The BAU team looks deeper into a series of explosions **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.00** Ghost Whisperer. Drama **3.00-6.00** Nothing To Declare

W

6.00pm Sun, Sea And Brides To Be **7.00** The Wedding Fixer **8.00** The World According To Kids **9.00** Louis Theroux — Drinking To Oblivion. The reporter meets alcoholics **10.00** Stacey Dooley In The USA **11.00** Plus Size Love **12.00** One Born Every Minute **1.00** Great Ormond Street **1.50** Code Black **2.35-3.00** Renovate My Home — Leave It To Bryan

5 STAR

5.55pm Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **8.00** Nightmare Neighbour Next Door **9.00** FILM: Ocean's Thirteen **11.25** FILM: Angels & Demons **2.05** By The Sea & Signing On **3.05-4.00** Benefits Britain — Life On The Dole

5 USA

5.25pm Columbo **9.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. A rapper is murdered **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **12.55** Law & Order: Los Angeles **2.50** Chicago PD **3.50-4.00** Access

QUEST

6.00pm Wheeler Dealers **7.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **8.00** Born Mucky — Life On The Farm **9.00** Carabao Cup **11.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00** Hunting Hitler **1.00** Treasure Quest — Snake Island **2.00** American Chopper **3.00** Fantomworks **5.00-6.00** How It's Made

FOX

6.00pm Bones **7.00** NCIS. The team investigates the murder of a musician **8.00** NCIS. A petty officer's murder is investigated **9.00** NCIS. The kidnapping of an American social worker in Syria is linked to a US citizen **10.00** Family Guy. Animation **2.00** The Walking Dead **3.00** American Dad! **4.00-5.00** Bull

COMEDY CENTRAL

5.30pm Friends **9.00** FILM: Deep Blue Sea. Stars Saffron Burrows and Samuel L Jackson. A scientist develops super-intelligent sharks on an isolated research facility **11.00** Al Murray Live — Barrel Of Fun **12.00** FILM: Hot Tub Time Machine 2 **2.00** Broad City **3.25** South Park **4.15-5.00** Impractical Jokers

E4

6.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
8.30 Rude(ish) Tube Clips.
9.00 Man With A Plan Comedy.
11.00 The Goldbergs (S7, ep 2)
11.30 Schooled (Series 2, ep 2)
12.00 Romance Retreat Romantic comedy, with Amanda Schull. An ambitious journalist escapes to a yoga retreat to avoid the fallout from her coverage of a scandal.
1.50 Rude(ish) Tube Clips.
1.55 The Big Bang Theory
3.55 Brooklyn Nine-Nine Sitcom.

5.30 FILM: Home Alone 2 — Lost In New York Stars Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. A boy ends up stranded in the Big Apple, where he bumps into two familiar burglars with an axe to grind. Lacks heart. (1992, PG)

8.00 FILM: Transformers — Revenge Of The Fallen Stars Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox. The shape-changing robots fight to control a machine that has the power to destroy planets. A case of metal fatigue. (2009, 12)

11.00 Star Trek — Discovery Burnham heads to the ISS Charon with a special 'gift' for the emperor; and Stamets gains some clarity. (12/15)
11.55 The Big Bang Theory Penny and Bernadette shop for bridesmaid dresses without Amy. (S5, ep 8) **12.25 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard and Penny endure an awkward night at the cinema.
12.55 Brooklyn Nine-Nine Sitcom.
1.55 The Sex Clinic Advice.
3.00 Star Trek — Discovery (12/15)
3.45-6.00 Hollyoaks Soap.

MORE 4

8.55 Car SOS Three editions.
11.55 Come Dine With Me Parties.
2.40 Four In A Bed B&B contest.
5.15 Come Dine With Me An oil and gas co-ordinator hosts the first party in the Merseyside area. **5.50 Come Dine With Me** A pastoral care manager names each course after a Tina Turner song. **6.25 Come Dine With Me** A PR representative hosts a casino-themed evening. **6.55 Come Dine With Me** A fairy-tale-themed evening is held. **7.25 Come Dine With Me** A Michael Bublé impersonator hosts the final dinner party.
8.00 Emergency Helicopter Medics In Hartlepool, the heli-medics must treat a man hit by a train; and cameras follow a cyclist who suffers injuries after a collision.
9.00 999 — On The Front Line Paramedics treating a woman with brittle bone disease end up with another patient on their hands; and a man collapses at a roadside, but refuses to go to hospital.
10.00 24 Hours In A&E A staff nurse is punched and bitten by a prisoner awaiting treatment; and a 59-year-old father-of-two is rushed in by helicopter medics after a head-on traffic collision.
11.05 999 — What's Your Emergency? Wiltshire's emergency services deal with people who live alone.
12.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics Documentary.
1.15 999 — On The Front Line
2.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice.
3.15-3.50 Father Ted Sitcom.

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT
6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: South Africa v Pakistan **7.30 LIVE** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: England v West Indies **11.30** Goals On Sunday **1.00 LIVE** Super Sunday: Everton v Manchester United. Kickoff at 2.00 **4.00 LIVE** EFL Cup: Aston Villa v Manchester City. The final. Kickoff 4.30 **7.30 LIVE** PGA Tour Golf. The Honda Classic **11.00 LIVE** MLS: Los Angeles FC v Inter Miami. Joining the action 22 minutes after kickoff **12.35-6.00 LIVE** Test Cricket: New Zealand v India

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE
6.00am PL Greatest Games **7.00** Premier League Highlights **9.30** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **10.00** The Sunday Supplement **11.30** Goals On Sunday **1.00 LIVE** Super Sunday: Everton v Manchester United. Kickoff at 2.00 **4.30** Premier League Highlights **6.30** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **7.00** The Tyler Archives **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **8.30** Goals On Sunday **10.00** Premier League Highlights **11.00** Best PL Goals: Newcastle v Liverpool **11.30** Premier League Highlights **12.30** Best PL Goals: Liverpool v Man Utd **1.00** Premier League Highlights **5.00** Best PL Goals: North London Derby **5.30-6.00** Premier League 100 Club

SKY SPORTS CRICKET
6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: South Africa v Pakistan **7.30 LIVE** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: England v West Indies. The Group B match **11.30** Test Cricket **12.30** Cricket **1.30** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **3.30** Test Cricket **4.30** Cricket **5.30** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **9.30** Test Cricket **10.25-6.00 LIVE** Test Cricket: New Zealand v India

EUROSPORT 1
6.00am Luge **6.35** Ski Jumping **7.35** Alpine Skiing **8.35 LIVE** Alpine Skiing. The World Cup meeting in Austria **9.25 LIVE** Biathlon. The world championships in Antholz, Italy **10.10 LIVE** Alpine Skiing. The World Cup meeting in La Thuile, Italy **11.25 LIVE** Biathlon **12.15** Cycling **1.30 LIVE** Cycling. Coverage of the Kuurne-Brussels-Kuurne **3.35** Cycling **4.00** Anglesey Sandman Triathlon **4.30** Cycling **9.30** Ultra Trail — World Tour **10.00** Ski Jumping **11.00** Biathlon **12.00** Alpine Skiing **1.00** Biathlon **2.10** Cycling **3.10 LIVE** Cycling. Coverage of stage two of the Tour Of Taiwan from Taoyuan City to Jiaobanshan Park **4.40-6.00** Cycling

BT SPORT 1
6.30am Coppa Italia **7.00** Premier League World **7.30** Premier League **9.00** WWE Raw Highlights **10.00** WWE NXT Highlights **11.00** Sailing **12.00** Gearing Up **12.30** Premiership Rugby Highlights **2.30 LIVE** Premiership Rugby Union: Bath v Bristol Bears. At the Recreation Ground Kickoff is at 3.00 **5.15** Premiership Tonight **6.00** W-League Football **7.00** Reload **7.15** Coppa Italia **7.45 LIVE** Ligue 1: Lyon v St Etienne. Kickoff at 8.00 **10.00** UFC **2.00** Premiership Rugby Highlights **4.30-6.00** Classic MOTD — Thrillers

BT SPORT 2
7.00am Uefa Champions League Magazine **7.30 LIVE** A-League: Melbourne City v Brisbane Roar. Kickoff at 7.30 **9.30** FA Women's Super League Continental Cup **11.00** What I Wore **11.15** Uefa Champions League Magazine **11.45** Coppa Italia **12.15 LIVE** Bundesliga: FC Union Berlin v VfL Wolfsburg. Kickoff at 12.30 **2.30 LIVE** Bundesliga: RB Leipzig v Bayer Leverkusen. Kickoff at 2.30 **4.30** What I Wore **4.45 LIVE** Bundesliga: Werder Bremen v Eintracht Frankfurt. Kickoff at 5.00 **7.00** A-League **9.00 LIVE** XFL: Dallas Renegades v Houston Roughnecks. Kickoff is at 9.00 **12.00** Ligue 1 **4.30** Gearing Up **5.00** Inside Sailing **5.30-6.00** World Sailing

RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY



Words And Music

Radio 3, 5.30pm
Nordic Noir is the theme and Lars Mikkelsen, pictured (star of House of Cards and Borgen), and Vera Vitali (of Bonus Family) are the readers, with music by Sibelius, Nielsen and (among others) Bjork. In **The Role Of The Roundhouse** (BBC Radio 6 Music, 1pm), Gemma Cairney profiles the historic venue ahead of the 6 Music Festival to be held there all week, with full coverage on the station.
Gillian Reynolds

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6 MHz, LW 198 kHz (1515m), MW 720 kHz

5.20 Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Bells **5.45** Profile (R) **6.00** News **6.05** Something Understood (R) **6.35** On Your Farm **7.00** News; Papers **7.10** Sunday **7.54** Appeal **8.00** News; Papers **8.10** Worship **8.48** A Point Of View (R) **8.58** Tweet Of The Day (R) **9.00** Broadcasting House **10.00** The Archers (R) **11.15** Desert Island Discs **12.00** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping **12.04** Nature Table (R) **12.30** The Food Programme **1.00** The World This Weekend **1.30** The Day Of Two Suns (R) **2.00** Gardeners' Question Time (R) **2.45** The Listening Project **3.00** Drama: The Pallisers, by Anthony Trollope. Cora is pleased Plantagenet can spend more time with his family. With Jessica Raine **4.00** Bookclub. Marian Keyes reflects on her novel Rachel's Holiday **4.30** Conversations On A Bench. New run. Anna Scott-Brown visits Falmouth in Cornwall **5.00** File On 4 (R) **5.40** Profile (R) **5.54** Shipping **6.00** News **6.15** Pick Of The Week. With Farrah Jarral **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Reluctant Persuaders (R) **7.45** Dangerous Visions: Dark Vignettes (R) **8.00** Feedback (R) **8.30** Last Word (R) **9.00** Money Box (R) **9.25** Appeal (R) **9.30** Analysis (R) **10.00** The Westminster Hour **11.00** The Moth Radio Hour (R) **11.50** A Point Of View (R) **12.00** News **12.15** Thinking Allowed (R) **12.45** Bells (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
Digital only

5.30 Reimagining The City **6.00** The Far Pavilions Omnibus **7.15** Elvis In Prestwick **7.30** Welcome To Our Village, Please Invade Carefully **8.00** Whack-O! **8.30** Harry Worth In Things Could Be Worse **9.00** The Crying Book Omnibus **10.10** The Listening Project **10.15** Desert Island Discs Revisited **11.00** The Moth Radio Hour **12.00** Whack-O! **12.30** Harry Worth In Things Could Be Worse **1.00** The Far Pavilions Omnibus **2.15** Elvis In Prestwick **2.30** Apeirogon Omnibus **3.45** Door Stepping **4.00** The Mystery Of The Yellow Room **5.00** Poetry Extra **5.30** Welcome To Our Village, Please Invade Carefully **6.00** Nightfall **6.30** Hothouse **7.00** The Moth Radio Hour **8.00** The Crying Book Omnibus **9.10** The Listening Project **9.15** Desert Island Discs Revisited **10.00** Welcome To Our Village, Please Invade Carefully **10.30** Hey Hey We're The Monks **11.00** Newsjack **11.30-12.00** Edge Falls

LBC
FM 97.3 MHz

5.00 Steve Allen **7.00** Andrew Castle **10.00** Nigel Farage **12.00** Maajid Nawaz **3.00** Ian Payne **6.00** Clive Bull **9.00** In Conversation With Steve Allen **10.00** Tom Swarbrick **1.00** Darren Adam **4.00** Steve Allen

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4 MHz

7.00 Breakfast **9.00** Sunday Morning **12.00** Private Passions. With the architect Piers Gough **1.00** Lunchtime Concert. At London's Wigmore Hall, Meta4 play the first of Bartok's six great quartets and a piece by Fanny Mendelssohn (R) **2.00** The Early Music Show (R) **3.00** Choral Evensong (R) **4.00** Jazz Record Requests **5.00** The Listening Service (R) **5.30** Words And Music. Lars Mikkelsen and Vera Vitali read excerpts from Scandinavian crime writing **6.45** Sunday Feature. Jerry Brotton heads to Turkey on the trail of the 17th-century Ottoman writer Evliya Celebi, whose account of his journeys has been called the world's first travel book **7.30** Drama On 3: A Streetcar Named Desire, by Tennessee Williams. The story of a catastrophic confrontation between fantasy and reality. With Anne-Marie Duff (R) **9.25** In Concert. In Prague, Simon Rattle conducts the Czech Philharmonic in music by Dvorak and Mahler **11.00** Nordic Sounds. In a new series, Eleanor Rosamund Barraclough sets out to explore Nordic history, culture and identity **12.00** Classical Fix. Music (R) **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM
FM 100-102 MHz

7.00 Aled Jones **10.00** Bill Turnbull **1.00** Alexander Armstrong **3.00** John Humphrys **5.00** David Mellor **7.00** Charlotte Hawkins **9.00** Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Classical Music. Artists from Wales **10.00** Myleene Klass **1.00** Sam Pittis

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2 MHz

6.00 Good Morning Sunday **9.00** Steve Wright **11.00** The Mel Giedroyc Show **1.00** Elaine Paige **3.00** Sounds Of The 70s With Johnnie Walker **5.00** Alan & Mel **7.00** WhatsOnStage Awards. Coverage from the Prince of Wales Theatre in London's West End **10.00** The Swing & Big Band Show. Music **11.00** Don Black **12.00** Phil Williams **3.00** Sounds Of The 60s (R)

VIRGIN RADIO
Digital only

6.00 James Merritt **10.00** The Best Of The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **1.00** Christian Williams **4.00** Bam **7.00** Steve Denyer **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00** Through The Night **4.00** Christian Williams

TALKSPORT
MW 1053, 1071, 1089, 1107 kHz

6.00 Georgie Bingham And Tony Cascarino **9.30** Gloryhunters **11.00** Warm Up **1.00** Exclusive **5.00** Simon Jordan's Final Word With Danny Kelly **8.00** On The Sporting Couch **9.00** Trans Euro Express **12.00** Extra Time

YESTERDAY
6.00am Walking Through History: Nazi Occupation — Channel Islands **7.10** Walking Through History: King John's Ruin — Peak District **8.00** True Evil — The Making Of A Nazi **1.00** Abandoned Engineering **5.00** Murder Maps. Crimes **8.00** 'Allo 'Allo! Three episodes **10.20** Bangers And Cash **11.20** Abandoned Engineering **12.20-1.15** War Factories

DAVE
6.00pm Soapbox Race. Coverage of the offbeat event in the Chilean capital of Santiago **7.00** Border Force — America's Gatekeepers **9.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You. Jo Brand hosts the quiz show, with Heidi Allen and Phil Wang **10.00** QI XL — Pubs. With guests Cariad Lloyd, Josh Widdicombe and Noel Fielding **11.00** The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan. The comedian pays a visit to Ethiopia **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **1.40** Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience. Double bill **3.00-4.00** The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan

PICK
6.00pm Monkey Life **8.00** Nothing To Declare **9.00** Britain's Most Evil Killers. A profile of the murderer Angus Sinclair **10.00** How I Caught The Killer. How CCTV was used to find a woman's killer in Nottingham **11.00** Murders That Shocked The Nation — Jack The Ripper. Documentary examining the crimes of the Victorian serial killer **12.00** World's Most Evil Killers. A profile of 'the Butcher of Plainfield', Ed Gein **1.00** Road Wars **3.00** Brit Cops — Frontline Crime UK **4.00-6.00** Motorway Patrol

FACTUAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6.00pm Nazi Underworld **7.00** Running Wild. The actor Zachary Quinto joins Bear Grylls on a journey into a dense Panamanian jungle **8.00** Air Crash Investigation. Experts find a fatal flaw in a helicopter's design **9.00** Car SOS. Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw go to France **10.00** Building Hitler's Supergun — The Plot to Destroy London **11.00-2.00** Buried Secrets Of WWII

DISCOVERY
6.00pm How Do They Do It? **7.00** River Of No Return **8.00** Richard Hammond's Big **9.00** Lost Secrets. The historian Justin Jampol uncovers the untold story of America's origins **10.00** Expedition Unknown. Josh Gates travels to the UK and Norway to unlock the secrets of the Viking Sunstone **11.00** Gold Rush **12.00** Gold Rush — Dave Turin's Lost Mine **1.00-2.00** Lost Secrets

SKY ARTS
6.00pm Portrait Artist Of The Year **7.00** The Making Of Marc Bolan. Charting the career of the T. Rex frontman **8.00** More Than This — The Story Of Roxy Music. Examining the background and influences of the rock group **9.00** David Bowie — Serious Moonlight **11.00-1.00** Manic Street Preachers — Live At Nynex

PBS AMERICA
5.50pm Britain's Greatest Generation. The stories of Britons who fought or lived through the Second World War **11.00-12.10** The Wall. Examining the border between America and Mexico

MONDAY 2 MARCH



Image is everything: James Fox presents his own snapshot of our world (BBC4, 9pm)

CRITICS' CHOICE

Age Of The Image (BBC4, 9pm)
Human beings took more than a trillion photographs last year: confirmation, says James Fox, that the planet is populated by "image addicts". In the first in this excellent series, the art historian explains how science and technology have changed the way people see the world, not just because of cameras and cinema, but because x-rays, aviation and Einstein's theory of relativity have forced huge changes in human perception. Fox explores the work of Dali and Cézanne, Buster Keaton and Hannah Höch, Harold Edgerton and Thomas Edison, in an exhilarating programme that will make viewers want to look at everything again. *Victoria Segal*

Moving On (BBC1, 2.15pm)
Jimmy McGovern's franchise returns for an 11th series, beginning with Time Out, by Dave Kirby. Tom McKay plays Joe, released on license from prison and struggling to adjust to life in a hostel with a curfew. It is only when he is in the swimming pool that he feels free – especially when he meets Lisa (Angel Coulby) – but the tag on his ankle keeps dragging him down. *(VS)*

Ready Steady Cook (BBC1, 4.30pm)
Reheated like leftovers, the teatime favourite is back after 10 years to pit Red Tomatoes against Green Peppers. Happily, it still feels like comfort food and new host Rylan Clark-Neal is perfect for the format. Chefs Anna Haugh, Mike Reid and their amateur cooks here try to bring out the best in plantain, strawberries and crab. *(VS)*

Liar (ITV, 9pm)
Ioan Gruffudd's many fans will be relieved to hear that wicked Andrew's death at the end of the last series will be no barrier to his appearing in this one; he will be present in flashbacks as Laura's (Joanne Froggatt) problems worsen. Enter DI Renton (Katherine Kelly), of the "If you've done nothing wrong, you have nothing to hide" school of policing, determined to catch his murderer. *(HS)*

Maternity Ward (5 Star, 9pm)
"The perfect birth does exist," says midwife Sue of the Royal Preston Hospital, "I've seen several and it's lovely." Of the mums-to-be tonight, however, Katie, a nurse herself, knows her Type 1 diabetes might mean her baby is born early; while Ashleigh hopes not to suffer the post-partum depression that afflicted her last time. *(HS)*

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
9.15 Britain's Housing Scandal A report on a tenant who is living in a damp property.
10.00 Homes Under The Hammer In southeast London. (R)
11.00 Wanted Down Under (R)
11.45 Saved On Camera New series focusing on stories of bravery captured on phones, CCTV and dashcam.
12.15 Bargain Hunt Peterborough.
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.45 Doctors Daniel and Zara have fun trying to keep a secret.
2.15 CHOICE Moving On New run of Jimmy McGovern's drama. A former convict neglects to tell his girlfriend he is fitted with a tag. With Tom McKay and Angel Coulby. (See Critics' choice)
3.00 Escape To The Country
3.45 Money For Nothing A new run begins at Wallyford Recycling Centre in East Lothian.
4.30 CHOICE Ready Steady Cook Rylan Clark-Neal hosts a revival of the culinary contest. (See Critics' choice)
5.15 Pointless Unorthodox quiz. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 Inside Out Regional reports.
8.00 EastEnders Keegan and Tiffany bump into a burglar fleeing their flat; and Suki's lies come close to unravelling.
8.30 Panorama A report on fraudsters operating call-centre scams in India, tracking down one of the men behind such cons and hearing from British victims.
9.00 The Split Secrets come out and lies unravel as Hannah deals with the fallout from her anniversary party; and the Noble Hale Defoe team attends an awards ceremony for Ruth. (Series 2, ep 4)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.35 This Country A Mucklowe family member returns to the village and causes Kerry to re-evaluate her living arrangements. (Series 3, ep 3)
11.05 Young, Welsh And Pretty Minted A pair of Barry-born make-up entrepreneurs have a photoshoot in Ibiza.
11.35 Live At The Apollo (R)
12.20 A Question Of Sport (R)
12.55-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland. **7.30** Arctic Academy.

BBC2

6.00 Flog It! Selling valuables. (R)
6.45 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
7.30 Best Home Cook (Signed, R)
8.30 The Week In Parliament
9.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.00 Victoria Derbyshire News.
11.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Politics Live Discussion.
1.00 Hardball Quiz show. (R)
1.45 Best House In Town (R)
2.30 Terry And Mason's Great Food Trip In Weymouth. (R)
3.00 Red Rock Soap. (R)
3.45 The Great Interior Design Challenge Competition. (R)
4.45 Portillo's State Secrets (R)
5.15 Flog It! In Dover Castle.
6.00 House Of Games With Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor.
6.30 Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo makes the journey from Newry to Portadown. (R)
7.00 Coastal Path Paul Rose explores the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, and experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival. (R)
7.30 Mastermind Subjects include British breweries, the life and works of John Lennon, Lorenzo de' Medici and the Back to the Future trilogy.
8.00 Only Connect Victoria Coren Mitchell asks the questions as the Orwellians take on the Turophiles in the last quarter-final, with a place in the semi-finals at stake.
8.30 University Challenge In the sixth of the quarter-final matches, two more teams compete to make it to the next stage of the competition.
9.00 Murder 24/7 Detectives and specialists investigate a double stabbing in Colchester's homeless community that leaves one person dead and the other victim seriously injured. (4/5)
10.00 Inside No 9 Comedy, with Maxine Peake and Phil Davis. Seven disparate characters share their stories with a camera, their fates set for a head-on collision. (S5, ep 5)
10.30 Newsnight The day's events.
11.15 Hospital An 81-year-old is left with a hole in his heart after a heart attack. (R)
12.15 The Farmers' Country Showdown (Signed, R)
1.00 Countryfile (Signed, R)
2.00-3.00 Secrets Of The Museum Insights. (Signed, R)

FILM CHOICE

Passport To Pimlico (TPTV, 4.25pm)
Who knew Henry Cornelius's Ealing classic would turn out to be a proto-Brexit comedy? While the story of an area of London that secedes from the rest of Britain has acquired a latent political resonance, it is chiefly memorable as a whimsical vision of vanished Englishness. B/W (1949)



Cop Land (ITV4, 10pm)
Sylvester Stallone piled on the pounds to credibly play the paunchy, partially deaf sheriff of a New Jersey hamlet, who also happens to have a blind eye when it comes to the shady goings-on of a detective (Harvey Keitel) and his resident clique of New York's finest. More remarkable than Stallone's bulging waist is the shocking waste of Robert De Niro, left with the crumbs from Sly's table as an internal-affairs investigator. (1997) *(TL)*

ON DEMAND

Hunters (Amazon Prime Video)
The role of Jewish writers and artists in the creation of the American superhero is well known. Less recognised is how those superhero comics tackled the Holocaust when it was a taboo subject in more "respectable" publications. That appears to be the subtext of Jordan Peele and David

ITV

6.00 Good Morning Britain
9.00 Lorraine Lifestyle chat.
10.00 This Morning Features.
12.30 Loose Women Debate.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Judge Rinder Disputes.
3.00 Tenable Quiz show. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Gameshow.
5.00 The Chase Quiz show.
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Emmerdale April receives an unwelcome message regarding her dad; and Billy is offered a new job.
7.30 Coronation Street Daniel bags up Sinead's belongings for Beth; Alya seeks the true story behind Yasmeen's tears; and Sarah and Bethany remain at loggerheads.
8.00 St Davids — Britain's Smallest City New series following the residents of the Pembrokeshire community as they cope with the busiest summer season in history, with tourists flocking to the place of pilgrimage.
8.30 Coronation Street Jade gets short shrift from Tyrone; the Barlows and Platts convene for Adam and Sarah's wedding; and Yasmeen sends Geoff into a panic.
9.00 CHOICE **Liar** New run of the thriller, with Joanne Froggatt. Andrew's body is found on the Kent marshes, but Laura once again finds herself drawn into his destructive path. (S2, ep 1; see Critics' choice)
10.00 News At Ten Bulletin.
10.45 Tyson Fury — The Gypsy King Following the boxer as he prepares for his rematch with Deontay Wilder. (1/3, R)
11.45 All Elite Wrestling — Dynamite Action.
12.35 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 James Martin's French Adventure In Marseille. (R)
3.50 Nightscreen Information.
5.05-6.00 Judge Rinder Cases. (R)



Pants on fire? Froggatt (ITV, 9pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Cheers Comedy series. (R)
7.25 The King Of Queens (R)
8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
9.10 Frasier American sitcom. (R)
10.10 Undercover Boss Canada (R)
11.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
12.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.05 Posh Pawn Valuables. (R)
2.10 Countdown Gameshow.
3.00 A Place In The Sun A couple looking 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 France.
5.00 Come Dine With Me (R)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer wakes up to find the world around him is made of Lego. (R)
6.30 Hollyoaks Chester soap. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Dispatches Antony Barnett reports on young children working long hours in gruelling conditions in Guatemala picking coffee beans that are supplied to Starbucks and Nespresso.
8.30 Food Unwrapped Helen Lawal searches for the secret to perfectly shelled walnuts; Matt Tebbutt hopes to discover what makes sweets sour; and Andi Oliver investigates cloudy beers.
9.00 Prison Focusing on the emotionally charged difficulties of being a mother in prison, with staff at Foston Hall believing that keeping family contact is vital in reducing the likelihood of reoffending. (Last in series)
10.00 Baghdad Central Zubeida Rashid offers to help Khafaji find Sawsan; and a murder in the green zone wrecks Parodi's investigation and brings him into conflict with Temple and Evans. (5/6)
11.00 Emergency Helicopter Medics An appearance at a charity event in Suffolk is cut short by an emergency. (R)
12.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
12.55 Hunted Challenge. (R)
1.50 The Supervet Animals. (R)
2.45 Liberty (Danish with subtitles; last in series, R)
3.55 Come Dine With Me (R)
4.50 Location, Location, Location A home in Weybridge. (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.15 Paddington Station 24/7 (R)
12.10 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords Documentary. (R)
1.10 Access Showbiz gossip.
1.15 Home And Away News that Lance has been murdered spurs Robbo into action. (R)
1.45 Neighbours Finn struggles to subdue his anger about the Mardi Gras party.
2.15 Famous And Fatal Thriller, with Sarah Roemer and Jon Prescott. A woman becomes the target of a stalker after being hired to home-school the son of a celebrity.
4.00 Friends American sitcom. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
5.30 Neighbours Soap. (R)
6.00 Home And Away (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Premiership Rugby Highlights Action from the 12th round, including Gloucester v Sale Sharks, Bath v Bristol Bears, and Harlequins v Exeter Chiefs.
8.00 Traffic Cops On the outskirts of Chesterfield, an officer receives a call for backup from his colleague, who is surrounded by a mob after he responded to a report of dangerous driving.
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.
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 seas. (R)
11.05 FILM: Run All Night Stars Liam Neeson and Ed Harris. A disillusioned hitman is forced to turn against the crime family he works for in order to protect his estranged son from assassination. Edgy thriller. (2015, 15)
1.15 The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show Interactive gambling.
3.15 The Hotel Inspector — Checking In, Checking Out In Bude, Cornwall. (R)
4.00 Tattoo Disasters (R)
4.45 House Doctor Advice. (R)
5.10 Nick's Quest Animals. (R)
5.35-6.00 Wildlife SOS (R)

SKY 1

6.00 Monkey Life Primates. (R)
7.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue (R)
8.00 The Dog Whisperer (R)
9.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
10.00 Brit Cops — Law & Disorder The work of London police. (R)
11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles Drama. (R)
1.00 Hawaii Five-0 Drama. (R)
3.00 MacGyver (Series 2, ep 6, R)
4.00 Modern Family Sitcom. (R)
5.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
5.30 Futurama Animation. (R)
6.30 The Simpsons Sideshow Bob hypnotises Bart. (R) **7.00 The Simpsons** With the voices of 'N Sync. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** Homer goes on hunger strike. (R)
8.00 Flintoff — Lord Of The Fries Andrew Flintoff and Rob Penn visit Northern Ireland in their mobile fish-and-chip shop, along the way sampling the best that the great outdoors has to offer. (R)
9.00 FILM: Men In Black II Stars Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones. An alien disguised as a lingerie model threatens to destroy humanity. Competent. (2002, PG)
11.00 Avenue 5 Sci-fi comedy, with Hugh Laurie, Suzy Nakamura, Rebecca Front, Zach Woods and Josh Gad. (6/8, R)
11.35 Strike Back — Vendetta A rescue mission in Kosovo for Section 20 uncovers a conspiracy. (Series 8, ep 1, R)
12.35 A League Of Their Own (R)
1.30 Road Wars Vehicle crime. (R)
2.00 The Real A&E Incidents. (R)
3.00 Jett Drama series. (8/9, R)
4.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
5.00-6.00 Futurama Cartoon. (R)

ATLANTIC

6.00 Storm City Extreme weather.
7.00 Without A Trace Thriller.
10.00 The West Wing Drama.
12.00 Blue Bloods (Series 2, ep 5)
1.00 CSI Drama. (Series 5, ep 24)
2.00 The West Wing Double bill.
4.00 Without A Trace An X-ray technician goes missing. (S3, ep 3) **5.00 Without A Trace** A nanny disappears with the baby in her care. **6.00 Without A Trace** The surgically enhanced winner of a makeover reality show disappears at an event.
7.00 CSI The discovery of a severed thumb leads Grissom to a convict. (Series 5, ep 25)
8.00 Blue Bloods Jamie and Renzulli respond to an emergency call at a church, but are forcibly prevented from entering the building by its security team. (S2, ep 6)
9.00 The Outsider Ralph and Yunis interview witnesses from the cave festival; and the group considers its next move as Claude deals with the weight of his role. (9/10)
10.05 The End Oberon hits an obstacle as he seeks testosterone therapy; and a confession changes Edie and Pamela's relationship. (4/10)
10.40 True Blood Bill breaks a vampire taboo by protecting Sookie. (Series 1, ep 9) **11.50 True Blood** Sam shares his secret with Sookie.
1.00 The L Word — Generation Q Drama series. (4/8)
2.10 Oz Drama. (Series 4, ep 11)
3.25 Californication (S1, ep 12)
4.00-6.00 The West Wing Drama.

VARIATIONS

ITV WALES 8.00 Wales This Week **10.45** Sharp End **11.15** St Davids — Britain's Smallest City **11.45** The Gypsy King **BBC1 NORTHEAST/ NORTHWEST/NORTH 11.35** The Super League Show **BBC1 WALES 7.30** X-Ray **8.30** Flooded Out Of My Home **9.00** Hidden **10.35** The Split **11.35** Panorama **12.05** This Country **12.35** Live At The Apollo **1.20** News **BBC2 WALES 11.15** New Voices **11.25** Rugby Union **12.25** Mum **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Bing **6.10** Oli Wyn **6.20** Patrôl Pawennau **6.35** Halibalw **6.45** Ben A Mali A'u Byd Bach O Hud **7.00** Syrcas Deithiol Dewi **7.10** Timpo **7.20** Amser Maith Maith Yn Ôl **7.35** Nos Da Cyw **7.45** Cacamwnci **8.00** Meripwsan **8.05** Tomos **8.15** Ysbyty Cyw Bach **8.30** Bach A Mawr **8.45** Llan-ar-goll-en **9.00** Guto Gwningen **9.15** Jen A Jim Pob Dim **9.30** Ty Mel **9.40** Stiw **9.50** Sam Tan **10.00** Bing **10.10** Oli Wyn **10.20** Patrôl Pawennau **10.35** Halibalw **10.45** Ben A Mali **11.00** Syrcas Deithiol **11.10** Timpo **11.20** Amser Maith Maith Yn Ôl **11.35** Nos Da Cyw **11.45** Cacamwnci **12.00** News **12.05** Ysgol Ddawns Anti Karen **12.30** Heno **1.30** Nyrsys **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Maesincla **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Goeden Faled **6.30** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol Y Cwm **8.25** Dan Do **8.55** News **9.00** Ffermio **9.30** Ein Byd **10.00-11.45** Clwb Rygbi

Weil's peculiar 10-part series about vigilantes tracking down Nazis in 1970s America. Already criticised for casting the Italian-American Al Pacino as the chief Nazi hunter Meyer Offerman, this is a gaudy, often tasteless drama that draws more from EC Comics than Simon Wiesenthal's Sails of Hope. However, once you embrace its purposely "vulgar" aesthetic there is pleasure to be had in its brutal and baroque pursuit of the fugitive "master race". *(AM)*

Honeyland (Various platforms)
Lovingly filmed over three years, Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov's Oscar-nominated 2019 documentary is a tender and soulful account of a lone wild-bee keeper in a Macedonian backwater, where the almost primal rhythms of her daily life and ancient craft are disturbed by an itinerant city family who smell money in honey, and whose greed disastrously tilts the natural order. Mesmerising. *(TL)*



YOU SAY

Did I miss the end of **The Pale Horse** (BBC1) where Rufus Sewell wakes up and says "I've just had the most terrible and confusing dream."
John Wessel

Instead of butchering someone's else's clever plot, may I suggest Sarah Phelps tries writing her own?
Liz Young

I would like to propose a new category for TV dramas: "This-is-a-load-of-old-rubbish". If I waste six hours watching something under this category I would have no one else to blame but myself.
Maggie Barnes

BBC4

7.00pm Beyond 100 Days News.
7.30 Francesco's Mediterranean Voyage A visit to the ancient Greek theatre at Epidaurus.
8.00 New Zealand — Earth's Mythical Islands Examining relics of the nation's pre-human past. (Last in series)
9.00 CHOICE Age Of The Image In a new series, James Fox explores how the power of images has transformed the world. (1/4; see Critics' choice)
10.00 The Accused — Damned Or Devoted? The stories and fates of four people accused of blasphemy in Pakistan.
11.15 Art Of France Exploring the dramatic impact of the French Revolution. (2/3)
12.15 Leonora Carrington — The Lost Surrealist Artist profile.
1.15 Rude Britannia Insights. (2/3)
2.15-3.15 As 8pm



Cold War of the world: North Vietnam rallies to Ho Chi Minh (Nat Geog, 8pm)

DRAMA

12.00 The Bill Police drama series.
1.00 Classic EastEnders Soap.
2.20 London's Burning (S5, ep 5)
3.20 Monarch Of The Glen Drama.
4.20 Bergerac Detective drama.
5.20 Bread Comedy series.
6.00 Hi-De-Hi! Classic comedy.
6.40 As Time Goes By Sitcom.
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 while searching for a likely suspect, the duo discover the body of a girl. (Series 7, ep 3)
10.00 New Tricks A security van is discovered at the bottom of a lake. (Series 4, ep 3)
11.15 Waking The Dead Boyd investigates a 25-year-old murder. (Series 1, ep 4)
1.40 The Bill Police drama series.
2.40-4.00 London's Burning

ITV2

6.00 Teleshopping Purchasing.
7.00 Ellen DeGeneres Chat.
7.50 Emmerdale Rural soap.
8.20 Coronation Street Soap.
9.20 Superstore Double bill.
10.15 Dinner Date Flirting.
11.15 Dress To Impress Dating.
12.15 Emmerdale Rural soap.
12.45 Coronation Street Soap.
1.50 Ellen DeGeneres Chat.
2.45 Dinner Date Flirting.
3.50 Dress To Impress Dating.
4.50 Take Me Out Romance.
6.00 You've Been Framed Clips.
8.00 Two And A Half Men Berta injures her back at work. (Series 11, ep 3) **8.30 Two And A Half Men** Alan's affair with Lyndsey is jeopardised.
9.00 Family Guy Peter joins the Tea Party and shuts down the government. (Series 10, ep 21)
9.30 American Dad! New run of the cartoon. Francine takes up bodybuilding. (S15, ep 1)
10.00 The Stand Up Sketch Show Comedy routines by Sarah Keyworth, Maisie Adam, Russell Kane and Bobby Mair.
10.30 Family Guy Brian dates a blind girl. (S10, ep 11) **11.00 Family Guy** Peter, Joe, Brian and Quagmire have their memories erased. (S11, ep 17)
11.30 American Dad! The Smiths discover a valuable salt deposit beneath their back garden. (Series 12, ep 18)
11.55 The Cleveland Show Donna and Cleveland Jr compete in a dance contest. (S3, ep 10)
12.25 Two And A Half Men Sitcom.
1.25 Hey Tracey! Comedy quiz.
2.05 Plebs Comedy series.
3.05 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records Feats.
3.20 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV3

6.00 Classic Coronation Street
6.55 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
7.55 Heartbeat Rural drama.
8.55 The Darling Buds Of May Drama. (Series 3, ep 4)
10.00 That's My Boy Sitcom.
10.30 Inspector Morse (S9, ep 1)
12.40 Heartbeat Rural drama.
1.45 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
2.50 Classic Coronation Street
3.55 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. A dead aristocrat's will goes missing.
6.00 Heartbeat A face from the dead returns; and a girl brings shame on her father when she unexpectedly gives birth.
7.00 Poirot Aircraft manufacturer Lord Mayfield hosts a party to trap a woman suspected of being a spy for the Germans, but fearing events might not go according to plan, Lady Mayfield summons the detective to keep an eye on proceedings. (Series 1, ep 8)
8.00 Endeavour A baffling suicide, an anguished father seeking his missing daughter and the smash-and-grab robbery of medieval artefacts throw the detective in at the deep end as he resumes his role after a four-month absence. (S2, ep 1)
10.00 Scott & Bailey Janet moves a step closer to tracking down Veronica's killer while investigating a recent murder that bears similarities to the cold case. (Series 1, ep 5)
11.00 Inspector Morse The murder of a retired university fellow leads to a complex case. (S9, ep 1) **1.20 Inspector Morse** A woman is shot at close range. (Series 10, ep 1)
3.10 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV4

5.35pm The Sweeney Drama.
6.45 FILM: Goldfinger Stars Sean Connery, Gert Frobe and Honor Blackman The spy is sent to track down a ruthless gold smuggler intent on contaminating all the bullion in Fort Knox with a nuclear device. Slick adventure. (1964, PG; includes FYI Daily)
9.00 Giant Lobster Hunters New series charting 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 CHOICE Cop Land Stars Sylvester Stallone. The naive sheriff of a town populated by New York cops finds the officers he idolises are corrupt. (1997, 18; includes FYI Daily; see Film choice)
12.05 Car Crash Global — Caught On Camera Footage.
1.05 The Contender Boxing.
2.20 Auto Mundial Motor sport.
2.50 Nightscreen Information.
3.00-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.



A fair cop: Stallone (ITV4, 10pm)

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am The Top Ten Show Rundown.
6.15 UFO Sci-fi action thriller. (2018, 12)
8.00 Tell It To The Bees (2018, 15)
10.00 Hot Air Drama. (2018, 15)
12.00 The Top Ten Show Countdown.
12.15 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters An agency tries to tackle an army of giant creatures. (2019, 12)
2.30 Killers Anonymous Killers try to determine who is responsible for an assassination attempt. (2019, 15)
4.15 American Woman A woman raises her young grandson after her daughter goes missing. (2018, 15)
6.15 UFO Details as 6.15am.
8.00 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters Details as 12.15pm.
10.15 Mapplethorpe Stars Matt Smith. Tracing the life of the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. (2018, 18)
12.10 Killers Anonymous As 2.30pm.
1.55 Extracurricular Thriller. (2018, 18)
3.35 Tell It To The Bees (2018, 15)
5.30 The Hurricane Heist — The Eye Of The Storm Insights into the film.

SKY CINEMA THRILLER

1.35pm Charlie Says Drama. (2018, 15)
3.35 Breaking In Thriller. (2018, 15)
5.15 Layer Cake A dealer trying to go straight is sent to find a mobster's drug-addicted daughter. (2004, 15)
7.15 Munich Israeli assassins hunt down the orchestrators of the 1972 Olympic hostage crisis. (2005, 15)
10.00 The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo A disgraced journalist and a computer hacker uncover a conspiracy. (2011, 18)
12.40-2.20 Domino Thriller. (2019, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS

6.00am Awakenings Drama. (1990, 12)
8.10 Poltergeist Parents turn to paranormal investigators when their child is taken by phantoms. (1982, 15)
10.10 Men In Black A streetwise cop joins a top-secret force that polices alien visitors to Earth. (1997, PG)
12.00 The Guns Of Navarone Allied soldiers are sent to sabotage German artillery emplacements. (1961, PG)
2.45 Almost Famous A teen journalist follows a rock band on tour and falls for a free-spirited groupie. (2000, 15)
5.30 About A Boy A womaniser alters his ways after befriending the lonely son of a depressed woman. (2002, 12)
7.15 Men In Black Details as 10.10am.
9.00 The Wolf Of Wall Street A stockbroker enjoys an outrageously debauched lifestyle. (2013, 18)
12.00 Basic Instinct A hard-drinking cop lets his feelings for a suspect cloud his judgment. (1992, 18)
2.15 Miller's Crossing A mob boss's empire crumbles around him. (1990, 15)
4.15 Shenandoah Western. (1965, PG)



Dominant: Smith (SCP, 10.15pm)

SKY CINEMA SUPERHERO

3.10pm The Amazing Spider-Man Adventure reboot. (2012, 12)
5.30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2 Stars Andrew Garfield. (2014, 12)
8.00 Deadpool 2 The anti-hero tries to protect a mutant. (2018, 15)
10.05 X-Men — First Class The first generation of the superhero team gathers to avert a nuclear war. (2011, 12)
12.25 Batman Unlimited — Animal Instincts Animation. (2015, PG)
1.55 Batman — Mystery Of The Batwoman Animation. (2003, 12)
3.20 The Adventures Of Sharkboy And Lavagirl Fantasy. (2005, U)
5.05-6.10 JLA Adventures — Trapped In Time Animation. (2014, PG)

FILM 4

11.00am In Harm's Way (1965, PG)
2.25 Millions Like Us Drama. (1943, U)
4.35 Malta Story War drama. (1953, U)
6.45 Bend It Like Beckham A girl tries to keep her passion for football a secret from her parents. (2002, 12)
9.00 Die Hard 4.0 A cop goes on the trail of a criminal mastermind. (2007, 15)
11.35 Journeyman (2017, 15)
1.25-3.45 Queen And Country(2014, 15)

TALKING PICTURES TV

2.45pm The Happiest Days Of Your Life Stars Alastair Sim. (1950, U)
4.25 CHOICE Passport To Pimlico Stars Barbara Murray and Stanley Holloway. (1949, U; see Film choice)
6.10 Time Without Pity A writer tries to clear his estranged son, who has been sentenced to hang. (1957, PG)
8.00 Danger UXB War drama.
9.00 Special Branch Drama series.
10.00-12.30 Plenty Drama. (1985, 18)

ENTERTAINMENT

GOLD

7.25am You Rang, M'Lord? **8.20** The Good Life **9.00** Porridge **9.40** Hi-De-Hi! **10.20** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.20** Keeping Up Appearances **1.00** Porridge **1.40** Hi-De-Hi! **2.20** The Good Life **3.00** Keeping Up Appearances **3.35** Dad's Army **4.20** Last Of The Summer Wine **6.20** The Good Life **7.00** Porridge **7.40** Dad's Army **9.40** Live At The Apollo **10.40** Peep Show **11.40** Upstart Crow **12.20** Black Books **2.00** Peep Show **2.25** Live At The Apollo **3.15-4.00** TV Burp

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm 30 Rock **6.30** Modern Family **7.30** The Mindy Project **9.00** Miracle Workers. God seeks potential investors for his new restaurant **9.30** AP Bio. Jack is attracted to a student's mother **10.00** Last Week Tonight **10.35** Real Time **11.45** My Favourite Shapes By Julio Torres **12.55** Entourage **1.30** Silicon Valley **2.40** Girls **3.50-5.00** 30 Rock

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Nothing To Declare. Insights **8.00** Ghost Whisperer **9.00** Criminal Minds **10.00** Blue Bloods. New run of the crime drama **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **12.00** CSI **1.00** The Good Doctor **2.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **3.00** Shades Of Blue **4.00** Ghost Whisperer **5.00-6.00** Brit Cops — Frontline Crime UK

W

6.00pm Tipping Point **7.00** My Dream Home **8.00** The Wedding Fixer **9.00** One Born Every Minute. Documentary **10.00** One Born — What Happened Next? Fly-on-the-wall documentary **11.00** Inside The Ambulance **12.00** One Born Every Minute **1.00** Great Ormond Street **1.50** Code Black **2.35-3.00** Renovate My Home — Leave It To Bryan

5 STAR

6.00pm Neighbours **6.30** Home And Away **7.00** Benefits Britain — Life On The Dole **8.00** Filthy House SOS. Insights **9.00 CHOICE** Maternity Ward. New documentary series. (See Critics' choice) **10.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door **11.00** FILM: Scary Movie 4 **12.35** Caught On Camera — Funniest Moments **1.40** Riverdale **3.25** Two And A Half Men **3.50-4.00** Access

5 USA

6.00pm Law & Order **8.00** NCIS: New Orleans. Crime drama series **9.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.55** Law & Order: Los Angeles **3.50-4.00** Access

QUEST

6.00pm Wheeler Dealers **7.00** American Pickers **8.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Outback Opal Hunters **10.00** Deadliest Catch **11.00** How Do They Do It? **12.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00** Outback Truckers **2.00** American Chopper **3.00** Fantomworks **4.00** Dirty Jobs **5.00-6.00** How It's Made

FOX

6.00pm The Mentalist **7.00** NCIS. Two episodes **9.00** The Walking Dead **10.00** Talking Dead **11.00** American Dad! **12.00** Family Guy **1.00** American Dad! **2.00** Family Guy **3.00** American Dad! **4.00-5.00** Republic Of Doyle

E4

6.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.00 How I Met Your Mother
8.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
9.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
10.00 The Big Bang Theory
11.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1.00 The Big Bang Theory
2.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
3.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
4.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
5.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6.00 The Big Bang Theory
7.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.30 Man With A Plan Andi and Marcy realise that they were high-school rivals. (10/22)
8.00 First Dates Abroad New run. The restaurant-based dating show returns to Australia.
9.00 Celebs Go Dating Alison Hammond joins the agency and goes on her first date.
10.00 The Sex Clinic A personal trainer is concerned she might be a sex addict.
11.05 The Big Bang Theory Comic-book store owner Stuart asks Amy out on a date, forcing a jealous Sheldon to consider the future of his relationship with her. (S5, ep 10) **11.35 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard confronts the man who tormented him in school, and Penny realises she did her fair share of bullying in the past.
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine The cops discover one of the precincts has to close. (S4, ep 13) **12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** Jake and Rosa investigate a burglary on the set of a TV show.
1.00 Celebs Go Dating Romance.
2.05 First Dates Abroad Flirting.
3.00 The Sex Clinic Advice series.
3.55 The Big Bang Theory Sitcom.
4.45-6.00 How I Met Your Mother

MORE 4

8.55 Vintage Gems Crafts.
9.15 A Place In The Sun — Summer Sun Property.
10.05 A Place In The Sun Advice.
11.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics A motorcyclist in Co Durham needs specialist attention after an accident.
12.10 999 — On The Front Line A 93-year-old may have a life-threatening infection.
1.15 Escape To The Chateau — DIY Angel Adoree teaches an owner the art of decoupage.
2.15 Four In A Bed B&B contest.
4.55 The Supervet Tortoises become love rivals when they pursue a breeding female.
5.55 Car SOS Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend head to Plymouth to rescue a Mazda MX5.
6.55 Escape To The Chateau — DIY Owners invite eight friends over to test-run their holiday business.
7.55 Grand Designs — The Street Kevin McCloud follows a couple who are planning an upside-down house with the bedrooms downstairs.
9.00 Car SOS Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend restore a 1972 Toyota Celica, but spares are almost impossible to find.
10.00 Inside Bentley — A Great British Motor Car A look behind the scenes at the car company's plant as work gets underway on a range of 4x4s.
11.00 24 Hours In A&E A young man has a severe reaction to a recreational drug.
12.00 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown Gameshow.
1.05 Car SOS Renovations.
2.05 24 Hours In A&E Incidents.
3.10-3.40 Best Of Food Unwrapped Insights.

COMEDY CENTRAL

6.00pm Friends **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Impractical Jokers **11.00** FILM: Eurotrip. Stars Scott Mechlowicz **1.00** The Mick **2.00** Ricky Gervais Show **3.00** South Park **3.25** Bad Robots **4.15-5.00** The US Office

YESTERDAY

6.00am Ronnie Kray And The Pervert Peer **7.10** Impossible Railways **8.00** Forbidden History **9.00** Hunting Down The Nazis **10.00** True Evil — The Making Of A Nazi **11.00** Underground Worlds **12.00** Impossible Railways **1.00** Secrets Of Althorp — The Spencers **2.00** Walking Through History **3.00** Underground Worlds **4.00** Impossible Railways **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **7.00** Underground Worlds **8.00** Extreme Railway Journeys. With Chris Tarrant **9.00** Bangers And Cash **10.00** Trains That Changed The World **11.00** The Two Ronnies **12.40-1.40** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan

DAVE

6.00pm Taskmaster **7.00** Room 101 **8.20** Have I Got A Bit More Old News For You **9.20** QI. Quiz show **10.00** The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan **11.00** Meet The Richardsons **11.40** Mock The Week **12.20** Taskmaster **1.20** Jon Richardson — Ultimate Worrier **2.25** The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan **3.15-4.00** Zapped

PICK

6.00pm Star Trek — TNG **7.00** Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** Elementary **9.00** Britain's Most Evil Killers **10.00** Murders That Shocked The Nation. Documentary **11.00** The Force — Essex. The victim of an acid attack refuses to cooperate with police **12.00** Banged Up Abroad **1.00** Road Wars **2.00** Nothing To Declare **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Motorway Patrol **5.00-6.00** Highway Patrol

FACTUAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6.00pm Car SOS **8.00** Apocalypse — Cold War. New documentary series charting the history of the Cold War **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Brain Games **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Alaska State Troopers. Insights **1.00-2.00** Extreme Airport Security

DISCOVERY

6.00pm Fast N' Loud **7.00** Outback Truckers **8.00** Texas Metal **9.00** Wheeler Dealers **10.00** Twin Turbos **11.00** Dirty Mudder Truckers **12.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00-2.00** Twin Turbos

SKY ARTS

6.00pm Discovering Basil Rathbone **7.00** Andrea Bocelli — Love In Portofino. A 2012 concert by the tenor on the Italian Riviera **8.45** Close To You — Remembering The Carpenters **10.00** Portrait Artist Of The Year **11.00-12.00** Mystery Of The Lost Paintings

PBS AMERICA

5.05pm Look Who's Driving **6.15** World's Greatest — Animal Encounters **7.20** Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities. The sacred history of Istanbul **8.30** Reconstruction — America After The Civil War **9.45** Hitler On Trial — The Truth Behind The Drama **11.00-12.15** Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: Australia v New Zealand. The Group A match in Melbourne **7.30** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Football Centre **11.30** Ref Watch **12.00** News **6.00** EFL Cup Highlights **7.30** LIVE EFL: Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest. Coverage of the Championship match at Riverside Stadium. Kickoff at 7.45 **10.00** The Debate **11.00-6.00** LIVE Test Cricket: New Zealand v India. The fourth day of the second and final Test in the two-match series at Hagley Oval in Christchurch

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

6.00am PL Greatest Games **7.00** PL Legends: Robbie Fowler **7.30** Goals On Sunday **9.00** Premier League Highlights **10.00** Premier League Years **12.00** Premier League Highlights **3.30** Best PL Goals: Newcastle v Liverpool **4.00** Premier League Highlights **5.00** Soccer AM **5.30** Premier League 100 Club **6.00** Premier League Highlights **7.00** Premier League Review **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **9.00** Premier League Review **10.00** The Debate **11.00** PL Best Goals 14/15 **12.00** The Debate **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Greatest Games **4.00** PL Best Goals 15/16 **5.00** Best PL Goals: Tottenham v Chelsea **5.30-6.00** PL 100 Club: England's Finest

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: Australia v New Zealand. Coverage of the Group A match at Junction Oval in Melbourne **7.30** Women's World T20 Classics **8.00** Test Cricket **9.00** Women's World T20 Classics **10.00** Test Cricket **11.00** Women's World T20 Classics **12.30** Test Cricket **1.30** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **9.30** Test Cricket **10.25-6.00** LIVE Test Cricket: New Zealand v India. The fourth day of the second and final Test in the two-match series at Hagley Oval in Christchurch

EUROSPORT 1

6.00am Cycling **10.30** Luge **11.00** Alpine Skiing **1.00** Ski Jumping **2.00** Biathlon **3.00** Alpine Skiing **5.00** Snowboarding **6.00** Snooker **8.00** Cycling **4.10** LIVE Cycling. Stage three of the Tour of Taiwan, featuring a 156.5km route from HSR Hsinchu Station to Taichung City Shigang Visitor Information Centre **5.30-7.00** Cycling

BT SPORT 1

6.00am Uefa Champions League Highlights **7.00** WWE Smackdown Highlights **8.00** WWE NXT UK **9.00** Premier League Review **10.00** Premier League **11.30** FA Women's Super League Continental Cup **1.00** Uefa Champions League Magazine **1.30** Premier League Review **2.30** Premier League World **3.00** Ligue 1 Highlights **4.00** WWE Raw **6.00** Early Kick-Off **6.15** Coppa Italia **6.45** The FA Cup Preview **7.15** LIVE The FA Cup: Portsmouth v Arsenal. The fifth-round tie, at Fratton Park. Kickoff 7.45 **10.00** Score Best Bits **10.30** Goals Reload **11.00** WWE Raw Highlights **12.00** WWE Smackdown Highlights **1.00** LIVE WWE Monday Night Raw. Grappling action from America **4.15** Early Kick-Off **4.30-6.00** Classic MOTD — Thrillers

BT SPORT 2

6.00am FA Women's Super League Continental Cup **7.30** Premiership Rugby Highlights **10.00** MotoGP **11.00** MotoGP Highlights **3.00** Premiership Rugby Highlights **5.30** Uefa Champions League Magazine **6.00** V8 Supercars Highlights **8.00** LIVE MLB: Chicago Cubs v Los Angeles Angels. Coverage of the Spring Training Cactus League encounter at Sloan Park in Mesa, Arizona. Start-time is at 8.00 **11.00** UFC **2.00** UFC On ESPN **3.00** Goals Reload **3.15** Premiership Tonight **4.00** Inside Sailing **4.30-6.00** 30 For 30

RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY



Composer Of The Week

Radio 3, 12 noon

Florence Price, composer, performer, teacher, was the first African-American woman to achieve national fame and acknowledgement in her field. Donald Macleod unfolds her struggle for recognition.

The 90th anniversary of DH Lawrence's death is marked by Radio 4 Extra with a fine dramatisation of his novel **Sons And Lovers** (10am), and David Bradley reading **The Rainbow** (2pm).

Gillian Reynolds

RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6 MHz, LW 198 kHz (1515m), MW 720 kHz

5.20 Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet Of The Day (R) **6.00** Today **9.00** Start The Week. The author Hilary Mantel talks about the final book in her Cromwell trilogy **9.45** Book Of The Week: Guest House For Young Widows, by Azadeh Moaveni. Read by Nadia Albina **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **10.00** Woman's Hour. Including at 10.45 The Leopard, by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa **11.00** Out Of The Ordinary. Reports that people with severe dementia are lucid just before they die **11.30** Loose Ends (R) **12.00** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping **12.04** Apeirogon, by Colum McCann. **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 **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: This Thing Of Darkness, by Lucy Haynes. Alex also takes charge of her group therapy for murderers. With Lolita Chakrabarti **3.00** Round Britain Quiz **3.30** The Food Programme (R) **4.00** OK, Boomer! Exploring the history of generational conflict **4.30** The Digital Human **5.00** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping **6.00** News **6.30** Nature Table **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **7.45** The Book Of Strange New Things (R) **8.00** Class Talk **8.30** Analysis **9.00** Peach Fuzz (R) **9.30** Start The Week (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime: Apeirogon, by Colum McCann (R) **11.00** Night Vision **11.30** Today In Parliament **12.00** News **12.30** Book Of The Week (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA

Digital only

5.00 Poetry Extra **5.30** Welcome To Our Village, Please Invade Carefully **6.00** Deep Six **6.30** Comprehensively Eton **7.00** Double Income, No Kids Yet **7.30** Nature Table **8.00** 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 **12.30** 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 **8.30** Comprehensively Eton **9.00** TED Radio Hour **10.00** Nature Table **10.30** Bleak Expectations **11.00** The News Quiz Extra **11.45-12.00** Friends Like These

LBC

FM 97.3 MHz

7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Eddie Mair **6.00** Nigel Farage. Discussion **7.00** Iain Dale **10.00** Tom Swarbrick **1.00** Darren Adam **4.00** Steve Allen

RADIO 3

FM 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30 Breakfast **9.00** Essential Classics **12.00** Composer Of The Week: Price **1.00** Lunchtime Concert. Live at London's Wigmore Hall, the violist Lise Berthaud and the pianist David Saudubray perform major sonatas by Schubert and Brahms **2.00** Afternoon Concert. Joana Carneiro conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in music by Beethoven and John Adams; the BBC Singers perform a choral recital; plus, works by Grieg and Sawer **4.30** Early Music Now. With pieces by Handel and CPE Bach **5.00** In Tune. With the Linos Piano Trio, Elizabeth Llewellyn and Igudesmann & Joo **7.00** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. At London's Barbican, the BBC Symphony Orchestra performs music by Anders Hillborg **10.00** Music Matters. Kate Molleson speaks to the cast and creative team of a new production of Beethoven's Fidelio at the Royal Opera House (R) **10.45** The Essay. In the first of five programmes in which a New Generation Thinker shine a light on neglected female writers, the writer Sophie Coulombeau champions the poet and novelist Charlotte Turner Smith **11.00** Night Tracks **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM

FM 100-102 MHz

6.00 Tim Lihoreau **9.00** John Suchet **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **5.00** John Brunning **8.00** Full Works. Pieces by Smetana, Dvorak, Vivaldi, Phamie Gow, Coleridge-Taylor and Mendelssohn **10.00** Margherita Taylor **1.00** Sam Pittis

RADIO 2

FM 88-90.2 MHz

5.00 Vanessa Feltz **6.30** The Zoë Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce. Jim Lea picks tracks **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Steve Wright **5.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00** Sounds Of The 70s (R)

VIRGIN RADIO

Digital only

6.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00** Tim Cocker **4.00** Kate Lawler **7.00** Steve Denyer **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00** Through The Night **4.00** Christian Williams

TALKSPORT

MW 1053, 1071, 1089, 1107 kHz

5.00 Early Breakfast **6.00** The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast **10.00** White And Sawyer **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Adrian Durham And Darren Gough **7.00** The PressBox **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time With Paul Ross

TUESDAY 3 MARCH



Caine and table: Brydon and Coogan give the correct impression (Sky 1, 10pm/10.30pm)

CRITICS' CHOICE

The Trip To Greece (Sky 1, 10pm/10.30pm)
"There's an inevitability to repeating yourself as you get older," Rob Brydon tells Steve Coogan as they dine in an idyllic Turkish restaurant garden at the start of this trip. They, and director Michael Winterbottom, are too smart not to launch a pre-emptive strike at possible criticism as their fourth series of food-based travelogues begins, but any repetition doesn't really matter because this remains a curmudgeonly delight. Tracing the steps of Odysseus, the Ronnie Corbett and Michael Caine impressions are supplemented by jokes about Aristotle and Sappho, an "Aha" in a wooden horse and a queasy visit to a refugee camp. *Victoria Segal*

Moving On (BBC1, 2.15pm)
There's a careful-what-you-wish-for theme to this drama, featuring Kacey Ainsworth as a woman who undergoes an experimental procedure to restore her sight after 20 years. Her initial joy at seeing her husband and daughter quickly sours, however, as the visual information becomes overwhelming and she begins to feel she has lost more than she has gained. *(VS)*

Back In Time For The Corner Shop (BBC2, 8pm)
"We've got a sink!" exclaim mum Jo and daughter Olivia when they see the 1920s kitchen they will be trapped in for much of this family history jaunt. The men are given more freedom (and a beer tap and a fruit machine), but when the Great Depression takes hold, the responsibility of issuing lines of credit is all theirs. *(HS)*

Make A New Life In The Country (C5, 9pm)
This week Ben Fogle travels to the Malvern Hills to meet Hani and Sarah, who left the London rat race behind to try to make it as brewers. Both seem exhausted but claim the move has been good despite having to battle temperance innovations like dry January and Stoptober by opening their own drinking club in their converted chicken shed. *(HS)*

Royal History's Biggest Fibs (BBC4, 9pm)
Lucy Worsley offers a spirited defence of Queen Anne, a much-overlooked monarch until the salacious intrigues of The Favourite. Worsley asks who benefitted from painting her as a weak military leader and politician despite evidence to the contrary and if there was any actual real evidence of "Our Lesbian Queen". *(VS)*

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
9.15 Britain's Housing Scandal A council-housing team looks into reports of a Liverpool street invaded by vermin.
10.00 Homes Under The Hammer Properties at auction.
11.00 Wanted Down Under A couple head out on a trial week living in New Zealand.(R)
11.45 Saved On Camera Footage showing the moment a teenager fell from a waterfall.
12.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.45 Doctors Abz's life is turned upside down after a night out, so Rob steps in to try to help.
2.15 CHOICE Moving On With Kacey Ainsworth. A blind woman has an operation to restore her sight after 20 years, but finds nothing looks the way she remembered it. (See Critics' choice)
3.00 Escape To The Country Jules Hudson helps a couple look for a Cambridgeshire home on a budget of £570,000.
3.45 Money For Nothing An old radiogram is transformed.
4.30 Ready Steady Cook Akis Petretzikis and Anna Haugh create a meal in 20 minutes.
5.15 Pointless Unorthodox quiz. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 Match Of The Day: Chelsea v Liverpool. Gary Lineker presents live coverage of the FA Cup fifth-round encounter at Stamford Bridge, with analysis provided by Alan Shearer, Ian Wright and Glen Johnson. Kickoff is at 7.45.
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.35 Beauty Laid Bare New series in which four members of the public investigate the secrets of the beauty business, beginning by travelling to Hollywood to attend a make-up convention. (1/3)
11.15 The Truth About Takeaways The journalist Nikki Fox teams up with scientists at Liverpool John Moores University to discover what takeaways do to our health, what is actually in them and how people can kick the habit. (R)
12.20-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland. **10.35** River City. **11.35** Beauty Laid Bare. **12.15** The Truth About Takeaways. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Money For Nothing (R)
7.15 Escape To The Country (R)
8.00 Spy In The Wild (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.00 Victoria Derbyshire News.
11.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Politics Live Discussion.
1.00 The Super League Show
1.50 Best House In Town (R)
2.30 Terry And Mason's Great Food Trip In Wiltshire. (R)
3.00 Red Rock A confession shakes Kevin Dunne. (R)
3.45 The Great Interior Design Challenge Competition. (R)
4.45 Portillo's State Secrets (R)
5.15 Flog It! Items in Kent. (R)
6.00 House Of Games Quiz, with Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor.
6.30 Great British Railway Journeys On a trip from Belfast to Portrush, Michael Portillo looks at the work of the author and Narnia creator, CS Lewis, and visits the Royal Portrush Golf Club. (R)
7.00 Top Gear Paddy McGuinness, Andrew Flintoff and Chris Harris put the fire brigade, the police and the ambulance service to the test to see whose vehicles are the fastest. (Last in series, R)
8.00 CHOICE Back In Time For The Corner Shop The Ardens get a taste of corner-shop life in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, when packaged food became plentiful — but rationing has an impact on both the shop and day-to-day life. (See Critics' choice)
9.00 Murder 24/7 A forensic search of a property gives the police the breakthrough they need in the hunt for Carl Hopkins' murderer, but it also produces evidence that complicates the case — it seems the victim may have robbed the suspect, raising the possibility he was killed in self-defence. (Last in series)
10.00 Better Things Sam heads to the Hamletville theatre festival to try out a new play for Broadway. (Series 3, ep 9)
10.30 Newsnight The day's events.
11.15 Putin — The New Tsar The story of Vladimir Putin's rise to power in Russia. (R)
12.15 Win The Wilderness — Alaska Contest. (Signed, R)
1.15 Murder, Mystery And My Family (Signed, R)
2.00-2.45 Island Medics Documentary. (Signed, R)

FILM CHOICE

Jaws (Sky Cinema Greats, 3.20pm)
Steven Spielberg's thriller, the story of a shark at large near a resort, is a dazzling exercise in suspense, which is ramped up to heart-thumping levels via camerawork that gives a predator's-eye-view and leaves the rubbery-looking behemoth largely unseen, relying instead on suggestive power. (1975)



