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SURGE IN UK VIRUS CASES

» BRITISH EPIDEMIC 'HIGHLY LIKELY'

Nicholas Cecil, Joe Murphy
and Sophia Sleight

THE number of coronavirus cases in Britain jumped by about 30 today as the chief medical officer warned that an epidemic is now "highly likely".

Professor Chris Whitty said it was now believed that person-to-person transmission was happening here, though

currently not on a large scale. Before today's surge, the UK total stood at 51 cases. The jump today far exceeds the previous daily high on Sunday, when 12 more people in England and one in Scotland tested positive for the virus, taking the total to 36.

The vast majority so far are people

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Reconciliation: the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in Dublin today where William was speaking about "how far we've come" since the Northern Ireland Troubles ended FULL STORY: Page 3

WILLIAM ECHOES THE QUEEN ON ROYAL VISIT TO DUBLIN

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dead on
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My long
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love with
Norton
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INSIDE TODAY 04.03.20

Life & Style

THE SLICE IS RIGHT

The new restaurants leading London's pizza renaissance
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Workers face battle after poor advice leaves them hard up
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PLAQUES FOR WOMEN

How the gender balance of London's blue discs is tipping
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News in Focus

THE RACE IS ON

It's Biden versus Bernie — all the fallout from Super Tuesday
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Comment

Ayesha Hazarika

This International Women's Day, let's fight for the rights of the whole sisterhood

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LIGHTS

Sunset & lighting-up: 5.47pm, rises 6.36am; Moon rise: 11.16am, sets 3.15am
High water: London Bridge 7.43am (5.8m), 8.31pm (5.5m); Dover 5.05am (5.2m), 6.31pm (5.1m).

London's weather

TONIGHT	TOMORROW	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Grey with patchy rain in the evening	Dry but grey and overcast. Gentle winds	Mostly sunny. The odd shower is possible	Dull with the odd spot of drizzle. Breezy	Sunny spells and one or two showers. Breezy
MAX 6C MIN 3C	MAX 9C MIN 1C	MAX 10C MIN 2C	MAX 12C MIN 7C	MAX 12C MIN 4C

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Spitting Image is back on TV... and it's playing a Trump hand

SPITTING Image is returning to the small screen — with Dominic Cummings and Boris Johnson among its victims, it was confirmed today. Programme-makers said: "With the world getting smaller and more turbulent, the time couldn't be more appropriate for an iconic British satirical take on global events." The series will air this autumn on BritBox, the BBC and ITV streaming



service, with, pictured from far left, Trump, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, Vladimir Putin and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex also as puppets.

16-year-old found dead with head injuries on scrubland near station

Liam Coleman, John Dunne and Anthony France

DETECTIVES are investigating the death of a 16-year-old boy whose beaten body was found on scrubland near a Docklands railway station.

Commuters found the body in Atlantis Avenue outside Gallions Reach DLR station shortly after 8.30am yesterday.

The Met's Specialist Crime Command are treating the death as suspicious because of the teenager's head injuries.

His next of kin have been informed and a post-mortem examination will be held in due course.

A cleaner at the station, Emiliano Cordona, 61, said: "We are all shocked by this. The trains had to be suspended while the police investigated."

"We have no idea how the body got there. It's next to a busy road. We don't know if the poor boy was dumped there. It's just horrible."

A DLR worker said: "The police taped off the whole area and there were loads of them here. Commuters on their way

to work saw it, a lot of people were upset. My thoughts go to the boy's family."

A concierge at nearby Gallions Point apartment block said: "At around 10am I heard wailing, and crying. I saw a woman in tears and a man who was in tears, I think it was relatives. They were walking around on the phone outside and they looked completely broken."

CCTV footage from the block shows a black car pull up outside the concierge desk about 1.40am yesterday, before driving off at approximately 3am.

The concierge added: "It's not normal for any car just to come and park there at this time in the morning — whoever was working was doing a walk around the building at the time."

A neighbour said of the victim: "There was no reason for him to have been on that bit of land at that time of night."

Part of the A1020 was closed until yesterday evening as forensic officers searched for evidence. Scotland Yard said a formal identification had not yet been carried out but they believe they know the identity of the deceased. A

spokesman said: "The male — believed to be a 16-year-old boy — was pronounced dead at the scene. He is thought to have suffered a head injury. The death is being treated as suspicious."

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

● A boy aged 14 was taken to hospital with stab wounds after a fight near a school in King Street, Hammersmith. Police were called just after 4.30pm yesterday but no arrests were made. The boy was said to have non-life threatening injuries. Officers were granted extra stop and search powers in Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush overnight.

Four hours later, two men were stabbed and beaten up outside Shadwell DLR station. One victim, 22, sought refuge in a supermarket and the other man, 23, was helped by members of the public in Watney Street. Both were being treated in hospital today. A shopkeeper said: "There were two big groups hanging around by a zebra crossing. I saw them fighting and one shouted 'Where is my money?' Then they all ran off."

Paralympics champion peer 'asked masseuse for extras'

Tristan Kirk Courts Correspondent

A TORY peer and British Paralympic swimming champion grabbed a woman by the bottom and asked if she "did extras" during a massage at a London hotel, a court heard today.

Christopher Holmes MBE is accused of sexually assaulting the masseuse towards the end of a 90-minute session at the five-star hotel's spa on March 7 last year.

Holmes, 48, who is visually impaired, is Britain's most successful Paralympic swimmer, with nine gold medals, five silvers and one bronze. He was made a life peer as Baron Holmes of Richmond in 2015 after retiring from swimming.

Linda Strudwick, prosecuting, told jurors that Holmes allegedly sat up on the massage table and grabbed the woman's arm, asking: "Can I see how you

look?" "[She] was unsure about what he meant but assumed that it was could he touch her face," she said. "She allowed him to do this, but then feeling embarrassed and uncomfortable at that point she began to move away. Mr Holmes stopped her by grabbing her buttocks."

It is alleged the peer said "nice" and "asked if he could touch her boobs," and when she refused, he "asked if she 'did extras' and pointed to his crotch," Ms Strudwick said.

Holmes allegedly asked the woman "are you sure you've never done it?" and then made "shushing noises" and apologised. "Mr Holmes obviously realised that he had gone too far," Ms Strudwick added.

The masseuse reported the peer to her manager after the session.

Holmes, from Mayfair, denies sexual assault. The trial continues.

Contenders for leadership a joke, says ex-Labour MP

Sophia Sleight Political Reporter

FORMER Labour MP Ian Austin launched an attack on the party's leadership hopefuls today, saying their debates are a "joke".

Mr Austin, who quit Labour over Jeremy Corbyn and anti-Semitism, said they were not addressing the "massive questions" facing the UK.

Writing in today's Standard, he said: "The leadership debates are a joke ... I've not heard a word about welfare reform or massive questions such as equipping Britain for artificial intelligence and globalisation."

Mr Austin, who urged voters to back Boris Johnson in last year's election, added: "Labour is on life support."

Ian Austin Page 15

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royaltour



Joining the dots: the Duchess of Cambridge in Dublin today. She and husband William were visiting a mental health charity

William's reconciliation speech on day two of tour

Robert Jobson Royal Editor in Dublin

PRINCE WILLIAM will today echo the Queen when he speaks of the importance of reconciliation between Britain and Ireland after "the wrongs" committed during the Troubles.

William, on the second day of his official tour of Ireland with wife Kate, will make a keynote address at the Museum of Literature Ireland in Dublin. He is expected to say:

"Growing up I remember seeing the Troubles that took place, which affected so many people across the UK and Ireland. This explains why one of the truly profound moments for Catherine and I took place yesterday when we laid a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance. It was a reminder of the complexity of our shared history, and as my grandmother said during her visit in 2011, 'our islands have experienced more than their fair share

of heartache and turbulence'. But it was also a reminder of how far we have come. It is right that we continue to remember those who suffered as a consequence of our troubled past. And whilst many wrongs have been done, it is important that we are not bound by these."

Earlier today William and Kate visited Jigsaw, a youth mental health charity in Dublin, before heading to a farm in County Meath.

By royal approval ... George and Charlotte school will go up to 18

New building planned as applications soar

EXCLUSIVE

Jonathan Pryn
Consumer Business Editor

THE £19,000-a-year prep school where Prince George and Princess Charlotte are pupils is to start offering places up to age 18 after a huge surge in applications, the Standard can reveal.