What Richard Did (C4, 1.20am)
One fatal summer in the lives of Dublin's entitled and heedless bright young things is vividly evoked in Lenny Abrahamson's cautionary tale centring on a romantic triangle that turns pear-shaped when the sporty but morally paralysed protagonist (Jack Reynor) is swallowed up by jealous rage. The darkening stain that spreads across all his golden tomorrows is observed with a coolly clinical gaze. (2012) *(TL)*

ON DEMAND

Avenue 5 (Sky/Now TV)
The sitcom fan's golden rule is "never trust the first episode". With rare exception (Cheers, Fawlty Towers) the pilot is where characters are established within the parameters of their environment and ... just writing about it makes you want to nod off. However, even by usual standards, the

ITV

6.00 Good Morning Britain
9.00 Lorraine Lifestyle chat.
10.00 This Morning Features.
12.30 Loose Women Debate.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Judge Rinder Disputes.
3.00 Tenable Quiz show. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Gameshow.
5.00 The Chase Quiz show.
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Emmerdale Marlon feels guilty over April's recent bullying; and Billy is forced to keep the truth from Dawn over Will and Harriet's arguing.
7.30 Dr Ranj — On Call In a new series, Dr Ranj Singh offers advice on how to spot and treat common illnesses and accidents, beginning as he goes on call with the West Midlands Ambulance Service.
8.00 Love Your Garden Alan Titchmarsh and the team set out to create an elegant tea garden with a fully equipped kitchen for a charity volunteer in Birmingham who makes cakes for injured members of the services.
9.00 Britain Underwater — Fighting The Floods A report from the communities that were hardest hit by the recent storms Ciara and Dennis, including behind-the-scenes access to the Environment Agency, as they work to stem flooding.
10.00 News At Ten Bulletin.
10.45 Tyson Fury — The Gypsy King The boxer enjoys some downtime in Morecambe after defeating Tom Schwarz in Las Vegas, before preparing for his next contest, against Otto Wallin. (R)
11.40 Tenable A team of five family and friends take part. (R)
12.30 Teleshopping Purchasing.
3.00 The Home Game Revamps.(R)
3.50 Nightscreen Information.
5.05-6.00 Judge Rinder Cases. (R)



Kacey Ainsworth (BBC1, 2.15pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Cheers Two episodes. (R)
7.20 The King Of Queens (R)
8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
9.10 Frasier American sitcom. (R)
10.10 Undercover Boss Canada (R)
11.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
12.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.05 Posh Pawn Valuables. (R)
2.10 Countdown Gameshow.
3.00 A Place In The Sun Advice. (R)
4.00 A New Life In The Sun — Where Are They Now? Meeting a bar owner in Spain whose business fell apart.
5.00 Come Dine With Me (R)
6.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
6.30 Hollyoaks Chester soap. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Nightmare Cruises — Going Overboard Documentary examining cases where cruise ship passengers have fallen overboard, examining the chances of survival and what steps can be taken to prevent further incidents.
9.00 24 Hours In A&E A teenager is rushed to hospital with a lacerated wrist after putting his hand through a pane of glass; and another patient discusses being diagnosed with a chronic condition.
10.00 The Windsors Charles and Camilla reluctantly agree to attend Kate's father's birthday celebrations, where long-standing rivalries flare up over who has bought him the best present. (S3, ep 2)
10.35 The Crystal Maze Anita Rani, AJ Pritchard, Jeff Stelling, Hannah Cockcroft and Tom Rosenthal set out to explore the zones, tackling a range of skill, mystery, mental and physical challenges. (R)
11.30 Prison Examining the emotionally charged difficulties of being a mother in prison. (Last in series, R)
12.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
1.20 CHOICE What Richard Did Stars Jack Reynor and Róisín Murphy. A wealthy teen finds his life rapidly falling apart. (2012, 15; see Film choice)
2.55 Come Dine With Me (R)
3.50 Grand Designs Property. (R)
4.45 Location, Location, Location Properties in Bristol. (R)
5.40 Vintage Gems Crafts. (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.15 Paddington Station 24/7 (R)
12.10 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords Insights. (R)
1.10 Access Showbiz gossip.
1.15 Home And Away Ryder is charged with uploading the sex tape, meaning Mac must reinstate Jade. (R)
1.45 Neighbours Finn is annoyed when Bea refuses his request to stop singing at the pub.
2.20 A Wicked Vendetta Thriller, with Katrina Begin. When her daughter is abducted with no ransom demand, a former hostage negotiator looks into the crime on her own. (R)
4.00 Friends Comedy series. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
5.30 Neighbours Soap. (R)
6.00 Home And Away (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 M&S vs Waitrose — Which Is Better Value? Examining the ongoing rivalry between the supermarkets as they wage a daily war to attract the well-heeled shoppers of Britain. (R)
8.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Graeme Hall helps to train three dogs that go overboard in protecting the family home, as well as a cavapoochon who loves to run faster than its owners can handle.
9.00 CHOICE Make A New Life In The Country Ben Fogle goes to meet a couple in the Malvern Hills who have given up careers in London to run their own brewery, operating out of a refurbished chicken shed. (See Critics' choice; last in series)
10.00 My New Greek Life Featuring a couple who retired to Kefalonia and are struggling with being separated from their family. (Last in series)
11.05 Eamonn & Ruth Meet The Billionaires The duo meet a couple in Kiev, Ukraine, to see how they have spent some of their fortune. (R)
12.05 How To Have A Better Orgasm Documentary. (R)
1.00 The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show Interactive gambling.
3.00 Access Showbiz gossip. (R)
3.10 Hotel Inspector — Checking In, Checking Out Insights. (R)
4.00 Tattoo Disasters Body art. (R)
4.45 House Doctor Advice. (R)
5.10 Nick's Quest Vampire bats.(R)
5.35-6.00 Wildlife SOS Animals. (R)

SKY 1

6.00 Monkey Life Primates. (R)
7.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue (R)
8.00 The Dog Whisperer (R)
9.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
10.00 Brit Cops — Law & Disorder Crime documentary. (R)
11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R)
1.00 Hawaii Five-0 Drama. (R)
3.00 MacGyver (Series 2, ep 7, R)
4.00 Modern Family Comedy. (R)
5.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
5.30 Futurama Animation. (R)
6.30 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
8.00 An Idiot Abroad Karl Pilkington visits destinations on his bucket list, beginning with a night on a private island in Vanuatu, where he tries bungee jumping. (R)
9.00 Strike Back — Vendetta The team embarks on a dangerous mission after discovering that the sale of the bioweapon will be taking place on a speeding train, which is crawling with Albanian mafia and jihadis. (Series 8, ep 2)
10.00 CHOICE The Trip To Greece The return of the comedy, with Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon. (Series 4, ep 1)
10.30 The Trip To Greece The duo lock horns over tragedy, comedy, myth and history. (See Critics' choice)
11.00 A League Of Their Own Highlights. (Last in series, R)
12.00 Jett With Carla Gugino. Daisy cooks up a scheme to be free of Bestic. (Last in series)
1.05 Avenue 5 Comedy. (6/8, R)
1.40 The Heist Challenge. (R)
2.40 Hawaii Five-0 Drama. (R)
4.30 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
5.30-6.00 Futurama Cartoon. (R)

ATLANTIC

6.00 Storm City Earthquakes.
7.00 Without A Trace Drama.
10.00 The West Wing Drama.
12.00 Blue Bloods (Series 2, ep 6)
1.00 CSI Drama. (Series 5, ep 25)
2.00 The West Wing Students at the White House are caught up in a security alert. (S3, ep 1)
3.00 The West Wing The staff work on a re-election speech.
4.00 Without A Trace The team looks for a mother. (Series 3, ep 6) **5.00 Without A Trace** Samantha goes undercover.
6.00 Without A Trace A homeless woman disappears.
7.00 CSI Grissom investigates an explosion at a trailer park that killed two people. (S6, ep 1)
8.00 Blue Bloods Jackie goes undercover as an escort to catch a serial killer. (S2, ep 7)
9.00 Save Me Residents of The Towers come out in force to stage a reconstruction of Jody's abduction; and Claire becomes increasingly suspicious of Barry's reward offer. (Series 1, ep 3)
10.00 The L Word — Generation Q Bette feels guilty about lying to Angie; Alice, Gigi and Nat find common ground; and Finley bonds with Tess. (5/8)
11.10 Babylon Berlin Rath and Lotte race to stop the train robbery in time; and Greta's conscience is torn. (Series 2, ep 7; German with subtitles)
12.10 Oz Drama. (Series 4, ep 12)
1.20 Game Change Fact-based drama, with Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson.
3.35 Californication (S2, ep 1)
4.10-6.00 The West Wing Drama.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 11.00 Wanted Down Under **11.30** X-Ray **12.00** Saved On Camera **12.30** Bargain Hunt **10.35** Young, Welsh And Pretty Minted **11.05** Beauty Laid Bare **11.45** The Truth About Takeaways **12.45** BBC News **BBC2 WALES 1.50** First Minister's Questions **2.40** Coast **11.15** New Voices From Wales **11.25** Natural World **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Peppa **6.05** Hafod Haul **6.20** Meic Y Marchog **6.35** Sblij A Sbloj **6.45** Gwdihw **7.00** Blociau Rhif **7.05** Cymylaubychain **7.15** Sbarc **7.30** Deian A Loli **7.45** Blero Yn Mynd I Ocido **8.00** Tatws Newydd **8.05** Dwylo'r Enfys **8.20** Y Brodyr Coala **8.30** Heini **8.45** Abadas **9.00** Digbi Draig **9.10** Sbridiri **9.30** Boj **9.40** Y Teulu Mawr **9.50** Nico Nôg **10.00** Peppa **10.05** Hafod Haul **10.20** Meic Y Marchog **10.35** Sblij A Sbloj **10.45** Gwdihw **11.00** Blociau Rhif **11.05** Cymylaubychain **11.15** Sbarc **11.30** Deian A Loli **11.45** Blero Yn Mynd I Ocido **12.00** Newyddion **12.05** Ffasiwn Mecanic **12.30** Heno **1.30** Ffermio **2.00** Newyddion **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion **3.05** Corau Rhys Meirion **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Codi Pac **6.30** Rownd A Rownd **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion **8.00** Pobol Y Cwm **8.25** Rownd A Rownd **8.55** Newyddion **9.00** Cynefin **10.00** Yr Un Awyr **11.00-11.35** Nyrsys

first instalment of Armando Iannucci's comic space opera was a cosmic mess. Despite a seasoned cast of comic pros (Hugh Laurie, Zach Woods, Rebecca Front) and a sharp premise (the voyage of an ill-fated intergalactic cruise ship), the acting, character and gags all seemed curiously out-of-focus. Well, stick with it. As the ship's situation worsens the comedy becomes more unhinged and the show taps into a wild, anarchic power that shouldn't be missed.

Press (BBC iPlayer)
If you work in the media you will have issues with Mike Bartlett's six-part drama from 2018. Set behind the scenes at two warring British newspapers (an amoral tabloid and its lacklustre more liberal opposition) the show has little understanding of how modern newspapers work; but who really cares when you are watching Ben Chaplin ascend to heights of Shakespearean sleaze as the mercenary editor Duncan Allen. *(AM)*



YOU SAY

I'd hazard that TV watchers in the late afternoon and early evening are probably retired in the main. Why then are programmes like Antiques Road Trip and Pointless bracketed by annoying adverts for Radio 1 and BBC3, aimed at the "yoof" market.
Edward Baker

Perhaps it's now time for **The Brit Awards** (ITV) to be relegated to ITV4, if only because the message some performers want to get across is not one that is effective on a largely out-of-demographic audience. Its diminished importance should also reflect where and when it is broadcast.
Adrian Burt

BBC4

7.00pm Beyond 100 Days News.
7.30 The Yorkshire Dales Exploring Wensleydale. (1/3)
8.00 King Alfred And The Anglo-Saxons Michael Wood profiles Alfred the Great's grandson, Aethelstan. (Last in series)
9.00 CHOICE Royal History's Biggest Fibs Examining the reign of Queen Anne. (See Critics' choice; last in series)
10.00 The Stuarts Clare Jackson examines the history of the 17th-century royal family.
11.00 Armada — 12 Days To Save England Exploring the impact of the battle on Elizabeth I's royal court. (2/3)
12.00 Inside The Medieval Mind A look at spiritual beliefs. (3/4)
1.00 Rhythms Of India (1/3)
2.00 Socrates — Genius Of The Ancient World
3.00-4.00 As 9pm

DRAMA

12.00 The Bill Police drama series.
1.00 Classic EastEnders Soap.
2.20 London's Burning (S5, ep 6)
3.20 Monarch Of The Glen
4.20 Bergerac Crime drama.
5.20 Bread Classic comedy.
6.00 Hi-De-Hi! Comedy series.
6.40 As Time Goes By Sitcom.
7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine
8.00 Judge John Deed A fraud case involving two solicitors proves of interest to Deed, and causes outrage among his fellow judges. (S2, ep 2)
10.00 New Tricks The team reopens an investigation into the death of an elderly woman. (Series 4, ep 4)
11.20 Waking The Dead The body of a police hero washes up in the Thames a year after she disappeared. (Series 1, ep 5)
1.50 The Bill Police drama series.
2.55-4.00 London's Burning



No, not Mr Turner: artist John Lloyd captures Mike Leigh (Sky Arts, 8pm)

ITV2

6.00 Teleshopping Purchasing.
7.00 Ellen DeGeneres Chat show.
7.50 Emmerdale Rural soap.
8.20 Coronation Street Soap.
9.20 Superstore Double bill.
10.15 Dinner Date Flirting.
11.15 Dress To Impress Dating.
12.15 Emmerdale Rural soap.
12.45 Coronation Street Soap.
1.50 Ellen DeGeneres Chat show.
2.45 Dinner Date Flirting.
3.50 Dress To Impress Dating.
4.50 Take Me Out Dating show.
6.00 You've Been Framed Clips.
8.00 Two And A Half Men Walden encourages Jenny to take her acting career more seriously. (Series 11, ep 5) **8.30 Two And A Half Men** Walden invites the actress Lynda Carter over for dinner.
9.00 Family Guy Tales inspired by viewers' letters. (S10, ep 23) **9.30 Family Guy** Lois tries to save the life of Stewie's new best friend. (S10, ep 12)
10.00 Plebs Marcus spies a money-making opportunity. (Series 4, ep 3) **10.30 Plebs** The boys launch a cabaret night in the bar when Marcus starts dating popular Roman satirist Minerva.
11.00 Family Guy Peter becomes newsreader Tom Tucker's agent. (Series 10, ep 13)
11.30 American Dad! Steve starts writing for his school's newspaper. (Series 12, ep 19) **11.55 American Dad!** The most interesting woman in Langley Falls makes Roger feel inadequate. (S12, ep 12)
12.25 Two And A Half Men
1.25 Ibiza Weekender Reality.
2.25 Don't Hate The Playaz
3.15 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV3

6.00 Classic Coronation Street
6.55 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
7.55 Heartbeat Rural drama.
8.55 The Darling Buds Of May Pop enters the election for the local council. (S3, ep 5)
10.00 That's My Boy Comedy.
10.30 Inspector Morse (S10, ep 1)
12.40 Heartbeat Rural drama.
1.45 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
2.50 Classic Coronation Street
3.55 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. The death of a blackmailer is investigated.
5.55 Heartbeat Rosie is shocked when farmer Simon Langley-Smythe shoots her aunt's dog while out on a walk.
7.00 Poirot An actress engaged to marry a foreign prince becomes the police's number one suspect in the murder of a shady producer. (S1, ep 9)
8.00 Midsomer Murders With Neil Dudgeon. As Midsomer St Claire prepares for storms and flooding, it appears a murderer is using ancient torture methods to punish modern-day 'sinners'.
10.00 Scott & Bailey The badly burnt body of a disabled man turns up in remote woodland, and a few days later another corpse is found. (S2, ep 1)
11.00 Inspector Morse The chief inspector investigates the apparently motiveless shooting of a woman through her kitchen window. (S10, ep 1) **1.20 Inspector Morse** The detective is given a book on Victorian crimes while in hospital, and becomes obsessed with solving a murder from 1859. (S11, ep 1)
3.10 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV4

5.55pm The Sweeney Drama.
7.00 The Chase With Mark Billingham, Aldo Zilli, Lucy Pargeter and Joey Essex.
8.00 Giant Lobster Hunters Following six captains as they search for lobsters in the Southern Ocean.
9.00 FILM: Assassins Stars Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas and Julianne Moore. A hitman on the verge of retirement spares his last target and protects her from a ruthless younger rival. Hit-and-miss thriller. (1995, 15; includes FYI Daily)
11.40 FILM: Wanted Stars James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman. A man with special powers joins a secret society that kills people destined to commit evil acts. Silly adventure. (2008, 18; includes FYI Daily)
1.50 Auto Mundial Motor sport.
2.20 The Protectors (S1, ep 6)
2.45 Nightscreen Information.
3.00-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.



Much maligned? Anne (BBC4, 9pm)

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am Hot Air Drama. (2018, 15)
8.00 The Candidate A politician's role in a scandal is exposed. (2018, 15)
10.15 The Top Ten Show Countdown.
10.30 Killers Anonymous Killers try to determine who is responsible for an assassination attempt. (2019, 15)
12.15 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters An agency tries to tackle an army of giant creatures. (2019, 12)
2.30 Straight Up A man and a woman realise they may be soulmates — but he may or may not be gay. (2019, 15)
4.15 UFO A brilliant student and his maths professor investigate a series of mysterious sightings. (2018, 12)
6.00 The Top Ten Show Countdown.
6.15 Killers Anonymous As 10.30am.
8.00 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters Details as 12.15pm.
10.15 Straight Up Details as 2.30pm.
12.00 Mapplethorpe Biopic. (2018, 18)
2.00 Extracurricular Thriller. (2018, 18)
3.45 UFO Details as 4.15pm. Sci-fi.
5.30 Monster Family Film insights.

SKY CINEMA THRILLER

2.50pm Jacob's Ladder (2019, 15)
4.30 The International (2009, 15)
6.30 The Da Vinci Code An academic falsely accused of murder uncovers a dangerous conspiracy. (2006, 12)
9.00 The Mule An elderly Korean War veteran ends up working as a drug courier for a Mexican cartel. (2018, 15)
11.00 Gran Torino A misanthropic Korean War veteran tries to protect a family from a street gang. (2008, 15)
1.00-3.00 Wild Things (1998, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS

6.10am Tremors Horror. (1990, 15)
7.55 Highlander Fantasy. (1986, 15)
9.55 Men In Black II A malevolent alien disguised as a lingerie model threatens to destroy humanity. (2002, PG)
11.30 The Blind Side A couple take in a homeless teenager, funding him to be an American-football player. (2009, 12)
1.45 The Desert Rats A Scottish army officer must lead a unit of Australian troops against Rommel. (1953, U)
3.20 CHOICE Jaws Stars Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss and Murray Hamilton. (1975, PG; see Film choice)
5.30 War Of The Worlds A father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines target humankind. (2005, 12)
7.30 Men In Black II Details as 9.55am.
9.00 The Blind Side Details as 11.30am.
11.15 First Blood A Vietnam veteran escapes unjust imprisonment and fights the law on his own terms. (1982, 15)
1.00 Rambo — First Blood Part II Stars Sylvester Stallone. Action. (1985, 15)
2.45 Rambo III Adventure. (1988, 18)
4.35 The Desert Rats As 1.45pm.



Something's fishy (SCG, 3.20pm)

SKY CINEMA SUPERHERO

2.20pm Spider-Man 2 (2004, PG)
4.35 Spider-Man 3 Fantasy. (2007, 12)
7.00 Spider-Man — Into The Spider-Verse A student develops incredible abilities. (2018, PG)
9.00 Venom A man gains superhuman strength when his body merges with an alien organism. (2018, 15)
11.00 Spider-Man A teen bitten by a genetically engineered spider develops superhuman powers. (2002, 12)
1.10 Spider-Man 2 Details as 2.20pm.
3.25 Spider-Man 3 Details as 4.35pm.
5.50-7.20 Underdog (2007, U)

FILM 4

11.00am The Naked Truth (1957, U)
12.50 Rage At Dawn Western. (1955, U)
2.40 The Longest Day (1962, PG)
6.20 The Core A team of scientists try to save the world from destruction after the Earth stops spinning. (2003, 12)
9.00 Gifted A man tries to raise his child prodigy niece, but his formidable mother ruins his plans. (2017, 12)
11.05 Conan The Barbarian A warrior seeks revenge on the warlord who killed his chieftain father. (2011, 15)
1.15-3.25 A Dark Song (2016, 15)

TALKING PICTURES TV

2.25pm Mad About Men (1954, U)
4.10 Another Man's Poison (1951, PG)
6.00 No Lady Comedy. (1931, U)
7.20 Please Turn Over A teen writes a steamy bestseller, basing the characters on her family and friends. (1959, 12)
9.00 Reilly — Ace Of Spies Drama.
10.00 Mr Denning Drives North Stars John Mills and Phyllis Calvert. (1951, 12)
11.50-1.35 Tread Softly Stranger Stars Terence Morgan. Drama. (1958, PG)

ENTERTAINMENT

GOLD

7.35am You Rang, M'Lord? **8.35** The Good Life **9.15** Porridge **9.55** Hi-De-Hi! **10.35** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.35** Keeping Up Appearances **1.15** Dad's Army **1.55** Hi-De-Hi! **2.35** The Good Life **3.15** Keeping Up Appearances **3.55** Dad's Army **4.35** Last Of The Summer Wine **6.35** The Good Life **7.15** Porridge **7.55** Dad's Army **10.35** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.15** Peep Show **12.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **1.00** Dad's Army **1.35** Peep Show **2.40-4.00** Marley's Ghosts

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm 30 Rock **6.30** Modern Family **7.30** The Mindy Project **9.00** Curb Your Enthusiasm **9.40** Ballers. Charles faces a shock health crisis **10.15** Sex And The City. Carrie dates a recovering alcoholic **10.50** The Tonight Show **11.50** The Late Late Show **12.50** Entourage **1.25** Silicon Valley **2.35** Girls **3.45-5.00** 30 Rock

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Nothing To Declare **7.00** Border Security — Australia's Front Line **8.00** Ghost Whisperer **9.00** The Good Doctor **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Kat crosses a line when she follows up on her suspicions about a trainer at her boxing gym **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **12.00** CSI **1.00** Criminal Minds **3.00** Ghost Whisperer **4.00** Shades Of Blue **5.00-6.00** Brit Cops — Rapid Response

W

6.00pm Tipping Point **7.00** My Dream Home **8.00** Sun, Sea And Brides To Be **9.00** Inside The Ambulance **10.00** The Wedding Fixer. Documentary **11.00** Inside The Ambulance **12.00** One Born Every Minute **1.00** Great Ormond Street **1.50** Code Black **2.35-3.00** Renovate My Home — Leave It To Bryan

5 STAR

6.00pm Neighbours **6.30** Home And Away **7.00** Benefits Britain — Life On The Dole **8.00** FILM: Jumanji. Stars Robin Williams **10.00** FILM: Battle — Los Angeles. Sci-fi **12.25** Sinkholes **1.20** Young, Dumb And Banged Up In The Sun **2.20-4.00** Riverdale

5 USA

6.00pm Law & Order **8.00** NCIS: New Orleans **9.00** The Enemy Within. Shepherd returns to Langley to help track down a fugitive **10.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **11.55** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.50** Law & Order: Los Angeles **3.50-4.00** Access

QUEST

6.00pm Wheeler Dealers **7.00** American Pickers — Best Of **8.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Born Mucky — Life On The Farm. Three British farmers try to run three different family farms **10.00** The Repair Shop **11.00** How Do They Do It? **12.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00** Outback Truckers **2.00** American Chopper **3.00** Fantomworks **4.00** Dirty Jobs **5.00-6.00** How It's Made

FOX

6.00pm The Mentalist **7.00** NCIS **9.00** Family Guy **11.00** American Dad! **12.00** Family Guy. Cartoon **1.00** American Dad! **2.00** Family Guy **3.00** American Dad! **4.00-5.00** Republic Of Doyle

E4

6.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.00 How I Met Your Mother
8.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
9.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
10.00 The Big Bang Theory
11.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1.00 The Big Bang Theory
2.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
3.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
4.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
5.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6.00 The Big Bang Theory Howard awaits the shuttle launch. (S5, ep 24) **6.30 The Big Bang Theory** Howard gets caught in an odd argument. (S6, ep 1)
7.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.30 Man With A Plan Adam and Andi make a mess of discussing the facts of life with Teddy and Kate. (11/22)
8.00 The Big Bang Theory The gang recreates a prom night. (S8, ep 8) **8.30 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard announces he has to have surgery.
9.00 Celebs Go Dating A surprising conclusion is reached when Alison Hammond's romantic history is analysed.
10.00 First Dates A neuroscientist meets a publishing assistant; and a mother of two has dinner with a masseuse.
11.05 The Big Bang Theory Sheldon is encouraged to feign interest in Amy's career. (S5, ep 12) **11.35 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard and Penny try to give their relationship another chance.
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine Sitcom.
1.00 Celebs Go Dating Flirting.
2.05 First Dates Romance.
3.00 Gogglebox Opinions on TV.
3.55 The Big Bang Theory
4.45-6.00 How I Met Your Mother

COMEDY CENTRAL

6.00pm Friends **9.00** FILM: Billy Madison. Stars Adam Sandler **10.55** The Daily Show **11.30** The Ricky Gervais Show **12.35** Russell Howard's Stand Up Central **1.35** South Park **3.25** Bad Robots **4.15-5.00** The US Office

YESTERDAY

6.00am The British Middle Class **7.10** Impossible Railways **8.00** Forbidden History **9.00** Secret Nazi Bases **10.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **11.00** Underground Worlds **12.00** Impossible Railways **1.00** Secrets Of Britain **2.00** Walking Through History **3.00** Underground Worlds **4.00** Impossible Railways **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **7.00** Underground Worlds **8.00** Abandoned Engineering **9.00** The Two Ronnies **10.40** Porridge **12.40-1.40** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan

DAVE

6.00pm Taskmaster **7.00** Room 101 **8.20** Have I Got A Bit More News For You. Hosted by Gary Lineker **9.20** QI. With Sue Perkins, Bill Bailey and Gyles Brandreth **10.00** Taskmaster. The rivals meet the mayor of Chesham **11.00** Hypothetical. With Angela Barnes, Guz Khan, Tom Davis and Harriet Kemsley **12.00** Taskmaster **1.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **2.00** Jon Richardson — Ultimate Worrier **3.00** Zapped **3.35-4.00** The Indestructibles

PICK

6.00pm Star Trek — TNG **7.00** Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** Elementary **9.00** Murder Uncovered **10.00** World's Most Evil Killers. Profile of Joachim Georg Kroll **11.00** The Force — Essex **12.00** Banged Up Abroad. Documentary **1.00** Road Wars **2.00** Nothing To Declare **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Motorway Patrol **5.00-6.00** Highway Patrol

MORE 4

8.55 Handmade Treasures
9.15 A Place In The Sun Property.
11.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics A sidecar race comes to an abrupt end.
12.10 999 — On The Front Line
1.15 Escape To The Chateau — DIY A pair invite eight friends over in order to test-run their holiday business.
2.15 Four In A Bed B&B contest.
4.55 The Secret Life Of The Zoo A Visayan warty pig is fed up with the attentions of a male pig and decides to escape.
5.55 Car SOS Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend visit Cambridge to rescue a cherished 1991 Range Rover Vogue SE.
6.55 Escape To The Chateau — DIY A pair host their biggest event so far with music, dancing and a large meal for paying guests.
7.55 Grand Designs — The Street The final couple commission a factory-built home that takes just two weeks to be assembled. (Last in series)
9.00 Britain's Most Expensive Home — Building For A Billionaire Documentary following the complex build of a home costing millions in London's Mayfair.
10.00 999 — On The Front Line Paramedics treat a woman who has brittle bone disease; and a man collapses but refuses to go to hospital.
11.10 24 Hours In A&E A man is treated for a stab wound.
12.15 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown Gameshow.
1.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice.
2.15 24 Hours In A&E Incidents.
3.20-3.45 Food Unwrapped

FACTUAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6.00pm Car SOS **8.00** World War I Apocalypse **9.00** World War II — The Apocalypse. The story of the Second World War **10.00** Apocalypse — Cold War. Documentary charting the Cold War **11.00** Air Crash Investigation. In Tenerife **12.00** Alaska State Troopers **1.00-2.00** Airport Security — Peru

DISCOVERY

6.00pm Fast N' Loud **7.00** Outback Truckers **8.00** Richard Hammond's Big **9.00** Gold Rush **10.00** Gold Rush — Dave Turin's Lost Mine. Dave and his crew hit a problem **11.00** Gold Rush — The Dirt **12.00** Gold Rush **1.00-2.00** Gold Rush — Dave Turin's Lost Mine

SKY ARTS

6.00pm Discovering Dustin Hoffman **7.00** Portrait Artist Of The Year **8.00** Portrait Artist Of The Year. The sitters are Ken Stott, Mike Leigh and Lydia Leonard **9.00** I Am Paul Walker. A profile of the actor **11.00-12.00** The Nineties. Insights

PBS AMERICA

5.05pm Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities **6.15** World's Greatest **7.20** Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities **8.30** Reconstruction — America After The Civil War **9.45** Nuremberg — Nazis On Trial **11.00-12.10** Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities. Documentary

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: Pakistan v Thailand **7.30** LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: West Indies v South Africa **11.30** Football Centre **12.00** News **7.00** Sky Sports Tonight **10.00** The Debate **11.00-6.00** LIVE Test Cricket: New Zealand v India. Day five of the final Test, in Christchurch

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

6.00am PL Greatest Games **7.00** PL Legends: Sol Campbell **7.30** PL Legends: Robert Pires **8.00** Best PL Goals: North London Derby **8.30** Best PL Goals: Tottenham v Chelsea **9.00** Premier League 100 Club **10.00** Premier League Years **12.00** PL Best Goals 11/12 **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Best Goals 06/07 **4.00** PL Greatest Games **5.00** PL 100 Club: England's Finest **5.30** Premier League 100 Club **6.00** PL Legends: Alan Shearer **6.30** PL Legends: Michael Owen **7.00** Premier League Review **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **9.00** Premier League Review **10.00** The Debate **11.00** PL Best Goals 08/09 **12.00** The Debate **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Greatest Games **4.00** PL Best Goals 98/99 **5.00** Best PL Goals: Merseyside Derby **5.30-6.00** Premier League 100 Club

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: Pakistan v Thailand. Coverage of the Group B match at Sydney Showground Stadium **7.30** LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket: West Indies v South Africa **11.30** Test Cricket **12.30** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **8.30** Women's World T20 Classics **9.30** Test Cricket **10.25-6.00** LIVE Test Cricket: New Zealand v India. The fifth and final day of the second and final Test in the two-match series, held at Hagley Oval in Christchurch

EUROSPORT 1

7.00am World Superbikes. The opening round of the season, at Phillip Island Circuit in Victoria, Australia **8.30** Motocross World Championship **10.00** Formula E **11.00** World Superbikes **12.00** Athletics. The World Indoor Tour meeting in Lievin, France **1.00** LIVE Cycling. Coverage of the Women's GP Le Samyn, from Quaregnon to Dour **2.00** LIVE Cycling. Action from the GP Le Samyn **4.15** Cycling **4.30-6.00** LIVE Cycling. Stage four of the Tour Of Taiwan, from Pingtung to Dapeng Bay

BT SPORT 1

6.00am Classic MOTD — Thrillers **7.00** WWE Friday Night Smackdown **8.45** Premier League Review **9.45** Goals Reload **10.00** Premiership Tonight **10.45** A-League Highlights **11.45** Goals Reload **12.00** The FA Cup **1.30** Films **2.30** Premier League **4.00** WWE NXT Highlights **5.00** Goals Reload **5.15** The FA Cup **6.45** Scottish Football Extra **7.15** LIVE Scottish Professional Football League: Hibernian v Hearts. At Easter Road. Kickoff at 7.45 **10.00** Premier League Reload **10.15** Goals Reload **10.30** Premier League Review **11.30** LIVE PSA Squash. Action from the men's and women's semi-finals of the Windy City Open in Chicago **4.00-6.00** Classic MOTD — Thrillers

BT SPORT 2

6.00am Goals Reload **6.15** Early Kick-Off **6.30** The FA Cup **8.00** V8 Supercars Highlights **10.00** MotoGP Highlights **3.00** LIVE Uefa Youth League: Benfica Under-19 v Liverpool Under-19. Kickoff 3.00 **5.00** Score Best Bits **5.30** Ligue 1 Highlights **6.30** FIA World Endurance Championship **7.30** V8 Supercars Highlights **9.30** 30 For 30 **11.30** UFC Main Event **12.30** Early Kick-Off **12.45** Goals Reload **1.15** Coppa Italia **1.45** Fishing — On The Bank **2.45** A-League Highlights **3.45** Goals Reload **4.00** Bundesliga Highlights **5.00-6.00** FIA World Endurance Championship

RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY



Costing The Earth

Radio 4, 3.30pm
How a big chemical company poisoned the world and why a farmer started the battle against it, a true story that has inspired a new film, Dark Waters, starring Mark Ruffalo and Anne Hathaway. Ruffalo, pictured, tells Tom Heap about the case and its consequences. **The Zoë Ball Breakfast Show** (Radio 2, 6.30am) highlights this year's Sport Relief Challenge and the celebrities who are participating.
Gillian Reynolds

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6 MHz, LW 198 kHz (1515m), MW 720 kHz

5.20 Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet Of The Day (R) **6.00** Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday In Parliament **9.00** The Life Scientific. The zoologist Professor Matthew Cobb discusses the sense of smell **9.30** One To One **9.45** Book Of The Week **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** OK, Boomer! (R) **11.30** Art Of Now: North Korea. Exploring the work produced for both propaganda and profit in the country's Mansudae Art Studio **12.00** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping **12.04** Apeirogon **12.18** Call You And Yours **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Californian Century. The story of Kathleen Cleaver, a key figure in the Black Panther Party **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: The AntiSocial Network, by Peter Jukes. A ski resort in the Carpathian Mountains is home to an internet election-rigging gang (R) **3.00** Short Cuts. Documentaries inspired by the tarot deck **3.30** Costing The Earth. New series. Tom Heap talks to Mark Ruffalo about a pollution case **4.00** Law In Action **4.30** A Good Read. With Neil Oliver and Neil Forsyth **5.00** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping **6.00** News **6.30** The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy — Hexagonal Phase (R) **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **7.45** The Book Of Strange New Things (R) **8.00** File On 4 **8.40** In Touch **9.00** Inside Health **9.30** The Life Scientific (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime (R) **11.00** Liam Williams — Ladhood (R) **11.30** Today In Parliament **12.00** News **12.30** Book Of The Week (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
Digital only

5.00 Double Income, No Kids Yet **5.30** Nature Table **6.00** Deep Six **6.30** The Honest Musician's Fear Of Accidental Plagiarism **7.00** Ayres On The Air **7.30** Teatime **8.00** The Goon Show **8.30** Round The Horne **9.00** The News Quiz Extra **9.45** Friends Like These **10.00** Sons And Lovers **11.00** Supermarket Flowers **11.15** A Book By Lester Tricklebank **12.00** The Goon Show **12.30** Round The Horne **1.00** Deep Six **1.30** Honest Musician's Fear Of Accidental Plagiarism **2.00** Rainbow **2.15** Just So Science **2.30** A Severed Head **2.45** Weather Experiment **3.00** Sons And Lovers **4.00** Museum Of Curiosity **4.30** Are You From The Bugle? **5.00** Ayres On The Air **5.30** Teatime **6.00** Invisible Man **6.15** Beyond Black **6.30** Pioneers **7.00** The Goon Show **7.30** Round The Horne **8.00** Deep Six **8.30** Honest Musician's Fear Of Accidental Plagiarism **9.00** Supermarket Flowers **9.15** A Book By Lester Tricklebank **10.00** Teatime **10.30** The Mark Steel Solution **10.55** Interview **11.00** Beauty Of Britain **11.30-12.00** John Shuttleworth's Lounge Music

LBC
FM 97.3 MHz

7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Eddie Mair **6.00** Nigel Farage **7.00** Iain Dale **10.00** Tom Swarbrick **12.00** Tom Swarbrick **1.00** Darren Adam **4.00** Steve Allen

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30 Breakfast **9.00** Essential Classics **12.00** Composer Of The Week **1.00** Lunchtime Concert. Ingrid Fliter plays solo piano works by Chopin at LSO St Luke's in London (R) **2.00** Afternoon Concert. Live at MediaCity, Salford, the BBC Philharmonic perform pieces by Ben-Haim and Elgar **5.00** In Tune. Live music by the pianist Inon Barnatan and the ensemble Florilegium **7.00** In Tune Mixtape. Works by Dvorak, Purcell and Rossini **7.30** In Concert. At London's Wigmore Hall, Cédric Tiberghien plays five sets of variations by Beethoven and works by three 20th-century American experimentalists, Cage, Feldman and George Crumb **10.00** Free Thinking. The Irish novelist Anne Enright talks about her new book, Actress, and being the inaugural Irish laureate **10.45** The Essay. The New Generation Thinker Nandini Das looks at the scandal caused by the 350,000-word prose poem The Countess Of Montgomery's Urania **11.00** Night Tracks **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM
FM 100-102 MHz

6.00 Tim Lihoreau **9.00** John Suchet **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **5.00** John Brunning **8.00** The Full Works Concert. More contenders for the Hall Of Fame, including an overture by Rossini **10.00** Margherita Taylor **1.00** Sam Pittis

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2 MHz

5.00 Vanessa Feltz **6.30** The Zoë Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Steve Wright **5.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Jazz Show **10.00** Trevor Nelson **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00** Sounds Of The 80s (R) **4.50** Sounds Of The 80s Mastermix

VIRGIN RADIO
Digital only

6.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00** Tim Cocker **4.00** Kate Lawler **7.00** Steve Denyer **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00** Through The Night **4.00** Sam Pinkham

TALKSPORT
MW 1053, 1071, 1089, 1107 kHz

5.00 Early Breakfast **6.00** The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast **10.00** White And Sawyer **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Adrian Durham And Darren Gough **7.00** Kickoff **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time With Paul Ross

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH



No longer burning bright: can the trade in the endangered big cat be stopped? (BBC2, 9pm)

CRITICS' CHOICE

Tigers — Hunting The Traffickers (BBC2, 9pm)
Only about 4,000 tigers are left in the wild, but up to 8,000 are held captive in zoos, breeding units and basement cages across southeast Asia. In a powerful and unsettling film, Aldo Kane (a former commando who now trains African anti-poaching teams) spends time in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam following the route of trafficked animals that end up as "tiger-bone" medicine or aphrodisiacs for Vietnamese or Chinese customers. Getting into "farms" by breaking in or posing as a tourist or customer, he compiles evidence with the help of local colleagues that he presents to the international body on endangered species in Geneva. *John Dugdale*

The Trouble With Maggie Cole (ITV, 9pm)
A busybody in a seaside village, Maggie (Dawn French) is thrilled to be interviewed on local radio but becomes a pariah when it is aired and friends and neighbours hear her drunkenly gossiping about them. There is pretty scenery and a decent cast, but it's hard to see what is meant to grab viewers in a six-parter billed as drama, not comedy drama. *(JD)*

Sandylands (Gold, 10pm)
Over three nights, this comedy follows Emily (Natalie Dew) as she returns to her seaside home town after her father (Sanjeev Bhaskar) is lost at sea in a pedalo. We are given yet another quirky coastal setting, but Dew anchors the show beautifully as David Walliams, Sophie Thompson and Craig Parkinson whip up the seaside-postcard eccentricity. *(VS)*

Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist (E4, 10pm)
Cute-but-nerdy coder Zoey (Jane Levine) is in the MRI scanner when an earthquake strikes and she gains the ability to tune in to other people's internal jukeboxes, seeing them perform songs such as All By Myself or True Colours like in a musical version of What Women Want. It's quirky, but the cast is great and there is darkness beneath the sparkle. *(VS)*

Fight Dirty (BBC1, 11.05pm)
Two sets of Belfast housemates clean up each other's messy households, with victory going to the team achieving the most improvement after five hours' toil. Blocked loos, hideous stains, dead phones and a vast collection of Buckfast bottles are found; but the highlight is a zany grime rap explaining how slugs can help you with mould. *(JD)*

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
9.15 Britain's Housing Scandal A family struggles to cope with an intrusive landlord.
10.00 Homes Under The Hammer Properties at auction. (R)
11.00 Wanted Down Under (R)
11.45 Saved On Camera Two friends have to be rescued from shark-infested seas.
12.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.45 Doctors Rob and Karen deal with new developments in relation to Abz; and Zara gets involved with a phone-in.
2.15 Moving On With Mark Addy and Jane Slavin. A former rugby league player is blackmailed by his ex, who threatens to reveal a secret.
3.00 Escape To The Country A Croydon-based couple go in search of a Cornish home. (R)
3.45 Money For Nothing Sarah Moore uses items at Woking Recycling Centre in Surrey.
4.30 Ready Steady Cook Cousins compete in the contest.
5.15 Pointless Unorthodox quiz. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
6.55 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party. (R)
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 Match Of The Day — The FA Cup: Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester City. Gary Lineker presents live action from the fifth-round tie at Hillsborough, followed by the sixth-round draw. Kickoff 7.45.
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.35 Eating With My Ex A woman wants to know why her ex left in the middle of the night.
11.05 CHOICE Fight Dirty Two teams of housemates clean each others' homes in the hope of winning a cash prize. (See Critics' choice)
11.35 Killing Eve Villanelle lures Eve to Berlin by using the agent's name while carrying out the murder of a Chinese army colonel. (S1, ep 3, R)
12.20 Killing Eve The MI5 officer undertakes her first surveillance operation; and Villanelle is sent to England to eliminate a member of British Intelligence — without knowing who the target is. (R)
1.10-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland. **1.05** Debate Night. Issues. **2.05** The Edit. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Money For Nothing (R)
7.15 Ready Steady Cook (R)
8.00 See Hear Weekly magazine show. (Signed, Last in series)
8.30 Great British Railway Journeys Bodmin. (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.00 Victoria Derbyshire News.
11.00 News; Weather Reports.
11.15 Politics Live Discussion.
1.00 Hardball Quiz show. (R)
1.45 Best House In Town (R)
2.30 Terry And Mason's Great Food Trip A visit to York. (R)
3.00 Red Rock Donna's phone leads the team to the murder site — a scruffy hotel. (R)
3.45 The Great Interior Design Challenge Competition. (R)
4.45 Portillo's State Secrets (R)
5.15 Flog It! Return visits to some of the historic venues featured during the series. (R)
6.00 House Of Games Quiz show, with the former winners Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor.
6.30 Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo pays visits to Stranraer and the Mull of Galloway. (R)
7.00 The Andrew Neil Show
8.00 Saving Lives At Sea The RNLI volunteers race to rescue two teenagers stuck in mud in Cleethorpes on the Humber estuary before the incoming tide overwhelms them. (Last in series)
9.00 CHOICE Tigers — Hunting The Traffickers Aldo Kane reports on the illegal tiger trade in Southeast Asia, with the endangered big cats trafficked for products including wine and glue made from their bones. (See Critics' choice)
10.00 Live At The Apollo Sarah Millican presents stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, introducing sets by Tom Allen and Arj Barker. (R)
10.30 Newsnight The day's events.
11.15 Win The Wilderness — Alaska The two remaining couples pay a visit to the empty property without Duane and Rena, to get a sense of what their new life in the wilderness will really be like. (R)
12.15 See Hear Weekly magazine. (Signed, Last in series, R)
12.45 Universal Credit — Inside The Welfare State Behind the scenes at Liverpool's busiest jobcentre. (Signed, R)
1.45-2.45 Hospital (Signed, R)

FILM CHOICE

Gladiator (Sky Cinema Greats, 2.35pm)
While Ridley Scott's stirring swords-and-sandals epic has gory combat sequences to make Spartacus wilt, it could have expended more energy on characterisation rather than buffing up the pecs of its star, Russell Crowe; though he is aptly commanding as a vengeful general. (2000)



Buffalo Soldiers (Film 4, 1.05am)
A bayonet-sharp and near-the-knuckle satire on American militarism as represented by a shambolic platoon of troops billeted in Germany at the end of the Cold War. While Joaquin Phoenix's fixer sets the irreverent tone with a louche portrait of conduct unbecoming, there is a nagging sensation that the film is a smidgeon too aware of its own snarky hipness. Dir: Gregor Jordan. (2001) *(TL)*

ON DEMAND

The Stranger (YouTube)
More of the world's broadcasting companies should follow the example of Australia's ABC and make their historically important archive content available for free on streaming channels. First broadcast in 1964, this fascinating children's sci-fi series concerns the arrival of a mysterious man, Adam Suisse

ITV

6.00 Good Morning Britain
9.00 Lorraine Lifestyle chat.
10.00 This Morning Features.
12.30 Loose Women Debate.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Judge Rinder Disputes.
3.00 Tenable Quiz show. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Gameshow.
5.00 The Chase Quiz show.
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.25 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Emmerdale Marlon feels betrayed by the Dingles; and Harriet is annoyed with Will.
7.30 Coronation Street Daniel resolves to prove his devotion to Bethany; Tyrone's act of kindness misleads Jade; and Geoff offers to pay for Sally and Tim's wedding.
8.00 Harry Redknapp's Sandbanks Summer Harry Redknapp welcomes Nick Knowles and Rita Simons to Sandbanks, where they pay a visit to the nearby British Beach Polo championships.
8.30 Coronation Street Bethany realises the time has come to leave Weatherfield; Tyrone and Fiz unite against Jade; and Adam dupes Ali into revealing his fling with Maria.
9.00 CHOICE **The Trouble With Maggie Cole** New drama series, with Dawn French, Mark Heap and Julie Hesmondhalgh, following the lives of residents in the coastal resort of Thurlbury. (1/6; see Critics' choice)
10.00 News At Ten Bulletin.
10.45 Peston Political magazine.
11.40 Britain Underwater — Fighting The Floods A report from the communities that were hardest hit by the storms Ciara and Dennis. (R)
12.30 Teleshopping Purchasing.
3.00 Broadchurch (S3, ep 2, R)
3.50 Nightscreen Information.
5.05-6.00 Judge Rinder Cases. (R)



Radio waves: French (ITV, 9pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Cheers Two episodes. (R)
7.20 The King Of Queens (R)
8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
9.10 Frasier American sitcom. (R)
10.10 Undercover Boss Canada (R)
11.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
12.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.05 Posh Pawn Valuables. (R)
2.10 Countdown Gameshow.
3.00 A Place In The Sun France. (R)
4.00 A New Life In The Sun — Where Are They Now? In France, a bar owner gets in trouble with the police.
5.00 Come Dine With Me (R)
6.00 The Simpsons Bart betrays Milhouse during Springfield Elementary's sports day. (R)
6.30 Hollyoaks Nancy is furious when Darren forgets to pick up Oscar from school. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Love It Or List It Property experts Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer meet a pair in Purley, Croydon, who need help deciding whether they should sell or upgrade their current home. (R)
9.00 100 Kilo Kids — Obesity SOS Documentary following young patients in the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Britain's leading childhood obesity clinic. A 14-year-old boy's weight is spiralling out of control despite undergoing 18 months of treatment.
10.00 Home Peter tries to hold the family together; and Katy is consumed with self-loathing as she prepares for her misconduct hearing at school. (Series 2, ep 5)
10.30 Gogglebox Opinions. (R)
11.35 First Dates A recruitment consultant sits down with a self-styled 'geezer'; an actor seeks a leading lady; and a dedicated father is paired with a former Butlin's Redcoat. (R)
12.30 The Windsors Charles and Camilla reluctantly attend Kate's father's birthday celebrations. (S3, ep 2, R)
1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
1.50 My Family And The Galapagos (Series 2, ep 2, R)
2.45 Come Dine With Me (R)
3.40 Grand Designs Property. (R)
4.35 Location, Location, Location House-hunting in Croydon. (R)
5.35 Vintage Gems Crafts. (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.15 Paddington Station 24/7 (R)
12.10 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords Documentary. (R)
1.10 Access Showbiz gossip.
1.15 Home And Away Robbo spends time with Jasmine; and Tori goes home. (R)
1.45 Neighbours Paige reveals a secret after standing Mark up.
2.15 Secrets In A Small Town Thriller, with Kate Drummond. The daughter of a high-school vice-principal goes missing after attending a party. (R)
4.00 Friends Two episodes. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
5.30 Neighbours Soap. (R)
6.00 Home And Away (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Secrets Of The Royal Palaces Behind-the-scenes stories of the British monarchy's residences. (R)
8.00 Health Foods — Are They A Con? Paul Connolly and Jean Johansson examine health foods and other products, and meet a Cheshire family that may be falling for supermarket branding tricks.
9.00 Sarah Payne — 5 Mistakes That Caught The Killer Examining the case of the eight-year-old girl who was murdered by Roy Whiting in 2000, and the mistakes he made that led to him being arrested and locked up for life.
10.00 The Chocolate Challenge The competition heats up as the semi-final gets under way, and the four remaining chocolatiers have to create their own unique Easter egg.
11.05 Harvey Nichols — Britain's Poshest Department Store Examining how the chain epitomised the champagne lifestyle of the rich and famous in the 1990s. (R)
12.05 The Woman Who Ate A House — Pica Syndrome Documentary about people who have a compulsion to eat non-food items. (R)
1.00 The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show Interactive gambling.
3.00 Access Showbiz gossip.
3.10 The Hotel Inspector — Checking In, Checking Out Insights. (Last in series, R)
4.00 Tattoo Disasters Body art. (R)
4.45 House Doctor Advice. (R)
5.10 Nick's Quest In Guyana. (R)
5.35-6.00 Wildlife SOS Animals. (R)

SKY 1

6.00 Monkey Life Primates. (R)
7.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue (R)
8.00 The Dog Whisperer (R)
9.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
10.00 Brit Cops — Law & Disorder Policing in London. (R)
11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles Drama. (R)
1.00 Hawaii Five-0 Drama. (R)
3.00 MacGyver (Series 2, ep 8, R)
4.00 Modern Family Sitcom. (R)
5.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
5.30 Futurama Animation. (R)
6.30 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
9.00 Seal Team The unit heads out on a mission to protect aid convoys in an ebola hot zone after a warlord steals samples of the virus that can be weaponised. (S3, ep 9)
10.00 Avenue 5 Armando Iannucci's sci-fi comedy set on board a luxury space liner. With Hugh Laurie. (7/8)
10.35 Intelligence Christine announces that the NHS servers have been hacked, and Jerry takes matters into his own hands and coerces the team into tracking down the culprit his way. (3/6, R) **11.05 Intelligence** GCHQ falls victim to a cyber-attack and Jerry suggests the person behind it should be allowed to join the team. (R)
11.35 The Russell Howard Hour Topical comedy and entertainment show. (R)
12.35 The Heist A contestant faces some difficult questions. (R)
1.35 Caught On Dashcam (R)
2.30 The Force — Manchester (R)
3.30 Road Wars Policing. (R)
4.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
5.00-6.00 Futurama Cartoon. (R)

ATLANTIC

6.00 The Guest Wing Insights.
7.00 Without A Trace Triple bill.
10.00 The West Wing Drama.
12.00 Blue Bloods (Series 2, ep 7)
1.00 CSI Drama. (Series 6, ep 1)
2.00 The West Wing The staff work on a re-election speech. (S3, ep 2) **3.00 The West Wing** A special prosecutor investigates the president.
4.00 Without A Trace A murder-trial juror vanishes. (S3, ep 9) **5.00 Without A Trace** Jack's divorce case takes an unexpected turn. **6.00 Without A Trace** A student at a private school goes missing.
7.00 CSI A film star is found dead, seemingly from suffocation, although there are no signs of strangulation or smothering. (Series 6, ep 2)
8.00 Blue Bloods Henry suffers a heart attack during Thanksgiving celebrations, prompting the rest of the family to contemplate life without him. (Series 2, ep 8)
9.00 Angels In America Louis arranges a meeting with Prior, who tries to drag Belize to the courthouse. (5/6) **10.20 Angels In America** A fight with Joe leaves Louis scarred; Roy plays a last joke on Ethel; and Prior vows to live free of secrets. (Last in series)
12.00 The End Oberon hits an obstacle as he seeks testosterone therapy. (4/10)
12.35 Babylon Berlin (Series 2, ep 8; German with subtitles)
1.45 John Adams Drama. (6/7)
3.25 Californication (S2, ep 2)
4.00-6.00 The West Wing Drama.

VARIATIONS

ITV WALES 6.25 Party Political Broadcast **BBC1 WALES 6.55** Party Political Broadcast **10.30** BBC Wales Live **11.05** Eating With My Ex **11.35** Fight Dirty **12.05** Killing Eve **1.30** BBC News **BBC2 WALES 11.15** New Voices From Wales **11.25** Natural World **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Bing **6.10** Jamborî **6.20** Patrôl Pawennau **6.35** Halibalw **6.45** Ben A Mali A'u Byd Bach O Hud **7.00** Y Crads Bach **7.05** Timpo **7.15** Cei Bach **7.30** Octonots **7.40** Ahoi! **8.00** Heulwen A Lleu **8.05** Tomos A'i Ffrindiau **8.15** Rapsgaliwn **8.30** Bach A Mawr **8.45** Loti Borloti **9.00** Guto Gwningen **9.15** Jen A Jim A'r Cywiadur **9.30** Ty Mel **9.40** Sion Y Chef **9.50** Sam Tan **10.00** Y Crads Bach **10.05** Timpo **10.15** Cei Bach **10.30** Octonots **10.40** Ahoi! **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw **12.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **12.05** Ceffylau Cymru **12.30** Heno **1.00** Llwybrau'r Eirth **2.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **3.05** Noson Lawen **4.00** Cyw Byw **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Adre **6.25** Darllediad Gwleidyddol Gan Llafur Cymru **6.30** Heno **7.30** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol Y Cwm. Kelly leaves Cwmderi as a result of the strain of the past year **8.55** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **9.00** Ysgol Ni — Maesincla **10.00** Mwy O Sgorio **10.30-11.35** Priodas Pum Mil

(Ron Haddrick), on the doorstep of a Sydney home. Written by the New Zealand author GK Saunders it bears certain similarities to the BBC's first series of Doctor Who (including some rather posh child actors). Yet, apart from the occasional wobbly set and unconvincing flying saucers it is an oddly haunting slice of vintage kids television that still feels peculiarly up to date in its attitudes towards climate change, immigration and evil billionaires. *(AM)*

13 Assassins (Curzon Home Cinema) With his two-fisted yakuza thriller First Love new out in cinemas, it may be worth a look at the cult Japanese auteur Takashi Miike's back catalogue, which includes this feudalistic action spectacular about a band of samurai assembled to kill a sadistic lord. The breathtaking battle scenes are deftly married with nicely shaded character portraits – the film's only real flaw being its length. *(TL)*



YOU SAY

Cilla — The Lost Tapes (ITV). The original women's libba. The original girl power. Above all, a true superstar.
Rebecca Doughty

In the 1958 film **I Was Monty's Double** (BBC2), General Montgomery's double wore rank badges the wrong way round. Presumably the real double wore them the correctly (sword handles backwards) in 1944 or there might have been a different story to tell.
Malcolm Watson

Send your comments to: telly@sunday-times.co.uk

BBC4

7.00pm Beyond 100 Days News.
7.30 The Yorkshire Dales Paul Rose visits Swaledale. (2/3)
8.00 The Victorian House Of Arts And Crafts Modern crafters move in to a Victorian Arts and Crafts commune. (1/4)
9.00 A Very British History The Vietnamese refugees who came to Britain in the 1970s and 1980s. (Last in series)
10.00 The Stuarts The impact of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms.
11.00 Blood And Gold — The Making Of Spain The historian Simon Sebag Montefiore uncovers the truth about Spain's hero El Cid. (2/3)
12.00 Treasures Of Ancient Greece Documentary. (2/3)
1.00 Rhythms Of India (2/3)
2.00 The Victorian House Of Arts And Crafts Insights. (1/4)
3.00-4.00 As 9pm

DRAMA

12.00 The Bill Police drama series.
1.00 Classic EastEnders Soap.
2.20 London's Burning (S5, ep 7)
3.20 Monarch Of The Glen
4.20 Bergerac Detective drama.
5.20 Bread Comedy series.
6.00 Hi-De-Hi! Sitcom.
6.40 As Time Goes By Comedy.
7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine
8.00 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates A pensioner asks Hetty to help trace his long-lost sister. (Series 3, ep 8)
9.00 Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries Peregrine exposes a maze of corruption when investigating a murder. (7/8)
10.00 New Tricks The team reinvestigates the murder of a wages clerk. (Series 4, ep 5)
11.15 Waking The Dead (S2, ep 1)
1.55 The Bill Police drama series.
2.45-4.00 London's Burning Drama. (Series 5, ep 7)



And your dad went missing over there: Dew and Webb (Gold, 10pm)

ITV2

6.00 Teleshopping Purchasing.
7.00 Ellen DeGeneres Chat show.
7.50 Emmerdale Rural soap.
8.20 You've Been Framed Clips.
9.20 Superstore Comedy series.
10.15 Dinner Date Flirting.
11.15 Dress To Impress Dating.
12.15 Emmerdale Rural soap.
12.45 You've Been Framed Clips.
1.50 Ellen DeGeneres Chat show.
2.45 Dinner Date Flirting.
3.50 Dress To Impress Dating.
4.50 Take Me Out A commodities trader, a circus performer, a digital developer and a student take part in the game.
6.00 You've Been Framed Clips.
8.00 Two And A Half Men Walden and Alan arrange a double date. (Series 11, ep 7) **8.30 Two And A Half Men** Walden finds himself in danger.
9.00 Family Guy Joe cheats on Bonnie. (S10, ep 22) **9.30 Family Guy** Lois is reunited with an old flame. (S11, ep 1)
10.00 Celebrity Juice Keith Lemon, Holly Willoughby and Paddy McGuinness are joined by Stacey Solomon, Will Mellor, Samia Longchambon and Joel Dommett on the quiz.
10.50 Family Guy Peter assists a helpful dolphin. (S10, ep 14)
11.20 American Dad! A would-be Scrooge ruins the CIA's Secret Santa Party. (S12, ep 20) **11.50 American Dad!** Francine poses as a widow while Stan is away on a mission. (Series 12, ep 13)
12.20 Two And A Half Men
1.15 Timewasters Comedy.
2.15 Celebability Gameshow.
3.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records Feats.
3.25 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00 Classic Coronation Street
6.55 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
7.55 Heartbeat Rural drama.
8.55 The Darling Buds Of May
10.00 That's My Boy Sitcom.
10.30 Inspector Morse A Victorian mystery intrigues a bedridden Morse. (S11, ep 1)
12.40 Heartbeat Rural drama.
1.45 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
2.50 Classic Coronation Street
3.55 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. A traditional contest pitting men against women results in two deaths.
5.55 Heartbeat A man accuses his neighbour when his dog dies from poisoning.
7.00 Poirot An eccentric contacts the sleuth when he is haunted by suicidal nightmares, however, he fails to follow Poirot's advice, and is found dead soon afterwards. **8.00 Poirot** The detective attends a North African archaeological dig and uncovers a wealth of suspects when an aristocrat's wife is stabbed to death.
10.00 Scott & Bailey The detectives face a wall of silence in their investigation; Rachel wakes up in bed with Sean; and Janet wants to keep her newly single status a secret. (Series 2, ep 2)
11.00 Inspector Morse The Oxford detective is given a book on Victorian crimes while in hospital, and soon becomes obsessed with solving a murder committed in 1859. (S11, ep 1) **1.20 Inspector Morse** The detective uncovers new evidence concerning the year-long inquiry into the murder of Yvonne Harrison.
3.10 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping

ITV4

5.50pm The Sweeney Drama.
7.00 The Chase With Gregg Wallace, Denise Lewis, Mark Pougatch and Gina Yashere.
8.00 World Superbike Highlights Action from races in the opening round of the season, held at the Phillip Island Circuit in Victoria, Australia.
9.00 FILM: Beverly Hills Cop II Stars Eddie Murphy and Judge Reinhold. Axel Foley returns to LA to investigate a spate of robberies, but finds himself facing an arms dealer. By the numbers. (1987, 15; includes FYI Daily)
11.10 FILM: Crank Stars Jason Statham and Amy Smart. An assassin is poisoned and resorts to desperate measures to keep himself alive long enough to exact revenge. Decent thriller. (2006, 18; includes FYI Daily)
12.55 Fishing Impossible Angling.
1.55 Lethal Weapon (Series 1, ep 9)
2.50 Nightscreen Information.
3.00-6.00 Teleshopping



Play it again: Jane Levy (E4, 10pm)

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am The Top Ten Show Insights.
6.15 Tell It To The Bees (2018, 15)
8.15 UFO A brilliant student and his maths professor investigate a series of mysterious sightings. (2018, 12)
10.00 Straight Up A man and a woman realise they may be soulmates — but he may or may not be gay. (2019, 15)
11.45 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters An agency tries to tackle an army of giant creatures. (2019, 12)
2.00 The Top Ten Show Countdown.
2.15 The Counterfeiter The police turn to a gang member to help apprehend criminals in Hong Kong. (2018, 15)
4.30 Killers Anonymous Killers try to determine who is responsible for an assassination attempt. (2019, 15)
6.15 Straight Up Details as 10am.
8.00 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters
10.15 The Counterfeiter As 2.15pm.
12.30 Mapplethorpe Biopic. (2018, 18)
2.20 Extracurricular Thriller. (2018, 18)
3.55 UFO Details as 8.15am. Sci-fi.
5.30 Final Score Behind the scenes.