Thomas's Battersea has bought the home of the Royal Academy of Dance next door and will turn the building into a new independent senior school accepting students from September 2021.

The new 40,000 sq ft facility, to be known as Thomas's Battersea Square, will have 28 classrooms including science laboratories, break-out spaces, a study centre, assembly and performance hall, cafeteria and school dining hall.

Thomas's, founded by actress Joanna Thomas in 1971, became one of the most famous schools in the world overnight in September 2017 when Prince William dropped son George off for his first day. He was followed two years later by sister Charlotte. Applications are said to have multiplied several-fold after the pictures of the third and fourth in line to the throne arriving at the school with their parents went round the world. The school is known for its motto "Be Kind".

Although Prince George is expected to complete his schooling at Eton it is thought that Charlotte may stay on at the expanded Thomas's, which currently only provides education up to 13.

Other high-profile former Thomas's pupils include model Cara Delevingne, singer Florence Welch and actress Tara Fitzgerald. On its website Thomas's said: "Opening in September 2021, Thomas's Battersea Square is a new, co-educational



First day back: Charlotte and George at Thomas's in September last year

tional school for students aged 13 to 18 which offers a world-class, progressive education that is forward-thinking and outward-looking". It added: "We seek to nurture in them a strong set of values, with kindness at the core, which will encourage them to take up positions of responsibility and leadership, to give back to their communities and to make a positive contribution to the world."

The deal to buy the Royal Academy of Dance building was secured with property company Avanton late last week. Avanton is also building a new headquarters for the academy at a £260 million development nearby. The firm was not available to comment.

The school is also developing a second campus for older pupils at Putney Vale, where they will have lessons while the building work on the new school is completed. Its first head will be Ben Thomas, a son of the founder, previously George and Charlotte's head at the prep school.

Thomas's Battersea is owned by Thomas's London Day Schools, which also runs prep schools in Clapham, Fulham and Kensington.



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The world has lost the battle to

Continued from Page 1

who have returned from countries suffering outbreaks. However, health chiefs now suspect the infection is being passed on here as well, beyond one case in Surrey and another in Essex which at least initially were not thought to be linked to foreign outbreaks.

"We probably do in my view have some onward transmission here in the UK. I don't think it is a large amount or we would have detected it," Professor Whitty told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

gramme. As the number of cases continued to rise sharply around the world, he added: "It is much more likely than not that we are going to deal with a significant epidemic. How big it is I think is currently still pretty uncertain but that there will be an epidemic is now highly likely."

The Government's four-pronged response to the virus was now set to shift into the second stage to try to delay a major outbreak until the spring or early summer. "We are on the borderline between containing and delaying,"

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added the chief medical officer. In key developments today:

● Leading infectious disease expert Professor Neil Ferguson said the world had lost the battle to stop coronavirus and estimated there are already 50,000 to 100,000 cases in Italy alone. The

death toll there has risen to 79, with the number of cases reaching 2,502, mainly in the north. South Korea reported 516 new cases, taking the total to 5,328, with at least 32 deaths. Iran announced 2,922 cases and 92 deaths, the highest death toll in the world outside of China. Health experts believe the figures are significant underestimates. Sixteen Italians in India tested positive, taking the total in the country to 28.

● The Government launched a major public health campaign, urging people to regularly wash their hands as a key part of the fight against the disease.

● Boris Johnson announced statutory sick pay will be paid from the first day of absence, rather than the fourth, and told Jeremy Corbyn that he would "urgently" look at whether two million workers who are not entitled to the pay should get financial help.

● The Prime Minister was urgently considering special help for workers on zero-hours contracts who stand to lose income if they self-isolate. Some 974,000 Britons are on zero hours and ministers are worried they would be tempted to work while carrying the infection.

● Mr Johnson told MPs at Prime Minister's Questions that health chiefs would announce measures in coming days over how to stop the spread of Covid-19 in Parliament and other places with large gatherings.

● A senior health expert warned the NHS could be "overwhelmed" if there is a sudden epidemic. But health chiefs believe the health service will cope and are preparing for a major "reconfigura-



It is much more likely than not that we are going to deal with a significant epidemic. How big is still uncertain

tion", which could be even more dramatic than postponing 50,000 operations and redeploying hundreds more doctors and nurses.