SKY CINEMA THRILLER

2.25pm Enemy Of The State (1998, 15)
4.40 The Rock Adventure. (1996, 15)
7.00 The Girl In The Spider's Web A hacker frantically tries to prevent a global nuclear disaster. (2018, 15)
9.00 Catch Me If You Can A dogged FBI agent pursues a successful teenage conman. (2002, 12)
11.25 Argo The CIA uses a movie shoot as cover to smuggle Americans out of Iran during the revolution. (2012, 15)
1.30-3.40 Rising Sun Thriller. (1993, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS

6.15am Mary Poppins (1964, U)
8.45 Honey, I Shrunk The Kids A professor accidentally reduces his children to the size of insects. (1989, U)
10.25 Men In Black 3 An agent goes back in time in an effort to prevent an alien changing history. (2012, PG)
12.15 Fury An American tank crew undertakes a dangerous mission behind enemy lines. (2014, 15)
2.35 CHOICE Gladiator Stars Russell Crowe. (2000, 15; see Film choice)
5.15 Sister Act A singer is sent to hide in a convent after agreeing to testify against a brutal gangster. (1992, PG)
7.00 Men In Black 3 Details as 10.25am.
9.00 Fury Details as 12.15pm. Drama.
11.20 Cape Fear A psychopathic rapist plots revenge on the lawyer he blames for his imprisonment. (1991, 18)
1.35 American Beauty A suburban family man becomes infatuated with a friend of his teen daughter. (1999, 18)
3.45 A Nightmare On Elm Street Stars Robert Englund. Horror. (1984, 18)
5.30 Spartacus Drama. (1960, PG)



Lansbury, Hudson (TPTV, 10.05pm)

SKY CINEMA SUPERHERO

3.05pm Hancock Comedy. (2008, 12)
4.50 Captain America — The First Avenger Adventure. (2011, 12)
7.00 Captain Marvel An alien warrior crash-lands on Earth and tries to solve the mysteries of her past. (2019, 12)
9.10 Shazam! A youngster receives superpowers after being chosen as a wizard's new champion. (2019, 12)
11.25 Watchmen Retired superheroes discover a conspiracy. (2009, 18)
2.10 Hancock Details as 3.05pm.
3.50 Batman — Assault On Arkham Animated adventure. (2014, 15)
5.10-6.35 Lego DC Super Heroes — Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom! Animation. (2015, U)

FILM 4

11.00am Death Drums Along The River Stars Richard Todd. (1963, PG)
12.55 The Gentle Sex (1943, U)
2.35 The Tin Star Western. (1957, U)
4.30 Kidnapped Adventure. (1971, U)
6.50 Behind Enemy Lines An officer leads a rogue mission to rescue a pilot shot down by Serb militia. (2001, 12)
9.00 Taken A former CIA agent sets out to rescue his daughter from a gang of European sex traffickers. (2008, 15)
10.50 American Assassin (2017, 18)
1.05-3.15 CHOICE Buffalo Soldiers (2001, 15; see Film choice)

TALKING PICTURES TV

3.35pm Portrait Of Clare (1950, PG)
5.25 Spring In Park Lane (1948, U)
7.15 Trouble In Store (1953, PG)
9.00 Rumpole Of The Bailey
10.05-12.10 The Mirror Crack'd Stars Angela Lansbury and Rock Hudson. Miss Marple mystery. (1980, PG)

ENTERTAINMENT

GOLD

7.10am The Piglet Files **8.00** As Time Goes By **8.40** The Good Life **9.20** Porridge **10.00** Hi-De-Hi! **10.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.40** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** Porridge **2.00** Hi-De-Hi! **2.40** Dad's Army **4.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **6.40** The Good Life **7.20** Porridge **8.00** Dad's Army **9.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **10.00 CHOICE** Sandylands. New comedy drama, with Natalie Dew, Sanjeev Bhaskar and Harriet Webb. A woman makes a trip to her home town after her father goes missing. (See Critics' choice) **10.40** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.20** Peep Show **12.30** Mrs Brown's Boys **1.10** Dad's Army **1.50** Peep Show **2.50-4.00** Marley's Ghosts

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm 30 Rock. Jack tries to give up alcohol **6.30** Modern Family **7.30** The Mindy Project **9.00** The Righteous Gemstones. An episode set in 1989 **9.45** Work In Progress. Abby encounters a range of perspectives at a Dolly Parton concert **10.15** Sex And The City. Samantha's former assistant has a party **10.50** The Tonight Show **11.50** The Late Late Show **12.50** Entourage **1.25** Silicon Valley **2.35** Girls **3.55-5.00** 30 Rock

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Border Security — Australia's Front Line **8.00** Ghost Whisperer **9.00** Criminal Minds **10.00** CSI **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **12.00** CSI **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Ghost Whisperer **3.00** Shades Of Blue **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00** Brit Cops — Rapid Response

W

6.00pm Tipping Point **7.00** My Dream Home **8.00** Sun, Sea And Brides To Be **9.00** Delivering Babies **10.00** Finding Joy. A series of events result in a meltdown for Joy **10.35** Inside The Ambulance **11.40** One Born Every Minute **12.40** Great Ormond Street **1.30** Code Black **2.15-3.00** Women On The Verge

5 STAR

6.00pm Neighbours **6.30** Home And Away **7.00** Maternity Ward **8.00** 10 Years Younger In 10 Days. The team transforms a farmer's appearance **9.00** Filthy House SOS **10.00** Hoarders — Landfill In My Living Room **11.00** FILM: Snatch **1.05** Prison Life — Raw & Real **3.05** Riverdale **3.50-4.00** Access

5 USA

6.00pm Law & Order **8.00** NCIS: New Orleans **9.00** Rookie Blue. Andy and Chloe come across a severely beaten man **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.55** Law & Order: Los Angeles **3.50-4.00** Access

QUEST

6.00pm Wheeler Dealers **7.00** American Pickers — Best Of **8.00** Salvage Hunters **10.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **11.00** How Do They Do It? **12.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00** Outback Truckers **2.00** American Chopper **3.00** Fantomworks **4.00** Dirty Jobs **5.00-6.00** How It's Made

FOX

6.00pm The Mentalist **7.00** NCIS. Four episodes **11.00** American Dad! **12.00** Family Guy **1.00** American Dad! **2.00** The Walking Dead **3.00** American Dad! **4.00-5.00** Republic Of Doyle

E4

6.00 **Hollyoaks** Chester soap.
7.00 **How I Met Your Mother**
8.00 **Baby Daddy** Comedy series.
9.00 **Mike & Molly** Comedy.
10.00 **The Big Bang Theory**
11.00 **The Goldbergs** Sitcom.
12.00 **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**
1.00 **The Big Bang Theory**
2.00 **Baby Daddy** Comedy series.
3.00 **Mike & Molly** Comedy.
4.00 **The Goldbergs** Sitcom.
5.00 **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**
6.00 **The Big Bang Theory**
7.00 **Hollyoaks** Chester soap.
7.30 **Man With A Plan** Andi decides to make Adam hang out with Lowell. (12/22)
8.00 **The Goldbergs** Murray and Geoff look for a cheese steak after a food delivery does not go to plan. (Series 7, ep 3)
8.30 **Schooled** After watching the film Rudy, a student wants to play football. (Series 2, ep 3)
9.00 **Celebs Go Dating** The reality star Liv Bentley goes on a date in a shed with a roofer.
10.00 CHOICE **Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist** New musical drama, with Jane Levy. A programmer begins to hear the innermost desires of those around her through song. (1/12, see Critics' choice)
11.00 **The Big Bang Theory** Leonard and Penny continue testing their relationship. (S5, ep 14) **11.30** **The Big Bang Theory** Leonard breaks his agreement with Sheldon.
12.00 **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**
1.00 **Celebs Go Dating** Reality.
2.05 **First Dates Hotel** Dating.
3.00 **Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist** Musical drama. (1/12)
3.55 **The Goldbergs** (S7, ep 3)
4.20 **Schooled** (Series 2, ep 3)
4.45-6.00 **The Big Bang Theory**

COMEDY CENTRAL

6.00pm Friends **9.00** FILM: Notting Hill **11.30** FILM: Leap Year **1.35** The Daily Show Special **2.05** South Park **3.25** Bad Robots **4.15-5.00** The US Office

YESTERDAY

6.00am Ronnie Kray And The Pervert Peer **7.10** Secrets Of The Railways **8.00** Forbidden History **9.00** Secret Nazi Bases **10.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **11.00** Underground Worlds **12.00** Impossible Railways **1.00** Secrets Of Britain **2.00** Walking Through History **3.00** Underground Worlds **4.00** Impossible Railways **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **7.00** Underground Worlds **8.00** Impossible Engineering. A look at the machines built to get troops directly to the front line **9.00** Porridge **10.55** Impossible Railways **11.55** Underground Worlds **12.55-1.55** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan

DAVE

6.00pm Taskmaster **7.00** Room 101 **8.20** Have I Got A Bit More Old News For You **9.20** QI. With David Mitchell, Danny Baker and Sean Lock **10.00** Hypothetical. With Lou Sanders, Nish Kumar and Rob Beckett **11.00** Go 8 Bit **12.00** Taskmaster **1.00** Have I Got A Bit More Old News For You **2.15** Jon Richardson — Ultimate Worrier **3.00** Zapped **3.35-4.00** The Indestructibles

PICK

6.00pm Star Trek — TNG. The away team gets trapped **7.00** Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** Elementary. A serial bomber arrives in New York **9.00** Instinct **10.00** Air Ambulance ER **11.00** The Force — Essex **12.00** Banged Up Abroad **1.00** Road Wars **2.00** Nothing To Declare **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Motorway Patrol **5.00-6.00** Highway Patrol

MORE 4

8.55 **Handmade Treasures** Jam.
9.15 **A Place In The Sun** Property.
11.05 **Emergency Helicopter Medics** A crew battles bad weather to reach a hill-walker.
12.10 **999 — On The Front Line** A paramedic fights to save the life of a truck driver.
1.15 **Escape To The Chateau — DIY** A pair hosts their biggest event so far with music, dancing and a slap-up meal for paying guests.
2.15 **Four In A Bed** B&B contest.
4.55 **The Secret Life Of The Zoo** A cheetah is ostracised by his brothers when he starts to show signs of a leg injury.
5.55 **Car SOS** Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw restore a BMW 2002 Turbo for a man who has owned it for 30 years.
6.55 **Escape To The Chateau — DIY** Dick Strawbridge helps a Lincolnshire couple find their feet after leaving the UK to start a new life in a dilapidated 25-room chateau that has no plumbing.
8.00 **Very Hard Questions** Quiz show, hosted by Jon Snow.
9.00 **The Great Pottery Throw Down** The four remaining amateur potters take part in the semi-final, as they are challenged with creating a fully functioning toilet.
10.00 **Very Hard Questions** Quiz show, hosted by Jon Snow.
11.05 **24 Hours In A&E** Paramedics treat a 12-year-old girl after she fell down a flight of stairs.
12.10 **8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown** Gameshow.
1.15 **The Great Pottery Throw Down** Competition.
2.15 **24 Hours In A&E** Incidents.
3.20-3.50 **Food Unwrapped**

FACTUAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6.00pm Car SOS **8.00** Brain Games. With Tenacious D and Meghan Trainor **9.00** Car SOS **10.00** Ultimate Supercar **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Alaska State Troopers **1.00-2.00** Airport Security — Peru. Documentary

DISCOVERY

6.00pm Fast N' Loud **7.00** Outback Truckers **8.00** Mighty Ships. A profile of Algoma Equinox **9.00** Richard Hammond's Big. The presenter visits the Appomattox production platform **10.00** Disasters Engineered. Examining the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh **11.00** Massive Engineering Mistakes **12.00** Richard Hammond's Big **1.00-2.00** Disasters Engineered

SKY ARTS

6.00pm Discovering Richard Gere **7.00** Portrait Artist Of The Year **8.00** Passions **9.00** Norman Lear — Just Another Version Of You **11.00-12.00** The Directors. Documentary

PBS AMERICA

5.05pm Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities **6.15** World's Greatest — Animal Encounters **7.20** Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities. The transformation of Istanbul **8.30** Reconstruction — America After The Civil War **9.45** Nuremberg — Nazis On Trial **11.00-12.10** Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Football Centre **11.00** LIVE One-Day Cricket: South Africa v Australia. Coverage of the second match in the three-match series from Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein **7.00** News **7.30** Soccer Special **10.00** The Debate **11.00** NBA — The Warm Up **12.00** LIVE NBA: Milwaukee Bucks v Indiana Pacers. Tip-off 12.00 **2.30** News **3.30-6.00** LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket. Coverage of the first semi-final from Sydney Cricket Ground

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

6.00am PL Greatest Games **7.00** The Debate **8.00** Best PL Goals **9.00** PL 100 Club **10.00** PL Years **12.00** The Debate **1.00** PL Years **3.00** PL Best Goals **4.00** PL Greatest Games **5.00** PL 100 Club **5.30** PL 100 Club **6.00** PL Legends **7.00** PL World **7.30** Soccer Special **10.00** The Debate **11.00** PL World **11.30** The Tyler Archives **12.00** The Debate **1.00** PL Years **3.00** PL Greatest Games **4.00** PL Best Goals 01/02 **5.00** Best PL Goals **5.30-6.00** PL 100 Club

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Cricket's Greatest Games **7.00** Cricket **8.00** Test Cricket **9.00** Cricket **10.00** Test Cricket **10.55** LIVE One-Day Cricket: South Africa v Australia **7.00** Test Cricket **8.00** World Cup Cricket Classics **8.15** Best Of England v South Africa **9.00** Cricket **10.00** Test Cricket **11.00** Cricket **12.00** Test Cricket **1.00** Cricket **2.00** Test Cricket **3.00** World Cup Cricket Classics **3.15** Best Of England v South Africa **3.30-6.00** LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket. Coverage of the first semi-final

EUROSPORT 1

6.00am Cycling **9.30** Alpine Skiing **10.30** Ski Jumping **11.30** Biathlon **12.35** Cross-Country Skiing **2.20** LIVE Cross-Country Skiing. The World Cup meeting from Drammen, Norway **4.10** Alpine Skiing **6.10** Biathlon **6.40** Cross-Country Skiing **7.40** Cycling **9.00** Biathlon **10.00** Cross-Country Skiing **11.00** Biathlon **11.30** Cycling **12.30** Biathlon **1.00** Cycling **2.00** Biathlon **2.40** Cycling **3.40** LIVE Cycling. The fifth and final stage of the Tour Of Taiwan, from Kaohsiung City **5.10-6.40** Cycling

BT SPORT 1

6.00am Classic MOTD — Thrillers **7.00** Premiership Rugby Highlights **9.30** The FA Cup **11.00** Scottish Football Extra **11.30** Premiership **1.00** V8 Supercars Highlights **3.00** Premier League Review **4.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **5.00** WWE Raw Highlights **6.00** Reload **6.30** Premier League Reload **6.45** Scottish Football Extra **7.15** LIVE Scottish Professional Football League: Livingston v Celtic. Coverage of the Scottish top-flight match from Tony Macaroni Arena. Kickoff is at 7.45 **10.00** WWE NXT Highlights **11.00** WWE NXT UK **12.00** WWE Raw Highlights **1.00** LIVE WWE NXT **3.15** Goals Reload **3.30** A-League Highlights **4.30-6.00** Classic MOTD — Thrillers

BT SPORT 2

6.00am Bundesliga Highlights Show **7.00** WWE Monday Night Raw **9.30** Coppa Italia **10.00** MotoGP Highlights **3.00** LIVE Uefa Youth League: Red Bull Salzburg v Derby County. Kickoff 3.00 **5.00** Gearing Up **5.30** Premier League Reload **5.45** Premiership Tonight **6.30** Score Best Bits **7.00** Premier League World **7.30** Badminton Unlimited **8.00** Rugby Tonight **9.00** Uefa Champions League Magazine **9.30** UFC Countdown **10.30** UFC — Inside The Octagon **11.00** PSA Squash **12.30** LIVE PSA Squash. Coverage from the men's and women's Windy City Open finals in Chicago **3.00** Premiership Tonight **3.45** Early Kick-Off **4.00** Irish Rally Review **4.30** Uefa Champions League Magazine **5.00-6.00** Fishing — On The Bank

RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY



Lent Talks

Radio 4, 8.45pm
Identity (finding, accepting and losing it) is this year's theme, explored by Anglican priest Rachel Mann, pictured. **In Concert** (R3, 7.30pm) is Beethoven Unleashed – The Missa Solemnis, performed by the BBC SO and Chorus, with soloists Elizabeth Llewellyn, Christine Rice, Thomas Atkins and Brindley Sherratt. Richard Farnes conducts. Radio 4's 6.30pm comedy is **Mark Watson Talks A Bit About Life.**
Gillian Reynolds

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6 MHz, LW 198 kHz (1515m), MW 720 kHz

5.20 Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet Of The Day (R) **6.00** Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday In Parliament **9.00** Only Artists **9.30** The Curious Cases Of Rutherford & Fry **9.45** Book Of The Week **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **10.00** Woman's Hour **10.55** The Listening Project **11.00** Class Talk (R) **11.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar (R) **12.01** (LW) Shipping **12.04** Apeirogon **12.18** You And Yours **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Californian Century. Stanley Tucci tells the story of the politician Dianne Feinstein **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: Two Households, by Claire McGowan. Two families who lived on adjoining farms during the Troubles struggle with events from the past **3.00** Money Box Live **3.30** Inside Health (R) **4.00** Thinking Allowed **4.30** The Media Show **5.00** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping **6.00** News **6.30** Mark Watson Talks A Bit About Life. New comedy series **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **7.45** The Book Of Strange New Things (R) **8.00** The Moral Maze **8.45** Lent Talks. New series. The Anglican priest Rachel Mann reflects on the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion **9.00** Costing The Earth (R) **9.30** Only Artists (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime (R) **11.00** Ken Cheng — Chinese Comedian **11.15** Cracking Up (R) **11.30** Today In Parliament **12.00** News **12.30** Book Of The Week (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
Digital only

5.00 Ayres On The Air **5.30** Teatime **6.00** Deep Six **6.30** Gurinder — The Indian Sequel **7.00** The Change **7.30** Alex Edelman's Peer Group **8.00** Hancock's Half Hour **8.30** One Foot In The Grave **9.00** Listomania **9.30** Such Rotten Luck **10.00** Sons And Lovers **10.55** Writing Yorkshire **12.00** Hancock's Half Hour **12.30** One Foot In The Grave **1.00** Deep Six **1.30** Gurinder — The Indian Sequel **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** Listomania **4.30** Such Rotten Luck **5.00** The Change **5.30** Alex Edelman's Peer Group **6.00** The Invisible Man **6.15** Beyond Black **6.30** The Palace Of Laughter **7.00** Hancock's Half Hour **7.30** One Foot In The Grave **8.00** Deep Six **8.30** Gurinder — The Indian Sequel **9.00** Writing Yorkshire **10.00** Alex Edelman's Peer Group **10.30** Mark Watson Makes The World Substantially Better **10.55** Interview **11.00** Will Smith Presents The Tao Of Bergerac **11.30-12.00** The Sofa Of Time

LBC
FM 97.3 MHz

7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Eddie Mair. Discussion **6.00** Nigel Farage **7.00** Iain Dale. Debate **10.00** Tom Swarbrick **1.00** Darren Adam **4.00** Steve Allen

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30 Breakfast **9.00** Essential Classics **12.00** Composer Of The Week **1.00** Lunchtime Concert. The French pianist Anne Queffélec performs a selection of solo piano works by Mozart (R) **2.00** Afternoon Concert. At the Maida Vale Studios, the BBC Symphony Orchestra perform works by Strauss, Sibelius and Ustvolskaya **3.30** Choral Evensong **4.30** New Generation Artists **5.00** In Tune. The Bukolika Piano Trio play live **7.00** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. Live at the Barbican, London, the BBC Symphony Chorus and conductor Richard Farnes perform Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, with Elizabeth Llewellyn (soprano) and Christine Rice (mezzo-soprano) **10.00** Free Thinking. Shahidha Bari looks at the work of Frank Ramsey, who translated Wittgenstein and used his knowledge of maths to write influential economics papers **10.45** The Essay. Clare Walker Gore outlines the prolific writing career of Margaret Oliphant and examines the way she was used by the novelist Virginia Woolf as a symbol of needing to write for money **11.00** Night Tracks **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM
FM 100-102 MHz

6.00 Tim Lihoreau **9.00** John Suchet **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **5.00** John Brunning **8.00** The Full Works Concert. Pieces by Holst, Mozart and Bach **10.00** Margherita Taylor **1.00** Sam Pittis

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2 MHz

5.00 Vanessa Feltz **6.30** The Zoë Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Steve Wright **5.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whiley. Music and chat **9.00** The Folk Show **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00** Pick Of The Pops (R)

VIRGIN RADIO
Digital only

6.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00** Tim Cocker **4.00** Kate Lawler **7.00** Steve Denyer **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00** Through The Night **4.00** Sam Pinkham

TALKSPORT
MW 1053, 1071, 1089, 1107 kHz

5.00 Early Breakfast **6.00** The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast **10.00** White And Sawyer **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Adrian Durham And Darren Gough **7.00** Kickoff **10.00** Sports Bar. With Andy Goldstein and Jason Cundy **1.00** Extra Time

THURSDAY 5 MARCH



Keep watching the skies: McGovern and Byrne scour the constellations (Fox, 10pm)

CRITICS' CHOICE

War Of The Worlds (Fox, 9pm/10pm)
One lesson to learn from the first episode of Misfits creator Howard Overman's gripping aliens vs humans adventure (pace HG Wells) is to keep a close eye on the astronomers. The focus in this adaptation is pleasingly middle-aged, with Gabriel Byrne, Elizabeth McGovern, Natasha Little and Stephen Campbell-Moore mundanely heroic in starring roles trying to save recalcitrant teenagers by knowing a bit more about life. Byrne, a neuroscientist, stays alive because he correctly theorises that humans might survive the buzzing alien weaponry if they are encased in metal. Tin foil hats at the ready! *Helen Stewart*

Moving On (BBC1, 2.15pm)
"You never forget your executioner," says one of the characters in David Chidlow's redundancy fairy story as she sees the "efficiency consultant" who relieved her of her last job walk into her workplace. Julie Graham plays Pauline, torn between feelings of protectiveness and selfishness when pitted against a younger colleague for a job they both need. *(HS)*

Crufts (C4, 3pm/8pm; More 4, 6.30pm)
Nothing beats this dog show's annual coverage for a delightful display of surreal monomania. Clare Balding presents live from Birmingham's NEC, with today's highlights including the ever-astonishing heelwork to music, a few "dog-related discussions" and an item on WWE wrestlers' favourite pooches. Pedigree fun. *(VS)*

Kings Of Pain (History, 10pm)
"Viewer discretion advised" blares the lurid disclaimer at the start of this show. The biologist Adam Thorn and animal handler Rob Alleva are on a mission to categorise bites and stings into a 10-point pain-scale: this involves being mauled by piranhas and "a gigantic bastard of an ant". Ludicrous, but fans of Steve Irwin and Ed Stafford will be in love at first bite. *(VS)*

Female Filmmakers (BBC4, 11pm)
How Janina Ramirez's many art history qualifications have prepared her for introducing modern short films is up for discussion, but she is certainly a woman and so are the directors here. Teenage pop fandom, the rituals of afro hair, mixed-race heritage and social media are covered in four striking new pieces. *(HS)*

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
9.15 Britain's Housing Scandal A cramped Liverpool property in a worrying state of repair.
10.00 Homes Under The Hammer
11.00 Wanted Down Under Revisited Catching up with a family who sampled life in Auckland, New Zealand. (R)
11.45 Saved On Camera A boy takes over the steering wheel to save his mum's life.
12.15 Bargain Hunt In Newark. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.45 Doctors Karen tracks down Abz to get her to tell her the truth; and Rob is in trouble with his bosses. (3/3)
2.15 CHOICE Moving On With Julie Graham. A middle-aged woman is forced to fight for her job and prove that her role is vital, but she reaches a surprising conclusion in the process. (See Critics' choice)
3.00 Escape To The Country (R)
3.45 Money For Nothing Items include an old radio, a set of chairs and drawers.
4.30 Ready Steady Cook The contest sees a mother and daughter do culinary battle.
5.15 Pointless Unorthodox quiz. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
6.55 Party Political Broadcast On behalf of the Green Party. (R)
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 EastEnders Gray's boss urges him to make Kush plead guilty — leading to a confrontation with Kat; Keegan blames Jack for his treatment by the police; and Jean is determined to help Suki.
8.00 Masterchef John Torode and Gregg Wallace preside as six more hopefuls compete in the second heat, getting their first chance to win a Masterchef apron by serving up their signature dish.
9.00 CHOICE Noughts + Crosses New drama series, with Masali Baduza, Jack Rowan and Helen Baxendale. In a fictional world where black people rule over a white underclass, two people are divided by their race but united by love. (1/6; see Pick of the week)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.35 Question Time Political debate in Tunbridge Wells.
11.35 Newscast Political chat.
12.10-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland.

BBC2

6.30 Money For Nothing (R)
7.15 Ready Steady Cook (R)
8.00 Great British Railway Journeys (Signed, R)
8.30 Lose Weight And Get Fit With Tom Kerridge. (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.00 Victoria Derbyshire News.
11.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Politics Live Discussion.
1.00 Hardball Quiz show. (R)
1.45 Best House In Town (R)
2.30 Terry And Mason's Great Food Trip In Evesham. (R)
3.00 Red Rock Tom makes time for Patricia; and Sean is hurt by a confession. (R)
3.45 The Great Interior Design Challenge Revamps. (R)
4.45 Portillo's State Secrets (R)
5.15 Flog It! In Nottingham. (R)
6.00 House Of Games Quiz, with Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor.
6.30 Great British Railway Journeys Travelling from Glasgow to Cumbrae. (R)
7.00 MOTDx Football discussion, presented by Jermaine Jenas.
7.30 Villages By The Sea Examining the history of Clovelly in Devon. (R)
8.00 Secrets Of The Museum A figure of Frankenstein's monster is brought out of the V&A archives; the curators discover photographs of the real Alice in Wonderland; and repairs are made to Shakespeare's First Folio.
9.00 Hospital Exploring the work of Alder Hey Children's Hospital, following a baby about to have surgery and a 17-year-old with cerebral palsy as she reaches adulthood and prepares to transition to adult services.
10.00 Vic & Bob's Big Night Out Surreal comedy with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer. (R)
10.30 Newsnight The day's events.
11.15 Match Of The Day — The FA Cup Action from Derby County v Manchester United in the fifth-round encounter.
11.40 SheBelieves Cup: USA v England. The opening match for both nations in the four-team round-robin tournament, live at Exploria Stadium in Orlando. Kickoff is at 12.00.
2.15 Confronting Holocaust Denial Insights. (Signed, R)
3.15 Dom Does America Documentary. (Signed, R)
4.00-4.30 Trust Me, I'm A Doctor Medical insights. (Signed, R)

FILM CHOICE

Goldfinger (ITV4, 9pm)
Sean Connery's third outing as Bond remains one of the most evergreen, partly because of an inventive story featuring a plan to irradiate Fort Knox bullion, yet also because the film boasts so many signature 007 images, from the gizmo-packed Aston Martin DB5 to a spray-painted Shirley Eaton. Dir: Guy Hamilton. (1964)



Barbarella (Sky Cinema Greats, 3.25am)
Guilty pleasures abound in Roger Vadim's psychedelic sci-fi fantasy as Jane Fonda's airheaded agent tries to save the galaxy. Feminism was clearly on another planet as ever-more inventive ways are found to separate the heroine from her clothes – vampire dolls, anyone? – but it hardly matters that the 41st century looks like a 1960s fancy-dress party when the campness is on such a stellar scale. (1968) *(TL)*

ON DEMAND

Vick (ESPN Player)
Sometimes you wish a UK arm of ESPN could tell stories of our own bedevilled sports celebs with the same deep-archive fastidiousness they apply to their stars of baseball, basketball and American football. Michael Vick was the early noughties quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons, raised in the brutal projects of

ITV

6.00 Good Morning Britain
9.00 Lorraine Lifestyle chat.
10.00 This Morning Features.
12.30 Loose Women Debate.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Judge Rinder Cases.
3.00 Tenable Quiz show. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Gameshow.
5.00 The Chase Quiz show.
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.25 Party Political Broadcast On behalf of the Green Party.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Emmerdale Dawn receives news about the custody of Lucas; Marlon makes a huge decision regarding his family; and Will reveals some information from his past.
7.30 Diet — Trust Your Gut? The actress Catherine Tyldesley investigates what people need to know to look after their digestive system.
8.00 Emmerdale Al has to work hard to get Ellis back onside; Will faces up to his past; and Cara is disappointed but supports Nate's decision.
8.30 How To Spend It Well On Holiday New series. Phillip Schofield hosts a consumer travel show designed to help tourists get the best holiday for their money, starting with trips to the Mediterranean.
9.00 Tyson Fury — The Gypsy King Following his win over Otto Wallin, the boxer takes part in a WWE bout, finally has a rematch with Deontay Wilder confirmed, and parts ways with his trainer Ben Davison. (Last in series)
10.00 News At Ten Bulletin.
10.45 Liar Thriller, with Joanne Froggatt. (Series 2, ep 1, R)
11.45 Dancing On Ice The remaining celebrities take to the ice in the semi-final. (R)
1.20 Teleshopping Purchasing.
3.00 Diet — Trust Your Gut? (R)
3.25 Nightscreen Information.
5.05-6.00 Judge Rinder Cases. (R)



Vital cog: Graham (BBC1, 2.15pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Cheers Two episodes. (R)
7.20 The King Of Queens (R)
8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
9.10 Frasier American sitcom. (R)
10.10 Undercover Boss Canada (R)
11.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
12.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.05 Posh Pawn Valuables. (R)
2.10 Countdown Gameshow.
3.00 CHOICE Crufts New run. Highlights of the annual canine event at the NEC in Birmingham, hosted by Clare Balding. (See Critics' choice)
4.00 A New Life In The Sun — Where Are They Now? Catching up with a fruit juice entrepreneur in France.
5.00 Come Dine With Me (R)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer is banned from driving. (R)
6.30 Hollyoaks Chester soap. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Crufts Clare Balding presents further action from Birmingham, featuring flyball, agility and heelwork to music, and topics under discussion include dogs in mental health and life-saving canines.
9.00 Hunted One of the fugitives is captured and subjected to devious psychological pressures in order to reveal her partner's whereabouts.
10.00 First Dates A healthcare assistant wants to put his wild past behind him; and a bank manager turned performer wonders if his date will recognise him.
11.00 24 Hours In A&E A teenager is rushed to hospital with a lacerated wrist after putting his hand through a pane of glass; and another patient discusses being diagnosed with a chronic condition. (R)
12.00 100 Kilo Kids — Obesity SOS Following young patients in the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Britain's leading childhood obesity clinic. (R)
1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Offering advice at a struggling seafood restaurant in Manhattan. (R)
1.50 Home (Series 2, ep 5, R)
2.15 Baghdad Central (5/6, R)
3.10 Dispatches Reports. (R)
3.35 Come Dine With Me (R)
4.30 Location, Location, Location Homes in Nottingham. (R)
5.25 Cooking Up A Fortune (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.15 Paddington Station 24/7 (R)
12.10 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords Documentary. (R)
1.10 Access Showbiz gossip.
1.15 Home And Away Lives hang in the balance as the hospital-siege situation escalates. (R)
1.45 Neighbours Toadie decides not to do anything to mark the anniversary of Sonya's death.
2.15 A Wedding To Die For Thriller, with Christa B Allen and Danielle C Ryan. An engaged woman plans to marry her volatile fiancé, but then escape his clutches. (R)
4.00 Friends American sitcom. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
5.30 Neighbours Soap. (R)
6.00 Home And Away (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 The Dog Rescuers Alan Davies returns to help more sick canines, including a Staffordshire bull terrier that has a suspected broken leg and a mystery lump. (R)
8.00 Britain's Naughtiest Nursery Documenting day-to-day life at a nursery for challenging three-to-five year olds, set up by the psychologist Laverne Antrobus, featuring an infant whose hyperactive behaviour has left his mum exhausted.
9.00 10 Years Younger In 10 Days Cherry Healey hosts the show in which experts transform people's looks and lives, featuring tips for a recovering alcoholic, who has been sober for six years.
10.00 Me & My Beautiful Face People with facial structures different from the norm discuss the psychological challenges that they face, including the presenter and alopecia sufferer Gail Porter.
11.05 Billionaire Kids — Diamond Lives Documentary about the luxurious lives of children from wealthy families. (R)
12.05 Eamonn And Ruth — Blowing A Fortune Finding out what Regent's Park has to offer a multimillionaire. (R)
1.00 The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show Interactive gambling.
3.00 Access Showbiz gossip.
3.10 Paddington Station 24/7 (R)
4.00 Tattoo Disasters Body art. (R)
4.45 House Doctor Advice. (R)
5.10 Nick's Quest Animals. (R)
5.35-6.00 Wildlife SOS (R)

SKY 1

6.00 Monkey Life Primates. (R)
7.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue (R)
8.00 The Dog Whisperer (R)
9.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
10.00 Brit Cops — Law & Disorder Crime documentary. (R)
11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R)
1.00 Hawaii Five-0 Drama. (R)
3.00 MacGyver (Series 2, ep 9, R)
4.00 Modern Family Sitcom. (R)
5.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
5.30 Futurama Animation. (R)
6.30 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
8.00 A League Of Their Own Aaron Ramsey, Romesh Ranganathan and Kate Abdo join the host James Corden, captains Jamie Redknapp and Andrew Flintoff and regular Jack Whitehall on the sports-based quiz. (R)
9.00 The Heist Forensic evidence puts Will and Ishy into the spotlight; and Sue and her detectives make a mistake when they underestimate pensioner Christine.
10.00 The Force — North East Officers race to save a man threatening to kill himself. (R)
11.00 An Idiot Abroad Karl Pilkington visits a desert island in the South Pacific. (R)
12.00 Intelligence Christine reveals that the NHS servers have been hacked. (3/6, R) **12.30 Intelligence** Mary prepares to see her ex-boyfriend for first time in 40 years. (R)
1.00 Caught On Dashcam (R)
2.00 The Late Late Show — Best Of The Week (R)
3.00 The Force — Manchester (R)
4.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
5.00-6.00 Futurama Cartoon. (R)

ATLANTIC

6.00 The Guest Wing Insights.
7.00 Without A Trace Drama.
10.00 The West Wing Double bill.
12.00 Blue Bloods (Series 2, ep 8)
1.00 CSI Drama. (Series 6, ep 2)
2.00 The West Wing President Bartlet vetoes a controversial bill. (S3, ep 5) **3.00 The West Wing** Donna appears before a Congressional committee.
4.00 Without A Trace A convict disappears from jail. (S3, ep 12) **5.00 Without A Trace** An autistic boy vanishes. **6.00 Without A Trace** A society girl goes missing. (S3, ep 15)
7.00 CSI A man reports his wife's death and claims that she fell down the stairs in their home, but Grissom and the team uncover secrets pointing to foul play. (Series 6, ep 3)
8.00 Blue Bloods A convicted contract killer agrees to show Danny where he dumped the bodies of a series of homicide victims in exchange for a more lenient sentence for his son. (Series 2, ep 9)
9.00 John Adams The statesman outlives his wife and daughter, and witnesses his son, John Quincy Adams, become president. (Last in series)
10.20 The Sopranos Anthony Jr becomes a football star. (Series 3, ep 3) **11.35 The Sopranos** Dr Melfi is raped.
12.45 Public Enemy Drama. (Series 2, ep 7; French with subtitles)
1.50 Dolittle Film insights.
2.00 Hotel Secrets Hospitality.
3.00 Public Enemy Drama. (Series 2, ep 8; French with subtitles)
4.10-6.00 The West Wing Drama.

VARIATIONS

ITV WALES 6.25 Party Political Broadcast **7.30** Hook's Line On England — A Six Nations Special **8.30** Coast & Country **10.45** Diet — Trust Your Gut? **11.15** How To Spend It Well On Holiday **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Peppa **6.05** Hafod Haul **6.20** Meic Y Marchog **6.35** Sblij A Sbloj **6.45** Gwdihw **7.00** Blociau Rhif **7.05** Cymylaubychain **7.15** Sigldigwt **7.30** Dathlu 'Da Dona **7.45** Blero Yn Mynd I Ocido **8.00** Tatws Newydd **8.05** Dwylo'r Enfys **8.20** Y Brodyr Coala **8.30** Heini **8.45** Abadas **9.00** Digbi Draig **9.10** Sbridiri **9.30** Boj **9.40** Y Teulu Mawr **9.50** Nico Nôg **10.00** Peppa **10.05** Hafod Haul **10.20** Meic Y Marchog **10.35** Sblij A Sbloj **10.45** Gwdihw **11.00** Blociau Rhif **11.05** Cymylaubychain **11.15** Sigldigwt **11.30** Dathlu 'Da Dona **11.45** Blero Yn Mynd I Ocido **12.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **12.05** Pobol Y Rhondda **12.30** Heno **1.30** Dan Do **2.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **3.05** Cynefin **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Nyrsys **6.25** Darllediad Gwleidyddol Gan Plaid Cymru **6.30** Rownd A Rownd **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol Y Cwm **8.25** Rownd A Rownd **8.55** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **9.00** Jonathan **10.00** 3 Lle — Eleri Siôn **10.30** Hansh **11.00** Y Stiwdio Gefn **11.30-12.05** Mwy O Sgorio

Newport News, Virginia, where "guys who didn't participate in sports all ended up dead or in jail." Yet Vick himself never fully escaped the culture of "Bad News", and in 2007 pleaded guilty to his involvement in a dog-fighting ring. Impressively, Stanley Nelson's three-hour film never judges or condemns but instead chooses to question and analyse, resulting in a film that is as much about systemic poverty and prejudice as it is about sport and the man.

Small Island (Britbox)
The literary archive of the Windrush chronicler Andrea Levy was acquired by the British Library last month, while at the same time children of Jamaican immigrants were being deported. Watching this two-part adaptation of Levy's novel amidst such news makes for a powerful experience. Although criticised at the time for pandering to white audiences, 10 years on it feels horribly relevant and deserves a revisit. *(AM)*



YOU SAY

I will pay my licence fee and that of someone who finds it financially difficult, just to be able to watch David Baddiel's **Confronting Holocaust Denial** (BBC2), and for access to the BBC iPlayer so that I can ask others to do the same.
Jenny Blackie

Congratulations to David Baddiel for shining a spotlight on the pernicious nature of Holocaust denial. It was powerful, thought-provoking film-making. Essential viewing.
Graeme W Kirkup

Send your comments to: telly@sunday-times.co.uk

BBC4

7.00pm Beyond 100 Days News.
7.30 The Yorkshire Dales In Wharfedale. (Last in series)
8.00 The Real T-Rex Creating the most accurate CGI representation of the dinosaur ever produced.
9.00 The Day The Dinosaurs Died An expedition to determine if an asteroid strike killed off the dinosaurs 66m years ago.
10.00 The Stuarts Examining how the royal house became fatally divided. (Last in series)
11.00 CHOICE Female Filmmakers Janina Ramirez introduces short films all made by women. (See Critics' choice)
12.00 How We Built Britain (6/6)
1.00 Rhythms Of India With Soumik Datta. (Last in series)
2.00 Flights Of Fancy — Pigeons And The British Insights.
3.00-4.00 Age Of The Image (1/4)

DRAMA

12.00 The Bill Police drama series.
1.00 Classic EastEnders Soap.
2.20 London's Burning (S5, ep 8)
3.20 Monarch Of The Glen Drama.
4.20 Bergerac Detective drama.
5.20 Bread Comedy series.
6.00 Hi-De-Hi! Sitcom.
6.40 As Time Goes By Lionel and Jean sneak off to the country.
7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine Alvin and Entwistle try their hands at matchmaking.
8.00 The Inspector Lynley Mysteries Havers goes undercover after a murder at an exclusive club. (S3, ep 3)
10.00 New Tricks Two people confess to a murder they could not possibly have committed. (Series 4, ep 6)
11.20 Waking The Dead Detective drama. (Series 3, ep 2)
1.55 The Bill Police drama series.
3.00-4.00 London's Burning



Girls on film: Justin Bieber receives creepy adoration (BBC4, 11pm)

ITV2

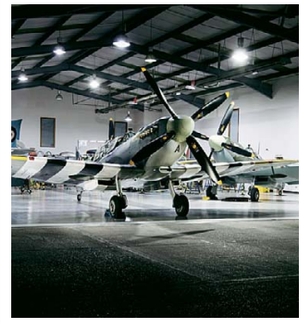
6.00 Teleshopping Purchasing.
7.00 Ellen DeGeneres Chat.
7.50 Emmerdale Rural soap.
8.20 Coronation Street Soap.
9.20 Superstore Double bill.
10.15 Dinner Date Flirting.
11.15 Dress To Impress Dating.
12.15 Emmerdale Rural soap.
12.45 Coronation Street Soap.
1.50 Ellen DeGeneres Chat.
2.45 Dinner Date Flirting.
3.50 Dress To Impress Dating.
4.50 Take Me Out Romance.
6.00 You've Been Framed Clips.
8.00 Two And A Half Men Walden's date with a clumsy model lasts longer than he expected. (S11, ep 9) **8.30 Two And A Half Men** Walden helps Jenny get a second date with a one-night stand; and Alan unwittingly wins the affections of his transgender girlfriend's ex-wife.
9.00 FILM: Bridesmaids Stars Kristen Wiig, Rose Byrne and Melissa McCarthy. A woman takes charge of her friend's bridal party, but the wife of the groom's boss causes issues. Refreshing comedy. (2011, 15; includes FYI Daily)
11.35 Family Guy The Griffins are invited to have their television viewing habits monitored. (Series 11, ep 2) **12.05 Family Guy** Peter and Quagmire help Mort with his financial troubles. (S10, ep 15)
12.30 American Dad! Animation.
1.25 The Stand Up Sketch Show
1.55 Two And A Half Men Comedy. (Series 11, ep 9)
2.25 Celebability Gameshow.
3.05 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records Feats.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV3

6.00 Classic Coronation Street
6.55 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
7.55 Heartbeat Rural drama.
8.55 The Darling Buds Of May Drama. (Series 1, ep 7)
10.00 That's My Boy Sitcom.
10.30 Inspector Morse Drama.
12.40 Heartbeat Rural drama.
1.45 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
2.50 Classic Coronation Street
3.55 Midsomer Murders Drama.
5.55 Heartbeat Rural drama.
6.55 Poirot With David Suchet. The sleuth meets a woman who has seemingly become unaccountably accident-prone, but soon starts to suspect she is actually a victim of foul play. (1/2)
8.00 Lewis The detective investigates after a botanist accidentally unearths the body of a recently buried professor who was fixated upon solving a seemingly impossible riddle by Lewis Carroll. (Series 6, ep 1)
10.00 Scott & Bailey Rachel helps DCI Murray on a rape and murder case and, back at home, she makes a shocking discovery about what her brother, Dom, gets up to in her flat. (Series 2, ep 3)
11.00 Inspector Morse With John Thaw. Back from sick leave, Morse uncovers new evidence concerning the year-long investigation into the murder of Yvonne Harrison.
1.15 A Touch Of Frost The irascible detective's search for a missing child uncovers evidence of a 30-year-old crime. (Series 1, ep 1)
3.00 That's My Boy Sitcom.
3.25 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV4

5.50pm The Sweeney Drama.
7.00 The Chase Sam Quek, Basil Brush, Andi Peters and Charlie Higson take part.
8.00 Heathrow — Britain's Busiest Airport A security officer investigates an oddly shaped object. **8.30 Heathrow — Britain's Busiest Airport** Staff must deal with the aftermath of a polar vortex.
9.00 CHOICE Goldfinger Stars Sean Connery. James Bond is sent to track down a gold smuggler intent on contaminating all the bullion in Fort Knox with a nuclear device. (1964, PG; includes FYI Daily; see Film choice)
11.15 FILM: Wanted Stars James McAvoy and Angelina Jolie. A man with special powers joins a society that kills people destined to commit evil acts. Silly adventure. (2008, 18; includes FYI Daily)
1.25 The Sweeney Crime drama.
2.30 The Protectors Drama.
3.00-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.



A Spitfire reborn (Yesterday, 9pm)

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am The Candidate (2018, 15)
8.15 The Top Ten Show Countdown.
8.30 I Still See You Thriller. (2019, 15)
10.15 The Counterfeiter The police seek a gang member's help. (2018, 15)
12.30 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters An agency tries to tackle an army of giant creatures. (2019, 12)
2.45 Killers Anonymous (2019, 15)
4.30 Straight Up A man and a woman realise they may be soulmates — but he may or may not be gay. (2019, 15)
6.15 UFO A brilliant student and his maths professor investigate a series of mysterious sightings. (2018, 12)
8.00 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters Details as 12.30pm.
10.15 Hell Is Where The Home Is Two couples rent a house in the desert, but get an unexpected visitor. (2018, 18)
12.00 Killers Anonymous As 2.45pm.
1.45 Mapplethorpe Biopic. (2018, 18)
3.45 I Still See You Details as 8.30am.
5.30-6.00 The Hurricane Heist — The Eye Of The Storm Behind the scenes.

SKY CINEMA THRILLER

1.05pm Captain Phillips The skipper of an American cargo ship is taken hostage by Somalian pirates. (2013, 12)
3.20 K-19 — The Widowmaker Stars Harrison Ford. Thriller. (2002, 12)
5.40 The Recruit A hacker tries to root out a mole within the CIA. (2003, 12)
7.40 Angels & Demons Four cardinals in line to become Pope are kidnapped by a mysterious sect. (2009, 12)
10.00 Captain Phillips As 1.05pm.
12.15-2.15 The Juror Thriller. (1996, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS

8.50am Deep Impact A reporter discovers evidence that a comet is heading towards the Earth. (1998, 12)
10.55 The Goonies The discovery of a treasure map plunges seven youngsters into an adventure. (1985, 12)
12.55 The Hand That Rocks The Cradle A widow targets the woman she blames for her husband's death. (1992, 15)
2.55 The Social Network Charting the Facebook chairman Mark Zuckerberg's rise to wealth and fame. (2010, 12)
5.00 Sister Act 2 — Back In The Habit A singer who posed as a nun joins the order again to save a school. (1993, PG)
7.00 The Goonies Details as 10.55am.
9.00 The Hand That Rocks The Cradle Details as 12.55pm. Thriller.
11.00 The Royal Tenenbaums A man feigns illness to bring his estranged family back together. (2001, 15)
1.00 Face/Off Action thriller. (1997, 18)
3.25 CHOICE Barbarella Stars Jane Fonda and John Phillip Law. Sci-fi adventure. (1968, 15; see Film choice)
5.10-7.05 Kramer vs Kramer (1979, PG)



BFF? Lynch and Kozub (Film 4, 9pm)

SKY CINEMA SUPERHERO

3.00pm Ghost Rider (2007, 12)
4.55 The Green Hornet (2011, 12)
7.00 Fantastic Four Five astronauts gain superhuman powers, but one puts their abilities to evil use. (2005, PG)
9.00 Batman Begins A billionaire becomes a masked vigilante to rid his city of crime and corruption. (2005, 12)
11.25 Ant-Man And The Wasp A former thief is faced with a mission. (2018, 12)
1.30 Batman — The Dark Knight Returns: Part One Animation. (2012, 12)
2.55 Batman — The Dark Knight Returns: Part Two Sequel. (2013, 15)
4.15-6.05 Fantastic Four As 7pm.

FILM 4

11.00am The Way To The Stars Second World War drama. (1945, U)
1.15 A Night To Remember (1958, PG)
4.05 The Dam Busters (1955, U)
6.45 Now You See Me Four magicians use their lavish stage shows to cover seemingly impossible heists. (2013, 12)
9.00 My Friend Dahmer Stars Ross Lynch and Lily Kozub. Drama chronicling the early years of the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. (2017, 15)
11.10 Die Hard 2 A lone cop battles the terrorists who have taken over control of an airport. (1990, 18)
1.35-3.45 Kill Your Friends (2015, 18)

TALKING PICTURES TV

2.30pm Simon And Laura (1955, PG)
4.35 Bond Street Drama. (1948, 12)
6.45 The Four Feathers A British military officer accused of cowardice tries to redeem himself. (1939, U)
9.00 Funny Man Drama series.
10.00-12.05 Whistle Down The Wind Stars Alan Bates. Drama. (1961, PG)

ENTERTAINMENT

GOLD

7.10am The Piglet Files **8.00** As Time Goes By **8.40** The Good Life **9.20** Porridge **10.00** Hi-De-Hi! **10.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.40** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** Porridge **2.00** Hi-De-Hi! **2.40** The Good Life **3.20** Keeping Up Appearances **4.00** Dad's Army **4.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **6.40** The Good Life **7.20** Porridge **8.00** Dad's Army **9.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **10.00** Sandylands. Emily becomes her father's unwilling partner-in-crime **10.40** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.20** Peep Show **12.25** Lenny Henry's Race Through Comedy **1.30** Mrs Brown's Boys **2.05** Peep Show **2.30** Marley's Ghosts **3.00** The Rebel **3.35-4.00** TV Burp

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm 30 Rock **6.30** Modern Family **7.30** The Mindy Project **9.00** Dana Carvey — Squatting Monkeys Tell No Lies. The comedian performs stand-up **10.15** Sex And The City **10.50** The Tonight Show **11.50** The Late Late Show **12.50** Entourage **1.25** Silicon Valley **2.35** Girls **3.45-5.00** 30 Rock

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Border Security — Australia's Front Line **8.00** Ghost Whisperer **9.00** The Rookie. Two of the rookies are set to receive special awards **10.00** CSI. A drug baron's daughter is found dead **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **12.00** CSI. Drama series **1.00** Chicago Med **2.00** Chicago Fire **3.00** Chicago PD **4.00** Shades Of Blue **5.00-6.00** Brit Cops — Rapid Response

W

6.00pm Tipping Point **7.00** My Dream Home **8.00** Sun, Sea And Brides To Be **9.00** Inside The Ambulance **10.00** One Born Every Minute **1.00** Great Ormond Street **1.50** Code Black **2.35-3.00** Renovate My Home — Leave It To Bryan

5 STAR

6.00pm Neighbours **6.30** Home And Away **7.00** Spray Tan Mums — Single And Proud **8.00** FILM: The Twilight Saga — Breaking Dawn: Part 1 **10.15** FILM: Bad Teacher. Stars Cameron Diaz **12.05** Two And A Half Men **2.05-3.50** FILM: Alvin And The Chipmunks — The Road Chip. Stars Jason Lee. Comedy

5 USA

6.00pm Law & Order **8.00** NCIS: New Orleans. Drama series **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.55** Law & Order: Los Angeles **3.50-4.00** Access

QUEST

6.00pm Wheeler Dealers **7.00** American Pickers — Best Of **8.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Wheeler Dealers **10.00** Fantomworks **11.00** How Do They Do It? **12.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00** Outback Truckers **2.00** American Chopper **3.00** Fantomworks **4.00** Dirty Jobs **5.00-6.00** How It's Made

FOX

6.00pm The Mentalist **7.00** NCIS. Drama **9.00 CHOICE** War Of The Worlds. New sci-fi drama, with Gabriel Byrne and Elizabeth McGovern **10.00** War Of The Worlds. Survivors emerge after an alien attack. (See Critics' choice)

E4

6.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.00 How I Met Your Mother
8.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
9.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
10.00 The Big Bang Theory
11.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1.00 The Big Bang Theory
2.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
3.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
4.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
5.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6.00 The Big Bang Theory
7.00 Hollyoaks Toby is angry to see Romeo leaving his flat.
7.30 Man With A Plan Adam and Andi's babysitter cancels on Valentine's day, so they leave Kate in charge. (13/22)
8.00 Young Sheldon Dr Sturgis spies on Meemaw's new boyfriend; and Sheldon fakes being ill to avoid a swimming test at school. (Series 3, ep 10) **8.30 Young Sheldon** George Sr and Meemaw struggle to manage the Cooper household while Mary plans Pastor Jeff's wedding.
9.00 Celebs Go Dating Alison Hammond has a curious date.
10.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Shows under scrutiny include The Chase, Fatal Attraction and Nigella — At My Table.
11.05 The Big Bang Theory Sheldon uses his holidays to help Amy in her biology lab. (Series 5, ep 16) **11.35 The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon and Kripke battle it out to get Professor Rothman's vacant office.
12.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine Comedy.
1.05 Celebs Go Dating Flirting.
2.10 First Dates Hotel Romance.
3.05 Celebrity Gogglebox
4.00 The Big Bang Theory
4.50-6.00 How I Met Your Mother

MORE 4

8.55 A Place In The Sun Property.
9.45 A Place In The Sun — Summer Sun Advice.
11.50 Emergency Helicopter Medics A woman tries to save her husband after he suffers a cardiac arrest.
12.50 999 — On The Front Line An autistic boy injures his back on a trampoline.
1.50 Escape To The Chateau — DIY Dick Strawbridge helps a Lincolnshire couple.
2.50 Four In A Bed B&B contest.
5.25 The Secret Life Of The Zoo A new mandrill monkey is introduced to the group.
6.30 Crufts Clare Balding hosts live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, where events include heelwork to music.
8.00 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud meets a couple who are building a new house on top of a sheer cliff on the west coast of Scotland.
9.00 Phil Spencer's Stately Homes The property expert visits Harewood House, a stately home which looks out over 1000 acres of West Yorkshire estate.
10.00 24 Hours In A&E The staff of King's College Hospital treat patients involved in road accidents, including a girl who has been hit by a car and knocked under a bus.
11.05 999 — What's Your Emergency? Wiltshire officers deal with crimes committed by young drivers.
12.05 Phil Spencer's Stately Homes Harewood House.
1.10 24 Hours In A&E Injuries.
2.15 999 — What's Your Emergency? Incidents.
3.20-3.45 Food Unwrapped

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT
6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket. The first semi-final **7.30** LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket. The second semi-final **11.30** LIVE European Tour Golf. The Qatar Masters **2.00** LIVE PGA Tour Golf. The Arnold Palmer Invitational **7.00** LIVE Super League: Leeds Rhinos v Toronto Wolfpack. Kickoff at 7.45 **10.00** The Debate **11.00** NBA — The Warm Up **12.00** News **1.00** LIVE NBA: Houston Rockets v Los Angeles Clippers. Tip-off is at 1.00 **3.30-6.00** News

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE
6.00am PL Greatest Games **7.00** The Debate **8.00** Best PL Goals: Man City v Liverpool **8.30** Best PL Goals: Chelsea v Arsenal **9.00** Premier League 100 Club **10.00** Premier League Years **12.00** The Debate **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Best Goals 92/93 **4.00** PL Greatest Games **5.00** PL 100 Club: England's Finest **5.30** Premier League 100 Club **6.00** PL Legends: Robbie Fowler **6.30** PL Legends: Ian Wright **7.00** Premier League Match Pack **7.30** Premier League World **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **9.00** Premier League Match Pack **9.30** Premier League World **10.00** The Debate **11.00** Premier League Match Pack **11.30** Premier League World **12.00** The Debate **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Greatest Games **4.00** PL Best Goals 03/04 **5.00** Best PL Goals 16/17 **5.30-6.00** Premier League 100 Club

SKY SPORTS CRICKET
6.00am LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket. The first semi-final **7.30** LIVE Women's ICC World T20 Cricket. The second semi-final **11.30** My Icon: Charlotte Edwards **11.45** My Icon: Ebony Rainford-Brent **12.00** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **4.00** Cricket's Greatest Games **5.00** My Icon: Nasser Hussain **5.15** My Icon: Ebony Rainford-Brent **5.30** My Icon: Moeen Ali **5.45-6.00** My Icon: Charlotte Edwards

EUROSPORT 1
6.40am Cycling **10.55** Alpine Skiing **12.55** Ski Jumping **1.55** Cross-Country Skiing **3.00** Biathlon **4.05** LIVE Biathlon. Coverage of the World Cup meeting at Novo Mesto in Slovenia **5.50** Cross-Country Skiing **6.50** Ski Jumping **8.00** Cycling **9.00** Biathlon **10.00** Alpine Skiing **11.00** Biathlon **12.00** Cross-Country Skiing **1.00-6.30** Cycling

BT SPORT 1
6.00am Classic MOTD — Thrillers **7.00** WWE Raw **9.00** Bundesliga Highlights Show **10.00** Uefa Champions League Magazine **10.30** Score Best Bits **11.00** Goals Reload **11.15** Premier League Reload **11.30** A-League Highlights **12.30** Scottish Football Extra **1.00** Premiership **2.30** Score Best Bits **3.00** FA Women's Super League Continental Cup **4.30** The FA Cup **6.00** Premier League Reload **6.15** SPFL Highlights **6.30** The FA Cup Highlights **7.00** LIVE FA Cup: Derby County v Manchester United. At Pride Park. Kickoff at 7.45 **10.00** FA Cup Tonight **11.00** Premier League Match Pack **11.30** Premier League World **12.00** UFC Countdown **1.00** UFC — Inside The Octagon **1.30** LIVE NHL: Chicago Blackhawks v Edmonton Oilers. Face-off at 1.30 **4.00-6.00** Classic MOTD — Thrillers

BT SPORT 2
6.00am Rugby Tonight **7.00** Fishing — On The Bank **8.00** Coppa Italia **9.30** Badminton Unlimited **10.00** MotoGP Highlights **3.00** MotoGP **4.00** Sport In Focus **4.15** Irish Rally Review **4.45** 30 For 30 **5.00** WWE Friday Night Smackdown **6.30** WWE Monday Night Raw **9.00** WWE NXT **10.45** World Poker Tour Series **12.45** Rugby Tonight **1.45** SPFL Highlights **2.00** The Grid **2.30** 30 For 30 **4.30** FIA World Endurance Championship **5.30-6.00** World Sailing

RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY



The Country Show

Radio 2, 9pm
Special guest star, chatting to host Bob Harris and discussing her latest album, is Tanya Tucker, pictured. **Mr Standfast** (R4 Extra, 10am/3pm), recently named among the BBC's Novels That Shaped the World, stars David Robb as Richard Hannay and Clive Merrison as Sir Walter Bullivant. On **Here's The Thing** (R4 Extra, 11am), Elaine Stritch and Lena Dunham talk to Alec Baldwin.
Gillian Reynolds

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6 MHz, LW 198 kHz (1515m), MW 720 kHz

5.20 Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet Of The Day (R) **6.00** Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday In Parliament **9.00** In Our Time **9.45** Book Of The Week **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** From Our Own Correspondent **11.30** Out Loud (R) **12.00** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping **12.04** Apeirogon **12.18** You And Yours **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Californian Century. Stanley Tucci tells the story of the gangster rapper Ice-T **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: Game Over, by Emily Short. A video-game designer has a tough job ahead building her game, Glacier (R) **3.00** Ramblings. Clare Balding visits the labyrinth on top of St Catherine's Hill in Winchester **3.27** Appeal (R) **3.30** Bookclub (R) **4.00** The Film Programme **4.30** Inside Science **5.00** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping **6.00** News **6.30** The Break (R) **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **7.45** The Book Of Strange New Things (R) **8.00** Law In Action (R) **8.30** The Bottom Line **9.00** Inside Science (R) **9.30** In Our Time (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime (R) **11.00** The Allotment — Talking To The Bees (R) **11.30** Today In Parliament **12.00** News **12.30** Book Of The Week (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
Digital only

5.00 The Change **5.30** Alex Edelman's Peer Group **6.00** Deep Six **6.30** Ansel Adams On Tape **7.00** Millport **7.30** The Break **8.00** Ken Dodd **8.30** I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again **9.00** Booked **9.30** Married **10.00** Mr Standfast **11.00** Here's The Thing **12.00** Ken Dodd **12.30** I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again **1.00** Deep Six **1.30** Ansel Adams On Tape **2.00** The Rainbow **2.15** Just So Science **2.30** A Severed Head **2.45** The Weather Experiment **3.00** Mr Standfast **4.00** Booked **4.30** Married **5.00** Millport **5.30** The Break **6.00** The Invisible Man **6.15** Beyond Black **6.30** Great Lives **7.00** Ken Dodd **7.30** I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again **8.00** Deep Six **8.30** Ansel Adams On Tape **9.00** Here's The Thing **10.00** The Break **10.30** Newsjack **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** ElvenQuest **11.30** Sam Simmons Is Not A People Person **11.45-12.00** The Future Of Radio

LBC
FM 97.3 MHz

7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Eddie Mair. Discussion **6.00** Nigel Farage **7.00** Iain Dale. Debate **10.00** Tom Swarbrick **1.00** Darren Adam **4.00** Steve Allen

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30 Breakfast **9.00** Essential Classics **12.00** Composer Of The Week **1.02** Lunchtime Concert. Vikingur Olafsson plays solo piano works by Bach at LSO St Luke's in London (R) **2.00** Afternoon Concert. The Lontano Ensemble perform Ethel Smyth's Fête Galante, with Charmian Bedford (Columbine, soprano) and Carolyn Dobbin (The Queen, mezzo-soprano); plus, Glanert's Three Pieces For Clarinet; and a concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra **5.00** In Tune. With the pianist Lara Melda and the choreographer Richard Alston **7.00** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. Live at City Halls, Glasgow, Mark Wigglesworth conducts the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto, with Lauren Zhang; plus, Firsova's Die Windsbraut; and Prokofiev's Symphony No 7 **10.00** Free Thinking. Discussion and debate about topical cultural issues **10.45** The Essay. Katie Cooper talks about Storm Jameson's campaigning for refugees, and why her fiction fell out of favour but is now seeing a revival of interest **11.00** Night Tracks — The Archive Remix. With Sara Mohr-Pietsch and Hannah Peel **11.30** Unclassified **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM
FM 100-102 MHz

6.00 Tim Lihoreau **9.00** John Suchet **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **5.00** John Brunning **8.00** The Full Works Concert. Daniel Lozakovich performs Bach's Violin Concerto in E, and the pianist Martin James Bartlett plays Liszt **10.00** Margherita Taylor **1.00** Jane Jones

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2 MHz

5.00 Vanessa Feltz **6.30** The Zoë Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Steve Wright **5.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show. Tanya Tucker joins the host, Bob Harris, from Nashville before her appearance at the Country 2 Country festival **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00** Tracks Of My Years (R) **4.00** The Craig Charles House Party Mixtape (R) **4.30** Huey Morgan's Loungin' Mix

VIRGIN RADIO
Digital only

6.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00** Tim Cocker **4.00** Kate Lawler **7.00** Steve Denyer **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00** Through The Night **4.00** Sam Pinkham

TALKSPORT
MW 1053, 1071, 1089, 1107 kHz

5.00 Early Breakfast **6.00** The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast Show With Ally McCoist **10.00** White And Sawyer **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Adrian Durham And Darren Gough **7.00** Kickoff **9.00** Kickoff Added Time **10.00** Sports Bar. With Andy Goldstein and Jason Cundy **1.00** Extra Time

11.00 American Dad! Cartoon **12.00** Family Guy. Double bill **1.00** American Dad! **2.00** Family Guy **3.00** American Dad! **4.00-5.00** Republic Of Doyle

COMEDY CENTRAL
6.00pm Friends **9.00** FILM: The Intern. Stars Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway. A retiree bored of the quiet life becomes a trainee at a new business **11.30** FILM: Eurotrip. Stars Scott Mechlowicz and Jessica Boehrs **1.25** The Daily Show **2.00** South Park **3.25** Bad Robots **4.15-5.00** The US Office

YESTERDAY
6.00am Secrets Of The Bible **7.10** Secrets Of The Railways **8.00** Forbidden History **9.00** Secret Nazi Bases **10.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **11.00** Underground Worlds **12.00** Impossible Railways **1.00** Secrets Of Britain **2.00** Walking Through History **3.00** Underground Worlds **4.00** Impossible Railways **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **7.00** Underground Worlds **8.00** Bangers And Cash **9.00** Warbird Workshop. New series following engineers and aviators who try to keep historic warplanes in the air **10.00** Narrow Escapes Of World War Two **11.00** Impossible Railways **12.00-1.00** Underground Worlds

DAVE
6.00pm Taskmaster **7.00** Room 101 **8.20** Have I Got A Bit More Old News For You **9.20** QI **10.00** Meet The Richardsons **10.40** QI **11.20** Mock The Week **12.00** Taskmaster **1.00** Have I Got A Bit More Old News For You **2.10** Jon Richardson — Ultimate Worrier **3.00** Zapped **3.35-4.00** The Indestructibles

PICK
6.00pm Star Trek — TNG **7.00** Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** Elementary **9.00** The Pacific **10.15** Britain's Most Evil Killers **11.15** The Force — Essex **12.15** Banged Up Abroad **1.10** Road Wars **2.00** Nothing To Declare **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Motorway Patrol **5.00-6.00** Highway Patrol

FACTUAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6.00pm Car SOS. Three editions **9.00** Ultimate Supercar **10.00** Running Wild **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Alaska State Troopers. Reality series **1.00-2.00** Airport Security — Peru

DISCOVERY
6.00pm Fast N' Loud **7.00** Outback Truckers **8.00** Wheeler Dealers. Motoring **9.00** Alaskan Bush People **10.00** River Of No Return **11.00** Richard Hammond's Big **12.00** Alaskan Bush People **1.00-2.00** River Of No Return

SKY ARTS
6.00pm Discovering Sissy Spacek **7.00** Sherlock Holmes vs Arthur Conan Doyle **8.00** Comedy Legends **9.00** The Directors **10.00** Discovering Robin Williams **11.00-12.00** Salman Rushdie, Death On A Trail. A profile of the writer

PBS AMERICA
5.05pm Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities **6.15** World's Greatest — Animal Encounters **7.20** Mama Twiga In The Garden Of Eden **8.30** Reconstruction — America After The Civil War **9.45** Nuremberg — Nazis On Trial. A look at the trial of Rudolf Hess **11.00-12.10** Mama Twiga In The Garden Of Eden

FRIDAY 6 MARCH



The sky's the limit: but is Jeff Bezos's planned star trek his final frontier? (PBS, 8.35pm)

CRITICS' CHOICE

Amazon Empire — The Rise And Reign Of Jeff Bezos (PBS America, 8.35pm)
Jeff Bezos launched Amazon as a bookseller 25 years ago. It has since moved into myriad retail areas, but also cloud computing, AI, entertainment, healthcare – and space travel. This fascinating report asks whether Bezos's behemoth is now too big and raises a host of issues (how warehouse workers are treated, for example). The points are put to Amazon executives who tend to reply with mantras such as "putting the customer first", while one of the original 1990s team, Shel Kaphan, says his beloved "offspring" is now an "antisocial adult" that "scares" him.
John Dugdale

Moving On (BBC1, 2.15pm)
This slow-burning script from Paul Womack sees an unusually unglamorous Neve McIntosh playing a woman who finds herself taking a maternal interest in a young homeless man. "Be careful, love, he's a little rat that one," she is warned, but she is determined to care for him. Suspicions emerge and trust is broken in a chaste but satisfying drama. *(HS)*

Wild Cuba — A Caribbean Journey (BBC2, 8.30pm)
Colin Stafford-Johnson is a veteran wildlife cameraman and his skills shine in this stunning film. Each shot is a masterpiece filled with colour and his commentary is both contemplative and informative as he presents what may be the first footage of a bee hummingbird feeding her tiny chicks. *(HS)*

Babylon Berlin (Sky Atlantic, 9pm/10pm)
It is 1929 and the stock-market crash looms as the drama set in Weimar Germany opens its third series. Shell-shocked detective Gereon Rath (Volker Bruch) investigates a movie star's death during filming of a musical, but is preoccupied with the Nazis' role in a top cop's murder. Charlotte (Liv Lisa Fries) assists him while trying to pass police exams. *(JD)*

Just One Look (More 4, 9pm/ Walter Presents All 4)
As the penultimate episode opens, Bastien (Thierry Neuvic) is still captive in a basement. Desperate to find him, his wife, Eva (Virginie Ledoyen), tracks down musos who played in the same band as Bastien 20 years earlier and, like him, witnessed a nightclub incident in which a number of young people died. *(JD)*

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
9.15 Britain's Housing Scandal A homeowner tells Matt Allwright about their struggles with hoarding. (Last in series)
10.00 Homes Under The Hammer Properties at auction. (R)
11.00 Wanted Down Under Revisited Sampling life on Australia's Gold Coast. (R)
11.45 Saved On Camera An injured climber is rescued; and a missing dog is saved by a rescuer using a drone.
12.15 Bargain Hunt Paying a visit to Liverpool Antique Centre.
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.45 Doctors Emma and Jasmine meet a woman who is willing to do anything for love.
2.15 CHOICE Moving On Drama, with Neve McIntosh. A bereaved mother befriends a young homeless man. (See Critics' choice; last in series)
3.00 Escape To The Country (R)
3.45 Money For Nothing Jacqui Joseph transforms two chairs.
4.30 Ready Steady Cook Rylan Clark-Neal hosts the contest.
5.15 Pointless Unorthodox quiz. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 Masterchef The former participants Alex Rushmer, Dr Tim Kinnaird and Dhruv Baker join hosts John Torode and Gregg Wallace to help select those going through to the next quarter-final.
8.30 EastEnders Shirley grows suspicious of Suki's behaviour and speaks to Jean; and as Whitney's bail hearing arrives, Gray feels the pressure to deliver.
9.30 Masterchef The second quarter-final sees the six heat winners return to fight for a place in knockout week, with Grace Dent asking them to produce a party-sharing plate.
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.35 Greg James' Sport Relief Heroes The DJ meets his heroes of the charity event, including Eddie Izzard, David Walliams, John Bishop, Davina McCall and Zoë Ball.
11.35 Catchpoint Celebrity edition of the gameshow, hosted by Paddy McGuinness. (R)
12.20-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather. **12.15** A View From The Terrace. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Money For Nothing (R)
7.15 Escape To The Country (R)
8.00 Winterwatch Review. (Signed, Last in series, R)
9.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.00 Victoria Derbyshire News.
11.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Politics Live Discussion.
1.00 Hardball Quiz show. (R)
1.45 Best House In Town (R)
2.30 Terry And Mason's Great Food Trip Exploring Kent. (R)
3.00 Red Rock Keith risks being caught out at Alice's place. (R)
3.45 The Great Interior Design Challenge A home in Bath. (R)
4.45 Portillo's State Secrets (R)
5.15 Flog It! Selling valuables.
6.00 House Of Games Quiz show, with the former winners Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor.
6.30 Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo heads to Helensburgh. (R)
7.00 Extreme Wales Richard Parks sets out to explore Britain's deepest cave. (R)
7.30 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip Nadia Sawalha and Kaye Adams join forces with Tim Medhurst and Anita Manning in the antique shops of Edinburgh and beyond. (R)
8.30 CHOICE Wild Cuba — A Caribbean Journey Colin Stafford-Johnson visits parts of the country few outsiders have seen, observing the bee hummingbird — the world's smallest bird — and thousands of migrating crabs. (See Critics' choice)
9.30 QI Nish Kumar, Holly Walsh and Cariad Lloyd join the regular panellist Alan Davies and the host Sandi Toksvig for an unconventional look at multiple organisms. (R)
10.00 Mock The Week Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Kerry Godliman, Milton Jones, Chris Washington and regular panellist Hugh Dennis take a comic look at the news. (R)
10.30 Newsnight The day's events.
11.05 CHOICE The Beguiled Stars Colin Farrell, Elle Fanning and Nicole Kidman. The arrival of a wounded Civil War soldier brings jealousy and betrayal to a southern girls' school. (2017, 15; see Film choice)
12.35 Panorama A report on fraudsters in India. (Signed, R)
1.05-2.10 Doctor Who Sci-fi. (Signed, Last in series, R)