● Ministers were planning to introduce emergency legislation within days to tackle the crisis, ranging from allowing video testimony in courts to relaxing health and safety laws. The Bill, which the Government hopes to pass by Easter, is said to run to 50 clauses.

● The London Book Fair, due to take place from March 10 to 12, has been cancelled over the escalation of coronavirus in Europe.

● A hospital worker in Cumbria tested positive for coronavirus, though officials said the staff member had self-isolated since returning from a trip to northern Italy and had not been in contact with patients.

Protecting the elderly and people with underlying health conditions is a key focus of the Government's blueprint,



Keeping check: a community nurse carries

announced yesterday, and Professor Whitty said "extreme" measures could be taken. "For the great majority of people this will be a mild or moderate disease, anything from a sniffle to having to go to bed for a few days rather like with mild flu," he explained.

However, if the UK is hit by a very large epidemic, "then it will put very high pressure on the NHS" and there could be "several weeks which could be very difficult" for the health service and wider society, he said.

Professor Ferguson, director of the Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis at Imperial College, London, said measures from the battle plan could be triggered within days, if not weeks. "The world tried very hard to stop this virus altogether," he said. "You can see from the statistics, the number of countries affected, that that battle is really over."

Asked whether banning flights to

BRITON HELD WITH 100,000 FACE MASKS

TWO Britons have reportedly been arrested in separate incidents in Morocco trying to smuggle thousands of face masks back to the UK.

A lorry driver is said to have been held in a cargo port 25 miles from Tangier after failing to declare 100,000 masks. He was allegedly planning to sell them back home for

£26 each following shortages and price rises caused by coronavirus. The value of his load has been put at £2.6 million.

Another Briton was reportedly arrested at Agadir airport with 17,000 masks to be sold in Manchester. Meanwhile, thousands of masks have been stolen from Spanish hospitals.



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stop coronavirus, says expert



out a test for coronavirus on a patient at the drive-in centre in Parsons Green today. Checks are taking place away from hospitals

Quick swab and you're out: welcome to London's drive-in testing centre

Ross Lydall and Barney Davis

THIS was the scene at a coronavirus drive-in testing centre in London as a patient arrived to be checked.

The service in Parsons Green is one of the ways testing is being carried out away from hospitals to minimise the danger of spreading the disease.

It is provided by Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust and can only be accessed via a referral from the NHS 111 helpline. It means people worried about the virus can safely and quickly get checked close to home.

The patient remains in the car while two community nurses carry out a swab test in the nose and mouth. People are asked to self-isolate while checks are completed over the next 72 hours. The testing process takes 20 to 25 minutes.

Today a London secondary school said it was remaining open despite a pupil testing positive for coronavirus after returning from a trip abroad. The Kingston Academy said it was following advice from Public Health England.

The pupil returned from a "category two" country which requires people to self-isolate if they develop symptoms.

Calls to the school were not being answered this morning but a message on its website said it remained open.

In a message to parents last night, headteacher Sophie Cavanagh said: "I have spoken with Public Health England and they have advised that we remain open whilst a full risk assessment is conducted ... it is important that we

maintain perspective and follow the advice of the experts in such situations."

It came as the Holborn offices of accountancy firm Deloitte were being deep-cleaned after an employee tested positive for the virus.

A spokesman said: "One of the floors in our offices has recently been impacted, with a member of staff being confirmed with Covid-19 after returning from a personal trip to Asia."

Today it emerged that three people from a family in Surrey had been diagnosed with coronavirus. The first diagnosis was confirmed last Friday when a constituent of former health secretary Jeremy Hunt was found to have the virus after visiting Italy.

Mr Hunt, who represents South West Surrey, yesterday said there had been an "outbreak" in his constituency.

The Department of Health said yesterday that 51 Britons had been diagnosed with the virus, though Scotland confirmed two more cases overnight.

An unknown number have been released from hospital after recovering. There have been more than 14,000 coronavirus tests carried out.

Five Londoners have been diagnosed, including two infected in Iran and one in China. This is believed to be the woman who took an Uber to Lewisham hospital to be tested. She was discharged last week from St Thomas' hospital.