FILM CHOICE

Con Air (C5, 9.45pm)
Nicolas Cage borrows Bruce Willis's Die Hard vest to play an unjustly jailed Texas ranger whose prison flight home is hijacked by psycho inmates. Simon West's rowdy action-fest gives new meaning to high-octane, while keeping its tongue firmly wedged in its cheek, being acutely aware of its own macho daftness. (1997)



The Beguiled (BBC2, 11.05pm)
Colin Farrell is rakishly cast as a wounded Union deserter in the American Civil War hiding in a Southern girls' seminary, run by Nicole Kidman's starchy headmistress, where he makes collective hearts beat faster but overreaches himself in the ensuing sexual power games. Sofia Coppola's gothic melodrama is more elegant than erotic and, for all the full-blooded performances, a trifle anaemic. (2017) *(TL)*

ON DEMAND

Seinfeld (All 4)
In a few years, when individual TV and film companies will have their own unaffordable streaming channels, we'll look back with an aching fondness on the days when you could watch five seasons of Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld's "show about nothing" for the simple cost of the occasional car and pizza advert. Its

ITV

6.00 Good Morning Britain
9.00 Lorraine Lifestyle chat.
10.00 This Morning Features.
12.30 Loose Women Debate.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Judge Rinder Disputes.
3.00 Tenable Warwick Davis hosts the quiz show, with five friends from North Yorkshire trying to answer questions about top 10 lists. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard.
5.00 The Chase Bradley Walsh presents the quiz show.
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Emmerdale Will has to go back to his old ways; Vanessa receives a date for her surgery; and Victoria makes a decision for her and Luke.
7.30 Coronation Street At Carla's instigation, Roy agrees to take Nina bat-watching with him; Gary bumps into an old acquaintance; Craig decides to take up running; and Aggie sets off for her first day back in a nursing job.
8.30 Vera With Brenda Blethyn, David Leon, Wunmi Mosaku and Daniela Nardini. A murder at a remote cottage in Northumberland takes DCI Vera Stanhope back to a place full of childhood memories and reminds her of an unsolved case from earlier in her career. (S1, ep 3, R)
10.25 News; Weather Reports.
11.10 McDonald & Dodds Drama about chalk-and-cheese police partners solving crime on the streets of Bath, beginning with the murder of a homeless man in a deserted mansion. With Jason Watkins and Tala Gouveia. (1/2, R)
12.55 Teleshopping Purchasing.
3.00 Who's Doing The Dishes? Rowland Rivron plays mystery host to four strangers. (R)
3.50-6.00 Nightscreen



You hum it ... (BBC2, 8.30pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Cheers Two episodes. (R)
7.20 The King Of Queens (R)
8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
9.10 Frasier American sitcom. (R)
10.10 Undercover Boss Canada (R)
11.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice. (R)
12.00 News; Weather Reports.
12.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It A visit to Wales. (Last in series, R)
1.05 Posh Pawnbrokers Items. (R)
2.10 Countdown Gameshow.
3.00 Crufts Coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, with events including flyball, agility and heelwork to music.
4.00 A New Life In The Sun — Where Are They Now? A return visit to a vegan cafe in Spain that was hit by flash floods. (Last in series)
5.00 Come Dine With Me (R)
6.00 The Simpsons Lisa discovers Bart's demented twin. (R)
6.30 Hollyoaks Yazz decides to tell Sami about her hopes of getting her hearing back. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
7.30 Crufts Clare Balding welcomes guests including Olivia Buckland and Alex Bowen from Love Island, who discuss their French bulldog and the problems they have had concerning its health.
9.00 Gogglebox Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on television from the comfort of their own sofas.
10.00 The Last Leg Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by the former House of Commons speaker, John Bercow.
11.05 The Big Narstie Show The musician Nile Rodgers, Fred Sirieix from First Dates, actor and rapper Riz Ahmed, singer Ray BLK and comedian Lolly Adefope join the grime star and his co-host, Mo Gilligan.
12.10 FILM: 2 Guns Stars Denzel Washington, Mark Wahlberg, Bill Paxton and James Marsden. Two undercover agents become fugitives after a disastrous sting, but each thinks the other is a real criminal. Smart. (2013, 15)
2.05 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
2.55 Come Dine With Me (R)
3.50 Grand Designs Property. (R)
4.45 Location, Location, Location Properties in Edinburgh. (R)
5.45-6.00 Vintage Gems (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.15 Paddington Station 24/7 (R)
12.10 News; Weather Reports.
12.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords A couple sublet an owner's property. (R)
1.10 Access Showbiz gossip.
1.15 Home And Away Mason creates a diversion to let some hostages escape. (R)
1.45 Neighbours Mark asks Lucy on a date, but she is worried about his religious ties.
2.20 My Husband's Double Life Drama, with Amy Nuttall and Daniel Lapaine. A woman finds it is not just her marriage on the line after learning her husband has another wife. (R)
4.00 Friends Two episodes. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
5.30 Neighbours Soap. (R)
6.00 Home And Away (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Helicopter Pursuits — Caught On Camera A compilation of police helicopter chases taken from the first three series. (R)
7.30 The Yorkshire Steam Railway — All Aboard The annual steam gala is held, and in an effort to generate as much cash as possible, the railway decides to put on a show with a record 15 locomotives coming from all over the country.
8.30 Celebrity Britain By Barge — Then & Now Bill Oddie, Jennie Bond, Anne Diamond and Pete Waterman join the Glasgow and Edinburgh Union Canal, experiencing the Falkirk Wheel before continuing their journey east.
9.45 CHOICE Con Air Stars Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, John Malkovich and Steve Buscemi. A parolee on his flight home intervenes when America's deadliest criminals hijack the plane. (1997, 18; see Film choice)
12.05 Building The Billion Pound Mega Bridge The engineering behind Montreal's Samuel de Champlain Bridge. (R)
1.00 Access Showbiz gossip.
1.05 The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show Interactive gambling.
3.05 Access Showbiz gossip.
3.10 Paddington Station 24/7 (R)
4.45 House Doctor Advice. (R)
5.10 Nick's Quest In Uganda. (R)
5.35-6.00 Wildlife SOS Animals. (R)

SKY 1

6.00 Monkey Life Primates. (R)
7.00 RSPCA Animal Rescue (R)
8.00 The Dog Whisperer (R)
9.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
10.00 Brit Cops — Frontline Crime UK Policing in west Wales. (R)
11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles Drama. (R)
1.00 Hawaii Five-0 Double bill. (R)
3.00 MacGyver (Series 2, ep 10, R)
4.00 Modern Family Sitcom. (R)
5.00 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
5.30 Futurama Animation. (R)
6.30 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
8.00 The Simpsons Todd Flanders stops believing in God, so Ned asks the Simpsons to look after his son for a while and help him rediscover his faith.
8.30 Modern Family Dylan's hippie mother moves into the Dunphy home. (S11, ep 8)
9.00 Intelligence Jerry makes a confession that devastates Joseph and leads him to question their friendship. (5/6) **9.30 Intelligence** The truth about Jerry's NSA past comes out. (Last in series)
10.00 The Late Late Show — Best Of The Week Highlights.
11.00 Avenue 5 Sci-fi comedy, with Hugh Laurie. (7/8, R)
11.35 The Trip To Greece Comedy, with Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon. (S4, ep 1, R) **12.05 The Trip To Greece** The duo lock horns over tragedy, comedy, myth and history. (R)
12.35 Caught On Dashcam (R)
1.30 Flintoff — Lord Of The Fries A visit to Northern Ireland. (R)
2.30 The Force — Manchester (R)
3.30 Road Wars Policing. (R)
4.00 Stop, Search, Seize (R)
5.00-6.00 Futurama Cartoon. (R)

ATLANTIC

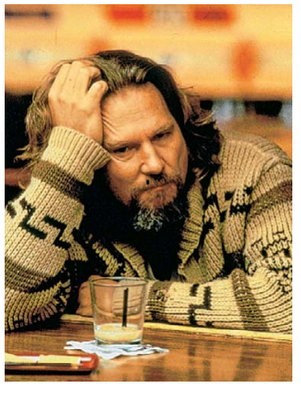
6.00 The Guest Wing Insights.
7.00 Without A Trace Drama.
10.00 The West Wing Double bill.
12.00 Blue Bloods (Series 2, ep 9)
1.00 CSI Drama. (Series 6, ep 3)
2.00 The West Wing A spy submarine goes missing. (S3, ep 7) **3.00 The West Wing** Native Americans camp in the White House lobby.
4.00 Without A Trace A 12-year-old boy is kidnapped. (S3, ep 16) **5.00 Without A Trace** The team looks for an estate agent. **6.00 Without A Trace** A choir member goes missing.
7.00 CSI A couple discover a body has been dumped in their garden. (Series 6, ep 4)
8.00 Blue Bloods Erin enlists Danny and Jackie's help to find the killer of an informant who had been helping her build a case against corrupt construction bosses. (Series 2, ep 10)
9.00 CHOICE Babylon Berlin Return of the crime drama. Gereon goes to investigate a deadly accident on a film set. (Series 3, ep 1) **10.00 Babylon Berlin** A witness steps forward with sinister information about Betty Winter's death. (German with subtitles; see Critics' choice)
11.00 Public Enemy Chloe and Michael make a breakthrough. (Series 2, ep 9) **12.05 Public Enemy** As the police close in, the Toy Maker's community start to plan their escape.
1.15 The Outsider Drama. (9/10)
2.20 Without A Trace (S3, ep 14)
3.10 Californication Double bill.
4.20-6.00 The West Wing Drama.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 7.00 Six Nations Sin Bin **11.35** Young, Welsh And Pretty Minted **12.05** Catchpoint **12.45** BBC News **BBC2 WALES 7.00** The One Show **7.30** Extreme Wales **8.00** Saving Lives At Sea **11.05** New Voices From Wales **11.15** FILM: The Beguiled **12.45** Coast **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Bing **6.10** Jamborî **6.20** Patrôl Pawennau **6.35** Halibalw **6.45** Ben A Mali A'u Byd Bach O Hud **7.00** Olobobs **7.05** Shwshaswyn **7.15** Cei Bach **7.30** Octonots **7.45** Cacamwnci **8.00** Heulwen A Lleu **8.10** Tomos A'i Ffrindiau **8.20** Antur Natur Cyw **8.35** Bach A Mawr **8.45** Llan-ar-goll-en **9.00** Guto Gwningen **9.15** Y Diwrnod Mawr **9.30** Ty Mel **9.40** Sion Y Chef **9.50** Sam Tan **10.00** Bing **10.10** Jamborî **10.20** Patrôl Pawennau **10.35** Halibalw **10.45** Ben A Mali A'u Byd Bach O Hud **11.00** Olobobs **11.05** Shwshaswyn **11.15** Cei Bach **11.30** Octonots **11.45** Cacamwnci **12.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **12.05** Arfordir Cymru — Sir Benfro **12.30** Heno **1.00** Y Fets **2.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **3.05** Priodas Pum Mil **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Dan Do **6.30** Heno **7.30** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **7.55** Sgorio: The New Saints v Barry Town United. Live. Kickoff at 8.00 **10.00** Noson Lawen **11.00-12.05** Bang

influence on everything from Donald Glover's Atlanta to Michael Schur's The Good Place is accepted, its place in the sitcom pantheon assured; but what remains remarkable is how the writers' avoidance of "issues" has allowed episodes like The Opposite (from season five) to age spectacularly well. With the benefit of hindsight, the selfish quartet of Jerry, George, Elaine and Kramer now seem like the amoral outriders of Trump's broken America. *(AM)*

The Big Lebowski (BFI Player)
Among the superior examples of the Coen brothers' lopsided wit is this shaggy detective story, which sees Jeff Bridges's pothead slacker mistaken for his rich namesake and drawn into a wild intrigue involving kidnapping, conceptual art and tenpin bowling. Think Cheech and Chong meet Philip Marlow and you'll still be some way from getting a handle on the hilariously spaced-out caper. (1998) *(TL)*



YOU SAY

In 1986, Noel Edmonds correctly ended The Late Late Breakfast Show after a fatal accident. It's now 2020 and ITV carried on regardless with **Love Island** despite three suicides. They should be ashamed. ***Terry Westhead***

In a recent episode of **Doctor Who** (BBC1) we discovered the inspiration for Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. One can only assume Bram Stoker was also lurking around somewhere because someone has been sucking the life out of the show. ***Larry Coyle***

Send your comments to: telly@sunday-times.co.uk

BBC4

7.00pm World News Update.
7.30 TOTP: 1989. Performances by Transvision Vamp, Inner City, Holly Johnson and Metallica.
8.00 Cilla At The BBC A collection of archive TV appearances.
9.00 TOTP: 1989. With London Boys, Natalie Cole, Fine Young Cannibals and Yazz.
9.30 Classic Albums: Carly Simon — No Secrets. The singer reflects on her life and career.
10.30 On Bass — Tina Weymouth! A look at the contribution of bass to popular music. (2/3)
11.30 Michael Kiwanuka At The 6 Music Festival A set by the singer-songwriter at the Roundhouse in north London.
12.45 Girl In A Band — Tales From The Rock'n'Roll Front Line
1.45 Cilla At The BBC Footage.
2.45-3.45 Classic Albums: Carly Simon — No Secrets. Insights.

DRAMA

12.00 The Bill Police drama series.
1.00 Classic EastEnders Soap.
2.20 London's Burning (S5, ep 9)
3.20 Monarch Of The Glen Drama.
4.20 Bergerac Detective drama.
5.20 Bread Comedy series.
6.00 Hi-De-Hi! Joe Maplin replaces Gladys with a new supervisor.
6.40 As Time Goes By Jean's boring sister-in-law visits.
7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine Clegg and Truly reminisce about their time with Compo.
8.00 Murdoch Mysteries The criminal who killed Watts' brother is released. (S12, ep 7)
9.00 Death In Paradise The singer from Dwayne's favourite band is murdered. (Series 1, ep 7)
10.20 New Tricks A murder victim's camera is found. (S4, ep 7)
11.45 Waking The Dead (S2, ep 3)
2.10 The Bill Police drama series.
3.10-4.00 London's Burning



Roundhouse kicks: Michael Kiwanuka plays in London (BBC4, 11.30pm)

ITV2

6.00 Teleshopping Purchasing.
7.00 Ellen DeGeneres Chat.
7.50 Emmerdale Rural soap.
8.50 You've Been Framed Clips.
9.20 Superstore Double bill.
10.15 Dinner Date Flirting.
11.15 Dress To Impress Dating.
12.15 Emmerdale Rural soap.
1.15 You've Been Framed Clips.
1.50 Ellen DeGeneres Chat.
2.45 Dinner Date Flirting.
3.50 Dress To Impress Dating.
4.50 Take Me Out Romance.
6.00 You've Been Framed Clips.
8.00 Two And A Half Men Alan offers Jenny relationship advice; and Walden enters into a new project with a former employee. (Series 11, ep 11) **8.30 Two And A Half Men** Walden feels put out when Nicole prioritises her software project over him, so he offers to help her with it.
9.00 FILM: Ride Along Stars Ice Cube and Kevin Hart. A tough cop takes his sister's boyfriend with him on duty, leading to a dangerous encounter with the city's most-wanted criminal. Undemanding comedy. (2014, 12; includes FYI Daily)
11.10 Family Guy Brian discovers that the cure for cancer is being kept secret. (Series 11, ep 3) **11.35 Family Guy** Peter and Chris attend a fat camp, where they encounter a serial killer. (Series 10, ep 16)
12.05 American Dad! Animation.
1.05 The Cleveland Show Comedy. (Series 3, ep 10)
1.30 Two And A Half Men
2.30 Plebs Comedy series.
3.20 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV3

6.00 Classic Coronation Street
6.55 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
7.55 Heartbeat Rural drama.
8.55 The Darling Buds Of May
10.00 That's My Boy Sitcom.
10.35 A Touch Of Frost (S1, ep 1)
12.40 Heartbeat Rural drama.
1.45 Classic Emmerdale Soap.
2.50 Classic Coronation Street
3.55 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. A woman is found drowned at a carnival.
5.55 Heartbeat Lord Ashfordly's tenants face a rent rise.
6.55 Poirot The sleuth's Cornish holiday comes to a dramatic conclusion as he unravels the mystery behind the series of disastrous near-misses that placed the life of a beautiful heiress in danger. (2/2)
8.00 Doc Martin With Martin Clunes. The medic's career remains under scrutiny, as a GMC representative arrives to assess him and his surgery. (Series 9, ep 1) **9.00 Doc Martin** The doctor has to complete three refresher courses; and Louisa focuses on her new career as a child and adolescent counsellor.
10.05 Scott & Bailey The duo investigate the murder of an eight-year-old boy; Rachel receives a proposal; and Janet tells Andy she is having second thoughts. (S2, ep 4)
11.05 A Touch Of Frost The irascible detective's search for a missing child uncovers evidence of a 30-year-old crime. (S1, ep 1) **1.15 A Touch Of Frost** An unwelcome house guest infuriates DI Frost.
3.00 That's My Boy Sitcom.
3.25 Nightscreen Information.
3.30-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.

ITV4

5.55pm The Sweeney The Flying Squad foils the hijacking of a security truck before trying identify an informer.
7.00 Darts Jacqui Oatley presents live coverage of the evening session on the opening day of the UK Open at the Butlin's Minehead Resort, as the fourth-round matches take place. With commentary from Stuart Pyke, John Rawling and Dan Dawson, and analysis by Chris Mason, Alan Warriner-Little and Mark Webster.
11.00 All Elite Wrestling — Dynamite Recent action.
1.10 Minder Terry gives shelter to a friend who has broken out of prison, but his act of charity backfires, and ends up costing Arthur dearly.
2.15 The Protectors The team is hired by the West German government to discover who is operating a pension fund for five former Nazis wanted for war crimes.
2.40 Nightscreen Information.
3.00-6.00 Teleshopping Goods.



Marlene Dietrich (Sky Arts, 6pm)

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am The Top Ten Show Insights.
6.15 The Counterfeiter (2018, 15)
8.30 Straight Up Romcom. (2019, 15)
10.15 The Candidate (2018, 15)
12.30 Brightburn A child from another world crash-lands on the farm of a pair struggling to conceive. (2019, 15)
2.15 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters An agency tries to tackle an army of giant creatures. (2019, 12)
4.30 UFO Sci-fi action thriller. (2018, 12)
6.15 Killers Anonymous Killers try to determine who is responsible for an assassination attempt. (2019, 15)
8.00 Brightburn Details as 12.30pm.
9.45 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters
12.00 The Top Ten Show Countdown.
12.15 Hell Is Where The Home Is Two couples rent a house in the desert, but get an unexpected visitor. (2018, 18)
1.55 Mapplethorpe Biopic. (2018, 18)
3.45 Straight Up Details as 8.30am.
5.30-6.00 Monster Family Insights.

SKY CINEMA THRILLER

1.15pm A Few Good Men Three navy lawyers uncover corruption. (1992, 15)
3.35 Thoroughbreds (2017, 15)
5.10 The Old Man & The Gun Stars Robert Redford and Sissy Spacek. Light hearted drama. (2018, 12)
6.45 Papillon A man wrongfully jailed for murder tries to escape from the penal colony on Devil's Island. (2017, 15)
9.00 A Few Good Men As 1.15pm.
11.20 Taxi Driver A misanthropic New York cabbie is gradually driven to a brutal act of violence. (1976, 18)
1.15-3.10 Contraband (2012, 15)

SKY CINEMA GREATS

7.05am The Last Samurai (2003, 15)
9.50 Grease 2 A shy English boy at Rydell High poses as a tough biker to try to impress his dream girl. (1982, PG)
11.50 Stand By Me Four 12-year-old friends search the Oregon wilderness for the body of a teenager. (1986, 15)
1.30 2001 — A Space Odyssey A spacecraft is sent to Jupiter to investigate a strange artefact. (1968, U)
4.00 Minority Report A cop is forced to go on the run in a future where murder can be foretold. (2002, 12)
6.30 Star Wars — The Phantom Menace Two Jedi Knights meet a boy who has a sinister destiny. (1999, U)
9.00 Star Wars — Attack Of The Clones The Jedi Knights try to protect Amidala from an assassin. (2002, PG)
11.25 Star Wars — Revenge Of The Sith Anakin Skywalker is seduced by the dark side of the Force. (2005, 12)
1.50 Die Hard With A Vengeance A terrorist threatens to set off a series of bombs around the city. (1995, 15)
4.05-6.05 Grease 2 Details as 9.50am.



Spacek and Redford (SCT, 5.10pm)

SKY CINEMA SUPERHERO

4.00pm Avengers — Age Of Ultron Superhero adventure sequel. (2015, 12)
6.25 Avengers — Infinity War The superheroes try to stop a warlord from executing his evil plan. (2018, 12)
9.00 Avengers — Endgame The reunited heroes make a last stand against the evil Thanos. (2019, 12)
12.05 The Punisher An FBI agent takes revenge on the gangland kingpin who murdered his entire family. (2004, 18)
2.15 Punisher — War Zone (2008, 18)
4.05-6.15 Iron Man (2008, 12)

FILM 4

11.00am Malta Story (1953, U)
1.10 The Gunfight At Dodge City Stars Joel McCrea. Western. (1959, PG)
2.50 Waterloo Road Drama. (1944, PG)
4.25 Gallipoli Two patriotic Australians join the army in order to fight during the First World War. (1981, PG)
6.35 The Host An alien parasite finds her teenage host refuses to fully surrender her consciousness. (2013, 12)
9.00 The Green Mile A convicted child-killer on death row starts to exhibit healing powers. (1999, 18)
12.40-3.25 Brawl In Cell Block 99 Stars Vince Vaughn. Thriller. (2017, 18)

TALKING PICTURES TV

2.30pm An Inspector Calls (1954, PG)
4.15 San Demetrio, London (1943, PG)
6.15 The David Niven Show
6.45 Wonderful Life A musician helps an actress prepare for a role, but is inspired to reshoot the film. (1964, U)
9.00 Hazell Crime drama series.
10.00 The Uncanny Horror. (1977, 15)
11.45-1.45 Night Of The Demon Stars Dana Andrews. Horror. (1957, PG)

ENTERTAINMENT

GOLD

7.10am The Piglet Files **8.00** As Time Goes By **8.40** The Good Life **9.20** Porridge **10.00** Hi-De-Hi! **10.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.40** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** Porridge **2.00** Hi-De-Hi! **2.40** Keeping Up Appearances **3.20** Dad's Army **4.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **6.40** The Good Life **7.20** Porridge **8.00** Dad's Army **9.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **10.00** Sandylands. Tina discovers that Les is still alive **10.40** Peep Show **11.50** All Round To Mrs Brown's **1.10** Dad's Army **1.50** Peep Show **2.45-4.00** The Rebel

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm 30 Rock **6.30** Modern Family **7.30** The Mindy Project **9.00** Veep **10.15** Sex And The City **10.50** The Tonight Show **11.50** The Late Late Show **12.50** Entourage **1.25** Silicon Valley **2.35** Girls **3.45-5.00** 30 Rock

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Border Security — Australia's Front Line **8.00** Chicago Med. Dr Halstead's world is thrown into turmoil when a former patient resurfaces **9.00** Chicago Fire. Brett clashes with Foster **10.00** Chicago PD. The team turn their attention to an illegal arms dealer **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **12.00** CSI **2.00** Blue Bloods **3.00** Shades Of Blue **4.00** Ghost Whisperer **5.00-6.00** Brit Cops — Rapid Response

W

6.00pm Tipping Point **7.00** My Dream Home **8.00** Sun, Sea And Brides To Be **9.00** 999 Rescue Squad **10.00** Should I Go Under The Knife? Documentary **11.00** Inside The Ambulance **12.00** One Born Every Minute **1.00** Great Ormond Street **1.50** Code Black **2.35-3.00** Renovate My Home — Leave It To Bryan

5 STAR

6.00pm Neighbours **6.30** Home And Away **7.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **8.00** Florida's Mega Sinkholes **9.00** FILM: Hercules. Stars Dwayne Johnson **11.05** Impact Wrestling **1.00** Young, Dumb And Banged Up In The Sun **3.50-4.00** Access

5 USA

6.00pm Law & Order **8.00** NCIS: New Orleans. Double bill **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.55** Law & Order: Los Angeles **3.50-4.00** Access

QUEST

6.00pm Wheeler Dealers **7.00** American Pickers — Best Of **8.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Hunting Hitler. Insights **10.00** Treasure Quest — Snake Island **11.00** How Do They Do It? **12.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00** Outback Truckers **2.00** American Chopper **3.00** Fantomworks **4.00** Dirty Jobs **5.00-6.00** How It's Made

FOX

6.00pm The Mentalist **7.00** NCIS **9.00** NCIS. Gibbs and the team assist Ziva **10.00** War Of The Worlds. Double bill **12.00** Family Guy **1.00** American Dad! **2.00** Family Guy **3.00** American Dad! **4.00-5.00** Republic Of Doyle

COMEDY CENTRAL

6.00pm Friends **9.00** Impractical Jokers **10.00** The Ricky Gervais Show

E4

6.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.00 How I Met Your Mother
8.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
9.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
10.00 The Big Bang Theory
11.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1.00 The Big Bang Theory
2.00 Baby Daddy Comedy.
3.00 Mike & Molly Double bill.
4.00 The Goldbergs Sitcom.
5.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6.00 The Big Bang Theory Sheldon upsets Stephen Hawking. (Series 6, ep 6) **6.30 The Big Bang Theory** Amy and Wil Wheaton get into a fight while filming Fun with Flags.
7.00 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.30 Man With A Plan Adam is anxious as Kate prepares to go on her first date. (14/22)
8.00 The Big Bang Theory Raj worries that a probe he designed will not work in space. (S8, ep 12) **8.30 The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon asks the gang to make life more difficult for him.
9.00 Celebs Go Dating The actor Dean Gaffney heads out in search of his ideal woman.
10.00 Naked Attraction A 25-year-old estate agent from Margate looks for love.
11.05 Rick And Morty The duo try to get to the bottom of a mystery. (Series 1, ep 4)
11.35 Mr Pickles The collie is dog-napped. (Series 1, ep 9)
11.50 Robot Chicken (S10, ep 9)
12.05 Rick And Morty (S2, ep 10)
12.35 The Big Bang Theory Sitcom.
1.35 Celebs Go Dating Romance.
2.35 Naked Attraction Dating.
3.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine Sitcom.
4.20 The Big Bang Theory
5.10-6.20 How I Met Your Mother

MORE 4

8.55 A Place In The Sun Property.
9.45 A Place In The Sun — Summer Sun Advice.
11.50 Emergency Helicopter Medics A man fights for his life after a freak car accident.
12.50 999 — On The Front Line
1.50 Escape To The Chateau — DIY Documentary.
2.50 Four In A Bed B&B contest.
5.25 The Secret Life Of The Zoo An eastern black rhino gives birth unexpectedly early.
6.30 Crufts Further coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, where the day's theme is health and wellbeing, and featured events include flyball and heelwork to music.
7.30 Last Flight Of The Vulcan Bomber The mechanic Guy Martin joins a select crew of engineers working on the last functioning Vulcan bomber as the aircraft is taken on a farewell tour.
9.00 CHOICE Just One Look As Serge Leroux is released from prison, Eva begins to see some light in the dark mystery surrounding Bastien and his friends. (5/6; French with subtitles; see Critics' choice)
10.15 24 Hours In A&E Medics treat a 79-year-old man with acute stomach discomfort, a wine merchant who collapsed with chest pain, and a retired soldier experiencing blurred vision. **11.15 24 Hours In A&E** The King's College Hospital staff treat patients involved in serious road accidents.
12.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Advice in Providence, Rhode Island.
1.15 24 Hours In A&E Incidents.
3.25-3.50 Food Unwrapped

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE Super Rugby: Crusaders v Reds. Kickoff at 6.05 **8.00** Rugby Greatest Games **8.10 LIVE** Super Rugby: Waratahs v Chiefs. Kickoff is at 8.15 **10.10** Rugby Greatest Games **10.30** Football Centre **11.00 LIVE** European Tour Golf. The Qatar Masters **2.00 LIVE** PGA Tour Golf. The Arnold Palmer Invitational **7.00 LIVE** EFL: Nottingham Forest v Millwall. Kickoff is at 7.45 **10.30** News **11.00** NBA — The Warm Up **12.00** News **3.30-6.00 LIVE** NBA: Los Angeles Lakers v Milwaukee Bucks. Tip-off is at 3.30

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

6.00am PL Greatest Games **7.00** The Debate **8.00** Best PL Goals **9.00** PL 100 Club **10.00** PL Years **12.00** The Debate **1.00** PL Years **3.00** PL Best Goals **4.00** PL Greatest Games **5.00** PL 100 Club: England's Finest **5.30** PL 100 Club **6.00** PL Legends **7.00** PL Preview **7.30** PL Match Pack **8.00** PL World **8.30** The Tyler Archives **9.00** PL Preview **9.30** PL Match Pack **10.00** PL World **10.30** The Tyler Archives **11.00** PL Preview **11.30** PL Match Pack **12.00** PL World **12.30** PL Preview **1.00** PL Years **3.00** PL Greatest Games **4.00** PL Best Goals 10/11 **5.00** Best PL Goals: Man City v Liverpool **5.30-6.00** PL 100 Club

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Cricket's Greatest Games **7.00** Best Of Sky Cricket **7.30** Best Of England v Windies **7.40** Best Of Sky Cricket **8.00** Cricket's Greatest Games **9.00** Best Of Sky Cricket **9.30** Best Of England v Windies **9.40** Best Of Sky Cricket **10.00** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **8.00** Cricket **10.00** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **12.00** Cricket **2.00** Women's ICC World T20 Cricket **4.00** Cricket's Greatest Games **4.30-6.00** Best Of England v Sri Lanka

EUROSPORT 1

6.30am World Superbikes **8.00** Alpine Skiing **12.00** Cross-Country Skiing **1.00** Biathlon **2.00** Ski Jumping **3.00** Biathlon **4.00 LIVE** Biathlon. The World Cup meeting in Novo Mesto, Slovenia **5.50** Alpine Skiing **6.25 LIVE** Ski Jumping. World Cup action from Oslo **7.45** Biathlon **8.45** Alpine Skiing **9.45** Ski Jumping **10.45** Biathlon **11.45** Ski Jumping **12.45** Snowboarding. Action **1.45** Cycling **5.50-6.20** Luge

BT SPORT 1

6.00am Coppa Italia **7.30** A-League Highlights **8.30 LIVE** A-League: Brisbane Roar v Western Sydney Wanderers. Kickoff at 8.30 **10.30** The FA Cup **12.00** Rugby Tonight **1.00** Badminton Unlimited **1.30** The FA Cup Highlights **2.00** Bundesliga Weekly **2.30** Ligue 1 Show **3.00** WWE Raw **5.00** WWE NXT Highlights **6.00** Rugby Tonight. Action **7.00 LIVE** Premiership Rugby Union: Worcester Warriors v Northampton Saints. Kickoff at 7.45 **10.00** WWE NXT UK **11.00** WWE NXT Highlights **12.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **1.00 LIVE** WWE Friday Night SmackDown **3.00** PL Preview **3.30** PL Match Pack **4.00** Classic MOTD — Thrillers **5.00-6.00** Fishing — On The Bank

BT SPORT 2

6.00am MotoGP Films **7.30** MotoGP **8.30 LIVE** MotoGP. The first day of the Grand Prix of Qatar **4.15** The FA Cup **5.45** Bundesliga Weekly **6.15** PL Match Pack **6.45** PL Preview **7.15 LIVE** Bundesliga: SC Paderborn v FC Cologne. Kickoff at 7.30 **9.30** Uefa Champions League Magazine **10.00** UFC Fight Camp **10.30** UFC Live **11.00** UFC — Inside The Octagon **11.30** UFC Countdown **12.30** PL Match Pack **1.00** Premiership Rugby Union **2.30** MotoGP — ICYMI **2.45** SPFL Highlights **3.00** The FA Cup Highlights **3.30** A-League **4.30** UFC Fight Camp **5.00** UFC — Inside The Octagon **5.30-6.00** Uefa Champions League Magazine

RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY



The Now Show

Radio 4, 6.30pm
Just as you thought politics was getting beyond a joke, Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis, pictured, return with guest satirists for their scorching review of the week. **The Podcast Radio Hour** (Radio 4 Extra, 11am) reviews the lasting effects Douglas Adams's The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy (first heard in March 1978 on Radio 4) has had on comedy sci-fi today. And to think BBC bosses didn't really want it. *Gillian Reynolds*

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6 MHz, LW 198 kHz (1515m), MW 720 kHz

5.20 Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet Of The Day (R) **6.00** Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday In Parliament **9.00** Desert Island Discs (R) **9.45** Book Of The Week **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Forum Internum. The philosopher James Garvey looks at the rise of neuroscience **11.30** Teatime **12.00** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping **12.04** Apeirogon **12.18** You And Yours **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Californian Century. The story of Jerry Brown, the state's longest-serving governor **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: A Fair Shot, by Viv Groskop. A millionaire businesswoman launches a new brand of centrist politics. With Barbara Flynn **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** Short Works **4.00** Last Word **4.30** Feedback **4.55** The Listening Project (R) **5.00** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping **6.00** News **6.30** The Now Show. New run. Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis present a satirical look through the week's news **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **7.45** The Book Of Strange New Things (R) **8.00** Any Questions? Political debate at the College of Richard Collyer in Horsham, West Sussex **8.50** A Point Of View **9.00** The Californian Century **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime (R) **11.00** A Good Read (R) **11.30** Today In Parliament **11.55** The Listening Project (R) **12.00** News **12.30** Book Of The Week (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
Digital only

5.00 Millport **5.30** The Break **6.00** Deep Six **6.30** The Life Sub-Aquatic **7.00** The Lentil Sorters **7.30** Reluctant Persuaders **8.00** The Burkiss Way **8.30** Flywheel, Shyster And Flywheel **9.00** Funny You Should Ask **9.30** Molesworth **10.00** Mr Standfast **11.00** Podcast Radio Hour **12.00** The Burkiss Way **12.30** Flywheel, Shyster And Flywheel **1.00** Deep Six **1.30** The Life Sub-Aquatic **2.00** The Rainbow **2.15** Just So Science **2.30** A Severed Head **2.45** The Weather Experiment **3.00** Mr Standfast **4.00** Funny You Should Ask **4.30** Molesworth **5.00** The Lentil Sorters **5.30** Reluctant Persuaders **6.00** The Invisible Man **6.15** Beyond Black **6.30** Off The Page **7.00** The Burkiss Way **7.30** Flywheel, Shyster And Flywheel **8.00** Deep Six **8.30** The Life Sub-Aquatic **9.00** Podcast Radio Hour **10.00** Reluctant Persuaders **10.30** Simon Evans Goes To Market **11.00** Love In Recovery **11.30-12.00** Dave Podmore's Cricket Night

LBC
FM 97.3 MHz

7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Eddie Mair. Discussion **6.00** Andrew Pierce. Debate **10.00** Nick Abbot **1.00** Matt Stadlen

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30 Breakfast **9.00** Essential Classics **12.00** Composer Of The Week **1.00** Lunchtime Concert. Highlights from the Oxford Lieder festival 2018 (R) **2.00** Afternoon Concert. Including a selection of choral works by the composer Bernard Hughes **4.30** The Listening Service (R) **5.00** In Tune. Katie Derham is joined by the pianist Howard Shelley, with members of the London Mozart Players **7.00** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. Live at the Ulster Hall in Belfast, Jac van Steen conducts the Ulster Orchestra in Wagner's Tannhäuser overture, Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor, with Hannes Minnaar, and Dvorak's Symphony No 6 in D **10.00** The Verb. Ian McMillan asks where poetry and philosophy meet, with guests Raymond Antrobus and Helen Mort **10.45** The Essay. Zoe Norridge describes translating the testimony of a Rwandan nurse and her belief in reconciliation and rebuilding after the 1994 conflict **11.00** Late Junction. Jennifer Lucy Allan creates and considers sonic safe spaces with her guest, the academic Mack Hagood **1.00** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM
FM 100-102 MHz

6.00 Tim Lihoreau **9.00** John Suchet **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **5.00** John Brunning **8.00** The Full Works Concert. With music by Humperdinck, Hummel Rachmaninov, Beethoven and Vaughan Williams **10.00** Margherita Taylor **1.00** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Jane Jones

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2 MHz

5.00 Vanessa Feltz **6.30** The Zoë Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Steve Wright **5.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Scott Mills' Golden Hour **8.00** Friday Night Is Music Night **10.00** Sounds Of The 80s **12.00** The Pick Of Radio 2 **2.00** The Country Playlist **3.00** CMA Country Music Festival 2019 (R) **4.00** Huey Morgan

VIRGIN RADIO
Digital only

6.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00** Steve Denyer **4.00** Kate Lawler **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Stu Elmore **1.00** Through The Night

TALKSPORT
MW 1053, 1071, 1089, 1107 kHz

5.00 Early Breakfast **6.00** The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast Show **10.00** Jim White, Martin Keown And Bob Mills **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Adrian Durham And Darren Gough **7.00** GameDay Countdown **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time

10.30 Bob's Burgers. Animation **11.30** South Park **1.00** The Daily Show **1.30** Bad Robots **2.30** South Park **3.25** Bad Robots **4.15-5.00** The US Office

YESTERDAY

6.00am Secrets Of The Bible **7.10** Secrets Of The Railways **8.00** Forbidden History **9.00** Secret Nazi Bases **10.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **11.00** Underground Worlds **12.00** Impossible Railways **1.00** Secrets Of Britain **2.00** Stonehenge — Walking Through History **3.00** Underground Worlds **4.00** Impossible Railways **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Nazi Victory — The Post-War Plan **7.00** Underground Worlds **8.00** Warbird Workshop **9.00** Abandoned Engineering **11.00** Impossible Railways **12.00-1.00** Underground Worlds

DAVE

6.00pm Taskmaster **7.00** Room 101 **8.20** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **9.20** Would I Lie To You? With Miranda Hart, Stephen Mangan, Barry Cryer and Miles Jupp **10.00** Red Dwarf **11.20** Meet The Richardsons **12.00** Taskmaster **1.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **2.10** Jon Richardson — Ultimate Worrier **3.00** Zapped **3.35-4.00** The Indestructibles

PICK

6.00pm Star Trek — TNG **7.00** Hawaii Five-O **8.00** Elementary. Holmes learns a secret about Gregson's girlfriend **9.00** Extreme World **10.00** The Force — Manchester **11.00** The Force — Essex **12.00** Banged Up Abroad **1.00** Road Wars **2.00** Nothing To Declare **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Motorway Patrol **5.00-6.00** Highway Patrol

FACTUAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6.00pm Car SOS **7.00** Tracing Heritage **8.00** Britain's Underworld **9.00** America's Hardest Prisons. The inmates of maximum-security facilities **10.00** Hard Time — Locked Up. New series about being imprisoned in Las Vegas **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Alaska State Troopers **1.00-2.00** Airport Security — Peru

DISCOVERY

6.00pm Fast N' Loud **7.00** Outback Truckers **8.00** Gold Rush. Following the gold miners of the Yukon **9.00** Curse Of The Bermuda Triangle. New documentary series examining the mysteries surrounding the Bermuda Triangle **10.00** Faking It — Tears Of A Crime **11.00** Ted Bundy — Mind Of A Monster **1.00-3.50** FBI Files

SKY ARTS

6.00pm Discovering Marlene Dietrich. An in-depth profile of the actress **7.00** David Bowie — Serious Moonlight. The singer in concert from 1983 **9.00** Lynyrd Skynyrd — If I Leave Here Tomorrow. Charting the history of the American rock band **11.10-1.10** The Doobie Brothers — Let The Music Play

PBS AMERICA

5.15pm Mama Twiga In The Garden Of Eden **6.20** World's Greatest — Animal Encounters **8.35 CHOICE** Amazon Empire — The Rise And Reign Of Jeff Bezos. How the Amazon founder built his empire. (See Critics' choice) **11.00-12.10** World's Greatest — Animal Encounters

SATURDAY 7 MARCH



Making of a trilogy: Hilary Mantel looks back on her career (BBC2, 9pm)

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live Glynn Purnell is joined by Tom Kitchin and Georgina Hayden.
11.30 Gareth Thomas' Tour De Trophy For Sport Relief Following the former Wales rugby captain as he embarks on a 500-mile bike ride.
12.00 Football Focus A look ahead.
1.00 News; Weather Update.
1.15 Ready Steady Cook (R)
2.00 Garden Rescue Plots. (R)
3.00 Money For Nothing (R)
4.00 Final Score Football results.
5.10 The Repair Shop Items. (R)
5.40 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Celebrity Mastermind With Radzi Chinyanganya, Ruth Madeley, Ann Widdecombe and Tom Read Wilson.
6.30 The Greatest Dancer Alesha Dixon and Jordan Banjo host the final of the contest, with the last four competing for a chance to appear on Strictly Come Dancing.
7.55 Pointless Celebrities A star-studded version of the general-knowledge quiz. (R)
8.45 Catchpoint Graeme Swann and Rachel Parris take on Sam Quek and Mark Watson in an edition for Sport Relief.
9.20 Casualty Ruby has to choose between her career and parenthood; and Megan offers Archie a job with her in Sudan, but she is not sure if she wants to leave.
10.10 News; Weather Reports.
10.30 Match Of The Day The latest Premier League fixtures.
11.55 FILM: Foxcatcher Stars Steve Carell, Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo. An Olympic wrestler joins a millionaire's personal team, but tension grows when the grappler's brother is employed as a coach. Exquisite. (2014, 15)
2.05 Joins BBC News Updates.
6.00 Breakfast The latest reports.
7.30 Match Of The Day Action. (R)
9.00 Andrew Marr Political chat.
10.00 Politics News and updates.
10.30 The Big Questions Debate.
11.30-12.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)

SCOTLAND 4.00 Sportscene Results.

BBC2

6.30 The Dog Ate My Homework Comedy panel show. (R)
7.00 The Dengineers Ideas. (R)
7.30 Blue Peter Book awards. (R)
8.00 Deadly 60 Wildlife. (R)
8.30 FILM: Strange Magic With the voice of Evan Rachel Wood. Animation. (2015, U)
10.00 Kung Fu Panda — Secrets Of The Furious Five (R)
10.25 Natural World Kangaroos. (R)
11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh And Easy Food Recipes. (R)
12.00 Hairy Bikers' Best Of British Famous dishes. (R)
1.00 All-Star Netball Action. (R)
2.00 The £100k House — Tricks Of The Trade Property. (R)
3.00 Hugh's Wild West Wildlife. (R)
4.00 Flog It! Making a profit. (R)
5.00 Natural World Kangaroos. (R)
6.00 Saving Lives At Sea (R)
7.00 Wild Cuba — A Caribbean Journey Documentary with Colin Stafford-Johnson. (R)
8.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Michael Portillo travels from Springhill Junction to Quebec City.
9.00 Hilary Mantel — Return To Wolf Hall A profile of the author in the six months leading up to the publication of The Mirror And The Light.
10.00 Lost Lives Documentary marking the deaths of people killed during the Troubles.
11.30 FILM: Midnight's Children Stars Satya Bhabha, Siddharth and Shahana Goswami. Two men switched at birth find their lives are constantly intertwined as they grow up in newly independent India. Cluttered drama. (2012, 12)
1.45 FILM: Stations Of The Cross Stars Lea van Acken and Florian Stetter. A girl goes to extreme lengths for spiritual redemption. Droll. (2014, 15; German, French and Latin with subtitles; ends at **3.30**)
6.45 The Instant Gardener (R)
7.30 The A To Z Of The RHS Chelsea Flower Show (R)
8.30 Countryfile Rural issues. (R)
9.30 Beechgrove Repotted
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
11.30-12.30 Natural World (R)

ITV

6.00 Children's Shows Fun.
9.25 News; Weather Reports.
9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning Chat show.
11.40 Living On The Veg (R)
12.45 News; Weather Reports.
1.00 Racing From Sandown Park and Wolverhampton.
3.30 News; Weather Reports.
3.50 Six Nations Rugby: England v Wales. Coverage of both teams' penultimate game of the championship, live at Twickenham. Kickoff at 4.45.
7.00 Saturday Night Takeaway Ella Henderson and Jax Jones perform live, while Ant and Dec face a dance battle with Britain's Got Talent — The Champions winners, Twist & Pulse, in the End Of The Show Show.
8.30 The Voice Emma Willis hosts another battle round, with Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Olly Murs and Meghan Trainor returning to the red chairs as their acts go head to head.
9.55 News; Weather Reports.
10.10 FILM: Pitch Perfect Stars Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson. A new student finds she is a social outcast, but soon acquires new friends in a band of misfits with a shared talent for a cappella singing. On-song. (2012, 12)
12.20 You've Been Framed (R)
12.50 Teleshopping Purchasing.
3.00 Rebound Quiz show. (R)
3.50 Nightscreen Information.
6.00 Children's Shows Fun.
9.25 News; Weather Reports.
9.30 Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen A tour of the region. (R)
10.30 Living On The Veg Dishes.
11.30-12.30 Love Your Garden (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Mike & Molly Sitcom. (R)
6.25 Cheers Comedy series. (R)
7.15 Frasier American sitcom. (R)
8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
9.00 The Big Bang Theory (R)
9.55 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
11.55 The Dog House (R)
12.55 Four In A Bed B&B contest. (R)
3.30 A Place In The Sun (R)
4.30 Crufts Clare Balding presents live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, with events including the flyball semi-finals; plus, a chat with Sally Phillips and Ronni Ancona.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Crufts Clare Balding returns for further live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham.
9.00 FILM: Passengers Stars Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt. Two travellers on a spaceship are woken 90 years before the end of their colonisation mission. Misjudged fantasy. (2016, 12)
11.15 FILM: GI Joe — The Rise Of Cobra Stars Channing Tatum, Sienna Miller and Christopher Eccleston. Two soldiers join a top-secret military strike force to combat terrorists. Decent action, man. (2009, 12)
1.20 The Last Leg Comedy. (R)
2.10 The Big Narstie Show (R)
3.05 Hollyoaks Chester soap. (R)
5.05 Location, Location, Location Properties in south Devon. (R)
6.00 The King Of Queens (R)
6.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Family comedy series. (R)
7.40 The Big Bang Theory (R)
8.25 Beat The Chef Cooking. (R)
9.30-12.30 Sunday Brunch Chat.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
9.50 Spongebob Animation.
10.05 The Loud House Cartoon. (R)
10.15 Access Showbiz news.
10.20 WWE Smackdown Highlights
11.20 Friends Comedy series. (R)
12.50 Hailey Dean Mysteries The investigation into the murder of Hailey's ex is reopened.
2.40 Hailey Dean Mysteries The CEO of a hospital dies.
4.20 FILM: The King And I Stars Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr. A school teacher is recruited to tutor the wives and children of the King of Siam. Enchanting. (1956, U)
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Royal Doctors — Treating The Monarchy Gruesome tales from royal history.
8.00 The Royals — A Family In Crisis The issues affecting the monarchy in 2019.
9.30 Charles And Di — The Truth Behind Their Wedding Examining the week prior to the wedding of Prince Charles and Diana Spencer in 1981. (R)
11.05 The Carpenters — Their Greatest Hits Tracks. (R)
12.05 The Last Hours Of Karen Carpenter Investigation. (R)
1.00 21.co.uk Live Casino Show
3.00 Access Showbiz news.
3.10 Our Dream Hotel Reality. (R)
4.00 Billionaire Kids — Diamond Lives Documentary. (R)
4.45 House Doctor Advice. (R)
5.10 Nick's Quest Crocodiles. (R)
5.35 Wildlife SOS Animals. (R)
6.00 Milkshake! Fun for children.
9.55 Spongebob Animation. (R)
10.10 The Loud House Cartoon. (R)
10.25 Britain's Greatest Bridges (R)
10.40 WWE Raw Highlights
11.40-2.15 Friends Comedy. (R)

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am The Top Ten Show
6.15 Killers Anonymous (2019, 15)
8.00 Straight Up Comedy. (2019, 15)
9.45 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters An agency tries to tackle an army of giant creatures. (2019, 12)
12.00 The Top Ten Show As 6am.
12.15 Brightburn A child from another world crash-lands on the farm of a pair struggling to conceive. (2019, 15)
2.00 We Die Young A veteran clashes with gangsters while trying to protect a teenager and his brother. (2019, 15)
3.45 UFO Sci-fi action thriller. (2018, 12)
5.30 The Top Ten Show As 12 noon.
5.45 Godzilla — King Of The Monsters
8.00 Brightburn Details as 12.15pm.
9.45 We Die Young Details as 2pm.
11.30 Hell Is Where The Home Is Stars Angela Trimbur. Horror. (2018, 18)
1.05 Mapplethorpe Biopic. (2018, 18)
2.55 Extracurricular Thriller. (2018, 18)
4.30 Hotel Mumbai Preview.
5.00 Final Score A look at the film.
5.30-6.00 The Hurricane Heist — The Eye Of The Storm A look at the film.

SKY CINEMA SUPERHERO

3.40pm The Dark Knight (2008, 12)
6.15 The Dark Knight Rises (2012, 12)
9.00 Aquaman Adventure. (2018, 12)
11.30 Glass Thriller. (2019, 15)
1.50 Batman — The Killing Joke Animated comic-book thriller. (2016, 15)
3.20 Batman — Year One (2011, 15)
4.35-6.05 Lego DC Super Hero Girls — Super-Villain High (2018, PG)

FILM 4

11.00am The Pink Panther Strikes Again Crime comedy sequel. (1976, PG)
1.05 Shrek Forever After (2010, U)
2.50 Kung Fu Panda 2 Po the panda sets out to defend his home from an evil peacock. (2011, PG)
4.40 Mary And The Witch's Flower A girl is granted magic powers. (2017, U)
6.55 Gifted A man tries to raise his child prodigy niece, but his formidable mother ruins his plans. (2017, 12)
9.00 Die Hard 4.0 A cop goes on the trail of a criminal mastermind plotting a technological terror attack. (2007, 15)
11.35 Drag Me To Hell (2009, 15)
1.30-3.30 Juan Of The Dead (2011, 15)



It's warm out today (TPTV, 5.10pm)

TALKING PICTURES TV

3.10pm Captain Boycott (1947, PG)
5.10 The Day The Earth Caught Fire Stars Edward Judd, Leo McKern and Janet Munro. Sci-fi thriller. (1961, PG)
7.10 We Dive At Dawn A submarine crew on a mission to sink a battleship is left adrift in the Baltic Sea. (1943, U)
9.10 Over The Hill A feisty senior citizen emigrates to Australia. (1993, PG)
11.15-1.45 Plenty Drama. (1985, 18)

ENTERTAINMENT

ITV2

1.35pm FILM: Animals United **3.30** FILM: Cats & Dogs — The Revenge Of Kitty Galore **5.10** FILM: The Secret Life Of Pets **6.55** FILM: Uncle Buck **9.00** FILM: Fast & Furious 8 **11.35** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** Ibiza Weekender **2.35** The Stand Up Sketch Show **3.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.20-3.30** Nightscreen

ITV3

5.00pm Midsomer Murders. With John Nettles. A battle of the sexes results in two deaths **7.00** Midsomer Murders. With Neil Dudgeon. A cricketer is found dead after a match in Lower Pampling **9.00** Midsomer Murders. DCI Barnaby and DS Winter discover a dead body **11.00** Foyle's War **1.05** Scott & Bailey **2.00** Long Lost Family **2.50** That's My Boy **3.20-3.30** Nightscreen

ITV4

9.30am Racing — The Opening Show. Preview of racing at Sandown Park

BBC4

7.00pm Rick Stein's Long Weekends The chef takes a culinary break in Lisbon.
8.00 South Pacific Examining the effects of the eruption of volcanos in the ocean.
9.00 Hidden Karl Lewis admits the accusations he brought against Ellis were false; and Cadi decides to turn her attention to Mia. (S2, ep 4)
9.55 Clive James — Postcard From Miami The broadcaster sets out to discover the truth about the American city.
10.50 Clive James — Postcard From Chicago The writer visits the Windy City.
11.40 The Selecter And EOB At The 6 Music Festival The ska band and the Radiohead guitarist Ed O'Brien perform at the Roundhouse in Camden.
12.25 TOTP: 1989. Performances.
1.30 South Pacific Documentary.
2.30-3.30 Rick Stein's Long Weekends A break in Lisbon.



Radio Ed: O'Brien (BBC4, 11.40pm)

SKY 1

6.00 Monkey Life Primates. (R)
8.00 Modern Family Sitcom. (R)
9.00 What's Up TV Magazine.
9.30 I'm Game — Rainbow Laces
10.30 Soccer AM Magazine.
12.00 Women's Six Nations Rugby: England v Wales. Live coverage of the encounter in the penultimate round, taking place at Twickenham Stoop. Kickoff is at 12.05.
2.15 PL Greatest Games (R)
2.30 Best PL Goals: Chelsea v Arsenal. Archive action. (R)
3.00 Soccer Saturday Up-to-the-minute football scores.
5.00 The Simpsons A bully torments Lisa. (R) **5.30 The Simpsons** The family heads for Africa. (R) **6.00 The Simpsons** Marge accidentally slices off Homer's thumb. (R)
6.30 The Simpsons Homer and Ned build a Christian theme park. (R) **7.00 The Simpsons** A knee injury forces Homer to take time off work. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** The family hitches a ride on a train. (R)
8.00 Modern Family Dylan's hippie mother moves into the Dunphy home. (S11, ep 8, R)
8.30 FILM: Men In Black II Stars Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones. An alien disguised as a lingerie model threatens to destroy humanity. Competent sci-fi comedy. (2002, PG)
10.15 Strike Back — Vendetta The team embarks on a dangerous mission. (Series 8, ep 2, R)
11.15 Hawaii Five-0 (S10, ep 10, R)
12.15 NCIS: Los Angeles Drama. (R)
1.15 A League Of Their Own (R)
2.15 The Heist (Series 2, ep 5, R)
3.15 Jett Drama. (Last in series, R)
4.30-6.00 The Real A&E (R)

ATLANTIC

6.00 Hotel Secrets In Miami.
7.00 The British Documentary.
8.00 CSI Crime drama series.
1.00 Without A Trace A homeless woman disappears. (Series 3, ep 8) **2.00 Without A Trace** A murder trial juror goes missing. **3.00 Without A Trace** Jack's divorce case takes an unexpected turn.
4.00 Without A Trace A student at a private school goes missing. **5.00 Without A Trace** A convict disappears from jail. **6.00 Without A Trace** An autistic boy vanishes during a field trip.
7.00 Without A Trace A society girl disappears. (Series 3, ep 15) **8.00 Without A Trace** Martin feels guilty at failing to prevent the kidnapping of a 12-year-old boy.
9.00 FILM: Real Women Have Curves Stars America Ferrera, Lupe Ontiveros and Ingrid Oliu. A Mexican-American student tries to reconcile her ambitions with her parents' values. Fair comedy drama. (2002, 12)
10.40 Boardwalk Empire A politician and gangster tries to exploit America's new law for his own gain. (Series 1, ep 1) **12.10 Boardwalk Empire** Van Alden realises he should focus his investigation on Nucky; Jimmy races to fulfil an unpaid debt; and Eli tries to persuade Margaret that Hans murdered Colosimo.
1.20 Oz Nathan is sued for malpractice. (S4, ep 13) **2.35 Oz** McManus calls a truce.
3.50 Dolittle Film insights.
4.00-6.00 Fish Town In Brixham.

DRAMA

11.00 Sharpe (Series 5, ep 3)
1.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet
3.00 Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries Drama. (7/8)
4.00 Father Brown Double bill.
6.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries The coffin of a poet falls from a hearse. (Series 3, ep 2)
8.00 Murdoch Mysteries A wealthy high-society couple are found floating in their swimming pool. (S12, ep 8)
9.00 Life On Mars Sam looks into a kidnapping. (Series 2, ep 5) **10.20 Life On Mars** Gene investigates a shooting.
11.40 Kavanagh QC A brother and sister are accused of murder. (Series 2, ep 6)
1.10 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates The sleuth looks into a suspicious death. (S4, ep 2) **2.10 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** Bribery and corruption are uncovered.
3.10-4.00 The White Princess



Mission: Thomas (BBC1, 11.30am)

RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

Archive On 4

Radio 4, 8pm
It is now 60 years since the last young British men, from the age of 17, were called up to one of the armed services. It could be deferred, for university or other special training, but it was compulsory. Whether in combat (Korea, Suez, Malaya, Cyprus) or not, 2m young men did National Service, some hating it, others (often unexpectedly) thriving. The historian Richard Vinen explores why. *Gillian Reynolds*

RADIO 4

5.20 Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer **5.45** The Curious Cases Of Rutherford & Fry (R) **6.00** News And Papers **6.07** Ramblings (R) **6.30** Farming Today This Week **7.00** Today **8.51** (LW) Yesterday In Parliament **9.00** Saturday Live **10.30** The Patch. Eliza Lomas visits Tiptree in Essex **11.00** The Week In Westminster **11.30** From Our Own Correspondent **12.00** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping **12.04** Money Box **12.30** The Now Show (R) **1.00** News **1.10** Any Questions? (R) **2.00** Any Answers? **2.45** One To One (R) **3.00** Drama: The Turn Of The Screw, by Henry James. A governess caring for two orphaned children becomes convinced that evil forces want to take them away. With Kate Phillips (R) **4.00** Weekend Woman's Hour **5.00** Saturday PM **5.30** The Bottom Line (R) **5.54** Shipping **6.00** News **6.15** Loose Ends. Nikki Bedi and Athena Kugblenu are by joined by Vicki Pepperdine, Tanita Tikaram, Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Suzi Ruffell; plus, music by Unnati and Joy Crookes **7.00** Profile **7.15** Saturday Review **8.00** Archive On 4: Call Up — The Story Of National Service. The historian Richard Vinen uncovers some of the stories of the men who were conscripted **9.00** Drama: Take-Away. Ciao Chapeltown, by Sharon Oakes (R) **9.45** Annika Stranded. Folk Music, by Nick Walker (R) **10.00** News **10.15** The Moral Maze (R) **11.00** Round Britain Quiz (R) **11.30** Conversations On A Bench (R) **12.00** News **12.30** Short Works (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 3

7.00 Breakfast **9.00** Record Review **11.45** Music Matters. Alice Farnham talks about the RPS Women Conductors course **12.30** This Classical Life. With the composer Grace-Evangeline Mason **1.00** Inside Music. The fiddle-singer and composer Nancy Kerr makes her musical selection **3.00** Sound Of Cinema. With Mychael Danna, who has written the score for Pixar's Onward **4.00** Music Planet. A live session by the Colombian band Cimarron **5.00** J To Z. With a session by the vocalist and violinist Alice Zawadzki **6.30** Opera On 3: Cosi Fan Tutte. At the Met, Harry Bicket conducts the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in a performance of Mozart's work, with Nicole Car (soprano, Fiordiligi) and Serena Malfi (soprano, Dorabella) **10.00** New Music Show. Including the world premiere of Symphonies In Chains by Piers Hellawell **12.00** Freeness **1.00** Through The Night

10.30 Euro 2020 Preview **11.00** Minder **12.05** River Monsters **12.35** World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina **1.00** Racing. Coverage of today's races at Sandown Park and Wolverhampton **3.30** Darts. Live coverage of day two of the UK Open, held at the Butlin's Minehead Resort **11.00** FILM: Assassins **1.45** Minder **2.50-3.00** Nightscreen

E4

5.30pm FILM: Home Alone 2 — Lost In New York **8.00** FILM: Transformers — Revenge Of The Fallen. Stars Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox. Sci-fi adventure sequel **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Friday Night Dinner **3.20** Gogglebox **4.15-6.00** The Big Bang Theory

MORE4

5.55pm Four In A Bed **8.00** Car SOS **9.00** 24 Hours In A&E. Doctors treat an unresponsive baby that has a high fever **10.00** 24 Hours In A&E. Doctors fear a 25-year-old woman may have suffered a stroke **11.05** Father Ted **12.15** 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** 24 Hours In A&E **3.20-3.50** Father Ted

GOLD

5.55pm Only Fools And Horses. Classic comedy **9.00** All Round To Mrs Brown's **10.20** Sandylands **12.20** Black Books **2.00** The Royle Family **3.05** Black Books **3.30-4.00** The Piglet Files

YESTERDAY

6.00am Secrets Of The Bible **7.10** The Diary Of Anne Frank — A Tale Of Two Sisters **8.00** Secret Nazi Bases **9.00** Deep Wreck Mysteries **1.00** Expedition. Documentary with Steve Backshall

7.00 Big In America — British Hits In The USA **8.00** Duran Duran — There's Something You Should Know **9.00** The True Story Of The Mary Celeste **10.00** World's Greatest Palaces **11.00** Extreme Railway Journeys **12.00-1.00** Impossible Engineering

DAVE

6.00pm Soapbox Race **7.00** Would I Lie To You? **8.20** Not Going Out **10.00** Hypothetical **11.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **12.00** Modern Life Is Goodish **1.00** Not Going Out **1.55** Jon Richardson — Ultimate Worrier **2.55** Zapped **3.40-4.00** The Indestructibles

FACTUAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6.00pm Car SOS. Triple bill **9.00** Ultimate Supercar. A new showcase car from Aston Martin **10.00** Ultimate Supercar. The Ferrari Portofino **11.00** Ultimate Supercar. The Bentley Continental GT **12.00-5.00** Car SOS

DISCOVERY

6.00pm Gold Rush — Dave Turin's Lost Mine **7.00** Gold Rush **8.00** Wheeler Dealers. Mike Brewer finds a BMW E46 M3 **9.00** Richard Hammond's Big. A visit to the Appomattox production platform in the Gulf of Mexico **10.00** Disasters Engineered. Examining the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh **11.00** Mighty Ships. A profile of the lake freighter Algoma Equinox **12.00** Richard Hammond's Big **1.00-2.00** River Of No Return

SKY ARTS

5.30pm Glyndebourne Opera Cup. With Chris Addison and Danielle de Niese **9.00** Pavarotti — Birth Of A Pop Star. Luciano Pavarotti's rise from concert performer to global superstar **10.05** Freddie Mercury — The Great Pretender. A profile of the Queen frontman **11.50-1.10** Queen — Live In Rio. The band's 1985 performance

PBS AMERICA

5.15pm Reconstruction — America After The Civil War **7.40** Byzantium — A Tale Of Three Cities. Three editions **11.00-12.15** World's Greatest: Animal Encounters. Documentary about the planet's most remarkable wildlife



Night at the opera (Sky Arts, 5.30pm)

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.00 LIVE** One-Day Cricket: South Africa v Australia **12.00 LIVE** EFL: Bristol City v Fulham. Kickoff at 12.30 **3.00** Soccer Saturday **5.00 LIVE** Premier League: Burnley v Tottenham Hotspur. Kickoff is at 5.30 **8.30** TBA **11.00 LIVE** Rugby 7s. Coverage of the Vancouver Sevens **12.50** Rugby Greatest Games **1.00 LIVE** Rugby 7s. The Vancouver Sevens **3.00-6.00** News

EUROSPORT 1

6.20am Alpine Skiing **8.20 LIVE** Alpine Skiing **12.30 LIVE** Biathlon **2.15 LIVE** Ski Jumping **4.00 LIVE** Biathlon **5.20** Cross-Country Skiing **6.30** Alpine Skiing **8.30** Ski Jumping **9.30** Biathlon **11.30** Nordic Combined Skiing **12.00** Snowboarding **1.00** Freestyle Skiing **2.00** Cycling **5.20-6.20** Ski Jumping

BT SPORT 1

6.00am The FA Cup Highlights **6.30** PL World **7.00** PL Match Pack **7.30** PL Preview **8.00** WWE **10.30** PL Preview **11.00** Early Kick-Off **12.00 LIVE** Premier League: Liverpool v Bournemouth. Kickoff at 12.30 **3.00** Score **5.00 LIVE** National League: Harrogate Town v Bromley. Kickoff at 5.20 **7.30** National League Highlights **8.00** WWE **10.45** Bundesliga **11.45** Ligue 1 **12.45** What I Wore **1.00** World Poker Tour Series **3.00** 30 For 30 **5.00-7.00 LIVE** A-League: Central Coast Mariners v Wellington Phoenix. Kickoff at 5.00

PHIL McINTYRE LIVE LTD BY ARRANGEMENT WITH LISA THOMAS MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

Jason Manford

'Engaging and witty'
The Sunday Times

'Manford, in short, is a total pro'
The Times

'Expert observational comedy'
The Guardian

'Manford successfully straddles the line between contemporary stand-up and old-school mainstream entertainment'
The Guardian

'Comic gold'
Mail on Sunday



ON SALE NOW!