The other cases reportedly include three in Hertfordshire, two from West Sussex, and one each in Kent, Essex, Berkshire and Hampshire.

disease hotspots could protect the UK, he said: "The last time the world saw a pandemic probably of this scale, with this level of risk, was back in 1918 [Spanish Flu] when we had no airlines." Helen

Buckingham, director of strategy and operations at the Nuffield Trust independent think tank, told the Standard: "In the event of a steady spread of coronavirus across the NHS, the normal

preparations that the NHS is putting into place should be adequate.

"The risk is a sudden peak of activity which could overwhelm capacity available, particularly if it is over a wide-

spread area." In a letter, NHS strategic incident director Professor Keith Willett and incident director Stephen Groves stated that a level-4 NHS incident has been declared, the highest

level. There are now more than 90,000 cases worldwide with more than 3,000 deaths.

Editorial Comment Page 14

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Sick pay from day one and new raft of powers to be rushed past MPs in bid to tackle virus

But extra help for zero-hours workers and low-paid still unclear

Joe Murphy
Political Editor

BORIS JOHNSON today announced that statutory sick pay will be paid from day one to workers asked to self-isolate because of coronavirus but left unclear whether people on zero-hours contracts and low pay will get special help.

The rules will be changed by emergency legislation that will also contain sweeping powers to tackle the outbreak and cope with mass infections.

"Nobody should be penalised for doing the right thing," the Prime Minister told the Commons as he announced that sick pay will be paid from day one, rather than four.

Asked by Jeremy Corbyn if the Government would extend the pay to two million who do not qualify, Mr Johnson was unclear. "We are urgently looking at the application process," he said.

The issue follows concern that people facing financial hardship would be tempted to go to work anyway and pass the infection to healthy colleagues.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said almost two million workers did not qualify, including those earning below £118 a week.

Measures to tackle coronavirus are being drawn up in a draft "beast of a Bill" that ministers intend to rush through Parliament by the end of this month.

They will include court witnesses appearing by video, a temporary reduction in the red tape required to register a death, along with measures to speed up funerals if there is higher than usual number of fatalities.

Ministers are also considering powers to prevent millions of children missing out on lessons during school closures by compelling staff and pupils to transfer to other sites if necessary.

Other powers would relax health and safety laws, such as the maximum working times for lorry drivers, to keep essential supplies running for businesses.

"This is turning into a beast of a Bill, with about 50 clauses covering many aspects of people's lives," said a source.

Whitehall sources say they hope to introduce the Bill as early as next week.

Measures would only kick in for the worst of the crisis, which is expected to peak in June, and would expire at the end of the summer when things are expected to have eased.

Video testimony is currently allowed in courts mainly to protect vulnerable

Tour: Donald Trump at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Maryland. Inset right, a South Korean soldier in protective gear in Seoul



witnesses from intimidation. Extending permission to ordinary witnesses would cut the risk of transmission in the court.

However, it could prove controversial with lawyers who say that it undermines their ability to cross-examine people and makes it harder for juries to decide

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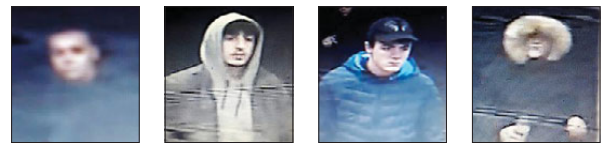


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Do you know them?: police issued these images of four men after a racist attack

CCTV appeal after race-hate attack on Singapore student

Anthony France Crime Correspondent

POLICE investigating a racist attack on a student from Singapore, who was told "I don't want your coronavirus in my country", have released images of four men they wish to trace.

Jonathan Mok, 23, from University College London, was walking in Oxford Street when he heard abusive comments from the group of four men and a woman. He stopped and turned towards them and was "sucker punched" twice in the face. One youth, who tried to kick him, made the comment about

the virus before punching him again. Detective Sergeant Emma Kirby, who is leading the investigation, said: "This attack left the victim shaken and hurt. There's no room on our streets for this kind of violent behaviour."

Mr Mok said the group were no older than 20 and had left before police arrived. His nose started bleeding and blood was spattered across the pavement after the attack, near Primark in Tottenham Court Road on Monday, February 24, he added. Any witnesses should call police on 101 or Crime-stoppers on 0800 555 111.



New York to deep-clean subway every three days as death toll in US rises

Ben Morgan

THE New York subway is to be deep-cleaned every 72 hours as authorities scramble to contain the coronavirus outbreak that has seen the number of cases in the US reach triple figures.

The city's transport bosses today confirmed workers will wipe down trains daily while the entire fleet will be disinfected every three days.

New York recorded its second coronavirus case with a 50-year-old man in Westchester County testing positive.

US officials are to ramp up virus screening after confirmed cases were recorded in 15 states, with total infections reaching 104. The death toll in the US stands at nine, all in Washington state.

A million Americans could be tested by the end of the week under regulations introduced by the Food and Drug Administration.

It comes as the World Health Organisation today announced the mortality rate for the virus had reached 3.4 per cent, with the global death toll increasing to 3,203 from

93,000 cases. Countries around the world are preparing for months of disruption, while citizens are being discouraged from panic-buying supplies.

Australian grocers have begun rationing toilet paper after reports that shoppers were stockpiling goods and leaving supermarket shelves empty.

Chief medical officer Brendan Murphy said: "We are trying to reassure people that removing all of the lavatory paper from the shelves of supermarkets probably isn't a proportionate or sensible thing to do at this time."

The French government said it would regulate the price of antibacterial gels after a surge in prices. President Emmanuel Macron also vowed to provide face masks to all citizens who need them after almost 10,000 were stolen from

hospitals in Paris and Marseille. Mr Macron added: "We have entered a phase

that will last weeks, even possibly months — it is paramount to show clarity, resilience, nerves and determination to slow the epidemic ... and then fight it."

There are 212 cases across 13 regions in France, with four deaths. Germany has recorded 240 positive tests — a spike of more than 40 since yesterday.



if someone is telling the truth. Video will also be used by hospitals to reduce contact between staff and infected people, with some patients asked to use computers to speak to doctors in order to free up beds for more urgent cases. Prison visits may be reduced to prevent

infections getting in and care homes put into lockdown.

Australia has existing laws that allow shopping centres and sports facilities to be closed down during the outbreak.

UK officials say such decisions will only be taken when the scale of the

outbreak has become clearer. Whitehall officials say the virus has "major implications" for transport systems because of the close confinement of commuters.

There are currently no plans to shut down services because of the economic impact it would have. Shadow chancel-

lor John McDonnell said the Treasury should step in before next week's Budget with plans to support firms.

He claimed: "There is no sense of urgency from the Chancellor in his response to the potential economic impacts of coronavirus." One in five

employees will be unable to work at the worst of the crisis, according to the plan published by the Government.

Chris Whitty, the chief medical officer, said "video consultations" would be looked at "very seriously" to relieve pressure on the NHS.

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Johnson defends Patel after fresh bullying claims

Sophia Sleight Political Reporter

BORIS JOHNSON rallied to defend Home Secretary Priti Patel after she was accused of bullying staff in a third government department today.

Mr Johnson received huge cheers from the Tory benches as he defended Ms Patel during Prime Minister's Questions today, telling the Commons: "She is keeping this country safe. The Home Secretary is doing an outstanding job. I have every confidence in her."

The new claims date back to Ms Patel's time as International Development Secretary from 2016 to 2017 and come after similar allegations from her stints in two other Whitehall departments.

A senior official at the Department for International Development (DfID) reported a "tsunami of allegations" of abuse from officials in her private office when Ms Patel worked there as secretary of state, according to BBC's Newsnight.

She resigned from the post in 2017 over unauthorised contacts with the Israeli government. Afterwards, a senior figure in DfID was said to have approached staff in her private office about allegations of bullying. The senior figure was

said to have been told of multiple claims of staff being humiliated and coming under heavy pressure in emails.

They reported this to another senior figure in the department and urged them to contact the then cabinet secretary, the late Sir Jeremy Heywood, so that the allegations were "in the system" if Ms Patel ever returned to government.

The person, currently unnamed, is said to be prepared to give evidence to the Cabinet Office inquiry into allegations Ms Patel broke the ministerial code.

A Tory source told Newsnight there was a "concerted effort" by sections of the civil service to undermine the Home Secretary. DfID said: "All ministers are subject to the ministerial code."

It comes after Sir Philip Rutnam, the Home Office's most senior official, resigned accusing Ms Patel of leading a "vicious" campaign to oust him. Separately a Department for Work and Pensions aide is said to have received a £25,000 government payout after claiming she was bullied by Ms Patel when she was employment minister. But sources said the legal case started before Ms Patel came to office. She has denied mistreating staff.