LIKE ME

2020 & 2021 Tour: 100+ dates

Tickets and full details at:

jasonmanford.com | *ticketmaster.co.uk*

@jasonmanford jasonmanford

March 1, 2020

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The great garden clean-up 12 La dolce cheaper: invest in Italy now 18

Home

Travel INSIDE



Battery powered

Tesla's eco-experiment in Cumbria cuts energy bills — and emissions 8

Arlo & Jacob

A SOFA TODAY,
STORYTIME TOMORROW



A STAGE FOR LIFE'S MOMENTS
Islington now open
Fulham | Bristol
Harrogate | Marlow
03300 945 855
arloandjacob.com

Home





Our pick of the finest properties

MAKING MOVES

KENT

£2.85M

Fresh on the market, Stone Green Hall, in Mersham, is a seven-bedroom house that has been added to over the centuries. Thought to have been built in the 17th century, the grade II* listed home showcases classical symmetry and Queen Anne elegance. There's also a two-bedroom cottage in the grounds that could be home to a full-time gardener — with 20 acres of grounds to look after, you may need one. Topiaried yew and box hedging divides the garden into "rooms" containing gothic gazebos, an ornamental pond, a shaded woodland glade and a heated pool. The Swiss owners have also built a glasshouse conservatory. The village is a quiet spot with two pubs and a primary school rated good by Ofsted, but there are fast trains to London St Pancras from Ashford station, a 10-minute drive away, and it's 40 minutes to Canterbury by car. 01227 473707, struttandparker.com





CAMBRIDGE

£1.25M

These contemporary townhouses in Trumpington, 20 minutes by car from the city centre, won't be to everyone's taste, but if you're looking for outside space and an ecofriendly lifestyle, you've come to the right village. This row of chequered buff-brick family homes, built in 2017, have solar panels, water softeners and smart security systems. This five-bedroom house at the end of the terrace spans more than 3,000 sq ft, arranged around a paved courtyard; it also has no less than five terraces. There's a community allotment and orchard nearby, and Cambridge and Shelford stations offer direct trains to London Liverpool Street. purplebricks.co.uk



COVER: MARK WATTS/UNIQUE HOMESTAYS. OPPOSITE PAGE: CHRISTOPHER KEMP

HIGHLANDS

£325,000

Contemporary flooring in the kitchen and bathroom, and a renovated smart grey kitchen, have made a huge difference to this traditional four-bedroom home on Fairfield Road, in Inverness. The cosy living room has dark blue walls and an open fireplace; a gas-flame fire keeps the dining room toasty. Outside, there's a rear lawn, a paved front garden with planters, a gated driveway and a double garage. It's a 20-minute walk to the station, for direct trains to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen; 15 minutes to the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery; and half an hour to the botanic gardens. purplebricks.co.uk



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

£825,000

Head to the hills near Winchcombe, an ancient town in a beautiful Cotswold valley. Woodland View, as the name suggests, enjoys spectacular vistas of the countryside from its first-floor bedrooms. Set in a third of an acre in the hamlet of Far Stanley, the six-bedroom house has recently been extended to 2,745 sq ft. Outside, there's a wooden pergola, a terrace for summer suppers and a lawn that's perfect for kids to run around on — it's hemmed in by mature hedging. Cheltenham is a 20-minute drive away, Worcester 40 minutes. 01451 830731, butlersherborn.co.uk



HOME FRONT

MELISSA YORK
@melyork



If we could write a recipe for the Best Place to Live in the UK, community spirit would be an essential ingredient in the mix. Next to a bustling high street, diverse, good-quality housing stock and an abundance of green spaces, community makes a place worth living in.

Yet it is increasingly hard to define. Community has to mean more than simply "people" – a meaningful use of the term has to take into account how engaged your neighbours are with local issues and how willing they are to help others.

Last week we learnt that an estimated 4,266 people in England slept rough on the streets in a single night last autumn. One of the ways the Barons Court Project, in west London, supports homeless people is by finding them flats, which are then kitted out with donations from local people using the Nextdoor app. They have given everything from beds and kitchen appliances to a rowing machine.

David Laditi, a student from Blackfen, Kent, asked for donations of clothes on Nextdoor just before Christmas. He has received 25 bags of good-quality clobber (coats, gloves, hats, trousers and so on), which is filling up his bedroom fast. He goes out every Wednesday on the bus, carrying as many bags as he can manage and handing clothes out. So far, he has been to Stratford, Charing Cross and Woolwich, all in London.

Robert Harwood, a good samaritan from Caterham, Surrey, received a Nextdoor Good Neighbour award for his efforts. He lobbied the local council to find suitable accommodation for one of his former neighbours, Nick, who found himself homeless after experiencing mental health issues and addiction.

What does being neighbourly mean to you? Tell us uplifting stories about your community and, who knows, they may even make it onto our Best Places to Live list for 2020.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
BEST PLACES TO LIVE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HABITO
Mortgages made easier

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Market Watch **4** Housing crisis **6**
Home Help **14** Overseas **18**
Interiors **20** Russell Tovey **22**

Home Opinion

MARKET WATCH

CAROL LEWIS
@CarolLewis101



Let's talk about VAT baby, let's talk about you and me… OK, so Salt-N-Pepa may not have been excited about tax 30 years ago, but today it is a hot topic in the property world. Not as sexy as stamp duty, maybe, but it is being talked about as a less obvious way of solving the housing crisis.

Thousands of old buildings, including Victorian cotton mills, could be converted into new homes by cutting the VAT rate on refurbishments to zero, according to Historic England, the public body that protects historic places.

It makes sense to use old buildings instead of knocking them down and replacing them. Yet as things stand, the government is incentivising developers to demolish historic buildings and construct new ones: VAT rates are zero for new-builds, but 20% for refurbishments. It's a similar story for those living in period properties, which cost more to restore, upgrade and bring up to modern energy-efficiency standards.

Historic England's campaign for a VAT cut has been backed by the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), which has written to the new chancellor, Rishi Sunak, calling for a change to be introduced in the budget on March 11.

Such a move could also help the government to reach its target of net zero emissions by 2050. Building a new home produces up to 13 times as much embodied carbon dioxide as refurbishing a traditional Victorian terrace, according to a Historic England report entitled *There's No Place Like Old Homes: Reuse and Recycle to Reduce Carbon*. It also argues that refurbishment would save millions of tons of waste produced by demolishing old buildings.

"This is game-changing research," says Ben Cowell, chairman of the Historic Environment Forum, a committee of heritage groups. "It shows how living in the past can help us to step into a carbon-friendly future."

According to Historic England, thousands of old buildings are being neglected or not used to their full potential. These include 542 former textile mills in Greater Manchester and 540 in Lancashire, which Historic England says could create 25,000 new homes.

A cut to zero VAT, or at least to 5% – the rate applied to conversions from commercial to residential use, which

> **Thousands of old buildings could be turned into homes by cutting VAT on refurbishments**

has helped many developers turn disused midcentury office blocks into flats – is long overdue.

The CLA, which represents 30,000 rural businesses and landowners, really wants to shake things up. It's also calling for an exemption from inheritance tax for affordable homes for periods when they are let at an affordable rent, and more tax incentives for landowners to pool together and build on their land.

There are 551,000 private rental households in rural areas in England. If the tax incentive encouraged 10% of landlords charging market rental rates to let their properties at lower rates, the number of affordable homes in rural areas would increase by 15%. If uptake of the incentive led to a 20% shift to reduced rents, the number of affordable homes would increase by 30%, according to the CLA. At the moment, 19% of urban homes are affordable, compared with only 9% in the countryside.

Research by the Royal Society of Arts has found that if just 10 homes were built in every village, the rural housing crisis would be solved. Yet red tape and complex tax rules make it almost impossible for landowners to build affordable properties, according to the CLA's president, Mark Bridgeman, who jumped through hoops to build 39 homes in his village in Northumberland.

Go ahead and work it on out, Rishi.



This former mill in Tameside has been converted into apartments

MARK WAUGH/ALAMY

HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Buying, renting or investing in property? Looking to understand how to afford your next home, escape abroad or build a new income and live mortgage-free?

You'll find it all at Times Money Mentor: **thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor**

- **How-to guides**
- **Inspirational real-life stories**
- **Informative Q&As**
- **Product reviews**
- **Practical tips**
- **Useful videos**
- **Helpful checklists**



THE TIMES money mentor

FULLY-FURNISHED & EQUIPPED | SITED AND READY TO ENJOY | BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE & COASTAL LOCATIONS
RESTAURANTS & BARS | SWIMMING POOLS, PLAY AREAS, FITNESS CLUB, SPA* | FREE WIFI | DESIGNATED PARKING

Find your own little piece of
HEAVEN in DEVON
2 & 3 Bedroom Luxury Holiday Lodges For Sale From £89,000

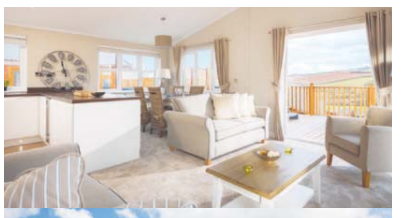


Now available at Finlake and Devon Hills. Call 0800 470 0158 or visit FindHeavenInDevon.co.uk





Finlake, near Dartmoor National Park





Devon Hills, near Paignton and Torquay

*Spa Finlake only.

FINLAKE | DEVON HILLS
Haulfryn Holiday Resorts & Parks

Invest in happiness.™

BIRCHWOOD
NORTH DEVON

LIVE THE WILD LIFE

CGI of Tree House







Birchwood is a sustainable holiday home community, rooted in a deep love of nature and a passion for discovery in the great outdoors. Around every twist and turn lies a new adventure. Explore leafy woodland and rolling hills, paddle in shallow streams, pick fruit in the orchards, make a den, play in the treehouse, relax in a forest hot tub, or just catch a wave.

Beautifully designed, in complete harmony with the natural world that surrounds them, every carbon neutral home impacts positively on the natural setting and enhances the health and wellbeing of the families who buy at Birchwood.

Reconnect with nature – call now to arrange a private tour.

birchwoodnorthdevon.com
+44 (0)1271 316 492

- **Freehold investment from £399,000**
- **20min drive from Devon's best surfing beaches**
- **Ancient woodlands, trails and the River Venn**
- **Family owned private gated estate**
- **Fully managed rental portfolio**
- **Sits within a UNESCO Biosphere**

PART OF HABITAT FIRST

Properties at Birchwood North Devon cannot be used as a primary residence. Price includes land payment and build contract from our recommended construction partner. Prices correct at the time of going to press.

A JOB HALF DONE

Councils are finally building more new homes – but are they in the right places? *Tom Calver* and *Emanuele Midolo* investigate

Don't blame only developers and nimbys for the housing crisis. Analysis of the latest government data shows that a third of all English councils are failing to construct enough homes, and that those being built are often in the wrong places, allowing the most desirable property locations to remain untouched.

PLANNING BUDGETS HAVE BEEN CUT BY ALMOST 40% SINCE 2010

Last month the government published the results of its Housing Delivery Test, which aims to hold local authorities to account for providing new homes, and the headline figure was positive. About 247,000 homes were built in England during 2019, 9% more than was recommended by the government.

Dig a little deeper, however, and eight councils, including the City of London, New Forest, Three Rivers and North Hertfordshire, have built less than 45% of their allocated target, leaving them vulnerable to sanctions. These councils had an average house price of £386,000, considerably more than the English average of £249,000, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Yet in other areas, generally in the north, where land values are lower, local authorities such as Northumberland, Carlisle and Eden are all building in excess of 200% more homes than required. Four times as many houses as needed have been constructed over the past three years in Burnley, Lancashire, where the average house price is just £92,000.

Redditch, in Worcestershire, with a population of 110,000, delivered nearly 1,000 homes in the period – yet the government's formula called for just two more.

Local councils may be getting closer to the government's oft-repeated target of building 300,000 homes a year, but the focus on one overall national figure misses the bigger picture. Are the right homes being built in the right places?

"The biggest problem is that people may accept the fact that a large number of homes are being built nationally, but they still don't seem to be available near them at affordable prices," says Martin Gaine, founder and chief executive of the planning appeals firm Just Planning. "The most desirable and wealthier places have much more organised and motivated residents.

"Politically, it's easier to deliver homes where the locals are slightly less likely to protest than it is in a rich London neighbourhood or in a picture-postcard village where residents go up in arms against new developments."

Kensington and Chelsea, one of the most affluent and exclusive districts in England, fell well short of the housing targets, building only 57% of what was required.

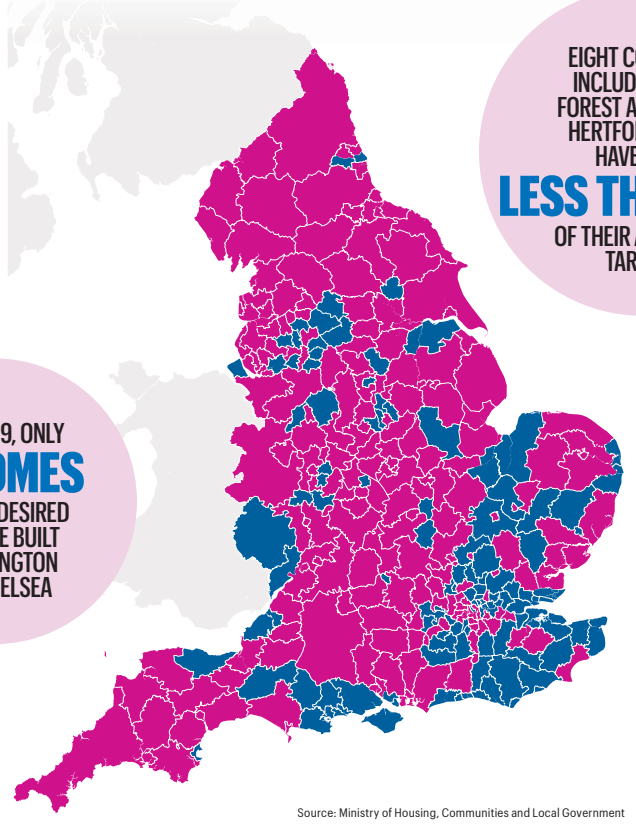
In 2018-19, just 51 homes out of a projected 733 were constructed in the borough – theoretically not even enough to rehouse those who lost their homes in the Grenfell Tower disaster nearly three years ago. The average house price in the area is about £1.3m.

IN 2018-19, ONLY 51 HOMES OUT OF A DESIRED 733 WERE BUILT IN KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

HAS MY COUNCIL BUILT ENOUGH HOMES?

Three-year construction targets, 2016-19

◆ Council failed ◆ Council succeeded



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Kensington and Chelsea council said it has asked the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to amend the borough's target from 733 to 448 a year. The proposal is being evaluated by the housing secretary, Robert Jenrick. "Bringing forward plans for developments to meet the land buffer is a serious challenge, but we are putting in place plans for new homes," it said.

"This includes our own New Homes Delivery Programme, investing £250m into building 600 homes in the borough – at least 300 for social rent, and directly targeting those most in need of a home. We expect the first tenants to move in from March 2022."

Last year it emerged that the borough was considering building extra storeys onto existing blocks.

EIGHT COUNCILS, INCLUDING NEW FOREST AND NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE, HAVE BUILT LESS THAN 45% OF THEIR ALLOCATED TARGETS

Haringey, in north London, is one of the few councils in the capital where the mayor has taken drastic measures to force it to meet targets by "calling in" previously rejected planning applications. The council has built only 55% of its required homes in the past three years – about 2,500 out of a target of 4,500.

Haringey complained in 2017 after the mayor's office called in two developments that were initially rejected. The mayor noted at the time that Haringey had "struggled to meet its London Plan housing targets over the past five years".

Sadiq Khan's office said: "The mayor will continue to use all the powers at his disposal to call in and improve planning applications that fall short of providing the new housing that Londoners desperately need."

According to Dean Clifford, co-founder of the development company Great Marlborough Estates, the Housing Delivery Test numbers show "the scale of the challenge facing London in particular". Yet bashing local authorities isn't the answer: "Many council planning departments are underfunded and under-resourced after nearly a decade of cuts."

The National Audit Office has previously pointed out that councils are often unable to negotiate with developers, which leaves areas of the country vulnerable to housing shortages or situations where the wrong homes are built in the wrong places.

FOUR TIMES AS MANY HOMES AS NEEDED WERE BUILT IN BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE

On top of this, planning budgets have been cut by almost 40% since 2010.

With just 88 homes built over the past three years, the City of London is the worst local authority on the housing target list, having reached only 32% of its target. Yet the City of London Corporation has rebutted the figures and requested an amendment, saying the test does not take into account a large-scale development at Sugar Quay that delivered 165 new homes in 2018-19.

Tower Hamlets has the most ambitious target of any local authority. The government had demanded that it build more than 10,000 houses over the past three years. The borough delivered a respectable 7,780 – the sixth highest of any on the list, but not enough to avoid potential sanctions.

Polly Neate, chief executive of the housing charity Shelter, said: "Slapping unachievable housebuilding targets on overstretched councils, then penalising them when they can't fulfil them, is not the answer to ending the housing emergency. Councils have extremely limited funding and powers to build the homes they are being asked for."

ONLY 88 HOMES BUILT OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS IN THE CITY OF LONDON

She added: "What's even more ridiculous is that the government's targets don't include a requirement to build any social housing – the genuinely affordable homes that this country is crying out for."

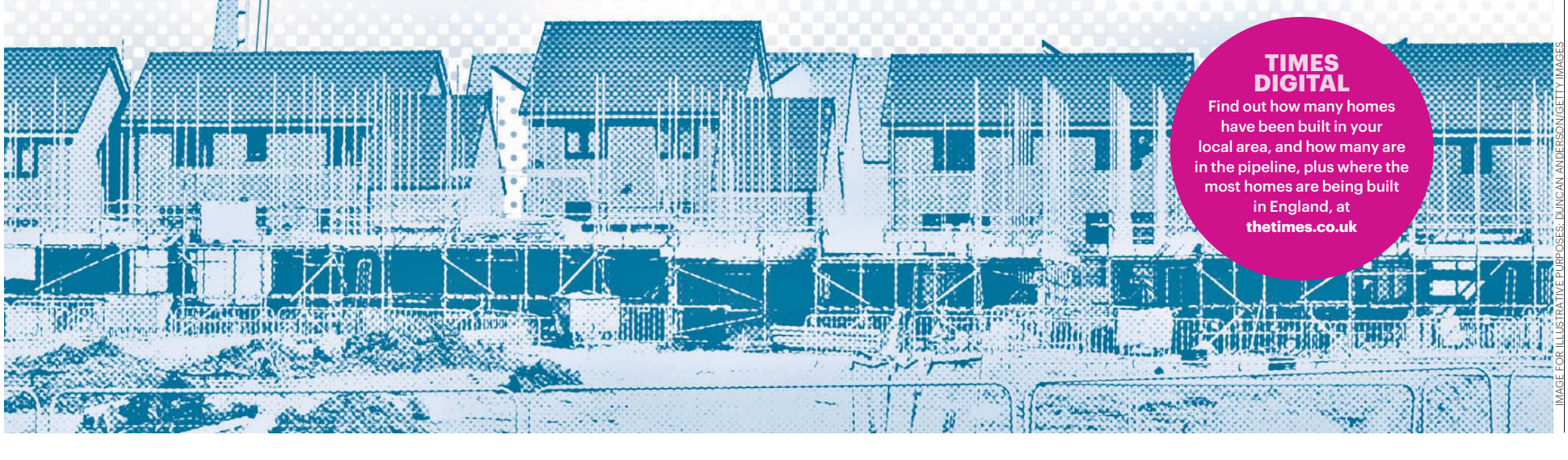


IMAGE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES: DUNCAN ANDERSON/GETTY IMAGES

TIMES DIGITAL

Find out how many homes have been built in your local area, and how many are in the pipeline, plus where the most homes are being built in England, at **thetimes.co.uk**

SOVEREIGN COURT

LONDON W6



Discover Bedingfeld House

NOW LAUNCHED

Contemporary, urban-inspired homes in Hammersmith, London W6

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT: 020 8003 6412

2 BED PRICES FROM
£1,064,950*

UNDERGROUND JOURNEY TIMES†

Heathrow
28 minutes

HAMMERSMITH
ZONE 2

Westfield

Shepherd's Bush Market
3 minutes

South Kensington
8 minutes

Computer generated image for indicative purposes only. *Price correct at time of going to press. † Approximate travel times. Source tfl.gov.uk

Our vision

www.sovereign-court.com

Proud to be a member of the Berkeley Group of companies

Berkeley Group

Investor in Customers Gold 2020

St George
Designed for life

PEAK POWER

A secluded Lake District holiday home is the surprising setting for a Tesla experiment in green technology, says *Daniel Pembrey*

Deep in the mountains of the Lake District lies the future of British housing. Aquila, as the lakeside home is called, blends into its rural surroundings well enough, thanks to solid stone walls. Water leaks down the surrounding hillsides and snow-dusted peaks catch the light, as do the solar panels on the house's flat roof, which are hidden from view on the approach road. These were added by the electric car giant Tesla, along with a host of ingenious gadgets that make this one of the most ecofriendly homes in the world. "We're all visitors to these parts during winter," a cheerful local bartender tells me. "This is Mother Nature's home."

Mercifully, Aquila is built into the hillside safely above the swollen lake. Except it's not a lake. Haweswater is actually a reservoir, created nearly a century ago by Manchester Corporation to supply water to the industrial northwest. This contemporary three-bedroom house began life as a Water Board building that was used to store industrial equipment. The entrepreneur Stephen O'Sullivan bought it as an abandoned shell in 2014.

"The opportunity to acquire such an intriguing structure in beautiful wilderness comes along once in a lifetime," O'Sullivan says. "Given the strong bones of the building, I was keen to maintain its essential character." The renovation lent it a New York loft-style aesthetic, with exposed steam beams, bulkhead lighting and inviting vintage furniture. Aquila can now be rented via the short-stay website Unique Homestays, with prices starting at £1,495 a week for up to six guests.

Sheltering from horizontal hail, I can barely hear the hum of the technology that is keeping me warm as I look out over the choppy, slate-grey water. In addition to the solar panels, Tesla has installed one of its Powerwall home battery systems and a charging point for electric cars. The unusual setup seeks to showcase the low-emission lifestyle so the eco-curious can try before they buy.

"It sips electricity," O'Sullivan says. "The building has been insulated to modern standards and has underfloor heating powered by an air-source heat pump. With the Powerwall and the solar system now fitted, I expect it to run entirely on solar power throughout the summer. Even in winter, we should have periods when the property runs only on solar."

Off-grid Aquila may seem, but it's only a short drive from Askham Hall, a hotel with a Michelin-starred restaurant. Tesla charging points are going in there, too, as the local community increasingly embraces sustainable living. Gliding past mossy trees in a fast, eerily quiet electric car is like travelling by magic carpet.

Tesla's broader aim is to help the owners of electric vehicles harness solar energy and draw power from the grid at times when it is plentiful, storing it for when need arises. It's not unlike the thinking that created the reservoir – except it's more of a challenge because of the lack of sunlight. If Tesla can

WONDER WALL

Richard Graham is a mechanical engineer in his fifties who lives with his partner in a three-bedroom semi near Kendal, Cumbria. Their children left home several years ago. Uncomfortable with the "relentless" rises in tariffs from their big-six energy provider, he decided to take action after he bought an electric car in 2018.

Graham had solar panels installed for £4,500 and bought a Tesla Powerwall battery, which at that time cost £6,000 for 13.5kWh of storage, but had no backup capability for power cuts. The total investment came to £11,000.

The couple use gas for heating and hot water, and, on average, consume 6kWh of power daily for household electrical use. Graham typically uses an additional 4kWh to charge his car, which would double were he not charging it at work during the day.

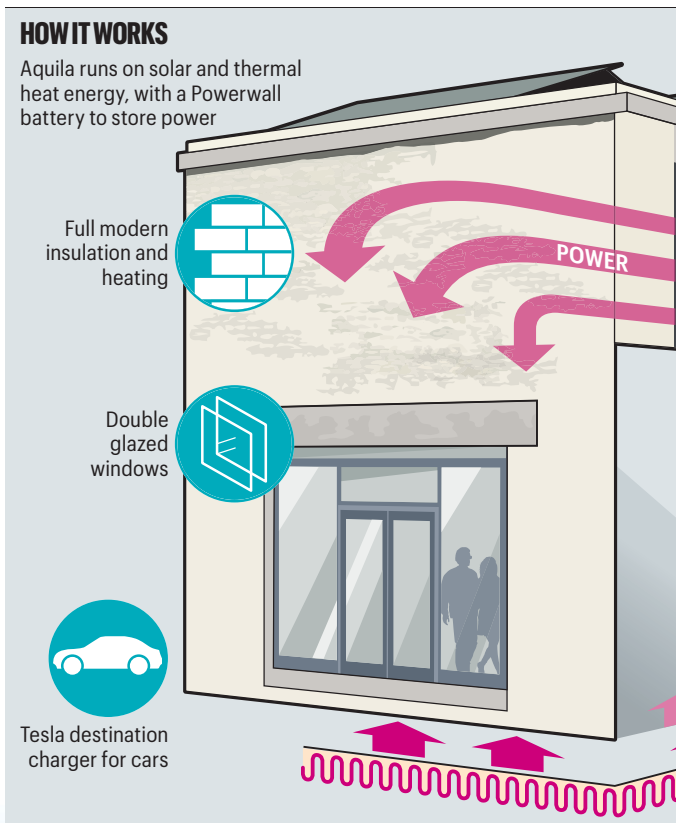
The couple were late beneficiaries of the old feed-in tariff scheme, which guarantees them 4.5p per kWh for energy sold back to the grid. They also have a dual-rate meter that allows them to take advantage of cheaper Economy 7 tariffs.

It seems the investment has paid off: in 2019, the couple's annual electricity bill dropped by 89% to just £52, nearly all of which was for off-peak usage that went into the battery. They made £300 selling power back to the grid, resulting in a net income of £248. Graham estimates that his old tariff would have gone up by 20% to about £570, so they are more than £800 a year better off.

He expects conventional tariffs to keep rising — and so, too, his annual saving. On this basis, he has calculated that his payback period will be 10 years or less. Further energy savings could come from converting to electric heating and hot water, or from his partner getting an electric car, but these would require follow-on investments in a new heating unit, car and battery with sufficient capacity.

Graham has no regrets. "It's hard to overstate the sense of freedom from no longer feeling like I'm being held hostage by my energy provider," he says. "Living in such a beautiful, natural part of the world, I also feel good about doing my bit for the environment. It puts a spring in my walking boot."







MARK WATTS/UNIQUE HOMESTAYS; ANDREW RAWCLIFFE/ALAMY

make solar power work here, then it can work anywhere.

The Powerwall battery exploits the same technology as those the company has honed for its cars. It is guaranteed to be working at more than 80% of its stated capacity after 10 years, and the latest model offers 13.5 kilowatt hours (kWh) of storage, amply covering the daily energy needs of an average household. With a Backup Gateway that maintains supply during power cuts, the Powerwall unit is priced at £7,750, excluding installation.

"You may pay less for an alternative brand, but they will be smaller units," says Chris Jardine, an Oxford University academic who co-founded the clean-tech energy firm Joju Solar. "Tesla represents by far the lowest price per kilowatt hour of storage, and you have peace of mind that it will perform well over time."

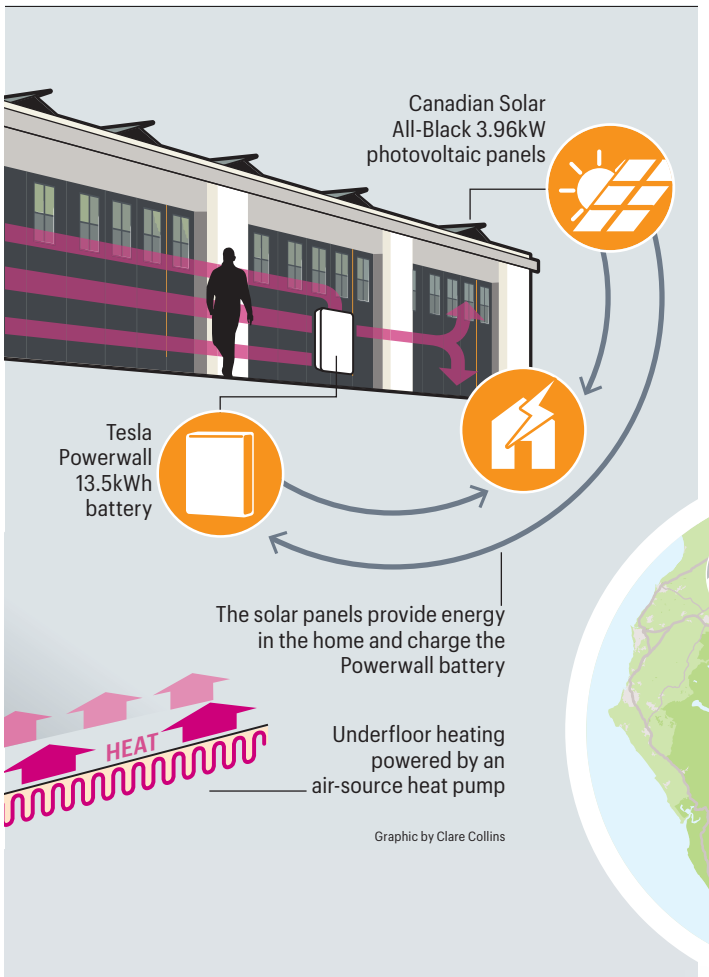
The battery looks like a large, sleek domestic radiator, and at Aquila it has been placed defiantly on the outside of the house. It is silent (unlike the wind whistling as I venture out), with only a green pulse to indicate it's active. For those wishing to delve deeper, an app shows how energy flows from the various inputs (solar, Powerwall, grid), displayed visually and in real time. It's easy to see how checking it could become addictive. This might sound like a gimmick, but its users put a lot of stock in no longer being beholden to the seemingly opaque tariffs of the big-six energy suppliers.

Some energy firms have been quick to work with Tesla. Octopus has used its dynamic pricing technology to offer a new tariff for those with a Tesla car and Powerwall. This currently offers 8p per kWh drawn from the grid and 8p per kWh sold back. That export rate represents about 40% more than the best rates available under the government's new smart export guarantee scheme.

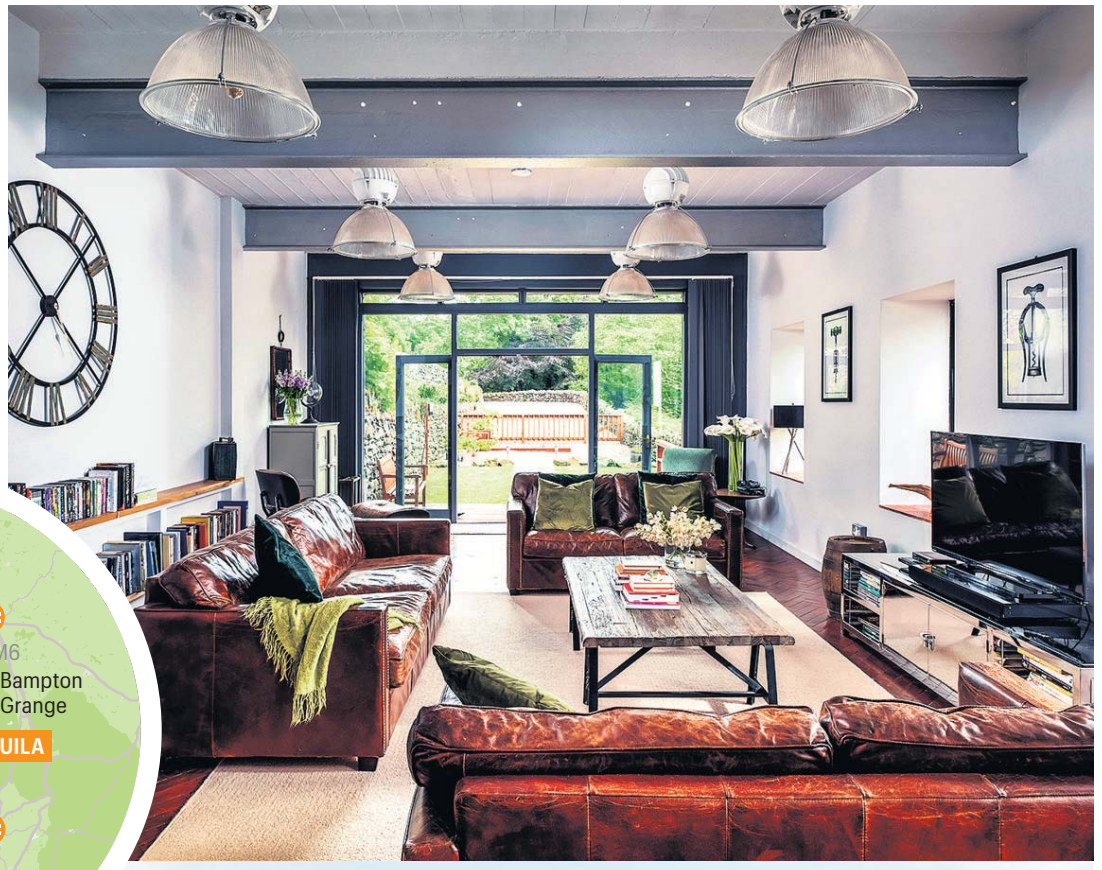
Electricity prices are widely expected to rise this decade, and not just because of demand from electric vehicles. The cost of providing baseload power from new nuclear stations such as Hinkley Point C is proving to be extraordinarily expensive. Those staying on conventional energy tariffs should not expect rates to fall.

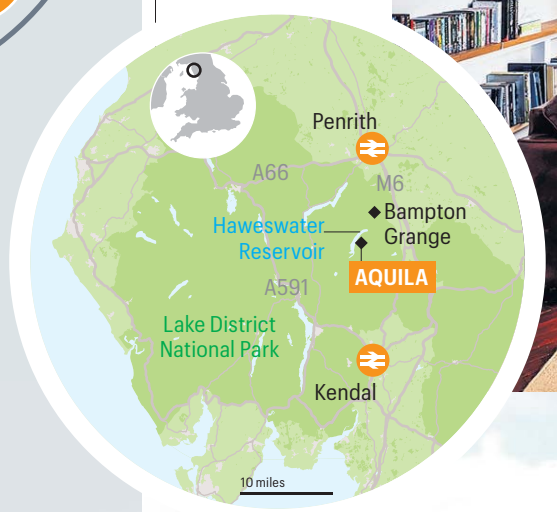
Still, the upfront cost of a Powerwall, solar panels and installation for a standard home – anything from £12,000 to £20,000 or more – make this a big-ticket purchase. Based on what we know about likely energy savings, investing north of £12,000 implies a payback period of 10 or more years, although this will depend on individual circumstances. I am certainly a convert, but a leap of faith may be required for those who wish to lead the charge.

uniquehomestays.com; tesla.com



Aquila, above and right, is a showcase for the low-emission lifestyle









A different perspective…

Choice. It's a wonderful thing. But sometimes too much choice is, well, too much. Which is why, in our paint collection, you'll find enough choice so there's something for everyone but not so much to overwhelm. From the 28 core shades to the two, good-for-you, good-for-the-planet, high-coverage formulations.

Visit us online or in your nearest store to start exploring.

neptune.com

NEPTUNE



THE FINEST OAK FRAMED BUILDINGS
MADE IN ENGLAND





www.primeoak.co.uk info@primeoak.co.uk 01384 296611

ORANGERIES | GARDEN ROOMS | GARAGES | ANNEXES | HOME OFFICES | CONSERVATORIES | STABLES

Homelifts by pollock Lifts

- Market leading technology.
- Smallest lift on the market.
- Quick and easy to install.
- 12 months warranty.



TRUSTMARK Government Endorsed Quality

Designed and manufactured in the UK for 35 years.

Call
0800 470 0440
www.pollockhomelifts.co.uk

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Book your advertisement now

Use our self-service website and follow the simple steps.

Open 7 days a week



thesundaytimes.co.uk/advertise

France

2 BED FLAT IN NICE

420000 €. South oriented 2 bed crossing apartment 3rd floor (elevator). Secured residence. Car park , cellar. Tram 5 mn, beaches 10 mn, Airport 15. Included sedan automatic car left hand drive. English spoken

+33 6 14 49 06 21
vlusinchi@gmail.com

PRESTIGE FRENCH PROPERTY



Come and Join us at the Village Hotel in Portsmouth on the 14th & 15th of March. We have some of the leading French Estate agents and other professional services from holiday rentals to currency exchange
Info@prestigepropertynetwork.com
https://www.prestigepropertynetwork.com/upcoming

British made ironwork

Door canopies Porches Trellis Planters Window boxes

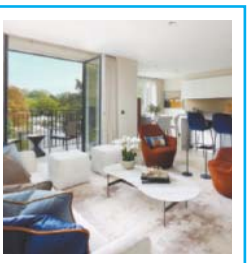


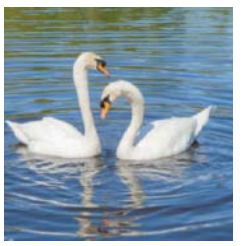
catalogue available
01225 851577
garden-requisites.co.uk

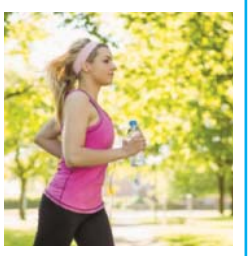
GARDEN REQUISITES

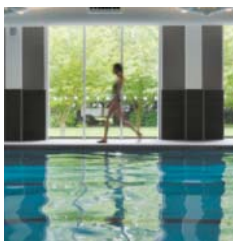












Perfect for Royal Couples

Teddington Riverside offers a warm welcome with a splendid **'Ready to Move Into'** home:

- 24/7 **Security**
- Only moments down the river from **Hampton Court Palace**
- Seven miles from the **Royal Box** at Wimbledon
- Only 30 minutes to Heathrow, with **daily flights to Canada!**

1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and 4 bedroom townhouses for sale with 999 year lease with share of freehold.

Call +44 (0)20 7349 0091











THE BIG C

Louise Curley, whose home town flooded last month, offers p



DEBORAH VERNON/ALEC SCARESBROOK/ALAMY; H HELENE/GETTY IMAGES; MONTY DON GARDEN FROM INSTAGRAM

IAN CURLEY; FRANCESCO GUIDICINI; NIGEL DUNNETT; DEBORAH V

Three weekends ago, I woke to find Storm Ciara had deluged the Pennine town in which I live. According to the Environment Agency, more than a month's rain had fallen in a 12- to 18-hour period, swelling the River Calder to bursting. I was fortunate – my home escaped the floodwater – but I looked on with horror as homes and businesses were submerged and the raging torrent swept away fences and sheds from gardens along the riverbank.

The floodwater had subsided by the next morning, and the clean-up began, but the following weekend, with Storm Dennis forecast, the army turned up and, under looming skies and incessant rain, hurriedly installed temporary defences to avert a repeat. It felt apocalyptic.

If your garden has flooded, it will probably be looking worse for wear, but, surprisingly, most plants will cope with being submerged for a short period, especially in the winter, when they're dormant. The problems occur when roots are saturated for days or weeks.

When I moved here two years ago, I knew it would be wet, but climate change has unleashed a new level of wet – we don't seem to get drizzle any more. It also became obvious there were issues with drainage in the new garden: a heavy clay pan left us with pools of standing water and a squelchy lawn that was more moss than grass.

There was a lot of head-scratching in that first year, as we tried to create a weather-resilient garden. In the end, the lawn was replaced with 12in-high raised beds made out of oak sleepers that were filled with bought-in soil and surrounded by a permeable gravel path. Not only have the beds become a design feature, they mean the roots of plants aren't sitting in the worst of the clay. The extra soil also means the garden can absorb more water, which slowly drains away rather than running straight into the drains.

Our gardens can play a vital role in alleviating the problems caused by periods of heavy rainfall. Unfortunately, as more people opt to pave over their gardens, the amount of land available to absorb rainwater is shrinking, leading to flash flooding.

In both the front and back gardens, we've maximised the planting space, adding trees, shrubs and plenty of perennials, which are soaking up water and protecting the soil from erosion – their top growth protects the soil during heavy downpours and the roots hold the soil in place.

There has been little respite from the rain since Storm Ciara, and while the raised beds and gravel have made a huge difference in the main part of the garden, there is one section we couldn't raise up that is still submerged. The only option, once it has dried out, is to keep mulching with composted bark to improve the soil structure, but this will take time.

WASHED AWAY

The National Trust's Bodnant Garden, famous for its Italianate terraces and Himalayan-like landscape, lies on the edge of Snowdonia. Heavy rain and periodic flooding here are not uncommon, but the back-to-back storms have left the head gardener, John Rippin, and his staff and volunteers facing a large-scale clear-up operation. "Many of the garden's steepest gravel paths were seriously rutted, while those near the river were completely washed away in places," Rippin says. "Many of the wooden bridges over the river were clogged with debris, and a handful of mature fallen trees and thousands of smaller branches needed clearing."

All this extra work has come at one of the busiest times of the year, when John and his team need to be preparing for spring and summer, pruning and training the famous laburnum arch and thousands of roses, and tidying up last year's herbaceous perennials and areas of lawn. "Our top priorities are to get the garden open for our visitors as soon as possible, then to tackle the repair work and reopen all the sections that have been damaged," he says.

When I moved here two years ago, I knew it would be wet, but climate change has unleashed a new level of wet – we don't seem to get drizzle any more



MONTY'S GARDEN

Monty Don has become accustomed to flooding in his Herefordshire garden, left, where he films the BBC2 series *Gardeners' World*.

"Longmeadow floods at least once a year, so it is not something that bothers us unduly. The water rises, a third of the garden is submerged, then it falls as quickly as it came, leaving some debris, a lot of weed seeds, but also a well-watered, rich soil. Life goes on.

"However, the latest flood, after what has been the wettest winter I can recall, was of an order much greater than anything we have seen in the 29 years we have been here. About half the garden was under water, including greenhouses, sheds and some plants — such as a young yew hedge — that hate being too wet. The flooding has, at the time of writing, gone down. The main problem is that the ground is saturated, so any heavy rain is not absorbed at all.

"Flooding in a garden need not be a disaster. If it happens regularly, as it does here, plant accordingly. Our hostas, for example, love the winter flooding and grow magnificently well even in a hot, dry summer. If it is a one-off event, there will be mud and debris to clear, but most plants will scarcely notice, and as long as your soil has plenty of organic matter, the water will drain and be stored for roots to access when the weather gets drier."



CLEAN UP

practical tips to help gardens stand up to wetter winters

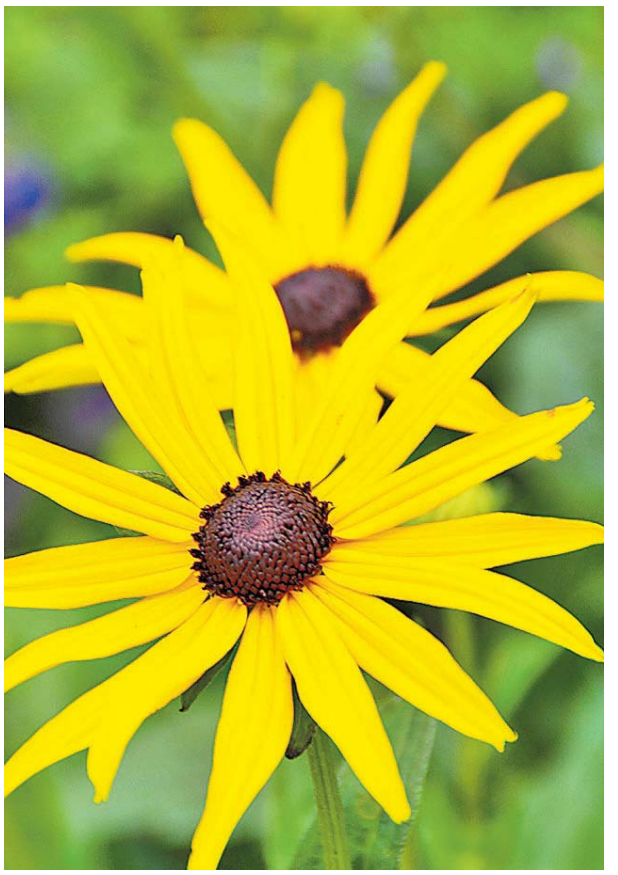


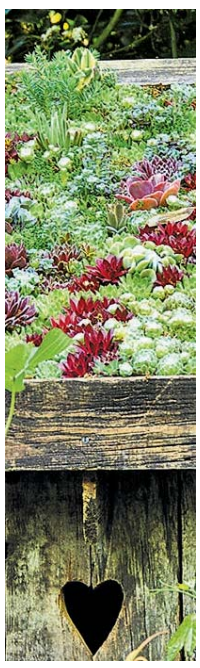
Raining champion Louise Curley has created raised beds surrounded by gravel paths to help her Yorkshire garden drain. *Rudbeckia fulgida*, below, and *Iris sibirica*, bottom, will tolerate getting their feet wet

AFTER THE DELUGE

Tips from Mark Gush, the RHS's head of environmental horticulture

- Allow standing water to drain and remove unwanted debris.
- Soil is vulnerable to compaction when wet, so avoid walking over saturated areas. If you don't have paths, put down old boards or temporary stepping stones.
- Wash silt and debris off leaves with clean water, otherwise the dirt will inhibit the plant's ability to absorb light and grow.
- Replace topsoil that may have been washed away and apply compost to recharge nutrients. Cover any exposed roots with soil or mulch.
- If floodwater has left grey deposits, it's likely to have come from a sewer; wear gloves while cleaning up.



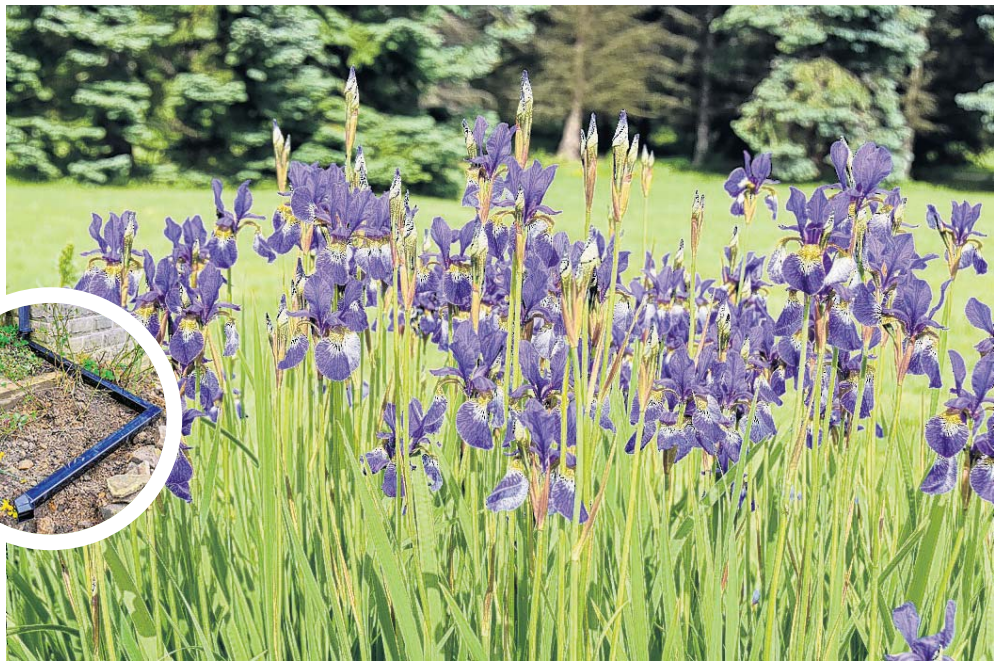


SLOW THE FLOW

How to mitigate the impact of flooding in your garden

- Maximise the area that's covered in plants — add green roofs to garages, sheds, wood stores and outdoor offices.
- Replace non-permeable surfaces such as tarmac with permeable ones such as gravel.
- Divert drainpipes into large planters or the soil, so that instead of going straight into the drains, the water is temporarily stored in the ground.
- Find space for trees, shrubs and perennials, all of which use water as they grow and protect the soil from erosion.





"Where possible, we're improving the resilience of these features by using sandbags, channelling surface water through drains, raising the bridges that are worst affected higher above the water level and beefing up their design with the help of specialist structural engineers.

"In the longer term, we have sought expert help to implement flood resilience features at crucial points along the length of the river."

NO DIG

Despite the wet winter, the veg-growing guru Charles Dowding's plot in Somerset has coped well. On his Instagram feed, there are images of immaculate beds of soil, with not a puddle in sight. "It has been fine here thanks to using the no-dig method, which encourages good drainage, and I hear from allotmenteers that their soil drains so much faster since they've adopted the no-dig approach," he says. "If you have drainage problems, don't put tools into the soil, just apply a surface mulch of soft organic matter such as compost and composted wood bark. This will encourage earthworms, which in turn will create natural drainage channels." This technique works just as well for ornamental plants – composted bark is particularly useful for clay soils because it opens up the structure, thereby improving the drainage.

RAIN GARDENS

Nigel Dunnett, professor of planting design and vegetation technology at Sheffield University, has written books and created gardens at the Chelsea flower show based on the idea of rain gardens that manage run-off from hard surfaces. "I thought I had to put my money where my mouth is and transform my own garden into a water-sensitive landscape," he says. "I also wanted to show that it's possible to fit eco features into a formal garden."

Dunnett disconnected downpipes from the drains, cutting them off at ground level and using gutter extension pieces to run them into his garden. "Alongside my front path, I made a linear "bioswale" – really a fancy name for a ditch – on each side by reducing the soil level to about 200mm below the level of the path, so that rainwater can collect. One of my diverted downpipes feeds directly into a swale. Another empties into a wildlife pond, which can then overflow into the other swale."

Choosing the right plants has been crucial, too. Dunnett has selected ones that will like the moisture, but are happy under normal conditions. "The planting is designed to have visual interest throughout the year, with primulas, marsh marigolds and camassias in the spring, followed by *Iris sibirica*, ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), day lilies (*Hemerocallis* sp), *Ligularia* 'The Rocket', *Astilbe chinensis* var *taquetii* 'Purpurlanze' and *Rudbeckia fulgida* var *deamii*, one taking over from the other.

"Using the garden to hold back water after a storm, to temporarily store it and to reduce the amount of water leaving the garden straight into the drains offers many more exciting planting opportunities and garden habitats."

The writer is donating a percentage of her fee to the Calderdale Flood Appeal

HOME HELP



ZVONKO 1959/GETTY IMAGES

Heat exchange
From 2025, new homes will no longer have traditional radiators

RADIATOR RAGE

Q I keep hearing about government policy to remove gas boilers from homes and replace them with electric ones. We have a gas boiler and beautiful Edwardian wrought-iron radiators that work very well. Are we going to have to get rid of them? It seems a destructive act.
P Palmer, Greenwich

A The government intends to require all new homes to be built without gas boilers from 2025, which is likely to mean most new homes have electric heat pumps, but this shouldn't affect existing properties. Nobody is currently planning to make people get rid of their gas boiler, as far as we know, and you will still be able to buy a new boiler if the current one breaks down, allowing you to keep using existing radiators.

I can't predict future government policy, of course. In the longer term we need to move away from natural gas for heating to achieve the government's commitment to "net zero" emissions by 2050, which could be through a combination of biogas and the replacement of gas boilers with alternatives. However, in most cases a gas boiler can't simply be switched for a heat pump, as the latter system operates at a lower temperature, 35C-45C, versus 60C-80C for a gas boiler. So your existing radiators wouldn't get hot enough. You'd need better insulation or bigger/additional radiators so the rooms can still get to the right temperature. Careful design should allow continued use of existing wrought-iron radiators, if it incorporates improved insulation.

John Taylor, managing director, Enhabit; enhabit.uk.com

TOTALLY FLOORED

Q We bought a new-build house in 2017, but discovered that floor tiles were laid defectively by the builder's subcontractor. We alerted the builder, Linden Homes, within the two-year warranty period. To our surprise, it requested that we contact the NHBC. The subsequent NHBC report and another report by an independent tiler cited the same issues: debonded, loose floor tiles; lack of a decoupling layer; spalling grout; and failure to remove laitance prior to tile installation. Linden Homes has informed us it only proposes to replace cracked tiles and the defective grouting. But the whole floor needs replacing after correct preparation has been completed.

If the whole floor is replaced, the kitchen appliances and skirting boards will need removal and reinstallation, and some redecoration will be required. Furniture will need to be moved and housed elsewhere.

We've been told the NHBC has given the builder a deadline to work to, and that if the builder does not co-operate, the NHBC will provide a cost estimate for the works, then it would be up to us to arrange the contractors. We don't want the hassle. Could you advise us how to persuade the builder to carry out all the works necessary and to co-ordinate all the trades?
Anonymous

A Identifying defects is relatively easy, particularly with expert advice, as you have already obtained. The real challenge and single biggest area of dispute between new-build owners and developers concerns the scope of works needed to put those defects right properly.

The cost of putting things right properly can be high, so there is a lot to play for in terms of the developer seeking to minimise the works it does. Developers will naturally look to do as little as possible, even if that means leaving owners with a home that is still defective.

Linden has offered only a minimal scope of works, involving replacing cracked tiles and regrouting between them. That will not address the debonding, which is likely to continue to worsen over time.

The NHBC will not usually direct how the developer should put something right, leaving it to them to decide. That means that if you want more than the developer is offering, you will have to take them on, possibly through legal action. As a first step in the legal action, you would need expert evidence of the underlying problem and the appropriate solution. You will also need to get the remedial works costed. This will enable the legal team to present the claim for damages and negotiate a settlement.

Common outcomes to this approach include the developer agreeing to do a full scope of works; payment by the developer of sufficient money to allow the owner to procure works themselves; or possibly a cash settlement with the NHBC. You should also claim your legal and expert fees, plus related losses such as alternative accommodation. Your legal team will advise on what losses can be claimed and ensure you settle on fair terms that preserve your rights in relation to other possible latent defects, as necessary.

Geoff Peter, founder, Wingrove Law (wingrovelaw.co.uk), which specialises in class actions against housebuilders, and managing director of New Build Guru, the UK member organisation for owners of defective new-build homes (newbuildguru.com).

Linden Homes responded: "We've committed to complete the repairs entirely in accordance with the NHBC's findings and requirements by replacing the damaged tiles and rectifying the grouting issues that have appeared. We strive to deliver quality homes and services and our customer care team has been in regular contact with the customer; we hope they are able to accept our offer to complete the repairs."

SLOW SOLICITORS

Q My younger brother is in his late fifties and moving house for the first time. He is selling the family home (he is unmarried and lives alone) and downsizing to a flat from a terraced house.

The issue is that the conveyancing is taking for ever. There is no chain, all funds are in place with all parties, so there are no money problems to resolve.

It is more than 10 weeks since conveyancing began, and all the paperwork has been signed and returned. But the solicitors are dragging their heels and requesting all sorts of additional information, most of which has already been presented. The excuse of documents being "lost" happens often. They still cannot give him an estimated completion date.

NEED HELP FROM OUR EXPERTS?

Email your questions to **homehelp@sunday-times.co.uk**. Advice is given without responsibility

THE BEST... SINGLE OVENS

Good Housekeeping Institute – TRIED • TESTED • TRUSTED

JOINT WINNER
Neff N70 B27CR22N1B Built-In Electric Single Oven, £667; ao.com
94/100
Neff's oven looks elegant and its digital control panel is easy to use. Its 12 useful functions left us spoilt for choice and the CircoTherm fan helps it reach the set temperature fast. There's a choice of a full or half grill; bread baking, dough proving and low-temperature cooking options are also handy. It produced perfectly risen golden fairy cakes, a beautiful bronzed roast chicken, crispy roast potatoes and crumble with a crunch. Bread was evenly browned too. Everything fitted inside easily. The thermostat was accurate, and temperature can be set in 5C intervals. Ideal.



JOINT WINNER
AEG BPE842720M Built-In Single Oven
£879; johnlewis.com
94/100
A versatile single oven with plenty of features, it is intuitive to use, with a clear LED display. The thermostat is accurate, and we were impressed that the door stayed a cool 33C even after the oven was operating at 200C for more than an hour. The grill is fast and browns evenly across the rack. The interior lights, together with the large viewing window, make it easy to see food while it cooks. The SenseCook feature allows you to get results exactly to your liking — whether that is well done, medium or rare.

goodhousekeeping.co.uk/institute





READERS' CLINIC

HOW DO I STOP DUVET COVERS GETTING TANGLED IN THE DRYER?

Hattie Draper

Lindsay Perks
Place a large dry towel in the drum with the duvet cover. The mix of fabrics is key.

Vivien Lewis
Close the fastenings, and fold before putting it in the dryer.

Gill Mackley, Norwich
Fold and put the cover in a pillowcase. You could remove and refold when half dry.

@andrewrichardbarnes
Put a tennis ball in with it.

@tictacspictacs
Use dryer balls, and wash sheet and pillowcase separate from duvet cover

@laurau541
Buy special wool balls for tumble dryers.

Future questions
- How do I get rid of static cling in a silk dressing gown?
- How can I remove turmeric stains from kitchen worktops?
- Can anyone recommend comfortable, weather-resistant garden furniture?

Reader's tip of the week
A quick and easy way to remove tea stains from mugs is to squeeze one or two drops of Milton sterilising fluid into the mug and fill it with water. Leave for a few minutes or more. Rinse. You can clean spoons at the same time by leaving them in the mug.
Janet Cowburn

Send your tips, tricks and questions to homehelp@sunday-times.co.uk

Despite constant prodding, nothing is done. We suspect that, as the property values are less than £130,000, the solicitors are prioritising more profitable work. How can we speed things up? We are worried the deals may fall through.
Ian, via email

A I've seen the conveyancing companies your brother is using and they are awful – overworked and underpaid factories. My advice for your brother is to file a complaint with his conveyancers in order to alert the management and encourage some proactivity.

Step 1: Complain directly to the firm. Always make your initial complaint to the company itself, whether a solicitor or licensed conveyancer. Each firm will have its own internal complaints procedure. Someone (normally a partner) will be in charge of handling grievances (a complaints manager). You should be given their contact details without question.

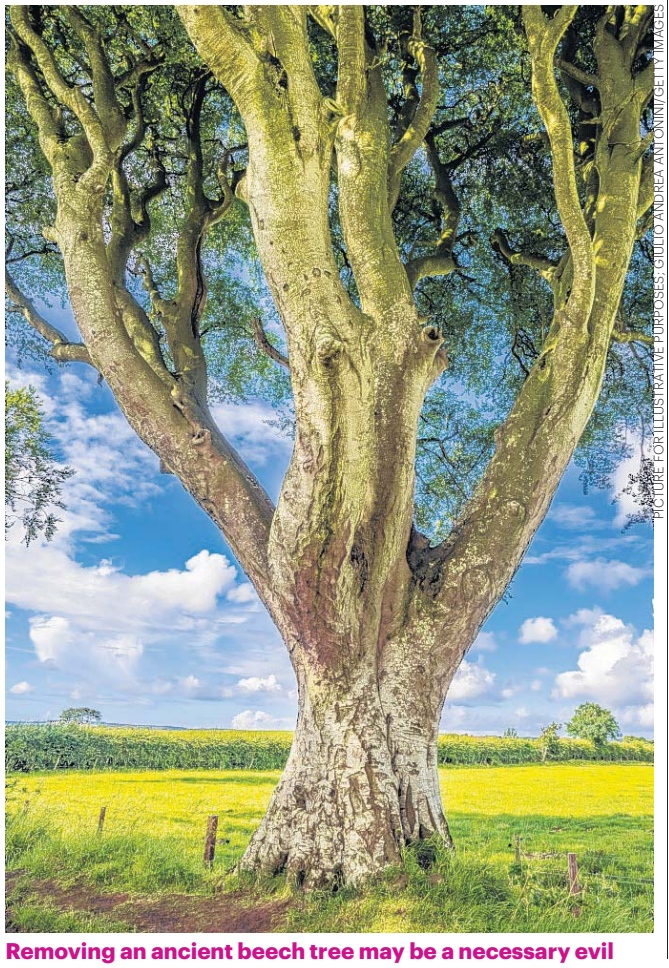
Always go "on the record" and set out your complaint in writing. If you don't feel you have the knowledge to write a complaints letter, the Legal Ombudsman has a template you can use.

Conveyancing firms should acknowledge receipt of your complaint within two to seven days, and set out timescales for resolving it. They should then respond formally within eight weeks.

If you're not satisfied with the way the conveyancer deals with the complaint in-house, or if it is ignoring you, take step 2: escalate your complaint to a governing body. If your complaint is about poor service or a bill, you should complain to the Legal Ombudsman (legal ombudsman.org.uk). If it's about negligence or dishonesty, take it to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (if using a solicitor) or the Council for Licensed Conveyancers (if using a conveyancer). To escalate any complaint, you will need: the name of the person who carried out your legal work; the company name; anything in writing that clarifies your instructions to the person/company; the date on which the company was instructed to carry out the work; details of the problem, what they did wrong and when they did it.

For more information, see theadvisory.co.uk/conveyancing and Licensed Conveyancing code of conduct: bit.ly/2HX8T9U.

Gavin Brazg, CEO, The Advisory; theadvisory.co.uk



PICTURE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES: GIULIO ANDREA ANTONINI/GETTY IMAGES

Removing an ancient beech tree may be a necessary evil

LIFE'S A BEECH

Q I have a lovely old beech tree at the end of my 80ft garden. It is beautiful and useful in shielding us from neighbours, but it looks as though it may be causing damage to a shared retaining wall. I am reluctant simply to chop it down. What can I do to save it or manage it? Is there a charity that can help?
James, London

A It's great that you want to save this beautiful beech, but there aren't any charities that could cover the costs. When making a decision about a tree, landowners should get an inspection by a qualified arboriculturist (check the Arboricultural Association website, trees.org.uk, for a list). This will confirm whether the tree is causing damage to the wall. If a root or the stump is making physical contact with it – and you have like-minded neighbours – you might be able to move the wall instead of the tree. If the issue is subsidence, where the tree absorbs moisture in the soil causing the soil to shrink, then you face a different challenge. Both issues might be managed, but there are costs.

Once you know what you're dealing with, you must check with your local authority and/or your deeds to see whether your tree is protected by a tree preservation order or is in a conservation area. If it is, you'll need written consent from your local authority to have works done on it.

In rare cases, mature trees can be moved. But this can be a lengthy, expensive process and the tree may die en route. If all else fails, consider cutting the tree back to its stem, which can look starkly beautiful as it declines and be a haven for wildlife. You might also place branches artfully about your garden, as "bug hotels" and a home for fungi and lichen.

If, on the advice of a professional, the tree must be removed (£500 to £3,000, depending on complexity), please give your garden the gift of newly planted trees. We'd recommend planting at least three of an appropriate species for every mature tree that must be removed.

Jon Stokes, director of trees, science and research at the Tree Council; treecouncil.org.uk

GNATTY DREAD

Q For months we have been troubled with fruit flies. They invaded the bathroom in their hundreds, all from a plant that had been repotted. The source was the compost. I've changed that brand, and use Bug Clear. But we still find about 10 dead flies on the windowsill every week – the light obviously attracts them – and others are found in the kitchen and conservatory daily. What caused this and how do I stop them?
J, Keynsham

A These are not fruit flies (Drosophila species), but fungus gnats, of the family Sciaridae. The tiny larvae of these midges live in soil, compost and decaying organic matter, feeding on microscopic fungal hyphae. They are a common, if easily overlooked, part of the natural garden soil fauna, and although they can be a pest for commercial mushroom growers, they are mostly harmless and will do no damage to you or your plants. To some extent, they show that the soil in your pots is natural and fertile. They are unlikely to continue a long-lived colony indoors: after each fly emerges from the soil, it heads to the light and soon dies on the windowsill. Without mated females laying eggs in the pots, your infestation should dwindle.

If the "invasion" continues, remedies include putting a layer of sand or gravel over the soil around the plants – so discouraging future egg-laying. Alternatively, sticky fly-paper traps will grab flying adults. I'd suggest that chemical control is overkill.

Richard Jones, author of House Guests, House Pests (Bloomsbury £9.99); bugmanjones.com

PROMOTED CONTENT

Drive time



The road to your home is paved with good intentions, but is that enough? **Carl Goulding** from MyBuilder.com steers you through driveway decisions



PETER HENDERSON

The entrance to your home should make a great first impression; if it's a mess of wheelie bins and weeds, you're missing a trick.

While an off-road parking space is on many people's driveway wish list, and can add as much as 10% to the value of a property, a good driveway isn't just a car park. With a little planning and the right contractors, it's a great way to add "kerb appeal".

The three big factors to consider when creating a driveway are the surface, then lighting and planting. I favour a mix of paving and planting, adding greenery with borders and edgings.

But your most important decision will be surface – gravel, tarmac, resin or block paving? Some like loose gravel as they want to hear people approach, but there's maintenance to consider as keeping it clean and tidy can be a chore. One answer is to go for resin with the appearance of gravel – it has zero loose stones and looks smart, but it is quite pricey.

Sunken runway lights that show pathways and nearby trees can look spectacular. Lights also add a sense of security. The sharp minimalist look of rendered walls and cedar-slatted fences is popular, as is mixing textures – for example, gravel with granite stone edging.

With hard surfaces there are planning constraints around water runoff, known as SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems), and you may need planning permission if your driveway slopes towards the road. A good tradesperson should know about SuDS, but it's your responsibility to check.

A good driveway isn't just a car park – it's a great way to add 'kerb appeal'

Think about how many cars you want to be able to park to give an idea of the size – and be sure to specify to your contractor which surface you prefer. Decide on your budget and explore your options within that price range. Be honest with your contractor about what you want to spend and they will help you with this. The entrance is the first part of your home people will see, so make sure you're leading from the front when it comes to your driveway.

Not just any builder...

MyBuilder.com is the easy way to find great local tradespeople across the UK. Post your job for free and get responses from vetted and reviewed tradespeople right away.

myBuilder.com



Approved Service
Which? Trusted traders
Stannah Installation Services

Recommended Provider Which? Stairlift Suppliers May 2019

150 YEARS

Sorry grandad, you have to wait your turn

Perhaps you're not the only one wanting an easier way of getting around your home

Our stairlifts are perfect for regaining your independence, feeling confident on the stairs and also beating the rush for a bedtime story upstairs! Over the past 40 years we've helped more than 700,000 people around the world to enjoy the whole of their home again and we can help you too.

We have advisors nationwide, who can visit you at home to talk you through your options, show you how our stairlifts fit all kinds of stairs (and bears) and come in a wide choice of fabrics, colours and trims to suit your home. Installation usually takes just a few hours and is stress free, and our engineers will leave your home as tidy as it was before.

Life at home is so much better when you can do the things you want to and simply keep on being you. Give us a call today.



Freephone
0800 414 8756
stannah.co.uk

Stannah
Keep on being you

Introducing the NEW

vax™

BLADE

RANGE

Get the cleaning performance of corded uprights*

From our best-ever cordless vacuum cleaner range.

High performance cordless cleaning

Powered by the revolutionary new VAX ONEPWR removable battery.



Good Housekeeping Institute APPROVED 2020

Cleaning Performance That Lasts

Combined with the revolutionary new VAX ONEPWR battery and innovative design, the VAX ONEPWR Blade range gives you the cleaning performance of the best-selling corded uprights* with the freedom of a cordless vacuum cleaner. Plus, our best-in-range Blade 4 outperforms the UK's top 3 best-selling cordless vacuums**. The specially designed floorhead moves from carpets to hard floors with ease and intelligent power monitoring means you can achieve constant high pick-up performance. The new removable ONEPWR battery also gives you up to 45 minutes runtime (Blade 4) or up to 40 minutes (Blade 3)†, enough to clean your whole home. Plus the battery can be charged separate to the product, or you can even swap out for another battery so you're ready to clean whenever you need.

Advanced Technology

The VAX ONEPWR Blade's innovative design ensures efficient and optimised performance and our Direct Helix technology allows you to use the vacuum in any orientation, achieving the same constant pick-up performance whether you're cleaning up high or down on the floor. Our 3-stage filtration process makes sure even the smallest particles of dust and debris are captured in the dirt bin.

Lightweight

The VAX ONEPWR Blade range has been specially designed with the user in mind. Weighing just 3.1kg, it's lightweight, balanced and easy to use. It features our DustTracker headlights, so there's nowhere for the dirt to hide and in just one click, the dirt bin can be removed and emptied with ease. Features such as an easily removable brush bar and filter mean maintenance of your Blade is made simple, keeping your VAX ONEPWR Blade performing at its best.

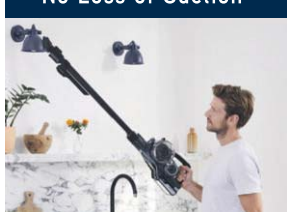
Whole Home Cleaning

At just the touch of a button, boost mode gives you up to three times the power to tackle those tough jobs and combined with the manoeuvrable design, you can move from surface to surface or room to room without the hassle of plugging and unplugging. Easily turn your VAX Blade cordless vacuum into a handheld; perfect for cleaning stairs, pet beds, cars and upholstery. Reach with ease into awkward spaces and down into hard to reach gaps. Plus, when you buy direct from VAX, get an additional free toolkit worth over £50.



FREE
toolkit worth over £50
with every Blade purchase

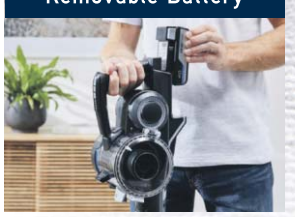
No Loss of SuctionΔ



Handheld Mode



Removable Battery



*UK market data, Jan 2019 - Dec 2019 (by sales volume), when tested on carpet and hard floor according to IEC 62885-2:2016 clauses 5.2 and 5.3. Tested in Boost Mode. **UK market data, Jan 2019 - Dec 2019 (by sales volume), when tested on carpet according to IEC 62885-2:2016 clause 5.3. Tested in Boost Mode. For further information email claimsinfo@vax.co.uk. †Tested in standard power mode on hard floor, with floor brush switched off. Δ Tested according to IEC 62885-2:2016 clause 5.7 and 5.9. Orders before 5pm Monday-Friday will be next day delivery. Outside of these times, orders will be despatched next working day. Offer only while stocks last.



vax BLADE 4 ONEPWR CORDLESS

vax BLADE 3 ONEPWR CORDLESS

Order today from £179.99

PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE

GET A FREE TOOLKIT WORTH OVER £50 + FREE DELIVERY. WHILE STOCKS LAST

CALL: **0800 031 4970** WEB: **vax.co.uk**

VAXUK0856

vax™ ONE PWR CORDLESS

CAROL LEWIS

@CarolLewis101



RENAISSANCE PLAN



Sellers in Tuscany are getting ever more creative as they try to entice investors in a sluggish market

While the queue for passport control seemed longer than expected when I arrived in Pisa last week, I dismissed it as the usual good-natured chaos you find in Italy. What I wasn't prepared for was the row of people in CSI-style outfits – head-to-toe white, with masks over their faces. Everyone stopped talking abruptly as we dutifully lined up to have our temperatures taken.

In the centre of Florence, the situation was no less dramatic, with many people sporting face masks; though as the day wore on these tended to slip, with most dangling around necks by the time the evening *aperitivi* were served. We were some distance from the northern coronavirus quarantine zones, but still there was concern, with people swapping stories about relatives farther north, where villages were in lockdown.

It is the latest blow to the Italian economy – and housing market – which has stuttered and stalled more times than a vintage Vespa. As a result, sellers are finding ever more creative ways to entice buyers, from whole villages on sale for €1 to six-figure price cuts and even a return to staged payments: a way of buying that dates back to Roman times.

Two years ago, Martyn and Margaret Lewis decided that they wanted to sell L'Olmo, their farmhouse in the hills above Florence, and move back to England to spend more time with their family, but they have failed to find a buyer, despite reducing the price from €1.35m to €995,000.

"The market has been depressed for a while," Martyn says. "Brexit has had a bearing on British buyers, while others have been put off by the Italian economy. Then there is the terrible oversupply."



Even in a buyers' market, homes in the centre of Florence, left, can be hard to come by, so check auction listings

He likes to stay at L'Olmo from Easter to November, often letting the main four-bedroom house and living in the adjacent two-bedroom flat. "The house gives us an income and it has been a fantastic lifestyle between full-time work and full retirement."

Gemma Bruce, managing director of Casa & Country, one of the estate agencies instructed to sell L'Olmo, says: "It has been a sluggish market, particularly in the countryside. Even though things are starting to pick up, there is a backlog of properties and more sellers than buyers."

Martyn and Margaret may not have sold their farmhouse, but they have attracted the attention of Stephen Bishop, managing director of Sojourn8, who specialises in fractional ownership: a relatively new concept for individual sellers in Italy.

Now L'Olmo, as well as being for sale conventionally, is available to a group of eight buyers for €143,750 each, which secures at least six weeks of exclusive use a year. Bishop says it is common for sellers to achieve a 10%-15% increase on the asking price using this approach.

The eight buyers will purchase the property via a limited company. Usage, management, maintenance and other details, such as whether owners can let the property, or whether the group will sell it on within a set timescale, are established by legal agreement at the beginning. The seller pays a "minimal" listing fee to Bishop to attract buyers – who pay €4,000-€6,000 between them for his work in setting up the legal framework.

Bishop says the perfect properties for fractional sales



FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

Set in eight acres near the village of Londa, 45 minutes from Florence, L'Olmo is a four-bedroom restored farmhouse with an adjacent two-bedroom flat and a swimming pool. It is for sale in one-eighth shares, which give each buyer six weeks' use a year. The running costs are shared equally between the owners.

sojourn8.com/lolmo



STATE AUCTION

A one-bedroom, two-storey apartment near Florence's famous Piazza del Duomo is going to auction at the end of April. It needs work, but opportunities to buy a home in such a central location rarely come up. Casa & Country estate agency can help with the buying process and translation.

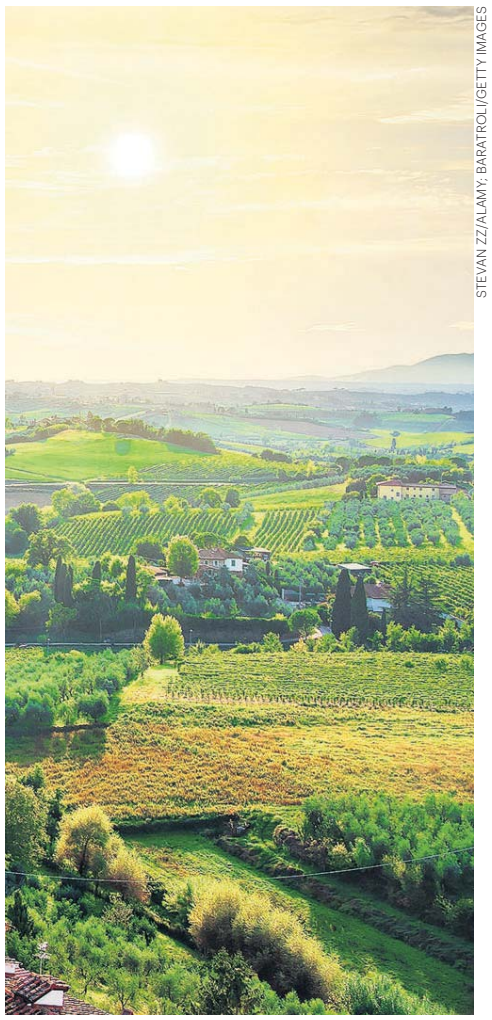
00 39 055 234 0830, asteimmobili.it



STAGED PAYMENTS

Casa Semifonte has views across open countryside to the towers of San Gimignano. Built in the 1890s, it has five bedrooms and original features, including barrelled ceilings. Its 2½ acres include 60 olive trees, a pergola and an infinity-edge pool. The owner would consider taking payment in instalments.

020 7993 2967, casaandcountry.com



STEVAN ZZ/ALAMY; BARATROLI/GETTY IMAGES

The art of sealing a deal
The housing market is slow in Tuscany, especially in the countryside. Left, Vinci, Leonardo's birthplace

are those in "locations people will want to return to several times a year, 60 minutes from an airport with regular flights to the UK". A villa needs "a minimum of four bedrooms and ideally a pool".

Philip Laroma Jezzi, a lawyer at Laroma Jezzi & Partners, in Florence, has seen a rise in these more unusual ways of purchasing property, with staged payments and rent to buy among the most popular. The former allows a buyer to pay a sizeable deposit and take possession before gradually paying off the amount owed, acquiring the title at the end of the process.

A key issue, though, is that a buyer can stop paying, leaving the seller to evict them. Payments can be staged over any time period agreed by the buyer and seller, but four years is quite common.

A "less sexy" version is rent to buy, in which some or all of the rent counts as payment towards the property, but Laroma Jezzi says this can be more complex to organise.

The British owner of Casa Semifonte, a beautiful villa in the countryside around Certaldo, southwest of Florence, says that after a year of trying to sell the property he has owned for 30 years (for

> **Even though things are starting to pick up, there is a backlog of properties, with more sellers than buyers**



€1.25m), he would be willing to accept staged payments.

"I would consider it, but I would need a substantial sum up front – if someone wanted to pay over, say, three years, a third up front and a bank guarantee for the final two payments. That way, it helps the buyer with their cashflow and I am not taking any risk."

He wouldn't contemplate an auction: "My back is not against the wall!"

Auctions in Italy are typically associated with distressed sales, but state ones for the disposal of properties of bankrupt owners and businesses can turn up some rare gems if you know where to look. Vincent Curran, a property developer from Philadelphia, bought a large two-bedroom apartment overlooking the Ponte Vecchio, in Florence, for €2.1m last year. "It was a drawn-out affair – probably 18 months from start to finish," he recalls. "However, I feel we got a good deal on a property we wouldn't have had access to otherwise."

Curran recommends using experienced advisers. There were some retrospective planning issues to sort out, and service-charge debts to clear, but he now owns a property with one of the most enviable views in Florence.

Laroma Jezzi and Bruce, who both helped on Curran's sale, agree that state auctions can be complex. Foreign buyers need to give someone power of attorney to bid on their behalf, and the paperwork has to be immaculate or the bids risk being thrown out. "Italy has a highly regulated property market – as regulated as France or Germany, but not as efficient," Laroma Jezzi says.

Private auctions are also growing in popularity in Italy. Charlie Smith, managing partner at London Real Estate Advisors, who works with the US company Concierge Auctions, says these tend to be for high-end properties €1.5m and above) and are open to British buyers directly – although a refundable deposit of €100,000 is required before bidding opens.

"The property is sold to the highest bidder, so it gives a true reflection of the market price," he says. "At a recent one in Tuscany, we had 1,000 inquiries, showed 20 people around the property and had six bidders. Whatever the sale price, and whether the seller is thoroughly delighted or a little disappointed, that is the market price."



THE TAP THAT DOES IT ALL

100°C BOILING, CHILLED AND SPARKLING WATER

With the new Quooker CUBE, you can now also dispense chilled and sparkling water from your Quooker tap. That means that a single tap gives you everything you need: 100°C boiling, hot, cold, chilled and sparkling water.

Limited offer–£99 install*
Normally £384
Only when you quote code STH/03

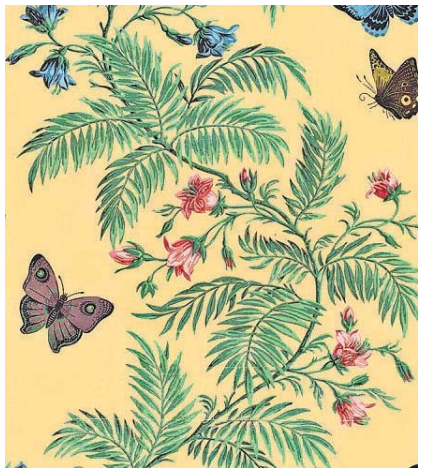
Quooker®

Interested? Visit quooker.co.uk
or call 0345 833 3333

Manchester Showroom
Open Monday - Saturday 10.00 - 16.00

*Connection to existing services.

Home Interiors



The French brand Zuber, supplier to the White House, is the oldest working wallpaper factory in the world. Its Pauline 2582 design costs £550 a roll. **zuber.fr**



This blue and white scenic wallpaper, made in France by Bien Fait, is called Coromandel. **£530 for four 340cm x 280cm panels; smallable.com**



Quex Garden is a hand-painted design on plain silk from Fromental's Modern Chinois range. It's available in two colourways: Midnight, pictured, and the neutral Minerva. **£712 a sq metre; fromental.co.uk**



The Camellia Chinoiserie Jade Green mural is a reworking of an 18th-century pattern in the V&A archive. **From £40 a sq metre; surfaceview.co.uk**

OLIVER PERROTT; RAKIC N/GETTY IMAGES



ORIENT EXPRESSIVE

KATRINA BURROUGHS
@Kat_Burroughs



Trad eastern patterns are getting an exuberant and romantic update

There aren't many wallpapers that can boast a waiting list. Yet the chinoiserie pattern created by the fashion designer Erdem in collaboration with the luxury wallcovering specialist de Gournay, which is set for an official launch on March 19, already has advance orders from fans of the designer and friends of the hand-painted wallcovering brand. A hunger for this type of hyper-decorative pattern is revealed in collections from high end to mass market this season, as designers take traditional themes such as botanicals and birds, and remake them for contemporary homes.

So why is chinoiserie so hot right now? Romantic, exuberant and quite excessively ornate, those over-the-top animated compositions are also deeply familiar. The statelies that we visit at half-term, and those recent photos of the 19th-century wallpaper from the Yellow Drawing Room, meticulously removed for the renovations of the east wing of Buckingham Palace, remind us that oriental ornament has been part of a British aesthetic for upwards of three centuries. Erdem's delightful interpretation of a "garden scene filled with birds and flowers" on silk and Xuan paper, available in vivid Kelly green, pale grey or muted yellow colourways, is simply the latest and loveliest iteration.

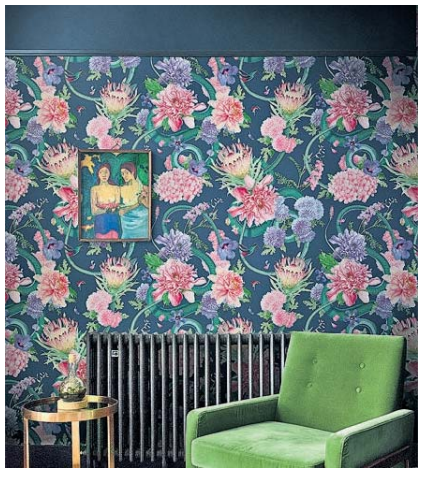
A craze for exotic style brought Chinese and Far Eastern pattern into European interiors in the 17th century. This historic form of cultural appropriation rose to a peak of popularity in the 18th century and has never truly been out of fashion since. It's now used by decorators as a shorthand for sophisticated opulence.

The pattern of flowers and birds on this Erdem × de Gournay wallcovering is hand-painted on silk and Xuan paper. **£1,508 a panel; degournay.com**

Fromental, the firm that supplied its Bambois wallcovering to Gwyneth Paltrow, specialises in hand-painted murals on paper and silk. Most recently, it provided a magnificent wallcovering for a reading room at the Mandarin Oriental Lake Como. The interior designer Eric Egan created a pattern based on 18th-century paintings by Carlo Antonio and Vittorio Ranieri, two Italian painters working in the style of Chinese artists to create artworks that would appeal to the western market.

Other contemporary creatives have added a cool spin to the historic themes of chinoiserie. Kit Miles has designed scaled-up, hyper-real patterns including Biophillia and Phases des Camélias. Divine Savages, the brand founded by Jamie Watkins and Tom Kennedy, has devised the pattern Forbidden Bloom, which draws elements from tradition. "We added our signature Divine Savages twist by creating the vines out of serpents," Kennedy says. "This modern interpretation invites you to look closer. Can you find the snake's head?"

Jane Rockett, co-founder of Rockett St George, the cult homeware e-tailer, has always had a soft spot for chinoiserie, and her outstanding online selection includes examples from Mind the Gap and Coordonné, Transylvanian and Spanish design labels that take complex pattern to another level. RSG bestsellers include ByoBu rolls and the Edo wallpaper panel. The price point, from £175 for a roll of Mind the Gap paper, signals that the quality is continents away from those glorious Erdem × de Gournay wallcoverings, which cost £1,508 a panel, but the patterns have the same fantastical charm.



Divine Savages' Forbidden Bloom wallpaper draws on tradition, but adds a Savage twist — a serpent in the garden. **£150 a roll; divinesavages.com**



Delicate decoration from the Transylvanian design label Mind the Gap: this digital print of meadow flowers is called Aquafleur Aquamarine. **£175 for three rolls; thegiftedfew.com**



Little Greene's Belton Scenic wallcovering, in Sunbeam, is drawn from an 18th-century paper in the Chinese bedroom at Belton House, Lincolnshire. **£209 for three panels; littlegreene.com**



Joséphine, a classic design launched anew this spring by Nobilis, features birds and bamboo, printed on Japanese straw. **£595 (140cm x 340cm); nobilis.fr/en**

45 MILLION MyPillows have been sold in the USA & Canada

MyPillow®

...is the answer to getting a good night's sleep...



30% Discount

£59.95 inc.VAT RRP per Pillow

Now £41.97

Promo code: **Home13**

10 YEAR WARRANTY

45 Million American & Canadian consumers have found the answer to a good night's sleep and it is called *MyPillow,* which is now available here in the UK.

It was invented by Mike Lindell from Minnesota. After years of not getting enough sleep, tossing and turning all night and waking up with a sore arm and painful neck, Mike started researching alternative pillows.

He couldn't find anything on the market, so he decided to invent his own and even obtained a US patent on the filling.

Mike tried 94 different designs over a 2 year period before he found the perfect formula for the best night's sleep. The secret is in the unique fill that adjusts to your exact individual needs regardless of your sleep position. The results are outstanding, it's everything you would ever want in a pillow.

Millions of Americans and Canadians are sleeping soundly, isn't it time the UK woke up feeling refreshed? Well, the good news is, ***MyPillow is now available in the UK, manufactured at our factory in Coventry.***

They say, nothing in life is guaranteed, but with MyPillow you can be safe in the knowledge that there's a ***60 day Money Back Guarantee*** and it comes with ***a 10 year warranty.***

- ✔ Adjusts to your sleeping position
- ✔ Helps you stay cool all night
- ✔ Won't go flat during the night
- ✔ Washable and dryable

Right now, you can get MyPillow at a SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER – JUST £41.97 when you use the promo code: "Home13". That's a 30% DISCOUNT on the Recommended Retail Price.

0800 096 2199 OR ORDER ONLINE @ mypillow.co.uk

What our UK customers say...

Phil B. - Southhampton - wrote:
"I am so happy with the MyPillow I ordered. I am in my 50s can honestly say we have had the best night sleeps since we got them. They are comfy, mould to your movements and don't get hot during the night. I wish I had them years ago! I overslept for the first time, I was so comfy. I have had so many different pillows before, some costing more, MyPillow is well worth it".

Joel C. - Royal Leamington Spa - wrote:
"I have always had issues sleeping, I could never get comfortable and therefore never get a good nights sleep. Having searched for years for the right pillow, I can now say I have found it. I now sleep through the night and have more energy during the day, all thanks to MyPillow."

"I personally guarantee MyPillow will be the most comfortable pillow you'll ever own or your money back."



Mike Lindell
Inventor & CEO of MyPillow Ltd.

Manufactured in the UK

Offer valid for a limited time only. Must have promo code to receive discount. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Full terms and conditions available at mypillow.co.uk/terms

Home

TIME AND SPACE

RUSSELL TOVEY



Tovey's French bulldog, Rocky

The actor and art collector on Shoreditch loft living and leaving the radio on for his dogs

I live in Shoreditch, east London, in a first-floor flat in a converted factory. It has exposed brickwork, wooden floors and big windows. I've been there for five and a half years. From the age of 14, I was going up to London from Essex to do drama classes, but I avoided east London. I had to get to Notting Hill and the West End. Now the East End feels like the most authentic part of the city, with its history of transition. The building I live in used to be a fabric factory, so we sometimes have an issue with clothes moths. They are still feeding on 200-year-old fragments of linen that have slipped through the gaps in the floor.

Why did you choose to buy that flat?
I collect art, and that gallery/home feel was my dream. It was completely out of my budget, but I did it – much to my parents' fear and trepidation. Friends and family started off saying it felt cold and clinical, because it was like living in an art gallery. That's what I liked, but now I've got more of a balance. You can still feel cosy in an open space. It's all about zoning and breaking up the space with fabrics. I do not need any more new rugs and cushions, but they keep appearing anyway.

What art do you collect?
I collect works by emerging artists and I enjoy introducing people to them. That's what culture is about, sharing stories. Tracey Emin was one of the first artists I got into. When I was at college, the Young British Artists movement kicked in, but I never knew you could actually own art. Then I discovered you could buy editions. My parents got me a Tracey Emin edition for my 21st birthday, and my first big art purchase was an original Emin monoprint that I bought with my money from *The History Boys* film.

I also like Carmen Herrera, who is 104 years old. She was only properly discovered in her eighties. She's a geometric abstractionist, and I've got a stunning work on paper by her. There's art in all the rooms, and stored in every cupboard, but I chop and change it. I'm quite particular about the way things are arranged. One minute I'll be watching TV, then I'll look to the right and see a picture is a bit wonky, so I'll have to take it off the wall and hang it again.

What's your decorative style?
Modernist and midcentury. I like clean geometric lines. I've got chairs from eBay and junk shops that I've had reupholstered with decent fabric. My favourite store is SCP, on Curtain Road, in Shoreditch, where I've bought stuff by the designer Matthew Hilton. I like furniture that isn't too obvious. I love looking at interiors. I recently had my apartment shot for *Architectural Digest*. It was one of my greatest achievements.

Where did you live before?
I'm from Billericay. The family house backed onto woods and a golf course. I was always out exploring with a metal detector, finding bits of rubbish and thinking it was something valuable from the Saxon period.

Growing up, I didn't understand anyone who didn't want to live in London. When I first moved here, 10 years ago, I lived in Archway, north London. It was summer and I ran around Hampstead Heath, and ended up jumping in the men's pond. I was swimming around, with ducks going past, and I remember giggling to myself, thinking "Wow, this is my life".

What's your daily routine?
I live with three dogs, so they determine the routine, depending on when they want feeding, walking and cuddling. I try to find the time to go to the gym. When I'm not learning lines, I have a podcast with [the gallerist] Rob Diament, called *Talk Art*. I'll spend a lot of time doing research on whoever we're interviewing for that, which is an absolute pleasure. I've got loads of art books, so I'll flick through them while I listen to music. My playlist includes Fleetwood Mac, Steely Dan, Kate Bush and Rufus Wainwright. I leave the BBC World Service on for the dogs if I go out.

What's an ideal evening in for you?
Watching a film or TV. My friends are supportive – when a show of mine is on TV, they come over and watch it with me. I invested in a projector for the living room. It's pretty impressive. I'm obsessed with art, so, ideally, I'd watch a brilliant art documentary on someone I don't know much about. Recently, we interviewed Mark Gatiss for *Talk Art* and he did a documentary about John Minton, so, as research, I watched that. I couldn't have been happier, sitting there with the dogs around and nice food.

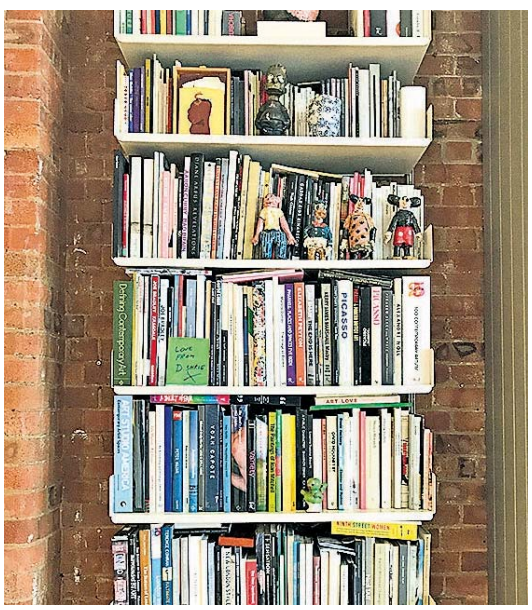


GEOFF PUGH/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; RUSSELL TOVEY

The History Boys star's warehouse flat in east London is a showcase for his art collection

> **I ran around Hampstead Heath and ended up jumping in the men's pond. I was swimming around, with ducks going past, and I remember giggling to myself, thinking 'Wow, this is my life'**





And your ideal evening out?
I like going out with friends to a cool restaurant that's not too loud, where you can tell anecdotes and have a proper laugh. My partner loves cooking, but I like eating out a lot. I go through phases of finding the restaurants everyone's talking about. I also love brunchy places that are dog-friendly – my favourites are Kipferl and Brother Marcus, in Islington, and Curious Yellow Kafé, in Hoxton.

Is the flat a long-term home?
The art collection is growing, there's no outdoor space and I want to have kids one day, but I love it now. I like being able to walk into town or along the canal to London Fields – and I've got somewhere to go home to where I feel excited.

Interview by Caroline Rees

Russell Tovey appears in Flesh and Blood, now available on ITV Hub



THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION CENTRE

A collection of 2–4 bedroom apartments and penthouses
from 1,600–4,000 square feet, situated atop
the reimagined Television Centre in West London.

Amenities include concierge, gym with pool,
secure car parking and residents' cinema.

Prices up to £6m

020 8003 2831

TELEVISION CENTRE

televisioncentre.com

- Brand new 1, 2 & 3 bedroom luxury apartments.
- Prestigious 2 bedroom duplex penthouses.
- Each with one or more balconies or extensive sun terrace.
- Exclusive private roof garden with superb skyline views.
- Less than 5 minutes walk to Borough Tube & Market.
- Adjacent to Trinity Village - a leafy conservation area steeped in history.
- Ideally located for the South Bank arts.







TRILOGY
HARPER ROAD SE1

PRICES FROM
£1,130,000 to £1,395,000

Sales & Marketing Suite Now Open

153 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 3JE

020 3146 4520

galliardhomes.com

Galliard Homes

ACORN



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Joanna Lumley in Cuba and Haiti 5 Tel Aviv v Jerusalem 18 The best walks in Wales 11

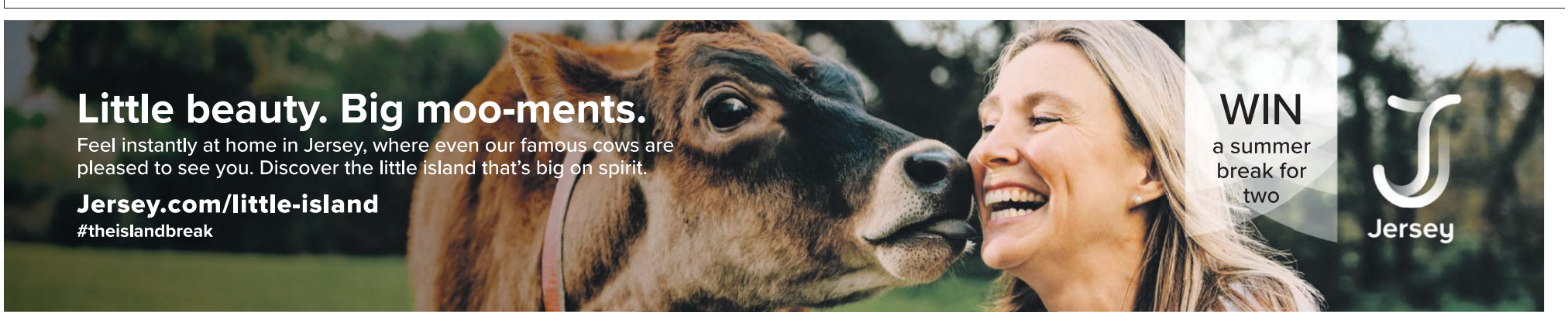
Travel

TRAVEL SECTION OF THE YEAR



The Bahamas are back

There's never been a better time to visit the islands



Travel

WHAT DOES CORONAVIRUS MEAN FOR TRAVELLERS?

CHRIS HASLAM



Chief Travel Writer

With more new cases outside China than within, coronavirus is a global issue. Here's what you need to know.

IS ITALY OFF LIMITS?

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all but essential travel to 11 small towns in northern Italy. Coronavirus has also been reported in Piedmont, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Liguria, South Tyrol, Sicily, Marche, Puglia, Lazio, Campania and Abruzzo, but the number of cases is small and the Italian government says the country remains open for business. But opera houses, churches, galleries and museums have closed, and easyJet, British Airways and Wizz Air have reduced flights to destinations across the north. EasyJet said it was cancelling flights with "multiple daily frequencies" to and from the country between March 13 and 31, and that passengers would be offered seats on other departures or a refund.

ARE THE CANARY ISLANDS SAFE?

As we went to press, there were six cases of coronavirus in the Canaries, and reports in the Spanish media that the Ministry of Health is considering placing the Canaries and Seville under quarantine. No official announcement has yet been made and the FCO does not advise against travel to the archipelago.

WHAT INSURANCE DO I NEED?

Now is the time to make sure you have the right travel insurance. "Buy your policy at the same time you book your trip," advises Sue Crown, communications manager at the Association of British Insurers. Cover for cancellations and "disruption to travel" is crucial. In the first case, you're looking for compensation for any losses that cannot be recovered from your tour operator due to the curtailment or disruption of your trip. This could include refunds for room-service meals due to enforced isolation. The second should cover incidental losses arising from your trip being cancelled. In most cases, the more you pay, the better the protection.

CAN I CANCEL MY HOLIDAY?

Yes, but unless you're visiting destinations subject to an FCO advisory, your travel company is under no legal obligation to offer a refund. The Association of Independent Tour Operators (Aito) says: "For bookings less than three weeks away, if the airlines are flying and the ground handling companies and hoteliers can operate the holidays, then normal booking conditions will apply." Your tour operator may take a different approach, but any flexibility is likely to be limited by what they can afford. "It is unlikely that clients would receive a full refund," says the tour operator Ciceroni Travel. "Much would depend on the refunds we are able to obtain from our prepaid suppliers."

WHAT ABOUT THAT TRAVEL INSURANCE CANCELLATION CLAUSE?

If you have a pre-existing medical condition that might make the effects of a coronavirus infection more serious – and, crucially, you disclosed that to the insurer at the time of buying your policy – you may be able to claim compensation for cancellation on the grounds that travel is prejudicial to your health.

IS ANYWHERE CORONAVIRUS-FREE?

As of February 28, 84,144 cases had been reported across 59 countries, with 2,876 deaths. Except for Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria and Brazil, the virus is unreported in Africa, the Caribbean and Central and South America. In Asia, no cases have been reported in Indonesia, Burma, Laos and Papua New Guinea. However, the World Health Organisation now warns that it could reach most, "if not all", countries.

SHOULD I WEAR A MASK?

"Public Health England recommends against using masks outside clinical settings," says the National Travel Health Network and Centre (Nathnac), but you should take other precautions. First, assess your fitness for travel: if you are elderly or have health issues, you could be at greater risk of severe infection if you contract coronavirus. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. For full advice, visit travelhealthpro.org.uk.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FALL ILL ABROAD?

If you develop symptoms – a cough, fever, shortness of breath – Nathnac advises self-isolation before calling "your health provider and/or insurance company". If you are admitted to a foreign hospital, in most cases you will not have to pay for treatment for coronavirus.

WHAT ABOUT CRUISING?

All cruises by all lines to and from mainland China have been cancelled; some operators have cancelled for the whole of March. If you're booked on sailings to Asia through to April, you should contact your cruise line. So far, cases of coronavirus have been reported on three ships, and the industry is taking measures to ensure there are no further infections. The Cruise Lines International Association says its members are denying boarding to anyone who has travelled from, visited or transited through South Korea, China, Hong Kong and Macau within 14 days. If you've booked a cruise in Asia or the Caribbean, be prepared for itinerary changes and bear in mind that ports in Hong Kong, South Korea, Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, Taiwan, Tonga and New Caledonia are closed.

Email us at travel@sunday-times.co.uk for the chance to win a £500 voucher towards a holiday (see box, right)

BIG SHOT

SNOW BIRDS
Congratulations to Claire Waring, whose picture of red-crowned cranes in Hokkaido, Japan, is this week's winner of our competition in association with the tailor-made trip specialist Audley Travel (01993 838000, audleytravel.com). She receives a £250 photography voucher and makes the shortlist for the main prizes, which include an 11-day holiday for two to Botswana. Upload shots at **thesundaytimes.co.uk/thebigshot** or enter on Instagram: tag us @sundaytimes travel and use the hashtag **#STBigShot**



Terms & conditions
This week's competition closes at 11.59pm on Wednesday. UK & ROI residents aged 18+ only. Full T&Cs apply: see thesundaytimes.co.uk/travelphotocomp

LETTERS

The charm of Sudan

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Teresa Levonian Cole's article on Sudan ("The real magic kingdom", last week) made my heart leap, as it reminded me of my self-drive visit 20 years ago. As striking as the landscape and history are, Sudan's people are the highlight: they are welcoming, joyful and caring. In southern Sudan, an entire village assisted with pushing my car out of the mud. Further north, we were invited to a wedding and given food for our journey. The locals have a way of welcoming you and making you feel at home, and I remember my time there fondly. Thank you for your delightful article.

Jacqui Evans, Cambridgeshire

Sudan is a wonderful country to visit – the people are warm and the archaeological sites are fascinating. But if you do go, you should be aware that you may no longer be eligible for an Esta if you want to travel to the US – you'd need a visa.

Daniel O'Donoghue, via thetimes.co.uk

AMERICAN DREAMS

In April 2019, we extended a version of Chris Haslam's itinerary ("The Big Trip: Deep South", last week) by driving two hours south of Savannah to Cumberland Island. We booked a year in advance to spend two nights at the 16-room, full-board

PLAN YOUR PERFECT GETAWAY

Romantic retreat, seaside hideaway or city bolthole? See all 100 of our favourite British hotels at **thesundaytimes.co.uk/bestplacestostay**

THE SUNDAY TIMES BEST PLACES TO STAY 2019

WRITE TO TRAVEL AND WIN £500 TOWARDS A NORTHERN LIGHTS HOLIDAY

Congratulations to Jacqui Evans, who wins a £500 voucher towards a trip with Aurora Zone, the original northern lights holiday specialist. With years of passion, scientific research, expert local knowledge and first-hand experience, Aurora Zone has crafted a comprehensive range of tours, offering the best chance of experiencing the aurora borealis (theaurorazone.com).

For your chance to win, email travel@sunday-times.co.uk or write to Travel, The Sunday Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF. Please include your name, address and telephone number. Letters may be edited.

AURORA ZONE
THE BRIGHTEST WAY TO SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Prize T&Cs: ages 18+; UK residents only; the prize is non-transferable and subject to availability; full T&Cs at thesundaytimes.co.uk/travelletters



COVER PHOTOGRAPH: PER BREIEHAGEN/GETTY IMAGES. THIS PAGE: IAN WOOLCOCK/CHRISTOPHER CASSIDY/ALAMY

Greyfield Inn. Shell paths led to a private beach, and we spent our days kayaking, cycling and exploring with the resident naturalist. We encountered wild horses (and their foals), turkeys and boars, but for me the armadillos scurrying around outside our cottage stole the show. At dinner time, a bell would ring to summon everyone to the "big house" – where we discovered we were the only overseas guests. It's pricy, but worth it.

Tom Egler, Cheshire

Last week, you asked for our favourite places in the US. Glacier National Park, in Montana, rarely seems to get a mention in travel publications, but it is one of the loveliest places we've ever been to. You can see grizzly bears, bison and herds of elk, and there are hiking trails to occupy everyone from novices to experts. A lot can be achieved in just a few days, and it's perfect as part of a longer road trip, as Yellowstone National Park lies approximately eight hours to the south.

Christine Vaughan, Ipswich

BIGGER PICTURE

The teenagers who refuse to fly, leaving their parents longing for a tropical beach, should spare a thought for the people whose livelihoods will be affected by the ensuing lack of tourists ("Teenagers demand parents be grounded", last week). Concern for the environment is, of course, essential, but a knee-jerk reaction may harm the many, often poor, locals who rely on us. Our actions can have a huge impact.

Stephanie Barnes, Exeter

FLIGHT-FREE BREAKS





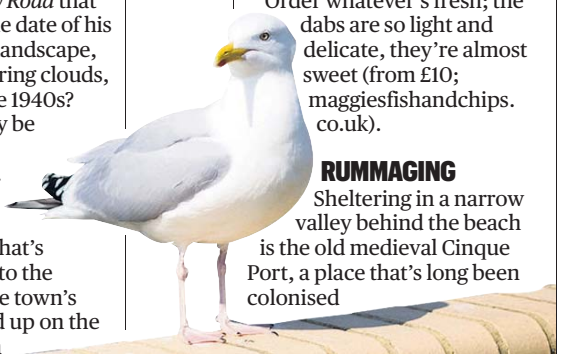
3 REASONS TO VISIT... HASTINGS

ART

Here's a seaside show with a difference. Down on Hastings beach – with windows on the waves – three titans of 20th-century British art are freaking out. Graham Sutherland, Stanley Spencer and Edward Burra are the troubled trio, brought together in *The Age of Turmoil*, an exhibition devoted to the thunderous 1940s, showing at the Hastings Contemporary art gallery until March 29. Clearly, they had plenty to worry about. Sutherland gets the anguish going with his spare, spiky *Crucifixion*, but it's the quieter apprehension of Burra's *The Country Road* that really resonates. The date of his windswept coastal landscape, threatened by towering clouds, is "circa 1940s". The 1940s? It could just as easily be now (£9; hastings contemporary.org).

FISH

It's not just the art that's bracing. Next door to the gallery you'll see the town's fishing fleet, parked up on the beach. They launch directly off the shingle, and their entire business model is laid out in front of you. There's the boat, the winch cable, the nets, the sorting shed and a lean-to shop where "the boys ashore" sell the daily catch. That recent video of the Hastings RNLI boat battling Storm Ciara was dramatic, but even when the Channel isn't stormy, making a living here is a heroic proposition, as a video of a boat rescue at the nearby Fishermen's Museum makes clear (free; hps.org.uk). It also adds relish to your fish and (twice-cooked) chips, served at Maggie's, next door. Order whatever's fresh; the dabs are so light and delicate, they're almost sweet (from £10; maggiesfishandchips.co.uk).



RUMMAGING

Sheltering in a narrow valley behind the beach is the old medieval Cinque Port, a place that's long been colonised by arty types. The Crown, on All Saints Street, is where they congregate for pints of locally brewed beer and plates of chargrilled Rye Bay scallops (mains from £13; thecrownhastings.co.uk). The High Street is where they run their shops. The Goods Depot (No 86) has antique industrial lights; the Leigh Gallery (No 77) sells beautiful ceramics; and the House of Habibi (No 38) is lit up by the electric colours of its Indian silk scarves. Best of all, though, is AG Hendy (No 36), which is stocked to the gunwales with brushes. Yes, brushes: suede brushes, nail brushes, vegetable scrubbers, spot dusters. In a town that sweeps away the notion that the English seaside is tired and samey, it's wonderfully appropriate.

Sean Newsom

*Sean Newsom was a guest of **The Laindons**, a high-ceilinged B&B on the High Street, with luxurious bed linen, help-yourself chocolate cake and lots of interesting art (doubles from £95, B&B; laindons.com)*



EIGHT DAYS FROM
£1,399**
PER PERSON

Return flights or reserved seat on Eurostar with return rail connections available from over 50 stations†

The services of our experienced cruise director and tour manager

Riviera Travel's award-winning river cruises include everything you need for an exceptional experience. Cruise Europe's most beautiful waterways aboard the finest ships, featuring superb dining on board and spacious suites and cabins – many with a French balcony for unrivalled views. Choose from 19 fascinating river cruises that take you to the iconic highlights as well as lesser-known gems.

Selected departures from March to December, 2020.

Call **0330 160 5310** and quote **RB011**
thetimes.co.uk/riviera-rc

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

†Supplements may apply. **Or 15 days from £2,999pp. Prices based on two people sharing a twin cabin. Single cabins 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. *Book by 29/02/2020, see website for full terms and conditons.quoting The Times. RB011.

UNTAMED BORNEO & SARAWAK

NEW **15 DAY** SMALL GROUP TOUR WITH RETURN AIRFARES

KUCHING • MULU NATIONAL PARK • KOTA KINABALU • SANDAKAN • KINABATANGAN • SEPILOK

ATOL 11519 PROTECTED



> Great experience, great service. Will use Inspiring Vacations in future with confidence.
> Rating: ★★★★★

15 days per person twin share from just

£2,499*

DEPOSIT ONLY £50PP
PAY BALANCE BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Trustpilot ★★★★★ Rated **Excellent** based on **1,700+** reviews

JUST RELEASED

YOUR 15 DAY UNTAMED BORNEO & SARAWAK TOUR INCLUDES:

- Return airfares with a full-service airline; return airport transfers
- 11 nights 4 star accommodation; 1 night in a boutique jungle lodge
- Daily breakfast, 6 lunches and 4 dinners
- 24/7 customer service and your own Dedicated Support Agent



Spectacular experiences including:

Taking in historical sights and the Kuching skyline on a sunset cruise; visiting the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre; walking the jungle in Kinabatangan with professional, English-speaking guides; enjoying a beach break in Kota Kinabalu.

TRAVEL FROM MAY 2020 TO OCT 2021. SEE ONLINE FOR FULL ITINERARY DETAILS.

2019 WINNER Online Booking Website of the Year The Travel Awards

CALL US ANY TIME ON

0800 011 9626

BOOK ONLINE AT

inspiringvacations.co.uk

INSPIRING VACATIONS

*Offers available for a limited time or unless sold out. See our website for full terms and conditions.

MAL14001-2521

CARIBBEAN QUEEN



Classic cars in Havana, Cuba, with the Capitol as a backdrop



GOLERO/CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

In a new series, TV star *Joanna Lumley* explores Cuba and Haiti, and is captivated by the romance and reality of both

One is absolutely communist and one is absolutely capitalist, but they're both as poor as mice. Both are fashioned by revolutions: one by the great slave rebellion at the end of the 18th century and one by Fidel Castro's, 60 years ago. They're only about 57 miles apart, but they have almost no interest in each other.

I am talking about Cuba and Haiti (the latter, together with the Dominican Republic, forms the island of Hispaniola), which I had the pleasure of visiting for a new two-part travelogue. Cuba and Hispaniola are the largest Caribbean islands, but aren't visited nearly as often as the rest.

You often hear people say: "Rush to Cuba, because it's about to change into a great modern place and beautiful old Havana will not be the same." But there's no danger of that happening. It's going to continue crumbling, decaying – romantic boulevards, grand houses, everything fading and peeling. It's dazzling. Especially the colourful American cars, of which they take such care. When you think about how old they are – from the 1959 revolution, if not before – it's incredible. I met an old lady whose fridge has been working all that time.

In the West, we've been taught to loathe communism, but it does have its good points: an insistence on decent education and culture for the masses, for example. In Cuba, they treat women the same as men – except when it comes to the proud tradition of boxing. Only men are allowed to compete in tournaments such as the Olympics. We tried to find out why, but nobody would tell us.

Communism usually falters when it goes into practice, as a lot of things do. There's a great sense of order in Cuba – you can happily walk around Havana at night – but the country as a whole is stuck in aspic. You can see how people are longing to get ahead with ideas. The old woman with the ancient fridge told me that all her friends left as soon as the communist revolution took place.

In the 1950s, the island was the playground of America. People were either very rich or very poor, so when Fidel and Che overthrew President Batista, the people were (mostly) thrilled to bits. The revolutionaries became gods, and even now you see photographs of Fidel and Che stencilled on the walls, like Banksy drawings. Raul Castro, Fidel's brother, is still there. In Santiago, they were making it all spotlessly clean for his forthcoming visit. He's the last real living proof of the revolution. Outside every city and town there are huge billboards, the only advertising allowed, with marvellous, uplifting sayings such as "Together, we are one". Cubans love Cuba – they're so proud of it. That touched me as much as anything.

We didn't see much of a dark underbelly, but, as we were filming in a communist country, we were being watched pretty carefully.

We also had to walk on eggshells in Haiti. Successive governments and tragedies have made it almost a completely broken country. It's totally lawless, largely uneducated, and the people are desperately poor. It's a country you can leave easily, unlike Cuba, but most locals can't get the money to fly out.

You wouldn't leave your hotel at night there – the gates are barred, for a start. A lot of Haitians won't even walk around town at night. In Port-au-Prince, the capital, there's a sort of artists' quarter, which is so defiled and run-down that none of the aid workers goes there. There are seams of squalid back alleys, with ramshackle tin shelters on either side where people live and work. They make art out of objects they've found – bits of old tyres, springs, televisions – and fashion them into things, quite often with a voodoo spirit: creatures, animals, little beings with faces and odd limbs. Some use blowtorches or saws, others just chicken wire and bent electric antennae. It's unbelievable.



Joanna in Havana. Below, Notre Dame Cathedral, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital

What's fascinating is that Haiti has roped off a little section of a peninsula and leased it out to Royal Caribbean Cruises, which has ringed it with an immense iron fence and made it into the most beautiful playground you've ever seen. White beaches, little sea huts, swimming, surfing, snorkelling, parasailing – everything. And cruise ships with up to 7,000 passengers arrive several times a week. The passengers get off, swim, eat, then they all get back on and go.

It's rather like Cayo Guillermo, an island just off Cuba that's connected by a causeway to the mainland. It was heartbreaking going over that long bridge to the fancy new hotels. Cayo Guillermo has its own airport, so you can fly in and out of your resort without seeing Cuba.

> **Patsy wouldn't mind Havana at all – lots of lovely men down dark alleyways, and lots of drink**

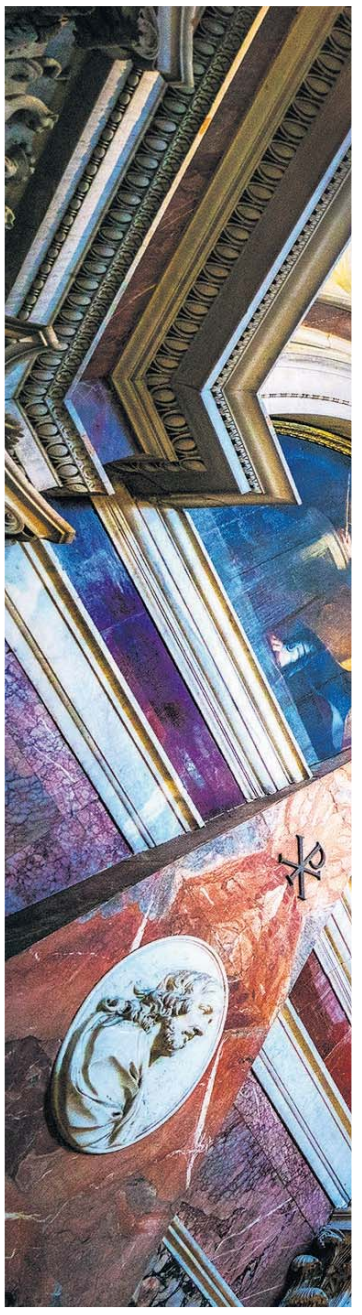
I hope the programme will do for Cuba what the Silk Roads show did for Georgia. Most people would love Cuba, and intrepid types might even be inspired to visit Haiti. Patsy wouldn't mind Havana at all – lots of lovely men down dark alleyways, and lots of drink. But Haiti? She'd probably turn up as a voodoo witch with an old bottle of Bolly.

Joanna Lumley's Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti starts on ITV on March 10 at 9pm. She spoke to Harriet Marsden

Travel Italy

RAPHAEL'S ROME

As a big exhibition of the prolific artist's work opens, *Sean Newsom* sees the city through his eyes





Of all the stars of Renaissance Rome, Raphael was the easiest to love. A born diplomat, he was cultured, collaborative and blessed with the kind of talent that rewards almost endless looking. Small wonder, then, that his death at the age of just 37 was met with genuine grief. Four cardinals carried his body at the funeral, accompanied by fellow prelates, artists, magistrates and a vast crowd of onlookers. It was as if the city was burying a prince.

Now, 500 years later, Rome is going mad for him once more. To honour the anniversary of his untimely end, the Scuderie del Quirinale – the city's principal exhibition space – is mounting a blockbuster retrospective of more than 200 works; 120 of these are by the Renaissance master himself, and loans have come from all over the world.

It opens on Thursday. Head to the Eternal City this spring and you'll be able to gaze into the sparkling blue eyes of Raphael's friend and collaborator, Baldassare Castiglione, courtesy of a portrait that normally hangs in the Louvre. Thanks to the National Gallery in Washington, you'll feel the emotional heft of his *Madonna d'Alba*, as mother and son gaze at a rudimentary crucifix offered by John the Baptist, and Jesus calmly grasps it. And for the first time ever, his two popes will be hanging together in the same room: Julius II (on loan from our own National Gallery) alongside Leo X (from the Uffizi) in a power play of 16th-century faith, wealth and patronage.

This is, in a word, unprecedented. Last year, Italy was badly stung when the Louvre hosted the biggest commemorative exhibition devoted to Leonardo da Vinci – to the point where it threatened to withhold key loans promised to the Paris show. This year, there's no mistaking which country is taking the lead. Italy is reclaiming its Renaissance.

Yet it's not just the loans that make the Scuderie's show such an unmissable event. It's the context. This is Rome, scene of Raphael's greatest triumphs. He may have arrived here, at the end of 1508, already a celebrated artist. But by the time of his death in 1520, he was effectively artist in chief of the entire city.

Kings and princes were pestering him for oil paintings, his frescoes adorned the city's most prestigious rooms and he'd become – with almost no previous experience – principal architect of St Peter's. He was also co-ordinating the drive to understand and codify the ruins on which the 16th-century city was built. On his watch, Rome stopped piling its ancient statues into lime kilns to make mortar for its bricks and began to cherish its past.

So you'd be crazy not to seize this opportunity to get out into the city and see what

exodustravels

your guide to

THE WORLD

Since 1974, Exodus Travels have been leading the way when it comes to adventure travel. Offering over 500 itineraries across 90 different countries, our active adventures span all seven continents. From exhilarating treks towards turquoise glaciers to fat biking over sand dunes and dogsledding through frozen forests, our trips are bound to ignite your spirit of adventure.

Find your adventure online at exodus.co.uk or call 020 3733 0442

Recommended Provider Which? Escorted Tour Providers July 2019

Winner Medium British Travel Awards 2019 Best Activity/Sports Holiday Company

National Geographic Traveller Reader Awards 2019 Winner | The Small-Medium Operator



GALLERIE DEGLI UFFIZI, ESSEVU/GETTY IMAGES

The Cappella Chigi, designed by Raphael; far left, a self-portrait by the artist

Raphael arrived in Rome a celebrated artist, but died its artist in chief

else of his legacy remains. The simplest way is to book an expert guided tour such as the ones on offer from Imago Artis. Founded in 2007 by a trio of art historians who were sick and tired of being penniless, the company is offering bespoke Raphael tours to guests of the glittering Hotel Hassler, complete with a car to shuttle you between the key sites.

But with a bit of prep, and a little background reading (Antonio Forcellino's *Raphael* is a good start), it's easy enough to craft your own tour – starting with his eureka moment in the Vatican. It was Pope Julius II who summoned Raphael to Rome, to paint a fresco on one of the walls of his private apartments, and he did the work so beautifully that Julius immediately laid off all the other artists. Henceforth, Raphael and his team would decorate the rooms, and their work is still there in the four Stanze di Raffaello, now part of the Vatican Museums.

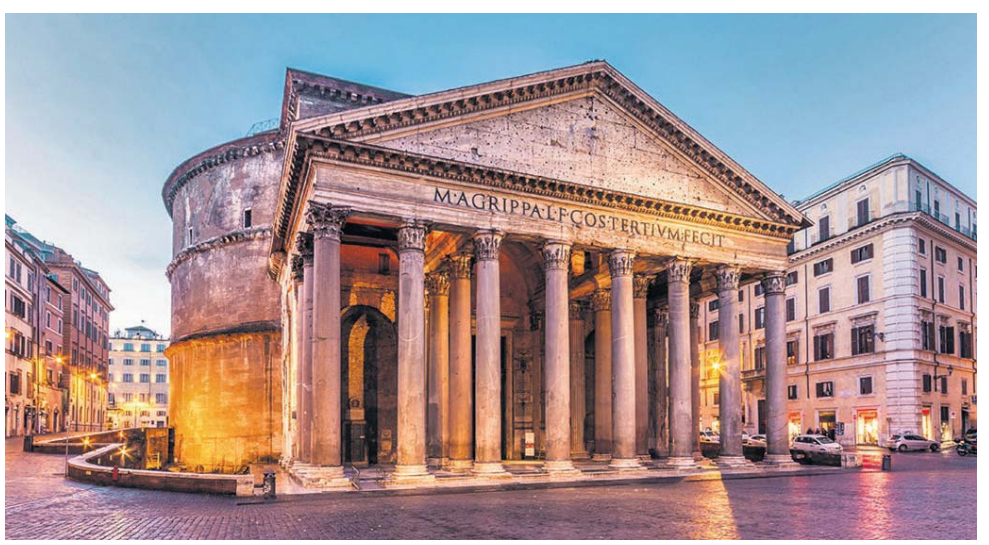
Never mind the *Madonna d'Alba* or the portrait of Baldassare Castiglione – this Herculean effort is regarded as his masterpiece, and it's understandable that, for most of the day, the rooms are packed. So book a ticket for entry at 3pm and walk as fast as you can through the many preceding galleries until you get there (£14; museivaticani.va). By now, it'll be 3.30pm: more than two hours before the museum closes. As the shadows lengthen, the big coach parties magically thin out. Suddenly you'll have the time and space to look.

Wow. No wonder Julius kicked the other painters out. It's not so much the first fresco, *The Disputation of the Holy Sacrament*, that confirms the pope's judgment. It's the second, *The School of Athens*. Planned and painted in what must have been a giddy time for Raphael, as his confidence burgeoned and the papal ducats poured into his coffers, it shows Plato and Aristotle debating a point of philosophy, with many of the leading figures of Greek thought gathered around them.

The point was to show how comfortably Christian doctrine rested on the insights of the ancients: but in Raphael's hands, it's anything but a dry and dusty tour. Think instead of a carefully choreographed opera, set within the grandest, sunniest temple the Greeks never built. Blues, oranges, reds and greens flicker through the crowd in a joyful dance of colour, and everywhere there's a sense of perfectly balanced movement and light. You'll also see portraits of several of the leading figures of the high Renaissance, including Raphael's own self-portrait. It's an image you could never tire of – and there are four more that are nearly as good in the room next door.

When you do finally drag yourself away, the next significant stop is the Sistine Chapel – where you can play one of the oldest games in art history, comparing the achievements of Raphael's arch rival, Michelangelo, with what you've just seen in the

Continued on page 8 ➜





The Pantheon, where the artist is buried; and a panoramic view of Rome



Travel Italy

➜ Continued from page 7

Stanze. It is, for anyone with even half an interest in humanity's creative impulse, the ultimate gallery-going afternoon.

There is, of course, no way to follow that. But don't let that stop you burrowing deeper into the city in search of more flashes of Raphael's brilliance: every stop comes with some kind of unexpected bonus. So, when you find the graceful Chigi Chapel – one of the few surviving examples of Raphael's architecture – in the Basilica of Santa Maria del Popolo, make sure you carry on down to the church's northern transept. "What's everyone looking at?" you'll wonder as you approach. Then someone will pop a euro into a slot machine to turn on the lights – and reveal two breathtaking paintings by Caravaggio.



DANIELE BELLUCCI/ALAMY, ANDREW W MELLON COLLECTION © NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON

The garden of Villa Farnesina, above; Madonna d'Alba, right

Over at the Villa Farnesina, you get a tranquil garden in the middle of Trastevere, along with an eye-popping loggia that depicts what, in the 1960s, might have been described as a celebration of free love. In the late 1510s, the implications were scandalous, but came with an intellectual edge.

This was the marriage of Cupid and Psyche, based on a Roman poem of the 2nd century AD: part of that forgotten world Raphael was helping to unearth. Needless to say, he and his assistants painted it as a harmonious and sunlit place.



It's said that, in the end, Raphael died of an excess of lovemaking. He was, apparently, so exhausted that he was carried away by a sudden fever, and buried in the Pantheon to almost universal lamentation. The inscription on his sarcophagus translates as: "Here lies Raphael, by whom Nature feared to be conquered while he lived, and, when he was dying, feared herself to die."

Further proof, if any were needed, of his superstar status among the locals. By the time you're ready to head home, you might be a little bit mad about him, too.

Sean Newsom was a guest of the Hotel d'Inghilterra (doubles from £225; hoteldinghilterra.com), the Hotel Hassler (two nights and a Raphael tour with Imago Artis cost £872pp, &B; hotelhasslerroma.com) and Kirker, which has three-night packages in Rome from £598pp, B&B, including flights, private transfers and tickets to the Vatican Museums and Raffaello at the Scuderie del Quirinale (kirkerholidays.com). The show runs until June 2 (£13; scuderiequirinale.it)

THREE MORE ART TRAILS

PICASSO ON THE COTE D'AZUR

Few modern masterpieces hang in the room where they were painted — but at the Château Grimaldi, in Antibes, you get several. It was here, in 1946, that Picasso took up cement panels and boat-builders' paint, and worked his way out of the darkness of war (£7; antibesjuanlespins.com). Add the bottomless blues of Chagall's late works in Nice (£7; musee-chagall.fr) and Matisse's Vence Rosary Chapel windows (£6; chapellematisse.fr), and suddenly a modern art tour of the Côte d'Azur becomes irresistible. The Hôtel Villa Victoria, in Nice, is a good base (doubles from £65, B&B; villa-victoria.com).

RUBENS IN ANTWERP

Three museums add incredible depth to a Rubens-themed tour of Antwerp: the Rubenshuis, where he kept his studio (£7; rubenshuis.be), the Rockoxhuis, where his ally and patron lived (£7; snijdersrockoxhuis.be), and the former offices of the Plantin-Moretus publishing house (£7; museum plantinmoretus.be). And the art is magnificent — never more so than in his *Descent from the Cross*, a towering portrayal of tenderness and grief that still hangs in Antwerp Cathedral. Nearby, the plush Hotel Francq offers convenient digs (doubles from £137; hotelfranq.com).

KLIMT IN VIENNA

Much of Klimt's Vienna still exists: his *Beethoven Frieze* in the Secession Building; Otto Wagner's art nouveau architecture; the pomp and circumstance of the Ringstrasse. You can even see parts of his last studio, preserved in a villa in the city's 13th district (£8.50; klimtvilla.at). His work is liberally sprinkled through Vienna's museums, too — and culminates in *The Kiss* at the Upper Belvedere museum (£14; belvedere.at). No reproduction will ever prepare you for its dazzling impact. Stay at the arty Hotel Altstadt (doubles from £150, B&B; altstadt.at).



Prices are correct as at 27 February and are subject to change. Prices may be higher or unavailable for certain travel dates. All prices are per person. Holidays and accommodation are based on two adults sharing. Airfares are Economy Class on specified airlines from London, unless otherwise stated. For full booking conditions visit www.flightcentre.co.uk. Our flight-inclusive holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme.

ABTA ABTA No W325X

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

TAILORMADE TRAVEL WORLDWIDE **020 7368 1200**
CRUISE TRAILFINDERS **020 7368 1300**
FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS TRAVEL **020 7368 1400**

Awards 2019 Which? Travel Brand of the Year

SETTING THE STANDARD IN TRAVEL SINCE 1970

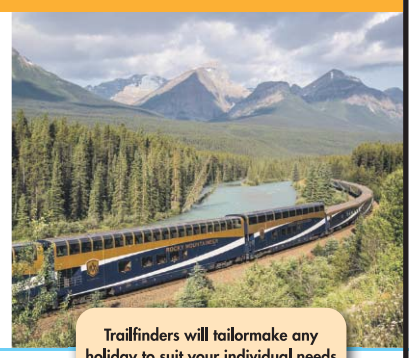
FIND YOUR GREAT RAIL JOURNEY...

Best of New Zealand
19 nights from **£2,879^**
Flights, car hire incl a free upgrade, 3★ to 4★ accommodation, TranzAlpine rail journey, Kaikoura Whale Watch Cruise, Mount Aspiring Wilderness Adventure, Milford Sound Day Tour and Interislander ferry transfers
• Enjoy spectacular scenery

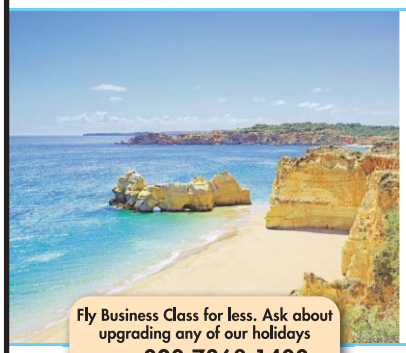
Best of Eastern USA by Rail
12 nights from **£2,199^**
Direct flights, 4★ hotels and Business Class rail travel
• Washington DC • Philadelphia • New York • Boston
Why not add a Washington Monuments by Night tour for just £55?

Australia's Ghan – Ultimate Wildlife & Outback
12 nights from **£3,299^**
Flights, car hire, 8 nights 4★ to 4★+ accommodation, 2 nights on board The Ghan, Darwin Sunset Dinner Cruise, 2 night small guided group 4WD Kakadu & Litchfield Tour, ferry transfers and 17 meals

Rocky Mountains & Alaska Cruising
14 nights from **£3,699** *dep 6 Sep 20*
Direct flights, 7 nights 3★ to 5★ hotels, Columbia Icefield Discovery tour, Rocky Mountaineer rail journey and 7 night full board Celebrity cruise
• Banff • Jasper • Vancouver • Scenic cruising of the Inside Passage • Alaska



Trailfinders will tailormake any holiday to suit your individual needs



Fly Business Class for less. Ask about upgrading any of our holidays – call 020 7368 1400

FIND YOUR SERENITY...

Lisbon & the Sunny Algarve
7 nights from **£799†**
Direct flights, car hire, 4★ hotels and 4 breakfasts
• Algarve's quiet towns and glorious beaches • Explore the sights of colourful Lisbon

Magical Mexico
7 nights from **£1,229***
Direct flights, 4★+ **all inclusive** Cancun beach resort and private transfers
• Pristine white sand beach • Infinity pool • Non-motorised watersports
Includes an early booking discount – saving over £450 per couple

Luxury Crete Getaway
7 nights from **£949^**
Direct flights, 5★ Grecotel Amirandes, Crete with breakfast and private transfers
• Stylish & contemporary resort • Stunning location • Direct beach access

Wellness, Wildlife & Waves, Costa Rica
10 nights from **£3,529***
Flights and private tour incl 4★ to 4★+ hotels, transfers, selected day tours & 14 meals
• Yoga & relaxation • Ocean vibes • Delicious fresh food • Fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities

FIND YOUR FAMILY HOLIDAY FUN...

Thailand Summer Sun & Elephant Fun
13 nights from **£1,499****
Flights, 3 nights Bangkok hotel, 3 nights Elephant Hills Tented Camp incl activities, 7 nights Phuket beach resort, Phang Nga by Speedboat tour, transfers and 20 meals
Priced for summer holidays

Fun Filled Caribbean Cruising
8 nights from **£999**** *dep 23 Oct 20*
Flights, 1 night Miami hotel and 7 night full board Royal Caribbean cruise
Includes 2 full days at Royal Caribbean's exclusive private islands
Saving over £700 per couple
Priced for October half term

Western Canada Family Summer Adventure
13 nights from **£1,899****
Direct flights, car hire, 3★ to 5★ hotels, Vancouver Hop-on Hop-off City Tour, Vancouver by Bike, Whistler Peak 2 Peak Alpine Experience, Bear Viewing Tour and Ultimate Rockies Explorer Ticket
Priced for summer holidays

Atlantic Sunshine, Florida
11 nights from **£1,349****
Flights, car hire incl a free upgrade, 3★ to 4★ hotels, Fort Lauderdale Island Adventure and Kennedy Space Center Admission
• Fort Lauderdale • Palm Beach • St Augustine • Amelia Island
Priced for summer holidays



Order your Worldwide Family Holidays brochure for more inspiration



FIND YOUR WILD SIDE...