WARMING WORDS ACTIVIST GRETA IN CLIMATE TALKS WITH EU CHIEF



SWEDISH climate change activist Greta Thunberg, 17, met European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels today. The commission was due to unveil plans for a law aimed at making the bloc carbon-neutral by 2050. But Thunberg and other youth climate activists have already dismissed the move, calling for Europe to focus on curbing existing CO2 emissions "allowances".

International
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Football fan guilty of racially abusing Crystal Palace player

Tristan Kirk Courts Correspondent

A FOOTBALL supporter who racially abused Crystal Palace winger Andros Townsend during a match has been convicted of a hate crime.

Everton fan Darren Chadwick, 39, was overheard by a steward shouting

abuse at the 28-year-old player, pictured, last August as he took a corner. He was frogmarched out of his second-row seat at Palace's Selhurst Park stadium and arrested.

Yesterday Croydon magistrates handed Chadwick a

three-year ban from attending football matches and fined him £1,050, plus £625 costs, after convicting him of racially aggravated harassment. Townsend had recently urged players to "be honest and speak the truth" about racism in football.



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Showbiz news & gossip

Imogen: Long distance with James works fine — it's all I've ever known!

Lizzie Edmonds
Showbusiness Reporter

IMOGEN POOTS says she is taking her long-distance relationship with boyfriend James Norton in her stride because it is all she has "ever known".

The actress, who had her big break aged 17 in horror film *28 Weeks Later*, has been dating the *McMafia* star for about two years, with the couple making their red carpet debut at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival. Poots splits her time between London and New York, while Norton owns a house in Peckham.

The actress, 30, told *ES Magazine* that despite the couple, pictured, spending many months apart due to work, distance was yet to be a problem. "It's all I've ever known," she said. "I've never known something to fall apart because of distance."

She added: "I find work to be my happy place, in a way. Because it's all I've ever known: packing up a bag and moving on. That restlessness that's inherent in you is very addictive. And I suppose now I'm supposed to slow down and set up a farm or something. But I'm not ready to do that. I want to keep exploring the world." Poots,



who is currently promoting thriller *Vivarium*, also spoke about her dislike of social media. "I'm not a fan because I'm seeing what it's doing to the generation below me, and that's really sad with mental health," she said. "I think it's a really slippery slope. It's intriguing to me but I also wonder, can you ever be authentic? Or is that not the point? Perhaps the point is to sell something." But she does occasionally look at social media, admitting: "I'm a lurker."

ES Magazine

Full interview in *ES Magazine* — free every Thursday and Friday



Pugh joins Vikander in the starry front row for Louis Vuitton's showcase at the Louvre

FLORENCE PUGH swapped awards ceremonies for the front row yesterday when she attended the final day of Paris Fashion Week.

The *Little Women* star, who was nominated for best supporting actress at last month's Oscars for playing Amy March, attended the Louis Vuitton fashion show at the Louvre Museum in an edgy leather

miniskirt and camisole by the house's designer Nicolas Ghesquière.

Oscar-winning actress Alicia Vikander, a long-time collaborator with the French brand, was also at the show, wearing a skirt in a similar design and a Vuitton zip-up top. They were joined by James Bond star Léa Seydoux, in tweed.

Wes Anderson is Shakespeare of film, says Swinton

Charlie Moloney

TILDA SWINTON compared her long-time collaborator Wes Anderson to Shakespeare as the two discussed their love of cinema at the British Film Institute.

The actress, right, praised the director's "precise" writing, and said: "It is like a musical score. It is like Shakespeare."



Following *Moonrise Kingdom* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, Swinton will star with Timothée Chalamet in Anderson's new film *The French Dispatch*, about a fictional Paris magazine.

Last night's talk was held to coincide with Swinton being awarded a BFI Fellowship.