India's Temples & Tigers
10 nights from **£2,199***
Flights and private tour incl 9 nights 3★ to 4★ hotels, 1 night overnight train, private vehicle & driver, private guides & 12 meals
• Explore incredible Varanasi • Visit the majestic Taj Mahal • Look for the elusive tiger

South Africa's Garden Route & Game
12 nights from **£1,479†**
Flights, car hire incl a free upgrade, 4★ to 4★+ accommodation incl **all inclusive** Eastern Cape lodge with game drives and Meerkat Safari
• Cape Town • Winelands • Beautiful scenic drive

Vancouver Island's Bears and Whales
14 nights from **£1,379†**
Flights, 2 nights Vancouver hotel, 12 nights motorhome, Campbell River Whale Watching tour, Tofino Bear Cruise and return ferry transfers
• Marvel at the humpback whales • Discover Tofino's black bears

Australia's Western Shores & Whale Sharks
13 nights from **£1,949†**
Flights, car hire incl a free upgrade, 3★ to 4★ hotels and Swim with Whale Sharks tour
• Picturesque Perth • White sand beaches of Monkey Mia • Beautiful Coral Bay • Ningaloo Reef Marine Park

FIND YOUR PERFECT COMBINATION...

Dubai & Mauritius
10 nights from **£1,279***
Flights, 3 nights Dubai hotel, 7 nights 5★ LUX* Belle Mare, breakfast and private transfers
• Bright lights of Dubai • Stunning tropical island of Mauritius
Includes an early booking discount

Superb Sri Lanka & Magnificent Maldives
14 nights from **£2,449^**
Flights, 7 night private tour incl 3★+ to 4★+ hotels & private driver/guide, 7 nights 4★+ Maldives island resort incl speedboat transfers and breakfast
Saving over £450 per couple

Masai Mara & Zanzibar
9 nights from **£1,999†**
Flights, 2 nights safari lodge incl game drives, light aircraft transfers from Nairobi to Masai Mara & 5 meals, 7 nights Zanzibar beach resort with full board & private transfers and Nairobi Carnivore Experience
Including 2 FREE nights

Western USA & Hawaii
14 nights from **£2,499***
All flights and 3★ to 4★ hotels
• Bright lights of Las Vegas • Famed beaches of the Hawaiian Islands • Different neighbourhoods of lively LA
Why not add a Hoover Dam Classic tour for just £86?







TRAILFINDER Magazine Winter Edition is out **NOW**! – order your **FREE** copy today

BEST SELLING AIRFARES – INCLUDING AT LEAST 20KG BAGGAGE

USA from Economy **£326^** | South Africa from Economy **£446†** | Australia from Economy **£599†**

BRITISH AIRWAYS **CLUB WORLD SALE – NEW IN!**

USA from **£1,195#** | South America from **£1,799*** | South Africa from **£2,599^**

FLY WITH QATAR AIRWAYS IN THE WORLD'S BEST BUSINESS CLASS

Sydney from **£3,099‡** | Auckland from **£3,099^**

AWARD-WINNING SERVICE

Travel Brand of the Year – Voted by Which?
Best Tour Operator – readers of The Times, The Sunday Times & The Sunday Times Travel Magazine *for* ***7 consecutive years***
Travel Experts – readers of National Geographic Traveller
Most Trusted Travel Brand – readers of The Guardian & Observer

Trustpilot ★★★★★
Trailfinders is Trustpilot's No.1 rated travel company
"Truly excellent: patient, friendly, helpful and a mine of knowledge, tips and advice."

FIND your nearest *TRAILFINDERS* Travel Centre – *FIND* your perfect holiday

	ECONOMY	BUSINESS
LONDON KENSINGTON	020 7938 3939	020 7938 3444
LONDON CITY	020 7628 7628	020 7628 2345
LONDON CANARY WHARF	020 7147 5300	020 7147 5344
LONDON CONDUIT STREET	020 7408 9000	020 7408 9044
RICHMOND	020 8799 0444	020 8799 0445
ABERDEEN	01224 578 600	01224 578 644
BATH	01225 724 000	01225 724 044
BELFAST	028 9027 1888	028 9027 1844
BIRMINGHAM	0121 236 1234	0121 236 3444
BOURNEMOUTH	01202 411 600	01202 411 644
BRIGHTON	01273 715 500	01273 715 544

	ECONOMY	BUSINESS
BRISTOL	0117 929 9000	0117 929 1036
CAMBRIDGE	01223 461 600	01223 448 188
CANTERBURY	01227 865 700	01227 865 744
CARDIFF	02920 726 600	02920 726 644
CHELMSFORD	01245 961 400	01245 961 361
CHESTER	01244 888 777	01244 888 744
EDINBURGH	0131 243 2800	0131 243 2844
EXETER	01392 458 200	01392 458 244
GLASGOW	0141 353 2224	0141 353 2400
GUILDFORD	01483 478 400	01483 478 444
LEEDS	0113 246 2200	0113 246 2244

	ECONOMY	BUSINESS
LIVERPOOL	0151 221 9500	0151 221 9544
MANCHESTER	0161 839 6969	0161 839 3434
MILTON KEYNES	01908 348 400	01908 348 348
NEWCASTLE	0191 261 2345	0191 261 7344
NORWICH	01603 216 216	01603 216 244
NOTTINGHAM	0115 948 7700	0115 948 7744
OXFORD	01865 261 000	01865 261 044
READING	0118 334 6500	0118 334 6544
SHEFFIELD	0114 349 9200	0114 349 9191
ST ALBANS	01727 807 700	01727 807 744
WORCESTER	01905 349 555	01905 349 600

SPECIALIST TEAMS

HONEYMOONS & WISHLIST	020 7408 9008
EUROPEAN TRAVEL	020 7937 1234
GROUP TRAVEL	020 7938 3858
VISA SERVICE	020 7368 1504
TRAVEL INSURANCE	020 7408 9005
CORPORATE TRAVEL	020 7368 1499

Calls may be recorded for accuracy & training

50 1970-2020 ANNIVERSARY

Book now to WIN the cost of your holiday as part of TF's 50th anniversary celebrations◊

Prices are per person based on twin share including flights from London and Manchester (call for details), are subject to availability & valid for selected departures in the next six weeks except: †11 Apr - 31 May *1 Jun - 31 Jul ^1 Sep - 30 Nov #1-31 Dec ‡1-31 Jan **2 adults and 2 children under 12 travelling together ◊visit trailfinders.com/win for T&C's

ABTA IATA TRAILFINDERS FINANCIAL GUARANTEE

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

THE MAIDEN NO-FLY
BLACK SEA & MEDITERRANEAN LAUNCH PROMOTION



CRUISE & MARITIME VOYAGES

EXCLUSIVE FREE ON BOARD SPEND OF UP TO £300*

LAUNCH SAVINGS OF UP TO £17,599±

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD PROMOTION ENDS 8:30PM 14TH MARCH 2020

EXCLUSIVE FREE CAR PARKING#

CABINS ARE SELLING FAST - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

32 NIGHTS DEPARTING 9TH OCTOBER 2021

OCTOBER 2021

Sat 9 **Embark the new flagship, *Amy Johnson,* and depart London Tilbury for her Maiden Season Black Sea & Mediterranean Voyage**

Tue 12 **Lisbon, Portugal** (arrive late am)

Wed 13 **Cádiz, Spain** (arrive early pm)

Sat 16 **Palermo, Italy**
Sicily's main city has a unique culture and a real mix of architectural styles. Wander the streets of the old city to find out more about this eclectic melting pot, or see all the major sights from an open top bus

Tue 19 **Nessebar, Bulgaria** (arrive midday)

Wed 20 **Constanta, Romania**

Thu 21 **Odessa, Ukraine** (depart late night)
Take time to soak up the great heritage of this fantastic coastal resort. From the 19th century five-domed Russo-Byzantine Uspensky Cathedral to the Italian baroque style Opera House, you will be enchanted

Sat 23 **Istanbul, Turkey** (depart late night)
This city offers one intriguing adventure after another from the opulent Topkapi Palace, the 17th century Blue Mosque, and the largest covered market in the world, the Grand Bazaar

Mon 25 **Piraeus (for Athens), Greece** (depart late night)

Wed 27 **Limassol, Cyprus**

Thu 28 **Ashdod (for optional tours to Jerusalem×), Israel**

Fri 29 **Port Said (for optional tours to Cairo×), Egypt** (depart late night)

NOVEMBER 2021

Mon 1 **Valletta, Malta**
A tiny island with an epic and heroic history, Malta makes for a scenic, unforgettable stop. The 16th century walled capital of Valletta, with its Grand Harbour, is a treasure chest bursting with baroque architecture

Tue 2 **Catania, Sicily, Italy**

Fri 5 **Gibraltar**

Sun 7 **Vigo (for optional tours to Santiago de Compostela×) Spain**

Wed 10 **Arrive in London Tilbury**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

CRUISE & MARITIME VOYAGES' NEW FLAGSHIP - *AMY JOHNSON*

Amy Johnson will become the proud new flagship of the Cruise & Maritime Voyages fleet in April 2021. Given her size she will provide a very generous, spacious and relaxing feel. As a celebration of the courageous exploits of past female explorers and adventurers, Cruise & Maritime Voyages have recognised their remarkable achievements by naming their new ship after Amy Johnson, the pioneering English pilot who was the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia.

Combining beautiful, contemporary decor with a more traditional cruise style, *Amy Johnson* is a mid-size cruise ship by and will be a wonderful new addition to the CMV fleet.

Amy Johnson offers no less than 11 different lounges and bars including Raffles Bar, The Orient, Dome Observatory, Ocean Bar and Taverner's Pub, so there's a wide choice of contrasting venues to choose from. Restaurants on board offer fantastic dining opportunities including the attractive Waterfront Restaurant which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner or for something more casual, there's the buffet-style Pantry. At lunchtimes, when the weather is fine, the Alfresco Grill adds more choice. Specialty dining options×× The Fusion, Grill and Chef's Table present truly intimate and delightful settings and outstanding menus.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD LAUNCH PROMOTION

- Sail on board Cruise & Maritime's new flagship, *Amy Johnson,* during her Maiden Season
- **INCREDIBLE BUY ONE GET ONE FREE LAUNCH SAVINGS OF UP TO £17,599±**
- **EXCLUSIVE FREE** car parking for Superior Balcony Ocean View cabins (14) and above#
- **EXCLUSIVE FREE** on board spend of up to **£300** for Standard Ocean View cabins (6B†) and above*
- Full board cruising with mouth watering cuisine, afternoon tea and late night snacks
- Welcome and farewell Captain's drinks parties
- Fascinating guest speaker presentations and daytime activities
- A wide choice of wonderful shore excursions×
- A friendly and attentive service from an experienced crew
- An incredible range of on board facilities such as the spa××, a fitness centre, and much more!

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO SECURE YOUR PREFERRED CABIN THEN NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL 2021

PLUS, book by 8:30pm 14th March 2020 to receive an **EXCLUSIVE FREE** John Lewis Gift Card worth **£30** with our compliments+

EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES – Earn up to **17,599**, worth **£175** off your next booking with Reader Offers Ltd††

YOUR BUY ONE GET ONE FREE READER OFFERS LTD LAUNCH PRICES

CABIN	GRADE	1ST PASSENGER PRICE	2ND PASSENGER PRICE
Superior Inside	3	£5,439	FREE
Standard Ocean View	6B†	£5,889	FREE
Superior Ocean View	9	£7,679	FREE
Superior Balcony Ocean View	14	£9,599	FREE
Junior Suite	JS	£14,399	FREE
De Luxe Suite	DS	£17,599	FREE

HALF PRICE single cabins are available from **£5,599**

www.rolcruise.co.uk
Search Cruise Code: 1615386

ABTA TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE
Agent to ATOL Holder South Quay Travel & Leisure Ltd 4619

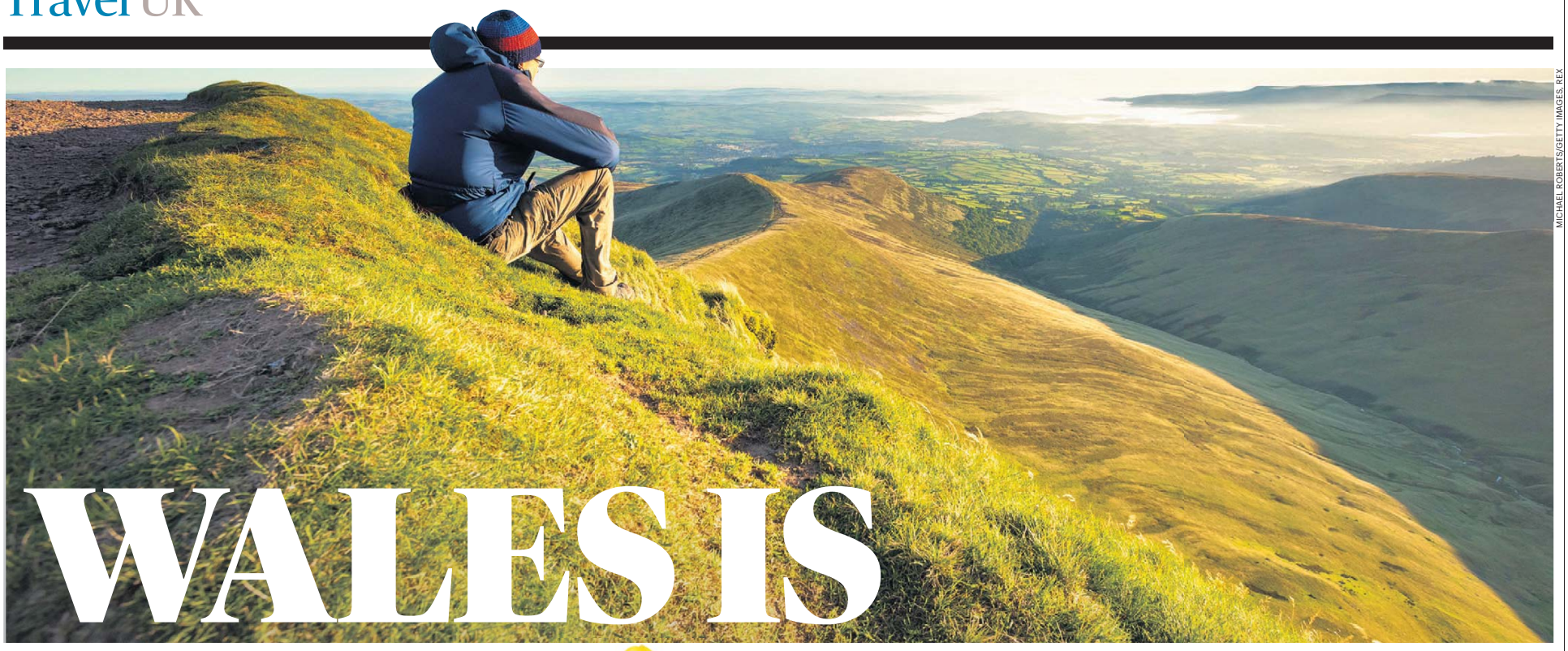
CALL ONE OF OUR CRUISE SPECIALISTS **FREE** ON
0800 251 1793
OPEN 7 DAYS 8:30AM - 8:30PM

READER OFFERS LTD

ROL CRUISE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Prices are per person based on two adults sharing, except single cabins, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Ports may require a tender. *On board spend is per cabin. ±Savings is based on two adults sharing and is based on the full price and the promotional Buy One Get One Free Launch Price. Itinerary is subject to change and correct at time of going to print. Advertised prices exclude gratuities, automatic gratuities of £6pp per night will be debited to your on board account. +John Lewis Gift Card is based on one per booking, for UK addresses only. #Car parking is based on one space for the duration of the cruise. ×Tours are at a supplement and subject to change. xxCharge will apply. †Grade has a restricted view. Ship image is for example purposes only. Please note, Amy Johnson is new to the Cruise & Maritime Voyages fleet and is not a brand new ship. ††Cruise Miles T&Cs apply. Cruise & Maritime Voyages T&Cs apply. E&OE.

Travel UK



MICHAEL ROBERTS/GETTY IMAGES, REX

WALES IS MADE FOR WALKING

It's St David's Day, the daffs are in bloom and a pub walk beckons. *Katie Gatens* has eight of the best

THE RAILWAY GEEK ONE
HEART OF WALES LINE TRAIL

Difficulty: moderate
Walking time: 1 hour
A ruined Norman castle with a sleek sculpture on top, the gaping arches of Knucklas viaduct, over which steam trains billow plumes of white smoke – you get more than just scenery on this four-mile section of the Heart of Wales Line Trail, which skirts the border of England and Wales in Powys, between Knighton and Knucklas railway stations.

If you've got longer than a day, add another bit of the trail – the whole thing runs 141 miles from Shrewsbury to Swansea, passing through more than 30 stations, many of them in former mining towns (heart-of-wales.co.uk).
The pub: the five-bedroom Castle Inn, in the heart of Knucklas, welcomes you with a hearty pie selection (go for the rich steak and ale), a roaring fire and tankards hanging above the bar (mains from £9; doubles from £70, B&B; castleinnknucklas.com).

THE LITERARY ONE
DYLAN THOMAS BIRTHDAY WALK

Difficulty: easy
Walking time: 1 hour
Wales's most famous literary son loved this walk so much, he wrote Poem in October about it on his 30th birthday. On this circular two-mile route, you'll retrace Thomas's steps in and around his home town, Laugharne, and snake northwards along the estuary, past his former house, as well as his grave; listen for the poem's "call of seagull and rook", and look out for mussels in the icy rockpools. If you can prove it's your birthday, you can claim free Welsh cakes at stop-offs en route (dylanthomas birthdaywalk.co.uk).
The pub: Thomas used to sink pints in the bar at Brown's Hotel. Built in 1752, it's now a boutique hotel with a restaurant serving homemade Penderyn beef burgers.
The bar is dedicated to its most famous regular; poetry nights add a real Thomas fan-club feel (mains from £15.50; doubles from £105, B&B; browns.wales).

THE HISTORIC ONE
CONWY TO LLANFAIRFECHAN

Difficulty: moderate
Walking time: 4 hours
The grey-stone, multi-turreted Conwy Castle looks as if it's jumped straight from Game of Thrones, and is your starting point for this eight-mile section of the North Wales Way. You'll trek upwards, skirting Mynydd y Dref mountain, with the sea wind tickling you along from your right. On a clear day at the top, you can squint to see Snowdonia's white-tipped peaks 15 miles away. Onwards: you'll pass a crumbling hill fort, the Bronze Age "Druid's Circle" and the site of a Neolithic axe factory before you reach the sleepy beach town of Llanfairfechan, just across the strait from Anglesey. Take the coastal train back to Conwy for the night (conwy.gov.uk).
The pub: the prim and proper Erskine Arms is just opposite Conwy station and a four-minute walk from the castle. It's a Georgian pub with thick tartan carpets, beer-battered haddock and chips on the menu, and Conwy Clogwyn Gold on tap (mains from £13; doubles from £100, B&B; erskinearms.co.uk).

Top, the Brecon Beacons; above right, Conwy Castle



THE MOUNTAIN ONE
MOUNT SNOWDON

Difficulty: hard
Walking time: 5-7 hours
It takes a decent helping of steely determination – and a good chunk of the day – to climb Wales's highest mountain. The six designated walking routes can get overrun during school holidays, so you want the Rhyd Ddu Path, as it's the quietest. Squelch through puddles as you weave your way in the long grass, past disused slate and copper mines, winding up to the summit, where you can see snow-dusted mountains stretching into the distance. Catch your breath, then take the busier Snowdon Ranger Path back down to see the peaks reflecting off Llyn Ffynnon y Gwas lake. At the bottom, it's a half-hour walk along the road back to the pub, or a two-minute ride on the S4 bus (snowdonia.gov.wales).

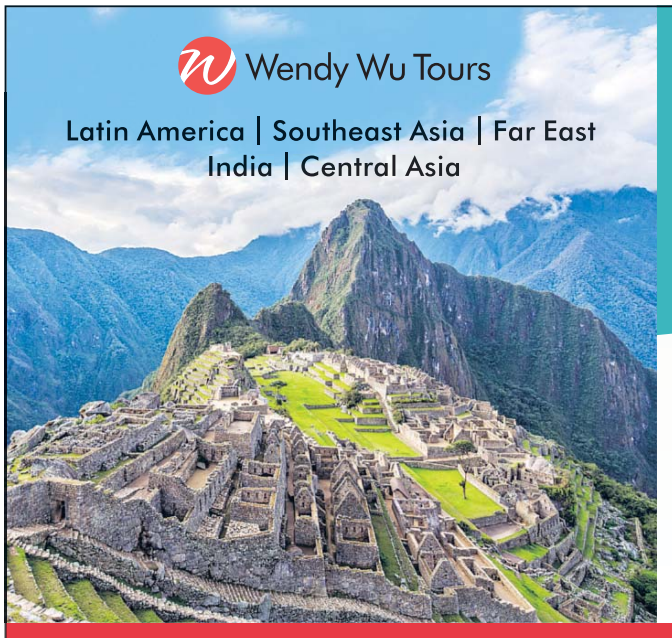


The pub: post-hike, sink into buttery leather armchairs in front of the fire at the family-run Cwellyn Arms – at the foot of Snowdon and the start of Rhyd Ddu. Share stories of spotting red kites with fellow hikers over a frothy pint and a piping hot monkfish and king prawn pie (mains from £12; doubles from £100, B&B; snowdoninn.co.uk).

THE FAMILY ONE
SIR HENRY'S TRAIL, FFOREST FAWR

Difficulty: easy
Walking time: 2 hours
Just a 45-minute train ride from Cardiff, this woodland makes for an effortless family weekend outing. On the

Continued on page 12 ➜



Wendy Wu Tours

Latin America | Southeast Asia | Far East
India | Central Asia

EXCLUSIVE OFFER
Partner flies free
or
50% off airfares
for solo travellers

2020 and 2021 dates for over 75 bestselling tours
Save up to £400pp | Hurry! Offer ends 16 March

Panoramic Peru – 15 days from £3,890pp
Cusco | Sacred Valley | Machu Picchu | Arequipa | Lima

WHAT'S INCLUDED
✔ International airfare ✔ All accommodation
✔ All transportation ✔ Most meals
✔ All entrance fees ✔ Expert guides

Call to book 0808 250 9690 or visit wendywutours.co.uk
or contact your local travel agent. See website for T&Cs

Travel UK

→ Continued from page 11

circular Sir Henry's Trail, kids can spot metal animal sculptures in the forest and trace wooden carvings. You'll emerge at gothic Castell Coch – bring a Thermos for the picnic area here. Elsewhere in the woods, rust-red former iron mines – nicknamed the Three Bears Caves – beg to be explored, so bring torches. Come in April and there'll be bluebells sweeping the forest floor, with the pang of wild garlic sweetening the air (fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk).
The pub: the forest is next to the village of Taff's Well; just outside it, the Gwaelod-y-Garth Inn is a snug local boozer where you can smell the log fires burning. In sunny weather, you'll see cyclists refuelling on gammon and eggs as they rest on outdoor benches (mains from £12; doubles from £110, B&B; gwaelodygarthinn.co.uk).





ROBERT HARDING/CHRIS WARREN/ALAMY

The harbour at Aberaeron, above, and Dylan Thomas's house in Laugharne

THE FISHING VILLAGE ONE
ABERAERON TO LLANERCHAERON

Difficulty: easy
Walking time: 2 hours
The pastel-painted fishing village of Aberaeron, with smartly lined-up houses and sailboats scattered around the glassy harbour, is your attractive starting point and base. From the village, it's an hour's walk upstream on the footpath to the National Trust's Llanerchaeron, a grade I listed Georgian mansion. When you arrive, play hide-and-seek in the walled gardens and visit the working farm (you can smell the pigs a mile off) before doubling back to Aberaeron on the same trail.
The pub: you're in a prime spot at the sugar-pink Monachty, with an expansive beer garden from which you can watch yachts slice into port. On the menu? Door-stopper brioche-bun burgers loaded with melted cheese and bacon. The bedrooms are basic, but do the trick (mains from £8; doubles from £70, B&B; sabrain.com).

THE FOUR PEAKS ONE
HORSESHOE RIDGE WALK

Difficulty: hard
Walking time: 5-6 hours
Poles at the ready: this nine-mile circuit, ticking off peaks, reads like a serious hiker's guide to the Brecon Beacons' greatest hits. Starting at the Taf Fechan car park, walk up to the Lower Neuadd Reservoir. You'll make a calf-burning ascent before taking the sheer-sided ridge along to Corn Du – at the top of which there's a Bronze Age burial site. Press on for Pen y Fan, the second highest peak in Wales, then the quick up-down over Cribyn. Now's the time for your Kendal mint cake: you'll be summiting Fan y Big (no sniggering) before you head back to your starting point. Save this one for good weather, as the ridges can be a risky tightrope walk in high winds (nationaltrust.org.uk).
The pub: it's a scenic half-hour drive through the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park, past lakes, forests and farms, to the Felin Fach Griffin – and it's worth it. Waiting for you is one of the best pubs in Wales, with fancy wallpaper and a decent wine list. Refined pub grub such as creamy smoked pork rillettes and roasted squash gnocchi is served in the arty dining room (mains from £16.50; doubles from £145, B&B; eatdrinksleep.ltd.uk).

THE COASTAL ONE
ST DAVID'S HEAD, PEMBROKESHIRE

Difficulty: easy
Walking time: 1¼ hours
The most popular walk in Pembrokeshire is also the most dramatic, and this shore-hugging four-mile loop around the UK's only coastal national park is part of the Coastal Way, which runs the length of Cardigan Bay. From the Whitesands Bay car park, walk with the sea on your left towards tiny Porthmelgan cove for a paddle on the sandy beach. Next, take a right, going inland through the marshy headland. You'll emerge at the highest point to a sweeping view, then walk to the Iron Age fort at the far end. In spring, look out for dolphins and seals (nationaltrust.org.uk).
The pub: right at the start of the walk is the Grove Hotel, a homely pub in St David's, the smallest city in the UK. Enjoy its sink-in beds and the light-flooded conservatory restaurant, where you can refuel on wood-fired pizzas (mains from £10.50; doubles from £100, B&B; sabrain.com).



UP TO 50%* OFF

Regent SEVEN SEAS CRUISES®

AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE™

EVERY LUXURY INCLUDED

BALTIC CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Let us introduce you to the rich heritage and rugged beauty of the Baltic Capitals this summer on board *Seven Seas Explorer*®. Discover amazing sights and diverse cultures, including unique adventures with our **FREE Unlimited Shore Excursions.**

Now's the time with savings of **up to 50%*** on selected sailings.



COPENHAGEN TO STOCKHOLM
Seven Seas Explorer® 30 June 2020 | 10 Nights
UP TO **48 FREE** SHORE EXCURSIONS

VERANDA SUITE £7,849pp
CONCIERGE SUITE £9,179pp
PENTHOUSE SUITE £11,779pp



STOCKHOLM TO COPENHAGEN
Seven Seas Explorer® 10 July 2020 | 7 Nights
Up to **31 FREE** Shore Excursions

VERANDA SUITE ..... was ~~£6,889pp~~ now £3,499pp
CONCIERGE SUITE ..... was ~~£8,299pp~~ now £4,389pp
PENTHOUSE SUITE ..... was ~~£10,029pp~~ now £5,463pp

FREE FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS | **FREE** UNLIMITED SHORE EXCURSIONS | **FREE** PREMIUM DRINKS
FREE UNLIMITED WI-FI | **FREE** SPECIALITY RESTAURANTS | **FREE** PRE-PAID GRATUITIES
FREE 1-NIGHT PRE-CRUISE HOTEL PACKAGE IN CONCIERGE SUITES & HIGHER

VISIT RSSC.COM/SPECIALS | CALL **023 8068 2155**
SEARCH **REGENT SEVEN SEAS** | CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR

FREE BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHTS FROM PENTHOUSE SUITES AND ABOVE

*Terms & Conditions apply, see RSSC.com. AD200301_SunTimes_HP ABTA

WILD RIDES



Kissimmee is perfectly placed for both animal adventures and theme park play



At Central Florida Animal Reserve you can meet big cats, including cougars. For all things alligator, head to family-run Gatorland



Torn between natural splendour, theme park thrills and Florida's finest shopping spots? Kissimmee's fantastic location means you don't have to choose

There's a town in central Florida that's just a 25-minute drive from Orlando International Airport and a host of world-famous theme parks yet is also a destination in its own right. Sitting on the upper lip of Lake Toho at the gateway to the Everglades, Kissimmee offers the best of two worlds: proximity to some of the greatest family entertainment and the chance to get away from it all.

WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS

The major theme park resorts are all on Kissimmee's doorstep. The biggest, roughly the size of San Francisco, is *Walt Disney World®* Resort. With four main parks and two water parks, it has been offering escapist entertainment at its most technologically wondrous since 1971. And it keeps on getting better: several new shows, including a nighttime spectacular and a Cirque du Soleil production, are making their debuts this year.

Universal Orlando works its own brand of magic with two theme parks and a water park. Look out for a new live stunt show, The Bourne Spectacular, this spring. Around the same time, the marine zoological theme park SeaWorld® Orlando is launching the Ice Breaker, a rollercoaster with a "beyond-vertical" 93ft drop. The newest of the bunch and 30 miles south of Kissimmee, LEGOLAND® Florida Resort has decreed 2020 to be the Year of the Pirate and will be raising the Jolly Roger at a number of events this April.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Within a 15-minute drive of Disney's Animal Kingdom® is the real thing: a wetland habitat at the headwaters of the Everglades, the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. Kissimmee has been abundantly blessed by Mother Nature. Across 12,000 marshy acres the Disney Wilderness Preserve is home to more than a thousand native plants and animal species, including the sandhill crane, the bald eagle and the gopher tortoise.

Equally wild times await visitors to Central Florida Animal Reserve, home to a variety of big cats, including cougars. For all things alligator – rare white varieties, a zipline over a gator pool, wrestling shows – there's Gatorland, a family-owned business that was founded more than 70 years ago and is known for rescuing nuisance reptiles. Keen to get out on the water yourself? The Paddling Center at Shingle Creek rents kayaks and canoes, and takes small parties out to see manatees.

WHERE ADVENTURES AWAIT

If your approach to the great outdoors is more hands-on, there's Revolution Off Road, where 230 acres of lakes, swamps and other challenging terrain meet fishing, shooting and archery tag (a sort of dodgeball with bows and arrows). You'll get around in a Mucky Duck – a four-seater amphibious vehicle. What that can't manage, an airboat can. High-spec models of the flat-bottomed, propeller-driven craft, such as those that are used on Lake Toho by Wild Willy's, can reach speeds of 45mph.

Lake Toho also has an excellent reputation among anglers. The size and quantity of its black crappie, bluegill and catfish are lauded, and its largemouth bass have won tournaments (do keep an eye out for ospreys, however – they have been known to snatch landed fish). Should a loftier view appeal, take to the skies with Warbird Adventures, which puts wannabe fighter pilots through their paces in a 1940s T-6 Texan, climb high at Orlando Tree Trek Adventure Park or float sedately through the air with Orlando Balloon Rides.

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE

Florida has some of the best shopping in the US, from its upscale shopping centres and outlet malls to its destination main streets, and Kissimmee has some of the best in the Sunshine State. Between the Mall at Millenia, Orlando's Premium Outlets, the Florida Mall and Lake Buena Vista Factory Stores, you'll have both designer, brand name and market-exclusive covered, whether it's Hermès, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Tiffany & Co., Neiman Marcus, Tory Burch, Lululemon Athletica or Under Armour. Check the websites of Kissimmee's major malls for coupons worth hundreds of dollars in savings.

For a "traditional" main street experience, drop in on Celebration, the ideal American small town that Disney started building in 1996. Universal CityWalk and Disney Springs® also come highly recommended, as they offer shoppers almost as many dining and entertainment options as they do changing rooms.

WHERE YOU'LL FEEL AT HOME

The Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate, surrounded by 36 holes of championship golf, and the Staybridge and Orlando Royale Parc boast newly renovated one and two-bedroom suites. But really, with 70,000 places in which to bed down, you'll be spoiled for choice.

From popular hotel chains and boutique inns to poolside mansions and spa retreats, it's no wonder Kissimmee is called "the holiday-home capital of the world". More than half of those properties are villas, offering all the comforts of home but with added sunshine. So however big your party and whatever its needs, the city has something to suit.

Visit the USA
Start planning your Florida adventure today at
VisitTheUSA.co.uk
EXPERIENCE Kissimmee FLORIDA



CALM AFTER T

Hurricane Dorian and the Fyre Festival put the Bahamas in the spotlight for the wrong reasons last

They say it took Michael Caine about five seconds to agree to star in the 1980s stinker *Jaws: The Revenge*. Apparently, he opened the script, saw that it was to be filmed in the Bahamas and simply said: "Where do I sign?"

Fair enough, I thought. I hadn't taken much convincing either.

My only concern had been Hurricane Dorian, the category 5 storm that tore through the country's northwestern islands last September. Grand Bahama and the Abaco island groups were devastated by winds that reached up to 220mph, with housing and infrastructure destroyed and thousands of people evacuated. Six months on, there are positive signs, but the road to recovery will be long.

Behind the headlines, though, and 130 miles south of Dorian's destruction, lay a sunnier story for the Bahamas. The island groups here – including New Providence, the country's most populous island and home to the capital, Nassau – escaped without a scratch, bar the odd power outage. So there was no reason I shouldn't make like Michael and sign up.

I was on a boat skipping across the warm, clear North Atlantic waters of the Exuma islands, a chain of 365 sandy isles, or cays, that start southeast of Nassau and snake 120 miles down through the Tropic of Cancer. I can get bored of lying on beaches, but I'll never get tired of looking at them. Which means I'd never get bored in the Bahamas, because, as Mr Caine might say, there's "thaahsands of 'em". Golden ones, white ones, goldy-white ones. Beautiful little ones, beautiful big ones. All the ones.

Not only is there a different cay for each day of the year, there seem to be enough for a fair number of Mr Caine's showbiz chums, too. Johnny Depp and the magician David Copperfield bought private islands here, as did the country-music power couple Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. Nicolas Cage had one, too, until he realised it was swarming with iguanas and swiftly got rid. Not out of wimpishness, but because they were endangered, so he couldn't build on it.





I could see why you'd want to protect them. The iguanas I met at one of our beach stop-offs had impeccable manners, having obviously grown used to tourists coming ashore to gawp and feed them lettuce. The violet-tinged lizards, about 2ft in length, padded about on the sand quite nonchalantly, graciously posing for photos and generally acting like perfect hosts.

As well as visiting the iguanas, my little group stopped off to snorkel in a cave that featured in the James Bond film *Thunderball*, swim alongside beach-dwelling pigs and pet friendly nurse sharks in a shallow bay. Alas, not all the tour groups we bumped into (this is a popular route) were the best behaved, and it was hard not to cheer when we saw one woman, who had been teasing a beach pig with a carrot, get bitten on the rump. Porcine justice is swift in the tropics.

Poolside and beach dining at Sandals Emerald Bay, above



Most people have probably only heard of the Exumas because of those pigs and a failed music festival. Nobody really knows how the paddling porkers ended up on this beach, but anyone who has seen the recent Netflix documentary *Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened* is informed about the festival. Thousands of people paid up to £75,000 each to attend a luxurious shindig on Great Exuma island because some social media influencers had said it was going to be cool. It all went wrong: everyone ended up eating cheese sandwiches and sleeping on rain-soaked mattresses.

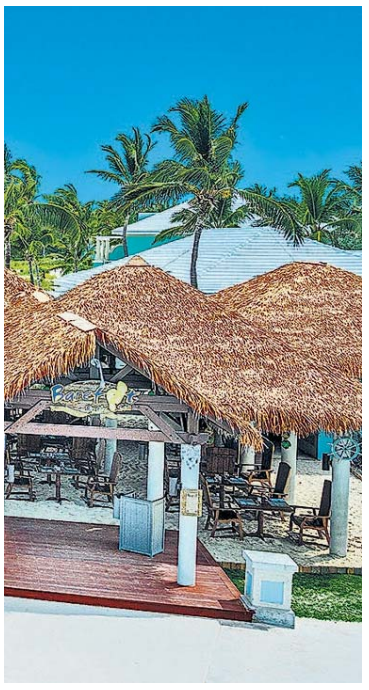
The site of the Fyre debacle was Roker Point, on Great Exuma island, just round the corner from my resort, the rather swanky Sandals Emerald Bay. It's on a mile-long beach just as golden, sandy and influencer-friendly as that at Roker Point, but with much more on offer than cheese sandwiches: it has 11 well-stocked restaurants. The sprawling resort also has an 18-hole golf course, a spa and lots of hammocks and cabanas dotted along that beach. Shame the place was fully booked when

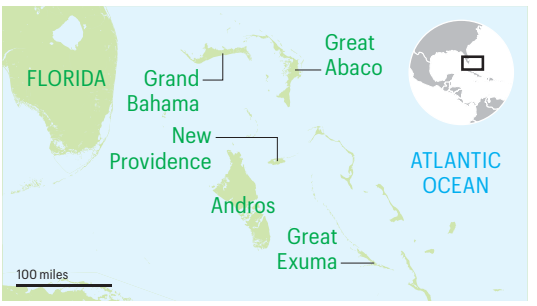
THE STORM



BMOT; AFP/GETTY IMAGES

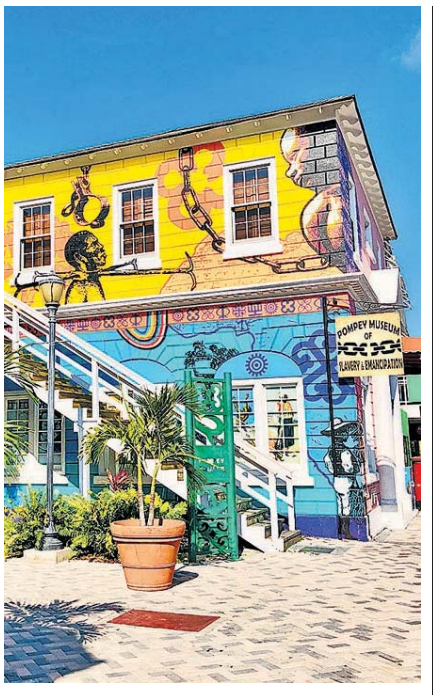
year. But there's serious R&R to be had in its southern islands, says *Mike Atkins*







The Exumas, above; swimming pigs, left; and sobering murals at the Pompey Museum, right



the festivalgoers were here. They would have loved it.

I had started the week over on New Providence, a 40-minute puddle-jump by plane from Great Exuma, at the Sandals Royal Bahamian resort, near downtown Nassau. It has a different energy – less colonial beach-house cool, more playful, with pool parties pumping through the afternoon and singalongs in the piano bar after dark. The resort spills out onto a calm section of Cable Beach, the island's most popular strip of sand. I spent an afternoon "recovering" here after a snorkelling trip, and gazing out to the private island where the Beatles filmed a section of their 1965 film *Help!*.

It feels right that the Nassau resort should be a little more… lively. After all, this city was the stomping ground of Blackbeard and Calico Jack. The golden age of piracy lasted from about 1650 until 1730, and at one point the governor of Bermuda estimated that there were more than 1,000 pirates active in Nassau. There was even an 11-year period when the city was known as the Republic of Pirates. Eyepatch salesmen must have made a killing.

It has to be said that Nassau doesn't feel particularly piratic these days. You're probably more at risk of being trampled by Americans charging off humongous cruise ships in search of Starbucks than of being abducted by bloodthirsty buccaneers. Yo, ho, ho and a mocha frappuccino. There is, however, a certain edge to the place, and I was warned more than once not to venture into the "over the hill" neighbourhoods after dark. They sound like great fun.

Bay Street, the main seafront drag, is a hotchpotch of gaudy souvenir shops and discount jewellers, but the history of these islands is shot through with something far more sobering than pirates and parties. The Pompey Museum, at the western end of Bay Street, is named after a slave who led a famous revolt on Great Exuma and tells the islands' harrowing stories of slavery and emancipation.

Also worth your time is the Bahamas Historical Society, which is situated where Elisabeth Avenue and Shirley Street meet. Run by a group of cardigan-clad OAPs who greet you at the door as if they've been expecting you, this delightful, dusty little space tells the nation's story, explaining what happened to the native Lucayan population (spoiler: the Spanish made them slaves and shipped them all away in the 16th century). Maybe museums aren't big business in Nassau – it was so quiet, I had my own personal escort, a lady who led me from exhibit to exhibit, reading from information cards. How wonderful! Other museums may blow their funding on VR headsets and interactive displays, but give me an old dear wearing carpet slippers and a hair net any day.

The iguanas posed for photos and acted like perfect hosts

Down on Parliament Square, the Georgian government buildings and courthouses – all painted coral pink – are watched over by a statue of Queen Victoria. Her great-grandson, the former Edward VIII, was appointed governor of the Bahamas by Winston Churchill in 1940, having spent the near four years after his abdication drifting around mainland Europe with his wife, Wallis Simpson. Edward was firmly against the appointment, but Churchill wanted him out of the way, so the Windsors arrived and stayed, grudgingly, until shortly before the end of the Second World War. I spotted pictures of the couple while I was in the piano bar at the Royal Bahamian.

Back on my boat tour around the Exumas, with the sun on my back and my feet resting on a cool box full of beer, I thought about Edward's sulk at being stationed in the Bahamas. I was with Blackbeard and Michael Caine on this one: there are much worse places to be stuck.

Mike Atkins was a guest of Sandals Resorts and the Bahamas tourist board (bahamas.com/uk). An all-inclusive twin-centre trip to Nassau and Great Exuma, with three nights at Sandals Royal Bahamian and three at Sandals Emerald Bay, starts at £2,645pp, including return flights from Heathrow with British Airways, interisland flights and transfers (sandals.co.uk)

ISLANDS IN RECOVERY

ANGUILLA

Anguilla was hit by Hurricane Irma on September 6, 2017, but this tiny island was never going to be wiped off the tourist map. Even though the big hotels — Cuisinart, Cap Juluca and Malliouhana — were closed, such is the love for Anguilla that tourism never stopped. Now, 29 months later, you have to look hard for evidence of Irma. New bars, restaurants and lodgings have opened, including the ultra-luxurious Quintessence Hotel (doubles from £624; qhotel anguilla.com); and, while the Pumphouse bar is still sorely missed, many say Anguilla is better than ever.

DOMINICA

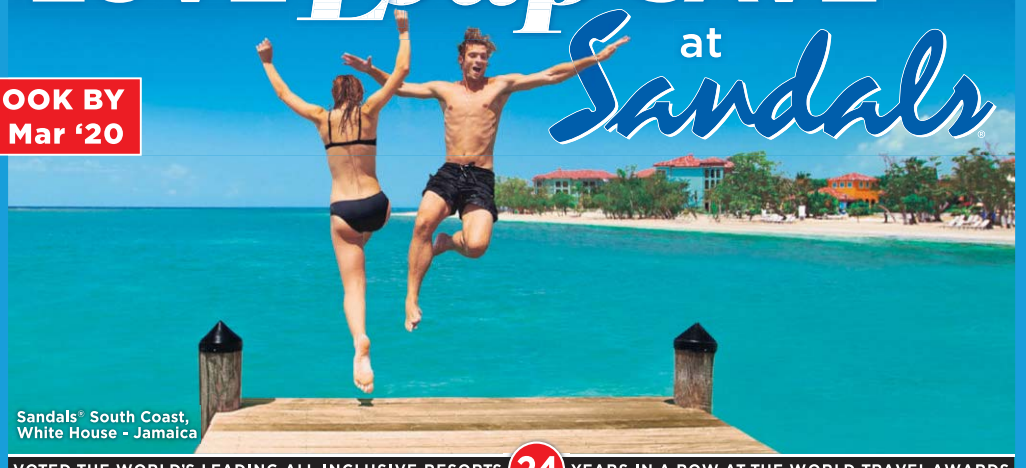
Hurricane Maria devastated the Caribbean's self-styled "nature island" in 2017, uprooting the rainforest and massacring the endemic sisserou parrot. The disaster spurred Dominica to pledge to become the world's first climate-resilient nation. Its prime minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, has promised to rebuild the island to make it immune to the storms of the future. As for tourism, it's thriving: the Fort Young and the Champs hotels have reopened and expanded; there's the new Cabrits Resort & Spa Kempinski; and 12 of the 14 sections of the challenging national trail are open. And the parrots have returned.

Chris Haslam

JAMAICA • ANTIGUA • SAINT LUCIA • BAHAMAS • GRENADA • BARBADOS

LOVE Leap SAVE at Sandals

BOOK BY 2 Mar '20



Sandals® South Coast, White House - Jamaica

VOTED THE WORLD'S LEADING ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS 24 YEARS IN A ROW AT THE WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS

Discover why Sandals are the World's Best All-Inclusive Resorts

You deserve the best, and Sandals includes the best of everything on the Caribbean's best beaches. Every land and water sport under the sun—with the best equipment and expert instruction always included. The most innovative and luxurious rooms and suites in the Caribbean. You'll even get the best savings at our all-inclusive resorts—even the tips, taxes, and Sandals transfers† are included.



5-STAR GLOBAL GOURMET SAVOUR THE WORLD
MASTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE CULINARY ARTS



Up to 16 Gourmet Restaurants & 11 Bars Included

With 5-Star Global Gourmet™ dining, every meal is transformed into an extraordinary experience. Innovative cuisine is perfectly paired with Robert Mondavi Twin Oaks® wines, while our bars serve up good times and 5-Star premium-brand liquors. All included. All unlimited. All part of the 5-Star Luxury Included® Holiday.

5-STAR PREMIUM LIQUORS INCLUDED & UNLIMITED THE GOLD STANDARD

More Quality Inclusions Than Any Other Resorts on the Planet

SAVE £129 – Quote 'LEAP129' Plus Up to an Extra £600 On Club & Butler Stays

SAVE UP TO £300 ON 7-NIGHT STAYS

Luxury Included® Resort	Accommodation (Room or Suite)	Travel Dates	7 Nights Inc. Savings
BARBADOS Sandals Barbados	Crystal Lagoon CLUB LEVEL Luxury Honeymoon Suite with Balcony Tranquility Soaking Tub™	27 Aug - 21 Sep '20	£2,059pp
ANTIGUA Sandals Grande Antigua	Mediterranean CLUB LEVEL Suite	27 Aug - 16 Oct '20	£1,835pp
GRENADA Sandals Grenada	Pink Gin Oceanfront Honeymoon Penthouse CLUB LEVEL Room	26 Aug - 25 Sep '20	£2,119pp
SAINT LUCIA Sandals Halcyon Beach	Crystal Lagoon Walkout Swim-up CLUB LEVEL	27 Aug - 16 Oct '20	£1,845pp
Sandals Regency La Toc	Honeymoon Luxury Oceanview CLUB LEVEL	27 Aug - 16 Oct '20	£1,885pp
JAMAICA Sandals Ochi Beach	BUTLER Village Poolside One Bedroom Villa Suite	01 Sep - 04 Dec '20	£1,555pp
Sandals South Coast	Italian Beachfront CLUB LEVEL Junior Suite	05 Sep - 04 Dec '20	£2,185pp
BAHAMAS Sandals Royal Bahamian	Windsor Honeymoon CLUB LEVEL Oversized Junior Suite	31 Aug - 18 Oct '20	£2,249pp

SAVE UP TO £600 ON 10-NIGHT STAYS

Luxury Included® Resort	Accommodation (Room or Suite)	Travel Dates	10 Nights Inc. Savings
BARBADOS Sandals Barbados	Crystal Lagoon CLUB LEVEL Luxury Honeymoon Suite with Balcony Tranquility Soaking Tub	27 Aug - 21 Sep '20	£2,725pp
ANTIGUA Sandals Grande Antigua	Mediterranean CLUB LEVEL Suite	27 Aug - 16 Oct '20	£2,375pp
GRENADA Sandals Grenada	Pink Gin Oceanfront Honeymoon Penthouse CLUB LEVEL Room	26 Aug - 25 Sep '20	£2,819pp
SAINT LUCIA Sandals Halcyon Beach	Crystal Lagoon Walkout Swim-up CLUB LEVEL	27 Aug - 16 Oct '20	£2,399pp
Sandals Regency La Toc	Piton Oceanview Two Story BUTLER Veranda Suite	25 Aug - 16 Oct '20	£2,979pp
JAMAICA Sandals Ochi Beach	Honeymoon Hideaway Luxury CLUB LEVEL Garden Cottage	01 Sep - 04 Dec '20	£1,839pp
Sandals South Coast	Italian Beachfront CLUB LEVEL Junior Suite	05 Sep - 04 Dec '20	£2,849pp
BAHAMAS Sandals Royal Bahamian	Windsor Honeymoon CLUB LEVEL Oversized Junior Suite	31 Aug - 18 Oct '20	£2,879pp

Many other travel dates through to 10 Feb 2022, room categories and holiday durations available.
All the above prices include all savings and all packages include return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic or British Airways.

Call 0800 742 742 | Visit sandals.co.uk

See your local travel agent • Come In-store at 135 Fulham Road, London SW3 6RT

Lines are open until 11 PM, 7 days a week

For an additional £129 off per booking quote LEAP129. Promocode saving is included and applied on top of current savings and valid for new bookings of 7+ nights made before midnight 02 Mar '20. For bookings of 7-9 night stays save £150 on Club Level Room Categories or £300 on all Butler Elite Room Categories. For bookings of 10+ nights, save £400 on all Club Level Room Categories or £600 on all Butler Elite Room Categories. Both savings offers valid for Sandals Grande Antigua, Sandals Grenada, Sandals Royal Bahamian, Sandals Halcyon Beach, Sandals Barbados, Sandals Ochi Beach, Sandals Regency La Toc and Sandals South Coast only. Advertised savings of up to 45% apply to the accommodation portion of the holiday cost when staying 3 nights or more on selected resorts, room categories and travel dates up to 10 Feb '22. The discount is a reduction against the nightly rack rate. Prices are subject to availability and can change or be withdrawn without notice. Full terms and conditions apply. Prices are per person based on 2 people sharing a room on an all-inclusive basis (all meals, drinks, selected land and water sports) and include return Economy flights with Virgin Atlantic or British Airways from London (unless otherwise stated). Prices also include Sandals airport transfers, tips and taxes. †Airport transfers included to and from Sandals/Beaches Resorts. Further terms and conditions – visit www.sandals.co.uk Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd, registered office 32 Ives Street, London SW3 2ND, acts as an agent for Sandals and Beaches Resorts Intl. All holidays are ABTA (Y6413) and ATOL (11174 protected.)

100% FINANCIAL PROTECTION ON FLIGHT-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE HOLIDAYS

ABTA Travel with confidence ABTA No.Y6413 | ATOL PROTECTED | IATA Accredited Agent

DUBAI SPECIAL OFFERS



5★ Sofitel Dubai The Palm

3nts HB fr **£515***≠pp
Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | FREE Half Board Dine Around | Save up to 58%



EXCLUSIVE OFFER

5★ Le Royal Meridien Beach Resort & Spa

3nts HB fr **£539***»pp
Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | FREE Half Board Dine Around | Save up to 66%





5★ Jumeirah Beach Hotel

3nts HB fr **£615***<pp
Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | FREE Half Board Dine Around | Save up to 65%



5★ Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai

3nts HB fr **£725***»pp
FREE Upgrade to Imperial Club Room | Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | FREE Daily Waterpark access | Save up to 50%

FAR EAST SPECIALS

5★ Grand Hyatt Bali, Indonesia
7nts BB fr **£985***¥pp
Save up to 25%

5★ Gaya Island Resort, Borneo, Malaysia
7nts BB fr **£1,085***<pp
FREE Room Upgrade | Save up to 30%

5★ The Ritz-Carlton, Langkawi, Malaysia
7nts BB fr **£1,109***<pp
Stay 7, Pay 5 Nights | Save up to 15%

USA, MEXICO & CARIBBEAN SPECIALS

5★ The Grand At Moon Palace, Cancun, Mexico
7nts AI fr **£1,335***^pp
Save up to 15%

New York | Orlando
10nts RO fr **£1,469***»pp
4★ Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, 3nts
5★ Waldorf Astoria Orlando, 7nts

5★ Carlisle Bay, Antigua
7nts BB fr **£1,545***<pp
Save up to 35%

Southall Travel

all flights☑ all holidays☑ all destinations☑

0800 408 8003

www.southalltravel.co.uk

ATOL & ABTA PROTECTED

ABTA No 80626

Trustpilot

INDIA SPECIALS

5★ ITC Grand Goa Resort & Spa
7nts BB fr **£879***<pp

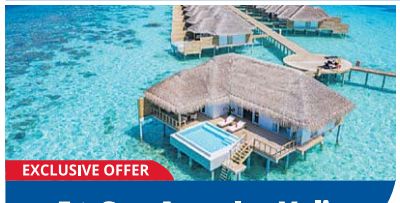
5★ Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Goa
7nts BB fr **£1,115***<pp

Tiger Safari Tour
• Delhi • Bandhavgarh • Kanha • Nagpur
BB/FB fr **£1,629***Φ†pp
10 Days / 8 Nights

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

	Economy	Business
Dubai	fr £293*ł	fr £1,465*Φ
New York	fr £303*¤	fr £1,264*«
Los Angeles	fr £339*ł	fr £2,352*Ѧ
Toronto	fr £344*ł	fr £1,666*Ѧ
Mumbai	fr £371*ł	fr £1,464*Φ
Delhi	fr £390*ł	fr £1,352*«
Johannesburg	fr £412*Φ	fr £1,535*v
Sydney	fr £641*«	fr £2,145*Δ
Auckland	fr £672*v	fr £2,515*Ƴ

MALDIVES SPECIALS



EXCLUSIVE OFFER

5★ Sun Aqua Iru Veli

7nts AI fr **£1,695***<pp
Save up to 50% on A La Carte Menu at Wine Cellar | Save up to 43%

4★ Adaaran Select Meedhupparu Premium All Inclusive
7nts Premium AI fr **£1,265***¥pp
Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | FREE Transfers | Save up to 20%

4★ Oblu By Atmosphere at Helengeli
7nts AI fr **£1,475***<pp
FREE Speedboat Transfers | Save up to 10%

5★ Emerald Maldives Resort & Spa
7nts Platinum AI fr **£1,999***<pp
Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | Save up to 30%



5★ Shangri-La's Villingili Resort & Spa

7nts AI fr **£2,229***<pp
FREE All Inclusive | Save up to 40%

INDIAN OCEAN SPECIALS

5★ Outrigger Mauritius Beach Resort
7nts HB fr **£999***¥pp
Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | Save up to 40%

5★ Anantara Tangalle Peace Haven Resort & Spa, Sri Lanka
7nts HB fr **£1,059***<pp
FREE Half Board | Save up to 20%

5★ Kempinski Seychelles Resort Baie Lazare
7nts BB fr **£1,095***¥pp
Save up to 30%



4★ Tamassa, An All Inclusive Resort, Mauritius

7nts AI fr **£1,135***¥pp
Kids Stay & Eat FREE~ | Save up to 15%

Prices shown are per person based on sharing a twin/double room including return flights. Correct at the time of publishing. ***All prices and offers are subject to change and are extremely limited. ~All Kid & Teen offers are valid when staying with paying adults, number, age restrictions apply.** Terms and Conditions apply. All prices and offers are based on select departure date in Mar 2020ł, Mar-Apr 2020Φ, Mar-May 2020Δ, Mar-Jun 2020«, Mar-Jul 2020v, Mar-Aug 2020Φ, Mar-Dec 2020Ƴ, Apr-May 2020¤, May 2020», May-Jun 2020<, Jun 2020¥, Jul 2020≠, Jul-Aug 2020Ѧ & Sep-Oct 2020Δ. Supplements on request for travel from regional airports, upgraded flights/room types and longer durations. †Tiger Safari Tour includes flights, transfers and sightseeing.

GREAT RAIL JOURNEYS



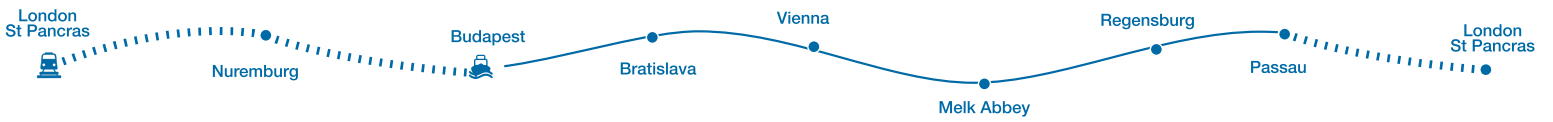
Save £300pp on selected 2020 cabin upgrades*

Offer ends 31st March

A true reflection of the

River Danube

Experience the magic of the Danube as you glide through Imperial Vienna and Budapest. Step back in time as you explore the Ottoman and Habsburg empires, and taste delectable regional specialities – a real treat for all the senses. **Embark on our Delights of the Danube River Cruise.**



River cruise the Great Rail way

Enjoy every moment
Escorted rail tour to your ship, taking in the sights along the way.

Cruise in luxury
5* ships with spacious cabins and suites.

Expertly crafted menus
Onboard dining showcasing regional flavours. Dinner drinks included.

Local discoveries
Flexible excursion options with knowledgeable local guides.

A safe pair of hands
Relax with your Cruise Manager on hand to take care of everything.

Days 1-2. To Budapest by rail

Take to the rails, travelling to Nuremberg for the night before speeding to elegant Budapest. Board your ship and soak up the splendour of the city as you cruise the Danube at twilight.

Day 3. The magic of Budapest

Be awestruck by the striking sights of Budapest, discovering its magnificent neo-Gothic landmarks. Later, sail through the stunning Danube Bend, passing dramatic castles, dense forests, and fairytale churches.

Day 4. Beautiful Bratislava

Arrive in the Slovakian capital where you discover the Baroque Old Town, bursting with cobblestone lanes, 18th-century rococo buildings and quaint street cafés.

Day 5. Vienna's cultural heritage

Arrive in glorious Vienna, rich in architectural, artistic, and musical heritage. Discover the impressive Opera House before tonight, you are indulged with an exceptional private recital from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Day 6. The beauty of Austria

A journey through the Wachau Valley past verdant vineyards and riverside towns takes you to Melk Abbey, a splendid 11th-century Benedictine Abbey.

Day 7. Scenic lakes or Salzburg

Uncover the scenic beauty of the Austrian lakes or immerse yourself in the fascinating culture of Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart.

Days 8-9. A fond farewell

Discover the medieval port of Regensburg, then board your ship for the captain's gala dinner, a chance to don your glad rags. The next day, board a train in Passau for a relaxed journey back to London.

2020 Departures – Save £300pp on B4, B1 and A1 Staterooms and on DS Deluxe Suites

Rail & Cruise	C4 Classic Stateroom	C1 Classic Stateroom	B4 Deluxe Stateroom	B1 Deluxe Stateroom	A1 Deluxe Stateroom	DS Deluxe Suite
4th May	£1,995	£2,095	SOLD OUT	£2,595	£2,695	£3,195
11th May	£1,995	£2,095	SOLD OUT	£2,595	£2,695	£3,195
31st May	£2,295	£2,395	SOLD OUT	£2,795	SOLD OUT	£3,395
12th Jun	£2,195	£2,295	£2,645	£2,695	£2,795	£3,295
19th Jun	SOLD OUT	£2,295	£2,645	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10th Jul	£1,995	SOLD OUT	£2,495	£2,595	£2,695	£3,195
31st Jul	£1,995	£2,095	£2,495	£2,595	£2,695	£3,195
25th Aug	£2,095	£2,195	SOLD OUT	£2,695	£2,795	£3,295
13th Sep	SOLD OUT	£2,395	£2,795	£2,795	£2,895	£3,395
Fly & Cruise						
5th May	£1,695	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	£2,295	£2,395	£2,895
1st Jun	£1,895	£1,995	SOLD OUT	£2,395	SOLD OUT	£2,995
20th Jun	£1,895	£1,995	£2,345	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
1st Aug	£1,695	£1,795	£2,195	£2,295	£2,395	£2,895
26th Aug	£1,795	£1,895	SOLD OUT	£2,395	£2,495	£2,995

Tour code: DLR/DHR

To book your river cruise or request a brochure

Call 01904 730934 or visit GreatRail.com

PROUD SPONSORS OF TV TRAVEL DOCUMENTARIES

itv

Due to the nature of our tours they can be unsuitable for those with restricted mobility. If you'd like to discuss any particular holiday with us in this respect, then please don't hesitate to call us. Book with 100% confidence, flight-inclusive holidays are ATOL or ABTOT protected, non flight-inclusive holidays are protected by ABTOT. Dates and prices are subject to availability. Prices shown are per person, based on 2 people sharing. Prices may change prior to and after publication. Itinerary may differ depending on the departure date you choose. *Book on or before 31st March 2020 and save £300 per person on selected cabin upgrades on selected 2020 Great Rail Journey Cruises. Prices do not include the discount. Terms and conditions apply. Please visit the website or call for further details. Calls will be recorded.

ABTA The Travel Association





Holy Jerusalem and hedonistic Tel Aviv make for the perfect holiday combination, as *Rosamund Urwin* discovers

When I told well-travelled friends that I was visiting Jerusalem, their warnings were almost uniform. This holiest of cities was "exhausting", "intense", "mind-blowing but overwhelming" – and then came the addendum: "Take two days in Tel Aviv afterwards to recover." It was wise advice.

Israel's two most populous cities could scarcely be more different: the sacred and the secular; the ancient and the new; a place to pray and a place to party. Seen together, they present an intoxicating holiday combination, and it's now a lot easier to do so. Virgin Atlantic's new daily flight from Heathrow to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport is proving popular, while the long-delayed high-speed rail link between the two cities is now operational, putting these sharply contrasting worlds just half an hour apart.

The rail route also links the airport to the two cities, so, after landing, my husband, Charlie, and I jump on one of the double-decker trains and head straight to Jerusalem. This is the intersection in the Venn diagram of the Abrahamic faiths: the holiest city in Judaism; the place where Jesus preached, performed miracles and faced arrest; and home to many of Islam's prophets.

In this city of three religions, sacred space is both shared and contested. East Jerusalem, which includes the Old City (divided into the Armenian, Christian, Jewish and Muslim quarters) and most of the holy sites, is in the West Bank, which has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

As we walk around the Old City on our first morning, pilgrims are tracing the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Suffering, along which Christ carried the cross to his crucifixion. On Friday afternoons, priests lead free tours. The route takes them from the Antonia Fortress to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – that stern monument to Christianity that houses Jesus's empty tomb.

At the fifth of the 14 stations of the cross, we watch as the godly place their hands in a hollow in the wall where they believe Jesus once rested, before they are jostled out of the way by a troop of Holy Land tourists in colour-coordinated caps. This is the strange thing about Jerusalem: the way the modern sits alongside the medieval, God rubs up against Mammon and the pious pretend not to notice the Hugo Boss shirts being sold in the souk beside their shrines. Seemingly, not all that much has changed since Jesus overturned the moneylenders' tables and threw the merchants out of the temple in Jerusalem.

Escaping the souk, we emerge close to the Western Wall, where Jewish supplicants queue to pray, their fringed white prayer shawls gleaming in the sun. The Western Wall is all that is left standing of the Second Temple of Jerusalem, which was destroyed by the Romans during the siege of the city in AD70 and remains a place of pilgrimage and prayer. Thousands of petitions on folded paper poke out of the wall's cracks.

> **Israel's two most populous cities could scarcely be more different**

Behind it – and a long queue of tourists – is Temple Mount, a compound deemed too holy to pray in under Jewish law. Muslims call it Haram esh-Sharif, and it is home to the 7th-century Dome of the Rock – the golden shrine that glistens in this city of stone – where they believe the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven. Temple Mount is a haven compared with the din outside, but opening hours for non-Muslims are short and we are shooed out by an ornery security guard almost as soon as we enter.

The dual claims on the site have inevitably made it a flashpoint in the Arab-Israeli conflict, most recently in 2017, when Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli police officers there.

Although I don't feel unsafe in the Old City, that conflict is never far from my mind, not least because of the Israeli soldiers skulking with their sub-machineguns.

We take an overpriced cab to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum, in west Jerusalem. This extraordinary building – a concrete prism – acts as the ultimate reminder of why a Jewish state exists. With anti-semitism rising again in our own country, its first message seems even more powerful: that oppression doesn't start at the concentration camps.

The escalating horror swiftly becomes overwhelming. Remnants of extinguished

WHERE TO STAY

● **Bezalel Hotel, Jerusalem**
The Bezalel prides itself on being the most stylish place to stay in Jerusalem: guests are greeted at reception by a Jeff Koons balloon dog and every room is adorned with Israeli art (doubles from £164, B&B; atlas.co.il).

● **The Inbal, Jerusalem**
Service in Jerusalem is notoriously brusque, but not at the Inbal, where the staff are relentlessly obliging. This is an all-the-trimmings hotel with palatial rooms, a swanky spa, a shop selling artefacts you would genuinely want and a vast breakfast spread (doubles from £294, B&B; inbalhotel.com).

● **65 Hotel, Tel Aviv**
The 65 is on bustling Rothschild Boulevard, in a cylindrical building that glistens in the sun. It has a rooftop terrace with city views and the rooms are tastefully decorated (doubles from £184, B&B; atlas.co.il).

● **The Norman, Tel Aviv**
Owned by a Londoner, Jonathan Lourie, the Norman is a hip boutique hotel spread across two buildings, with a cerulean pool on the roof, the well-stocked Library Bar and orchids everywhere. The beach is within a 10-minute drive (doubles from £526, B&B; thenorman.com).

● **Fabric Hotel, Tel Aviv**
Fabric has a youthful vibe, with the friendliest of front desks and bikes to borrow. The rooms are quiet and well designed — the family rooms with bunk beds are great — but it's the extras that really charm you, from free happy-hour cocktails to beach bags (doubles from £184, B&B; atlas.co.il).



The ancient fortress of Masada, with the Dead Sea beyond



KYRYLO GILVIN/EYEM/WALTER BIBIKOW/GETTY IMAGES, ALAMY

DOUBLE BILL The Jerusalem skyline, far left; and sea and skyscrapers in Tel Aviv



humanity – a scarf belonging to a woman, Ethel Stolyar, who was marched to a murder pit in Ukraine – sit in cabinets near testimony of the most brutal inhumanity. "On October 9, 180 people were shot," reads a Nazi soldier's report. "The unit returned to the camp with a satisfied feeling."

The final room – the beautiful, domed Hall of Names, which has space for a file on every victim – reminds you of that unavoidable number: six million murdered. It is dark inside, then you emerge, blinking, into the bright light of a viewing balcony that overlooks pine forest and the cityscape. I have to linger there for a while.

On our second day, we have a bleary-eyed 2.30am start for a two-hour coach ride to the ancient fortress of Masada, in the Judaean Desert. It's a tough climb up a snaking path to the top – there's a cable car for the less mobile – but it's worth it to watch the sun come up in this setting, with its superb views of the mountains, the desert and the Dead Sea.

Our no-frills tour takes us next to the nearby oasis of Ein Gedi, where we spot families of rotund rock hyraxes lurking in the reeds as we hike around the nature reserve. The tour ends with cooling a wallow in the mud of the Dead Sea.

Exhausted, as predicted, after the intense days of Jerusalem, we head on to Tel Aviv to recover. We join groups of hedonistic young Israelis on the beach and dabble in the modern art scene at the Magasin III gallery, currently hosting an exhibition by the Danish artist Tal R. We meander, too, around the labyrinthine alleys of Jaffa, the ancient port, with its seafront of bobbing fishing boats.

The highlight of our stay is the food. Barak Aharoni, the executive chef at the Norman hotel, explains that Tel Aviv's culinary scene has blossomed during the past decade, with local produce, growers and ingredients to the fore.

We eat at the Norman on our first night, starting at the Japanese rooftop restaurant, Dinings, with sushi rolled in front of us using the freshest of fish (from £5), before switching to Mediterranean cuisine downstairs at Alena (mains from £16; thenorman.com).

On our second night, we dine at Claro, a farm-to-table restaurant in Sarona, central Tel Aviv. We feast on tabbouleh with red tuna and perfectly cooked lamb (mains from £20; clarotlv.com). Our final meal is at the bafflingly named CoffeeBar, in east Tel Aviv. The modern European menu includes yellowtail sashimi and sea bass with tagliatelle. The mere memory of those dishes makes my mouth water (mains from £18; coffeebar.co.il).

When I look back on this trip, it is to chilled-out Tel Aviv – and its glorious restaurants – that I most want to return. Yet these two cities do indeed dovetail for a perfectly balanced trip: Tel Aviv to feed the body, Jerusalem to nourish the soul.

Rosamund Urwin was a guest of Virgin Atlantic (virginatlantic.com). Virgin Holidays has a week in Israel, staying in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, from £929pp (virginholidays.co.uk). Tourist Israel has tours from £45pp; touristisrael.com

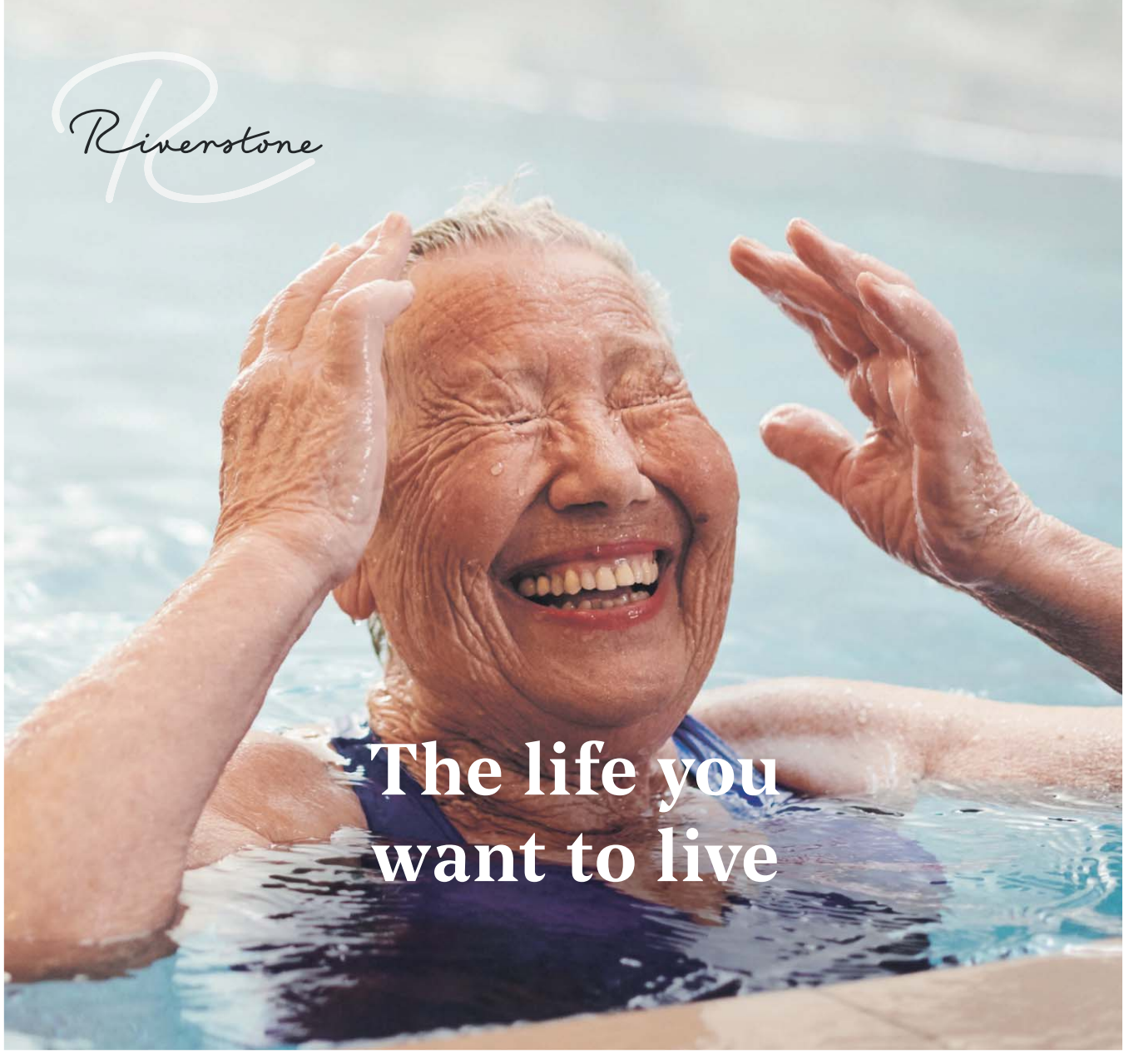


The rooftop pool at the Norman, in Tel Aviv

HOW SAFE IS ISRAEL?

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office warns that tourists should be vigilant at all times, but only advises against travel to the Gaza Strip and areas along the Lebanese and Syrian borders. If you're in the centre or the south of the country, you should familiarise yourself with the warning sirens and procedures in the event of a rocket attack, and be ready for an oppressive security presence.

Israel's bus network is cheap and reliable, but because acts of violence have occasionally been perpetrated on its services, the FCO warns against their use in Jerusalem. It also warns against using taxis in the Palestinian West Bank; if you're travelling there, book a driver/guide from a reputable agency such as the Israeli-run Breaking the Silence (breakingthesilence.org.il). Find out more at gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel.



Exceptional London living for people over 65

People are living longer, healthier and more fulfilled lives than ever before. That's why we founded Riverstone with one simple ambition: to offer you a life in London where you can truly feel at home. Be at the heart of what we're doing and share our exciting journey as we design and build exceptional places to live for our residents. Each location provides the reassurance of the finest professional care and well-being, should you need it. Every single aspect has been thought through to help you stay safe and well, enjoying the life you want to live.

Launching Summer 2020

To buy an apartment, register today: riverstoneliving.com

GIVE US YOUR BODY
FOR A WEEK AND
WE'LL GIVE YOU BACK
YOUR MIND.



bodyholiday
Saint Lucia

Please contact your preferred travel agent or
tour operator to book, or call **0203 096 1673**
Quote "SUNTIMES" to receive your complimentary room upgrade.*
www.bodyholiday.com

*Room upgrade will be offered on arrival subject to availability.

Check-In

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Trustpilot ★★★★★
Trailfinders is Trustpilot's No.1 rated travel company



The Wonders of Oregon
11 nights from **£1,729**
Direct flights with Delta Air Lines, car hire incl a free upgrade,
3★ to 4★ accommodation and Portland City Tour
• *Sample craft beer in Portland* • *Relax in Gleneden Beach*
• *View incredible Crater Lake* • *Visit stunning Columbia River Gorge*

Book now to WIN the cost of your holiday as part of TF's 50th anniversary celebrations◊

50 1970-2020 ANNIVERSARY
Call **TRAILFINDERS** on 020 7368 1200
trailfinders.com
Prices are per person, based on twin/double share and are subject to availability.
Valid for selected May departures. ◊visit trailfinders.com/win for T&C's.
Awards 2019 Which? Travel Brand of the Year

Portugal

Affinity VILLAS
Algarve villas
with private pools
Book online
www.affinityvillas.com
01428 787454

Northumbria

NORTHUMBRIA COAST & COUNTRY COTTAGES LTD
Outstanding Holiday Cottages since 1981
Outstanding holiday cottages throughout beautiful Northumberland
01665 830783
northumbria-cottages.co.uk

SPECIAL OFFER
JustTravelcover.com
NO AGE LIMIT TRAVEL INSURANCE
• Medical condition experts
• We compare insurers
• Specialist cruise cover
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
QUOTE TS15 FOR 15% DISCOUNT
Call FREE from Mobiles & Landlines
0800 294 2973
*Terms apply. Discount applies to total price quoted.
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Vintage travel
ESTABLISHED 1990
BEAUTIFUL HANDPICKED VILLAS WITH PRIVATE POOLS



30 YEARS OF PERFECT HOLIDAYS
- *A friendly personal service*
- *Superb range of properties*
- *First hand knowledge of our villas & areas*

The Telegraph TRAVEL AWARDS 2019 WINNER

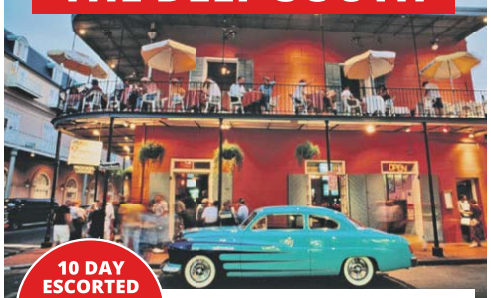
• Greece • Spain • Lanzarote • Balearics • Portugal
• Turkey • France • Italy • Croatia • Cyprus

ABTA ABTA No V5643
01954 261431
vintagetravel.co.uk

DATES AVAILABLE within the NEXT 90 DAYS
LOCK IN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE £1 DEPOSIT

MercuryHolidays

DISCOVER
THE DEEP SOUTH



10 DAY ESCORTED TOUR FROM £2,089*
ELVIS' GRACELAND & AMERICA'S DEEP SOUTH

CALL 0800 298 9856
mercuryholidays.co.uk/tours CODE: MUSA58

*From price applies to departures on 28/09/20. An ESTA visa must be obtained before travel. Availability may be limited. Terms & conditions apply. Prices are per person based on 2 adults sharing. For detailed itineraries visit our website **www.mercuryholidays.co.uk/tours. £1 deposit per person, exclusions apply. See website for full details, terms & conditions apply.**

Southall Travel



Kerala-Tea and Spice Country Tour
• Cochin • Munnar • Thekkady • Kumarakom •
Kovalam • Trivandrum
10 Days / 8 Nights BB fr **£1,159*** pp
Travel Season :- 21 Apr - 21 May'20
01 Jun - 24 Jun'20
Trustpilot ★★★★½
ABTA ABTA No 80626
020 8705 0070 www.southalltravel.co.uk
Prices shown are per person based on sharing a twin/double room including return flights, transfers & sightseeing. Correct at the time of publishing. ***All prices and offers are subject to change and are extremely limited.** Terms and Conditions apply. Supplements on request for travel from regional airports, upgraded flights/room types and longer durations.





5* MAURITIUS
Save 50%
7 nights half board
from £**1,165**pp



4* MAURITIUS
Save £2000
7 nights half board
from £**1,499**pp



5* MALDIVES
Save 35%
7 nights
from £**1,599**pp



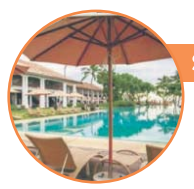
5* SEYCHELLES
Save 30%
7 nights
from £**1,299**pp



4* SEYCHELLES
Save 35%
7 nights
from £**1,175**pp



5* SRI LANKA
2 FREE nights
7 nights
from £**865**pp



SRI LANKA TOUR
Save 10%
8 nights
from £**1,099**pp

DialAFlight
INSTANT ANSWERS. **LIVE IN FIVE** SECONDS
0330·100·2213
98% RATE US 'EXCELLENT' Trustpilot
ATOL PROTECTED
40 YEARS OF AWARD WINNING SERVICE

AllClear™
Specialist Travel Insurance
for over 50's
✓ **All** Medical Conditions
✓ **All** Ages
✓ **All** Destinations
✓ **Always Great Value**

Trustpilot Rated Excellent ★★★★★ 47,500+ reviews
defaqto EXPERT RATED 2018 – 2020 ★★★★★ Travel Insurance
Good Housekeeping RECOMMENDED UK 2020



20%* OFF BASE PRICE
USE CODE STM20

Call our UK Call Centres **FREE**
0800 640 4836 AllClearTravel.co.uk
*20% discount applies to base premium of AllClear Gold and Gold Plus policies only. Discount expires at 23:59 on 02/03/2020.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Book your advertisement now at:
thesundaytimes.co.uk/advertise



TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Sri Lanka, The Pearl of the Indian Ocean

Trustpilot
Trailfinders is Trustpilot's No.1 rated travel company



Classic Sri Lanka & Beach

14 nights from **£2,249**

Flights, 7 night private tour incl 3★+ to 4★ hotels, private vehicle & driver/guide, selected sightseeing & breakfast and 7 nights 4★ beach resort with half board & private transfers

Includes early booking discounts & FREE half board – saving over £550 per couple



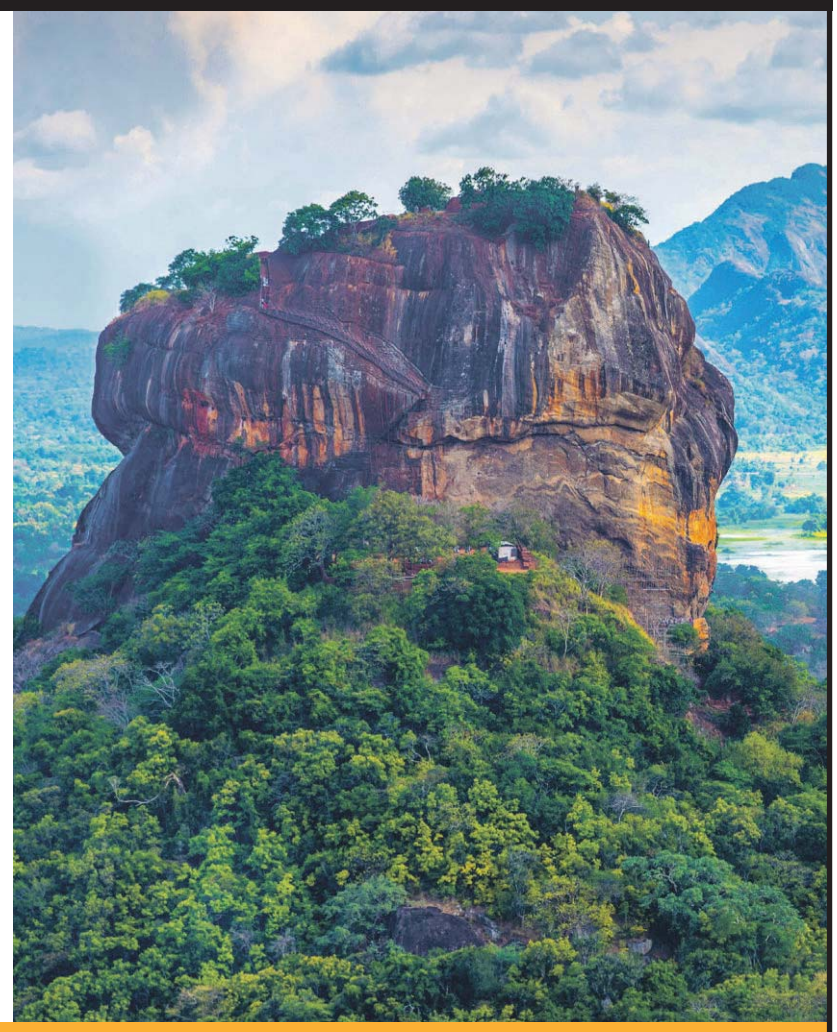
Luxury Beach Escape

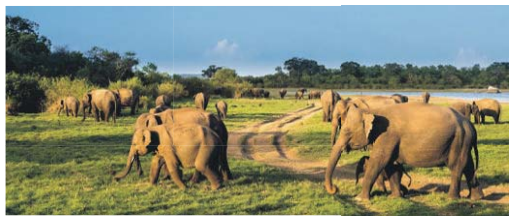
7 nights from **£1,129**

Flights, 5★ Shangri-La's Hambantota Golf Resort & Spa, half board and private transfers

- *Ruggedly beautiful beach*
- *Artisan village showcasing traditional arts & crafts*

Includes a 40% booking discount & FREE half board – saving over £600 per couple





Natural Wonders, Wildlife & Waves

14 nights from **£2,679****

Flights and **family friendly** private tour incl 3★ to 4★+ accommodation, private vehicle & driver/guide, selected sightseeing & 20 meals

Priced for summer holidays
Includes FREE half board – saving over £750 per family



Sri Lankan Summer Escape

14 nights from **£2,199**

Flights, 1 night 4★ Negombo hotel, 8 night private tour incl 3★+ to 4★ hotels, private vehicle & driver/guide, selected sightseeing & 8 meals and 5 nights 4★ beach resort with breakfast & transfers

Includes a FREE room upgrade

Book now to WIN the cost of your holiday as part of TF's 50th anniversary celebrations◊

1970-2020 ANNIVERSARY
TRAILFINDERS FINANCIAL GUARANTEE
ABTA ATOL IATA

Call **TRAILFINDERS** on **020 7368 1200** to **FIND** your perfect escape

Prices are per person, based on 2 adults sharing. Valid for selected June departures & subject to availability.
** 2 adults and 2 children under 12 travelling together. ◊visit trailfinders.com/win for T&C's.

Which? Awards 2019 Travel Brand of the Year

ADVERTISEMENT

UK Dental Prices on the Increase

Join thousands of Brits travelling for their new smile

KREATIV DENTAL CLINIC®
PROUDLY TREATING UK PATIENTS SINCE 2002



With UK dental prices on the increase – the NHS rose by 5% last year – and private dentists charging anywhere up to £120 for a check up, more than £700 for a crown and up to £3,500 for an implant (the average price is £2,350) it isn't surprising British patients are opting to head abroad for treatment.

Some 200 to 300 a month of the more discerning are travelling to Budapest each month from the UK and Ireland with their final destination the Kreativ Dental Clinic, the winner of the International Dental Clinic of the Year award.

With prices around 50% lower than back home and treatment comparable with the most expensive in the UK, the Kreativ Dental Clinic remains the best of the best, a reputation it preserves in what is recognized as the dental tourism capital of the world.

Kreativ Dental Clinic is in fact the founder of Dental Tourism in Budapest. They have been treating patients from the UK since 2002. Based on the Pest side of the city, the clinic is dedicated to providing its patients with the highest quality of care.



Total Implant Price £830

UK aftercare is provided for all patients and backed up with a very strong dental guarantee.

Kreativ Dental Clinic were named International Dental Clinic of the Year 2018 by medical travel publication, the International Medical Travel Journal, at their annual awards ceremony, the IMTJ Medical Travel Awards 2018.

CEO of Kreativ Dental Clinic, Attila Knott says:

"We are very pleased with this achievement as leader in dental tourism. It is really motivating for our staff and reassuring for our patients to know they are in the right place where the best possible treatment is available. I am honoured that IMTJ has recognised our efforts and hard work by presenting us with the title of Dental Clinic of the Year.

CONSULTATION PACKAGE 2020

- FREE night stay at a 4 Star Hotel
- FREE Consultation and Treatment Plan
- Flight Ticket Reimbursed*
- FREE OPG X-ray
- FREE Airport Transfers for Two

IMTJ 2018 MEDICAL TRAVEL AWARDS WINNER

TEL: 020 3653 0331 | WWW.KREATIVDENTALCLINIC.CO.UK

*See website for conditions

Travel

BIG WEEKEND



With its turreted cathedral, busy markets and pretty streets, the Dordogne's capital is all about the good life, says *Jenny Coad*

You'll want to settle down for a long lunch with Périgueux. Perched prettily on a bend of the River Isle, east of Bordeaux and southwest of Limoges, it is the embodiment of all our French-living fantasies. A gourmet, known for porcini mushrooms, chestnuts and foie gras, the city has weekend markets that radiate the pleasure of living well, and in summer the streets are strung with fluorescent bunting like giant confetti. The surrounding chateau-filled countryside is a delight to drive and you will seriously weigh up buying that pale-blue-shuttered house for sale.

FRIDAY

The capital of the Dordogne doesn't have an airport (sorry), so you have to hire a car from the nearest (by a whisker), Limoges. It's less than an hour and a half's drive, and you travel through the attractive Parc Naturel Régional Périgord Limousin. Pause for a pastry in one of the grassy, tree-lined lay-bys set up with picnic benches.

Afternoon

You've arrived in time for lunch (*très bien*), so park yourself at **Chez Fred**, a brasserie that opened last year and is right next to the 12th-century **St-Front Cathedral**; it has a large, lively balcony with eyes on the action. There's a seasonal daily lunch menu for £14, starting with a velouté of vegetables, for example, followed by a fillet of fish or pork ribs, and rounded off with *mousse au chocolat* (13 Rue Denfert Rochereau; 00 33 9 80 74 10 32).

You could go inside the cathedral, but it's much more enchanting from the outside, where you can admire its many pineapple-like turrets. It reminded me of the Sacré-Coeur, in Paris, in its romance. Continue five minutes west to the 13th-century **Mataguerre Tower**, which you can climb for £2, and enjoy the layout of the warm stone streets. Wander southwest through town, maybe stopping off at **Maison Léon** for a trout-shaped cushion (£38) or a thickly woven picnic basket (£38), to the **Vesunna Gallo-Roman Museum**. I know you've only just arrived,

020 3131 7429

BEST AT TRAVEL

bestattravel.co.uk

INDIAN OCEAN SALE NOW ON!

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS ACROSS THE MALDIVES, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES & SRI LANKA



HERITAGE AWALI GOLF & SPA RESORT, MAURITIUS

5★ | Seven Nights
All Inclusive

NOW from £1,300pp

TRAVEL 01 - 30 JUN 2020

SAVE 30% | UP TO 2 KIDS STAY FREE
5 RESTAURANTS, 3 SWIMMING POOLS, PLUS ENJOY A COMPLIMENTARY SPA TREATMENT PER GUEST

SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT & SPA, MALDIVES

5★ | Seven Nights
All Inclusive

NOW from £2,755pp

TRAVEL 20 APR - 30 SEP 2020

SAVE UP TO 30% | FREE ALL INCLUSIVE
FREE ROOM UPGRADE TO A DELUXE POOL VILLA
INCLUDES RETURN TRANSFERS





ANANTARA TANGALLE PEACE HAVEN RESORT, SRI LANKA

Seven Nights Half Board from £1,179pp

TRAVEL 26 APR - 05 JUL 2020

SAVE UP TO 15% | FREE HALF BOARD
COMPLIMENTARY 60 MIN COUPLES SPA TREATMENT PER STAY



RAFFLES SEYCHELLES

Seven Nights Half Board from £3,079pp

TRAVEL 12 MAY - 30 JUN 2020

SAVE UP TO 30% | FREE HALF BOARD
FREE UPGRADE TO AN OCEAN VIEW POOL VILLA
COMPLIMENTARY BUTLER SERVICE



CONRAD MALDIVES RANGALI ISLAND

Seven Nights Half Board Plus from £2,789pp

TRAVEL 09 MAY - 30 SEP 2020

SAVE UP TO 45% | FREE HALF BOARD
COMPLIMENTARY ROOM UPGRADE
HOME TO THE ICONIC ITHAA UNDERSEA RESTAURANT



ANANTARA VELI MALDIVES RESORT

Seven Nights Half Board from £2,089pp

TRAVEL 08 MAY - 24 JUL & 01 - 23 SEP 2020

SAVE 30% | FREE HALF BOARD
ADULTS-ONLY RESORT INC. ADDITIONAL DINING OPTIONS AT SISTER HOTEL ANANTARA DHIGU

Gold Trusted Service Award 2019 feefo

DEPOSITS FROM £99pp | FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS | ABTA & ATOL PROTECTED

Offers are subject to availability and include international flights and taxes from London. Prices are per person based on twin share unless otherwise stated. Holidays are subject to availability and exclusions may apply. Visit bestattravel.co.uk for full terms and conditions on deposit payments.

ABTA No F2078/V8783



ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE COLLINS

but I promise it's good. Designed by the architect Jean Nouvel, it's like an industrial greenhouse, surrounded by parkland. Périgueux was an important Roman centre and the museum explains the history, displaying items such as Bronze Age pins and bracelets, and Gallo-Roman coins; being able to view the exposed foundations of a villa, down to the heating and drainage systems, brings it all to life. I liked the shell-decorated vases and the palm-tree-printed bowls – not so different from what we have in our cupboards at home (£5; perigueux-vesunna.fr).

Marvel at the broken **Vesunna Tower** – the remains of a Gallo-Roman temple in the garden – on your way out, and walk back through town via the **Jardin des Arènes**. Here, children splash in the fountain on toasty afternoons, and the ruins of the Roman amphitheatre, which once held 18,000 spectators, are now covered in creeping foliage.

Evening

Wander down the intriguingly narrow Rue Limogeanne and pause at the nearby **Café de la Place**, on Place du Marché au Bois, for an aperitif alongside leather-clad bikers and Lycra-clad cyclists (Campari £3, Stella £2; cafedelaplace24.fr). Then, if it's still warm enough, have an al fresco pizza at **Les Coupoles Bistrot Italien Trattoria** (pizzas from £13; 7 Rue de la Clarté).

SATURDAY

Morning

It's market day, and you'll wish Waitrose had as much character as the stalls laid out in Place de la Clautre, Place du Coderc and Place de l'Ancien Hôtel de Ville. Buy a croissant from the stall with the longest queue, then find a table at **Bar Tabac Le Coderc**, on Place du Coderc, for a café au lait. They also do a "formule" – £3 for a pastry and a hot drink. Inside, you'll find cheery Frenchmen drinking dinky glasses of rosé at the bar. One chap told me, with a smile, that it was only a "*petit*, *petit*". Stock up on lunch goods (we went large with a couple of vast vol-au-vents for £4) and poke your nose into the indoor market at **Halle du Coderc**. Then wander southwest to the **Atelier Mataguerre**, where a husband-and-wife team create delicate ceramics and prints of the surrounding streets from their on-site studio (ateliermataguerre.com).

Afternoon

If it's hot, you'll want to get in the river, but you can't do that here, the locals told me, shaking their heads. So hop in the car and drive south to Limeuil, 50 minutes away, where you can test your mettle against the **Dordogne**, which will sweep you along lazy-river style. You have to walk back along the bank. There's a little gravel beach, **Plage de Limeuil**, with a gorgeous view of the village on the opposite side.

Evening

You've booked dinner back in Périgueux, at **La Péniche**, a Chelsea houseboat-style restaurant on the river, with views of the cathedral glowing pleasingly above. The menu is seasonal and traditional, with an emphasis on rich, meaty dishes.



GETTING THERE

Ryanair has return flights to Limoges from £41 (ryanair.com).

WHERE TO STAY

Les Suites du Théâtre, in the centre of Périgueux, has chic, airy apartments set in a 1930s building (from £108 a night; appart-hotel-perigueux.suitesdutheatre.com).

If you're eating outside, douse yourself in mosquito repellent (three courses £29; lapenicherestaurant.fr).

SUNDAY

Morning

Stretch your legs before the flight home with a walk along the **Isle**. In summer, there are Sunday markets on the left bank. When we were there, in June, we saw a man toasting a *gâteau à la broche*, a cake made with batter and cooked on a spit; a woman stirring a vat of strawberry jam; and stalls selling wraps and roasted vegetables, which you could buy to eat under the riverside awnings. Cross the **Pont des Barris** to access the footpath on the opposite bank, but stop to admire the medieval buildings behind you. The Hotel Ibis is a bit of a blot on the horizon, but **Maison Lambert** has decorative balconies and the **Maison des Consuls** looks like something out of a fairy tale. (You can rent a flat here via booking.com.) The **Eschif**, a timber-framed lookout house for the toll bridge, sits bizarrely balanced on the ramparts of the medieval city, like a house that's taken flight.

Head east – you'll soon be amid greenery, with woodland shading the path – until you get to a platform that you crank manually to spirit you across the river. The kids will love it. But this is your turning point, I'm afraid. You have a flight to catch.

TRAVELBAG™

CRAVING SOME SUNSHINE?

Beach break or cultural adventure?
Either way, we've got you covered.

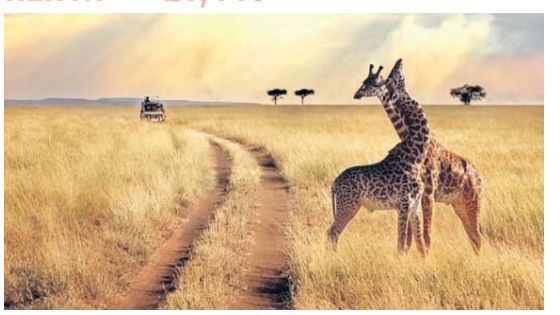
travelbag.co.uk
0207 001 5239
Visit your local Travelbag shop

NEW ZEALAND from £1,329



21 Day New Zealand Motorhome Explorer
- Including 5★ hotel stay, Maui Campervan hire and flights
- Save up to £330 per couple
- Exclusive overnight stay on a vineyard, including a gourmet hamper and a bottle of wine
- See the highlights of New Zealand's North and South Islands

KENYA from £1,449



3 Day Masai Mara Fly-In Safari and 7 nights 4★+ Mombasa
- Full board including Qatar Airways flights
- Free upgrade to full board in Mombasa
- Unforgettable fly-in safari experience to search for the Big Five
- Relax on one of East Africa's most stunning beaches

USA from £1,699



16 Day Historic Route 66 Self Drive Tour
- Including hotels, 13 days car hire and flights
- Experience the open road as you drive the iconic Route 66
- Spend two nights in the upbeat, vibrant city of Chicago, home of blues music
- Stop off at the Grand Canyon on your journey

MALDIVES from £2,249



5★ Atmosphere Kanifushi
- 7 nights all-inclusive including seaplane transfers and flights
- Save up to £1,000 per couple
- Unlimited snorkelling excursions and free non-motorised watersports
- Includes a fine dining experience and a mini bar in your room

Prices "from" act as an indication only and are per person based on 2 sharing/travelling together, subject to availability & including all taxes. Prices correct at time of print. Valid for selected travel dates in 2020. DNATA reserve the right to withdraw/amends any offers at any time. Transfers not included unless otherwise specified. Full terms and conditions apply see travelbag.co.uk for full details.

ABTA Travel with confidence

OUT THERE MADE EASY SINCE 1979



SAVE up to £300 per person♦

Reductions on **2020/21** sailings of five nights or more

Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines

HURRY! Ends Monday

Experience smaller ship cruising with Fred. Olsen. Plus, with over 100 sailings to choose from, you're sure to find a cruise holiday that tempts!

When?	Where to?	Where from?	Nights	Ship	Cruise ID	Was from	Now from	SAVE
28th Mar 2020	**Spain & Portugal** **La Coruña • Vigo:** Spain • **Lisbon** (overnight): Portugal • **Funchal:** Madeira • **Avilés:** Spain	Southampton	12	*Braemar*	M2007	~~£1,199pp*~~	**£999pp***	**£200pp**
16th Apr 2020	**Rhine & Main River Cruise** ✈**Amsterdam:** Netherlands • **Cologne • Koblenz • Rüdesheim am Rhein • Wertheim • Würzburg • Bamberg • Regensburg:** Germany✈	✈LON	10	*Brabant*	R2002	~~£1,199pp*~~	**£999pp*** Flights included	**£200pp**
17th Apr 2020	**Springtime Scenery of the Fjordland** **Bergen • Flåm** • *Cruising Nærøyfjord* • **Ålesund • Olden** • *Cruising Nordfjord & Maurangerfjord* • **Eidfjord • Stavanger**	Dover	9	*Boudicca*	D2009	~~£999pp*~~	**£799pp***	**£200pp**
1st May 2020	**Springtime Fjords in Five Nights** *Cruising Lysefjord* • **Eidfjord** • *Cruising Ulvikafjord & Hardangerfjord* • **Bergen:** All Norway	Newcastle	5	*Balmoral*	L2006	~~£649pp~~	**£549pp**	**£100pp**
17th May 2020	**Upper Danube River Cruise** ✈**Budapest • Bratislava • Nussdorf** (Vienna): Austria • *Cruising the Wachau Valley* • **Emmersdorf & Melk • Passau • Regensburg**✈	✈LON/MAN	7	*Brabant*	R2005	~~£1,599pp~~	**£1,499pp** Flights included	**£100pp**
1st Jun 2020	**Capital Cities of the Baltic** **Copenhagen:** Denmark • **Helsinki:** Finland • **St Petersburg** (overnight) • **Tallinn:** Estonia • **Travemünde:** Germany	Southampton	13	*Braemar*	M2014	~~£1,799pp~~	**£1,499pp**	**£300pp**
20th Jun 2020	**Natural Wonders of Iceland** **Orkney Islands** • *Scenic Cruising* • **Reykjavík** (overnight) • **Ísafjörður • Akureyri • Seyðisfjörður • Faroe Islands**	Dover	13	*Boudicca*	D2015	~~£1,899pp~~	**£1,599pp**	**£300pp**
10th Jul 2020	**Netherlands & Belgium City Break** **Antwerp** (overnight): Belgium • *Cruising Western Scheldt River* • **Amsterdam • Rotterdam:** Netherlands • *Cruising Nieuwe Maas*	Dover	5	*Boudicca*	D2017	~~£749pp~~	**£649pp**	**£100pp**
3rd Oct 2020	**Into the Heart of Spain & Bordeaux** **Bordeaux** (overnight): France • **Santander • Avilés • La Coruña**: Spain	Southampton	8	*Braemar*	M2026	~~£1,099pp~~	**£999pp**	**£100pp**
11th Oct 2020	**Western Mediterranean** **La Coruña • Cartagena • Ibiza • Barcelona:** Spain • **Marseille:** France • **Menorca • Cádiz:** Spain • **Lisbon:** Portugal	Southampton	15	*Braemar*	M2027	~~£1,999pp~~	**£1,699pp**	**£300pp**
16th Feb 2021	**In Search of the Northern Lights** **Molde • Narvik • Alta** (overnight) • **Tromsø • Ålesund:** All Norway	Southampton	13	*Balmoral*	L2104	~~£1,699pp~~	**£1,399pp**	**£300pp**
25th Feb 2021	**Egypt, Jordan & Israel** ✈**Muscat:** Oman • **Safaga:** Egypt • **Aqaba:** Jordan • *Cruising the Suez Canal* • **Alexandria:** Egypt • **Ashdod • Haifa:** Israel • **Limassol** ✈	✈LON/MAN	14	*Boudicca*	D2104	~~£2,599pp~~	**£2,299pp** Flights included	**£300pp**

What's included: All meals every day, including breakfast, lunch and five-course à la carte dinners • Comfortable, stylish en-suite room Varied on board activities • Evening entertainment, including dancing, cabaret, comedy & live music • Luggage porterage between your room and the drop-off/pick-up point • Afternoon tea, in-room sandwiches & snacks and self-service tea & coffee • Use of leisure facilities, including gym, pools and Jacuzzis • Fred. Olsen's renowned warmer, friendlier service

Book by Monday to **SAVE up to £300pp** on over 100 sailings!
Visit **fredolsencruises.com**, see a **travel agent** or call **0800 0355 089**

Bringing the world closer

These Terms and Conditions are in addition to Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' (FOCL) standard Terms and Conditions which are available on our website, fredolsencruises.com and on request. Both must be read before booking. Information shown is correct at time of going to print (Feb 2020). We reserve the right to amend itineraries for operational reasons. Some ports may be at anchor, intermediate days are at sea. **River Cruises**: Access to the river vessel may involve using steps over or through other vessels. Consequently, river cruises are not suitable for guests who rely on wheelchairs or those with limited mobility. Fares are per person (pp), based on twin occupancy of the lead-in rooms, subject to availability. All offers may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice, cannot be combined with other offers, are subject to availability and cannot be applied retrospectively. Offers are capacity controlled, call for latest prices and details of other room types. ✈Fly-Cruise package includes economy flight(s), APD supplements and transfer(s) to/from the ship as arranged by FOCL. ♦Saving per person is applicable to new bookings only, made between 05/02/19 and 02/03/20 inclusive. *Exclusions apply including, charters, exclusive sailings and Tour Operator holidays. Freedom Fare terms and conditions apply, unless a Saver Fare is stated. 'Now price' stated includes the saving of up to £300pp. Saving is per person, based on standard room occupancy. Saving not applicable to 3rd/4th guest in room. ***Saver Fares**: Full payment is required at time of booking. 100% cancellation charges apply and guests cannot transfer their booking to an alternative cruise. Room number and room grade will be advised on the cruise ticket. Dining time will be allocated automatically. Additional discounts, including Oceans Loyalty Discounts, do not apply. See fredolsencruises.com for full offer terms & conditions.

ABTA Travel with confidence



THE TIMES
Expert Traveller
Our knowledge, your passions

SAIL IN ULTIMATE LUXURY AROUND
the Caribbean

Enjoy a free all-inclusive stay at the five-star Sandals resort in Barbados, before an ultra-luxury Silversea cruise including St Lucia and St Kitts

There are few places better for winter sun than the Caribbean, where the weather is warm year round and the pristine beaches are perfect for unwinding on. This luxury cruise-and-stay holiday starts with a free all-inclusive stopover at the Sandals Barbados resort, before sailing through the Eastern Caribbean to Florida on Silversea's Silver Whisper.

Sandals Barbados, in lively St Lawrence Gap on the island's south coast, is stylishly designed with eight pools and whirlpools, a gym, spa and selection of 17 restaurants, including Caribbean, Italian, Indian, French, Japanese and New York-style options. There are also seven bars offering unlimited wine, beer and premium spirits, all overlooking a stretch of white sand, fringed by swaying palm trees.

The second part of your itinerary starts when you board the Silver Whisper in Bridgetown for a ten-night cruise. All of Silversea's cabins are spacious suites, and more than 80 per cent have private verandas. Plus, they all come with personalised butler service and a pre-stocked complimentary minibar. There are multiple restaurants on board, and drinks, including champagne and fine wines, are included throughout your voyage.

There's also a beautiful pool deck, a large spa and fantastic live entertainment. As Sue Bryant, Cruise Editor of *The Sunday Times* says: 'Silversea has some of the most stylish and ultra-luxurious ships at sea and service is often even better than you'd experience at the finest five-star hotels'.

During your luxury cruise you'll stop in Scarborough in Tobago; the beautiful islands of Bequia in the Grenadines; St Lucia, famous for its dramatic Pitons; Les Saintes, a group of small islands in the archipelago of Guadeloupe; St Kitts; St Maarten; and tiny Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands, before you arrive into Fort Lauderdale and fly home. Don't miss this chance to relax in the Caribbean sunshine next winter.

Times subscribers save up to £1,800 per couple.**

13 nights from **£3,599*** per person for Times subscribers

or from **£4,199*** per person for all other readers

Visit mytimesplus.co.uk/TET to redeem your code.

Departure

November 26, 2020

Itinerary

Barbados • Trinidad and Tobago • St Vincent and the Grenadines • St Lucia • Guadeloupe • St Kitts • St Maarten • British Virgin Islands • Fort Lauderdale, USA

Price Includes

- ✓ Flights to Barbados and from Fort Lauderdale or Miami
- ✓ Free three-night all-inclusive stay at the five-star Sandals Barbados resort
- ✓ Ten-night all-inclusive Silversea cruise on the Silver Whisper in an entry-level Vista Suite
- ✓ Unlimited drinks on board, including fine wines and spirits
- ✓ Transfers

CALL TODAY ON
0844 417 5899
QUOTE SUN0103
thetimes.co.uk/barbadoscruise

Our Trusted Partner
IMAGINE® CRUISING
MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.



WHAT WE Love

Sailing with Silversea is a luxurious experience. Their small ships offer excellent service and include all drinks, gourmet dining and butler service. There's also a spa, pool deck and live entertainment on board.



*Prices correct at time of going to press. Based on two sharing an entry-level Vista Suite. Classic Veranda Suite from £5,199pp for Times subscribers, from £4,599pp for all other readers. **£1,800 per couple Times subscriber saving based on booking a Classic Veranda. Times subscribers should visit mytimesplus.co.uk/TET to redeem their offer code. Single supplements apply. Holidays are operated by Imagine Cruising Ltd, Portland House, Bincknoll Lane, Interface Business Park, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon SN4 8SY and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Cruising Ltd, a company wholly independent of News UK. ATOL and ABTA protected. Imagine Cruising: ABTA Y6300; ATOL 11078.

Travel

MY HOLS PETULA CLARK

The singer was fascinated by Lebanon's temples, and fled to Geneva to escape riots in Paris



BIM/GETTY IMAGES, CAROLYN CONTINO/REX

Petula's home town, Geneva, which she first visited by accident in 1968



Going on holiday in the 1930s and 1940s was such an adventure. My parents always took us to Perranporth, in Cornwall, to stay at the Droskyn Castle hotel. Dad had this big, US-style station wagon, which was packed to the gills with food, first-aid kits and even a giant inner tube for me and my sister, Barbara, to take into the sea. I remember we had to clamber down the rocks to get to the beach, and when I first stood on the sand, I couldn't believe my eyes. The vast expanse of sea and sky – it was like looking at the whole world.

Success came early for me, and I was lucky enough to do a lot of travelling around Europe in my teens and early twenties. That was when I first saw the Mediterranean. After leaving foggy London, the south of France seemed like paradise: the scent of mimosa and garlic; the spring sky a vivid blue that I'd never seen before.

There are some places that grip your soul, and the French Alps, with towns like Chamonix, Chambéry and Evian-les-Bains, did that to me. Often, I'd bump into other singers, such as Jacques Brel or Charles Aznavour, and we'd drive up into the mountains, looking for little places where we could drink coffee and talk. Actually, if you sat down with Jacques Brel, you weren't drinking coffee.

I now live in Geneva, but my first visit to the city, in 1968, was a complete accident. Claude, my second husband, and I were living in Paris, where I was working on *Goodbye, Mr Chips* with Peter O'Toole. Halfway through rehearsals, the Paris riots began. Suddenly the city felt very dangerous and we had to get out. We were packed into limousines and driven off at crazy speeds. Madness unfolded – buildings and cars were set on fire and people were fighting. I was very scared, but I think Peter fell asleep.

We ended up in Geneva. During a walk, I looked out over the lake and instantly knew I belonged. I spotted a plot of land overlooking it and, soon after, we built our home. Each time I look out of my window, I am on holiday.

Because Claude and I had travelled so much, we wanted our children to do the same. One of our earliest family trips was to Dakar, in Senegal. (I sang in French, so my songs made it there.) We stayed with friends who owned a sugar plantation in the countryside, surrounded by tiny villages. In one of them, my young son, Paddy, joined in with a group of children playing football. In the middle of the game, a lady strolled across the pitch with a huge pile of washing on her head. The boys kept trying to knock it off with the football. It was a wonderful image.

We then drove to the Gambia. I'm sure it's more developed now, but we spent a lot of time bouncing along dirt tracks in an old Land Rover. I lost count of how many times the wheels got stuck. We'd all get out and push, sweating and covered in mud. The kids loved it.

I'm very interested in archaeology. Our history in England is rarely on the scale of, say, Petra, in Jordan, or Athens, so I think my passion for it began when I first visited Lebanon in the 1960s. Someone suggested I should see Baalbek, so we drove there from Beirut. I remember the temples rising out of the desert. As I walked among the ruins, I could hear time calling out to me. I could reach down and touch the past. I know I shouldn't have done it, but I pinched a small piece of mosaic. I was pregnant at the time, and hid it under my smock. Oh dear… I hope I don't get arrested.

Interview by Danny Scott

Petula Clark, 87, has been singing for more than 70 years. She achieved success during the war years and had a string of hits in the 1960s and 1970s, including Downtown and Don't Sleep in the Subway. She is appearing in Mary Poppins at the Prince Edward Theatre, London, until July 26 (petulaclark.net). She lives in Geneva. She is separated from her second husband, Claude Wolff

COMPETITION

WIN A LUXURIOUS FOUR-DAY BREAK FOR TWO IN SARDINIA WITH FORTE VILLAGE SARDINIA

WHERE WAS I?

"I have a cunning plan," Friend says. "I hope it's more cunning than your plan to bring the car," I sigh. We've been stuck in traffic for an hour, and my suggestion of a morning walk in a country park (and SSSI) looks increasingly unfeasible. I'd pictured bright sunshine and the remains of an ancient forest, not nose-to-tail vehicles. We could have taken public transport — using a loop line first opened in 1903. We'd have stopped at a station that shares its name with the forest, then jumped on a bus.

"Don't worry," Friend says. "I'll tell you what I'll do. I know a park near here that's almost as lovely. It'll blow your mind." Er, okay. So Friend alters course. "Shall I navigate?" I ask. "No need — photographic memory," he says as he wiggles through a town whose name prompts happy memories of f-stops and ISO numbers. And before I can say "I'm as excited as a terribly excited person", he pulls up by a country house (built in 1696), four miles southwest of our original target. It's not in the country any more, but even under a grey sky, the park beside it looks inviting.

The icing on the cake comes when Friend reveals it could be the park that starred in a 1960s song. "I thought that was in San Francisco!" I yelp. Apparently not. What's more, the song's lead singer used to hang out here as a teenager with an actor (mother: Phyllis) made famous by one of my favourite television comedies.

Then the sun comes out. Are my eyes watering? "It's all too beautiful," I gasp. Friend smiles and feeds some ducks with a bun.

Sean Newsom

THE QUESTIONS

1 What is the name of the first-mentioned park?
2 What is the name of the country house?



THE PRIZE

The winner and a guest will stay for four nights, on a half-board basis (excluding drinks), at the Forte Village, Sardinia. Set at the southern end of the island, this luxury resort offers a choice of four- and five-star hotels and 11 villas, as well as a series of white-sand beaches and an unparalleled range of sports facilities.

Within the 47-acre site, there's football, rugby, netball, cycling, boxing, dancing, climbing, sailing and chess academies, as well as the Children's Wonderland — a miniature town with its own oasis. The resort is also home to the state-of-the-art Aquaforte Spa, which has a thalassotherapy circuit, and one free circuit for the winner and their guest is included in the prize. For more details, or to book, visit **fortevillage.com**.

The prize includes return flights from London to Cagliari, and transfers in Sardinia. It must be taken between April 25 and June 30 or September 1 and November 2, 2020, subject to availability and excluding public holidays.

HOW TO ENTER

Only one entry per person, at **thesundaytimes.co.uk/wherewasi** by Wednesday. Normal Times Newspapers rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into.

LAST WEEK'S PRIZE

The answers are Warwick Castle and Coventry. Graham Knight, of Cheshire, wins an eight-day grand tour of Sicily for two, as a guest of Inghams.

★★ EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD PROMOTION ENDS 8:30PM 12TH MARCH 2020 ★★

THE ULTIMATE SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPEDITION VOYAGE



FEATURING ANTARCTICA, THE CHILEAN FJORDS & FALKLANDS

UK'S TOP AGENT FOR HURTIGRUTEN

ACTIVITIES ON BOARD & ASHORE INCLUDED×

FREE PREMIUM ECONOMY CLASS FLIGHT UPGRADE>>

RARE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS OF UP TO £6,000±

INCLUDED DRINKS++, FREE GRATUITIES & WI-FI

21 NIGHTS DEPARTING 22ND NOVEMBER 2021

NOVEMBER 2021

Mon 22 **Fly from London to Santiago, Chile>. BOOK an Expedition Suite (ME) or above & enjoy a FREE upgrade to Premium Economy Class flights>>**

Tue 23 **Santiago, Chile**
Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel‡ for your two night stay, including breakfast

Wed 24 **Santiago, Chile**
Explore Santiago at your leisure

Thu 25 **Santiago – Punta Arenas, Chile**
After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your **Economy Class charter flight>>** to Punta Arenas. Upon arrival, transfer to the port and embark *MS Roald Amundsen* for your 16 night voyage, including your chance to witness the rare Solar Eclipse

Fri 26 - Sat 27 ***Cruising Drake Passage***
Meet the Expedition Team as they begin their series of lectures

Sun 28 - Tue 30 ★Antarctic Experience★
With white horizons above oceans full of icebergs and whales, Antarctica never fails to inspire awe and wonder. Perhaps even more awe-inspiring will be your first encounter with the huge colonies of penguins. The Expedition Team will lead ice-cruising and landings at every opportunity to come ashore and explore the impressive Antarctic scenery. From deck, there are great chances to spot whales. Landings will be attempted at several sites to aim to bring you to the incredible diversity of landscapes and rich wildlife on display in this pristine wilderness

DECEMBER 2021

Wed 1 - Thu 2 ★Antarctic Experience★

Sat 4 **South Orkney Islands ★Solar Eclipse★**
Arrive early in the morning to the South Orkney Islands and experience the Solar Eclipse. The Expedition Team will be on deck to give out special-purpose solar filters which will protect your eyes while you observe the extraordinary occurrence. A professional astronomer will also be part of the Expedition Team for the full duration of the voyage, delivering a series of in-depth lectures and providing insights during the Solar Eclipse. After observing the Solar Eclipse, explore the South Orkney Islands themselves where 85% of the islands' surface is made up of glaciers, which make it the perfect home for various species of penguins and seals

Tue 7 - Thu 9 **Falkland Islands**
Here, all bookings will enjoy a **FREE** Stanley Community Walk excursion×

Fri 10 ***Cruising the Magellan Strait***

Sat 11 **Punta Arenas – Santiago, Chile**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your **Economy Class charter flight>>** to Santiago. Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel‡ for your overnight stay, including breakfast

Sun 12 **Santiago, Chile**
After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your overnight return flight to London>. **BOOK an Expedition Suite (ME) or above & enjoy a FREE upgrade to Premium Economy Class flights>>**

Mon 13 **Arrive in London**

Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea

YOUR EXPEDITION VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

★ SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPERIENCE ★

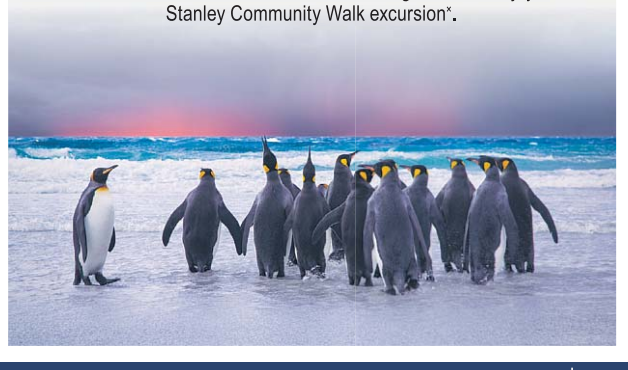
On 4th December 2021, total solar eclipse will be visible over the South Orkney Islands. You too can be there to experience this spectacle of 'totality' from the decks of Hurtigruten's *MS Roald Amundsen* where a professional astronomer will also be part of the Expedition Team for the full duration of the voyage, delivering a series of in-depth lectures and providing insights during the Solar Eclipse. A total Solar Eclipse occurs only every one to two years, and to witness it is without doubt a rare occurrence and is only visible from a small area on Earth. Those who are able to see the total eclipse are in the centre of the moon's shadow when it hits Earth. A total Solar Eclipse is in itself is special, but to experience it is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.

CRUISING DRAKE PASSAGE

Between Cape Horn and the South Shetland Island lies an open water body called The Drake Passage. It was created when the connection between South America and the Antarctic Peninsula broke millions of years ago. From that point in time, and ever since, an enormous amount of water has been funnelled through The Drake Passage from the west Pacific Ocean and into the Scotia Sea in the east. The Drake Passage is as mythological as the man who first discovered it, the famous Sir Francis Drake in 1578, but some claim that the Spanish navigator Franciso de Hoces saw it even earlier, in 1525. Who came first is not as important as the fact that you now have the opportunity to witness this dramatic stretch of water with your own eyes.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Imagine a place that is so far off-the-beaten-track you have miles of stunning landscape, beaches and magnificent bird life all to yourself – that's what you can expect as you arrive in Stanley. As one of the greatest wilderness destinations in the world, the Falkland Islands are the ultimate birding experiences and are home to majestic King, feisty Rockhopper, raucous Gentoo and shy Magellanic penguins as well as over 70% of the world's Black-browed albatross! Here, all bookings will also enjoy a **FREE** Stanley Community Walk excursion×.



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD PACKAGE

RARE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

- **EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS OF UP TO £6,000±**
- **FREE** upgrade to Premium Economy Class flights for Expedition Suites (ME) & above>>
- **TWO NIGHT** 4★ pre-cruise hotel stay in Santiago, Chile including breakfast‡
- Return **Economy Class charter flights>>** between Santiago & Punta Arenas, Chile
- 16 nights full board voyage on board *MS Roald Amundsen*, including:
  - Expedition landings and activities on board and ashore× passengers on board
  - Professional English-speaking Expedition Team – an international handpicked team of highly educated experts
  - No gratuities expected
  - **FREE** Wi-Fi on board for all guests
  - All meals including beverages (beer & wine, sodas and mineral water in all restaurants)++
  - A range of optional shore excursions are available at a supplement×
  - **Expert Astronomer on board**
  - **FREE** reusable water bottle
  - **FREE** Stanley Community Walk excursion for all bookings×
  - **FREE** wind- and water-resistant jacket
- **OVERNIGHT** 4★ post-cruise hotel stay in Santiago, Chile including breakfast‡
- Flights (regional and premium class flights may be available on request>) and overseas transfers

★**PLUS**, book by 8:30pm 12th March 2020 to receive an **EXCLUSIVE FREE** Case of South American Wine+★

EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES - Earn up to **51,998** worth **£519** off your next booking with Reader Offers Ltd††

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO SECURE YOUR PREFERRED CABIN THEN NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL 2021

YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD FARES

CABIN	GRADE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
Polar Outside	RR	~~£12,649~~	**£10,999**
Arctic Superior with Balcony	XT	~~£14,899~~	**£13,499**
Expedition Suite	ME	~~£17,799~~	**£15,999**
Expedition Suite	MB	~~£22,849~~	**£20,499**
Extra Large Expedition Suite	MA	~~£28,999~~	**£25,999**

Solo fares are available from **£15,499**

www.rolcruise.co.uk

Search Cruise Code: 1603909

ABTA TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

CALL ONE OF OUR CRUISE SPECIALISTS **FREE** ON

0800 251 1077

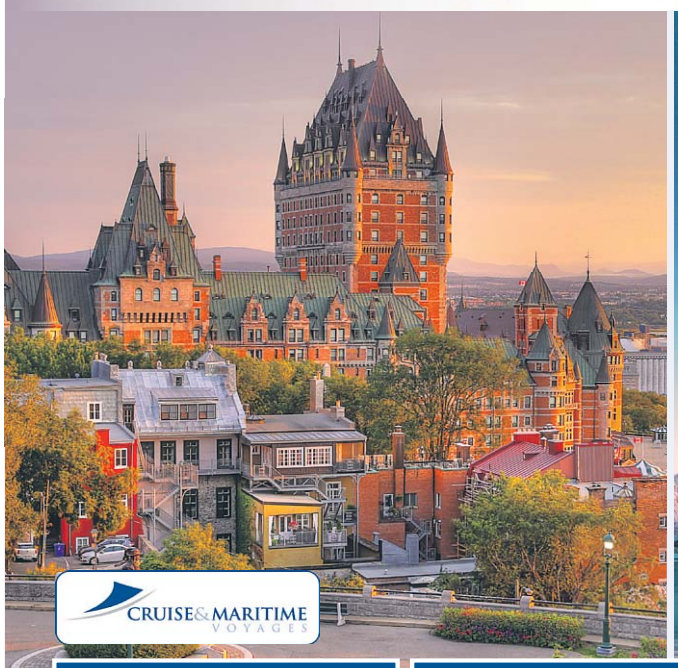
OPEN 7 DAYS 8:30AM - 8:30PM

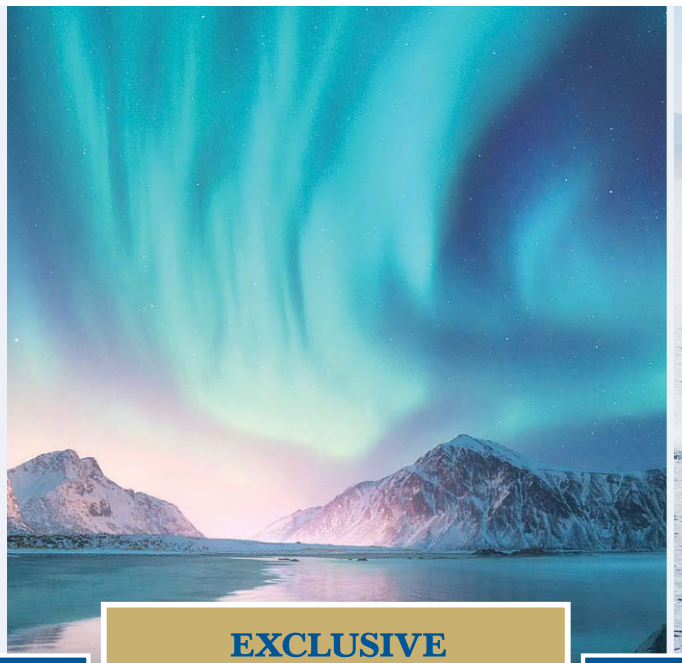
READER OFFERS LTD

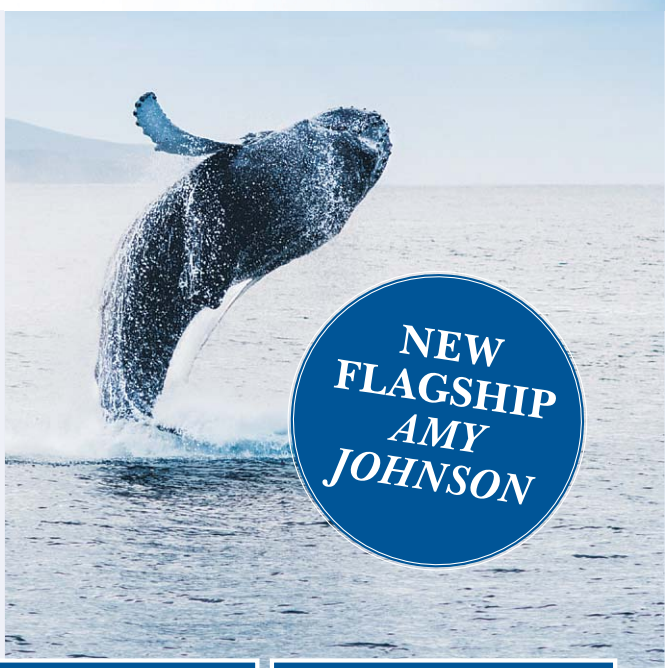
ROL CRUISE CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Fares are per person based on two adults sharing, except single cabins, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Ports may require a tender. Flights may be indirect. >>Subject to availability. >Will incur supplementary costs and may require an additional overnight stay. ‡Star ratings are ROL Cruise classified. ++Subject to the cruise line's T&Cs. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing. ×Expedition activities are optional and pre-bookable excursions are at a supplement and must be booked at least 28 days prior to departure. Excursions are subject to change. Please note this voyage may not be suitable for guests with mobility restrictions. Weather, wind and ice conditions have a great influence on the programme and schedule. Safety is always the first priority and the ship's Captain will decide the final sailing schedule. Solar Eclipse sighting is not guaranteed and is dependent on weather conditions. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Please note, image is for illustrative purposes only. +Case of South American Wine is based on one per booking, for UK mainland addresses only. ††Cruise Miles T&Cs apply. For full ROL Cruise T&Cs visit www.rolcruise.co.uk. E&OE.

THE MAIDEN NO-FLY
CANADA IN THE FALL LAUNCH PROMOTION
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE







EXCLUSIVE FREE ON BOARD SPEND OF UP TO £350*

INCREDIBLE SAVINGS OF UP TO £20,219±

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD PROMOTION ENDS 8:30PM 14TH MARCH 2020

EXCLUSIVE FREE CAR PARKING AT THE PORT#

EXCLUSIVE FREE JOHN LEWIS GIFT CARD+

THE MAIDEN NO-FLY CANADA IN THE FALL VOYAGE
35 NIGHTS DEPARTING 4TH SEPTEMBER 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sat 4 **Embark *Amy Johnson* and depart London Tilbury for your Maiden Season voyage**

Mon 6 **Lerwick, Shetland Islands**

Tue 7 **Tórshavn, Faroe Islands**

Sat 11 **Narsarsuaq, Greenland**

Sun 12 **Qaqortoq, Greenland**
Founded in 1775 by Norwegian traders, Qaqortoq still retains its beautiful colonial buildings today. The town is very proud of its ancient fountain – for many years it was the only one in Greenland – which has carvings of whales spouting water and the names of all the town burghers plated in brass around its base

Wed 15 **St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada**

Fri 17 **Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**
Halifax, Gateway to Atlantic Canada, is the capital region of Nova Scotia and is a lively and colourful combination of urban and rural living at its best

Sun 19 **Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada** (depart early pm)

Tue 21 ***Cruising St. Lawrence River***

Wed 22 **Montréal, Canada**

Thu 23 **Québec City, Québec, Canada**

Fri 24 **Saguenay, Québec, Canada**

Sat 25 **Baie-Comeau, Canada** (depart early pm)

Sun 26 **Havre St. Pierre, Canada** (depart early pm)

Mon 27 **Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada**

Tue 28 **Cap-aux-Meules, Canada**

Wed 29 **Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada**

OCTOBER 2021

Mon 4 - Tue 5 **Reykjavík, Iceland** (overnight)
With luck on side, during your overnight stay you may get to glimpse the spectacular Northern Lights. On a cruise to Iceland, experience the country's raw beauty, feel the force of its waterfalls and take a dip in natural thermal pools. For a taste of the eclectic, Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, is waiting

Sat 9 **Arrive in London Tilbury**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD LAUNCH PROMOTION

- Sail on board Cruise & Maritime Voyages' new flagship, *Amy Johnson*, during her Maiden Season
- **INCREDIBLE BUY ONE GET ONE FREE LAUNCH SAVINGS OF UP TO £20,219±**
- **EXCLUSIVE FREE** car parking for Superior Balcony Ocean View (14) cabins and above#
- **EXCLUSIVE FREE** on board spend of up to **£350** for Standard Ocean View (6B†) cabins and above*
- Full board cruising with mouth watering cuisine, afternoon tea and late night snacks
- Welcome and farewell Captain's drinks parties
- Fascinating guest speaker presentations and daytime activities
- A wide choice of wonderful shore excursions×
- A friendly and attentive service from an experienced crew
- An incredible range of on board facilities such as the spa××, a fitness centre, and much more!
- **PLUS** book by 8:30pm 14th March 2020 to receive an **EXCLUSIVE FREE** John Lewis Gift Card worth **£30**+

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO SECURE YOUR PREFERRED CABIN THEN NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL 2021

EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES – Earn up to **£20,219**, worth **£202** off your next booking with Reader Offers Ltd††

CRUISE & MARITIME VOYAGES' NEW FLAGSHIP - *AMY JOHNSON*

Amy Johnson will become the proud new flagship of the Cruise & Maritime Voyages fleet in April 2021. Given her size she will provide a very generous, spacious and relaxing feel. As a celebration of the courageous exploits of past female explorers and adventurers, Cruise & Maritime Voyages have recognised their remarkable achievements by naming their new ship after Amy Johnson, the pioneering English pilot who was the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia.

Combining beautiful, contemporary decor with a more traditional cruise style, *Amy Johnson* is a mid-size cruise ship by and will be a wonderful new addition to the CMV fleet.



YOUR BUY ONE GET ONE FREE READER OFFERS LTD LAUNCH PRICES

CABIN	GRADE	1ST PASSENGER PRICE	2ND PASSENGER PRICE
Standard Inside	1	**£5,329**	FREE
Standard Ocean View	6B†	**£6,769**	FREE
Superior Ocean View	9	**£8,819**	FREE
Superior Balcony Ocean View	14	**£11,029**	FREE
Junior Suite	JS	**£16,539**	FREE
De Luxe Suite	DS	**£20,219**	FREE

HALF PRICE single cabins are available from **£6,439**

www.rolcruise.co.uk
Search Cruise Code: 1616497

ABTA TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE
Agent to ATOL Holder South Quay Travel & Leisure Ltd 4619

CALL ONE OF OUR CRUISE SPECIALISTS **FREE** ON
0800 714 4066
OPEN 7 DAYS 8:30AM - 8:30PM

READER OFFERS LTD
ROL CRUISE
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Prices are per person based on two adults sharing, except single cabins, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Ports may require a tender. *On board spend is per cabin. ±Savings is based on two adults sharing and is based on the full price and the promotional Buy One Get One Free Launch Price. Itinerary is subject to change and correct at time of going to print. Advertised prices exclude gratuities, automatic gratuities of £6pp per night will be debited to your on board account. +John Lewis Gift Card is based on one per booking, for UK addresses only. †Denotes obstructed view. #Car parking is based on one space for the duration of the cruise. ×Tours are at a supplement and subject to change. ××Charge will apply. Ship image is for example purposes only. Please note, Amy Johnson is new to the Cruise & Maritime Voyages fleet and is not a brand new ship. Wildlife and Northern Lights sightings are not guaranteed. ††Cruise Miles T&Cs apply. Cruise & Maritime Voyages T&Cs apply. E&OE.