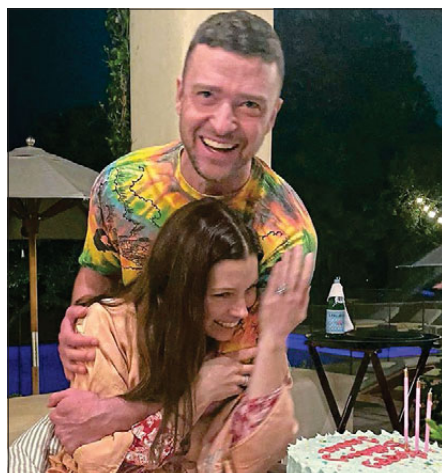
Frappuccino and ciggies — Gisele's bad brekkie habit

Margaret Abrams in New York

GISELE BÜNDCHEN has revealed her past bad habits, including having a "mocha frappuccino and four cigarettes" for breakfast.

The Brazilian supermodel, pictured, is now an advocate of exercise, clean eating and meditation, but told *Vogue Australia* she used to suffer panic and anxiety attacks and had to reach "rock bottom" before she made the change.

She said: "We are beings of habit and I think you can't just expect to do something you have always done and stop. You have to replace bad habits with good habits."



BIRTHDAY CAKES FOR BIEL AND BOND

DANIEL CRAIG and Jessica Biel were treated to huge cakes to mark their birthdays.

Craig, who turned 52 on Monday, was presented with a James Bond tuxedo confection at a screening of *Casino Royale* in New York.

Biel, who turned 38 yesterday, received a blue-iced cake from her husband Justin Timberlake.



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Insider
online
standard.co.uk/insider



KARDASHIAN'S GOT (MONEY) BAGS OF STYLE

KIM KARDASHIAN showed off her huge hand-painted Hermes Birkin bag as she arrived at the Ritz in Paris.

Her husband Kanye West gave her the collector's item — painted by George Condo and worth a reputed \$40,000 — seven years ago.

The star is in Paris for fashion week, where West launched his new Yeezy collection. Their daughter North made her rap debut at the show.

Biden sets up two-horse race with Sanders

Ex-vice president storms back with nine out of 14 states in Democrat contest

David Gardner
US Correspondent

JOE BIDEN was today celebrating a sensational comeback after he won in a swathe of states on "Super Tuesday" to set up a two-horse race with Bernie Sanders for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Former vice president Mr Biden, 77, secured at least nine of the 14 states up for grabs on the busiest voting day of the Democrat primaries. His sweep of the South included Texas, one of the biggest prizes.

Bernie Sanders, 78, appeared set to win delegate-rich California, on top of victories in Colorado, Utah and his home state of Vermont. But the self-proclaimed "democratic socialist" failed to make the expected gains to cement his frontrunner status.

"They don't call it Super Tuesday for nothing," a jubilant Mr Biden told a rally in California. "Those who have been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign. I am here to report we are very much alive, and



Those who have been knocked down, counted out, left behind, this is your campaign

Joe Biden

make no mistake about it, this campaign will send Donald Trump packing."

Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, 78, was today reportedly pondering whether to stay in the nomination race after a solitary win in the tiny territory of American Samoa.

Campaign aides conceded they see "some of the writing on the wall" even as Mr Bloomberg told supporters in Florida he had made great strides.

The billionaire businessman spent more than \$500 million on advertising in the run-up to Super Tuesday, when he appeared on the ballot for the first time after his late entry into the race.

Elizabeth Warren's hopes of moving back into contention also faded after she lost her home state of Massachusetts to Mr Biden.

Hollywood celebrities including Jennifer Aniston, Melissa McCarthy and Tyra Banks posted pictures of themselves on social media with Super Tuesday stickers after casting their votes.

At stake yesterday were about one-third of the 3,979 pledged delegates



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standard.co.uk/biden

Wife fends off vegan protester at rally

JOE BIDEN takes the stage with his wife and sister in a victory salute moments before a vegan protester storms a Super Tuesday rally in Los Angeles.

Jill Biden, 68, centre, grabbed the activist by the wrists and pushed her away as her husband celebrated a series of state nomination victories.

The presidential hopeful's senior adviser Symone Sanders then ran after the protester, who was brandishing a "let dairy die" sign, tackling her and dragging her offstage.

The aide later tweeted: "I broke a nail"

Michael Howie

Super Tuesday and the Biden Bounce
Pages 22 & 23

available in the primaries. A tally of 1,991 is needed to win the party's White House nomination. At the latest count, Mr Biden was leading Mr Sanders by 453 delegates to 382.

Although Mr Sanders will be relieved

at claiming California, the state he lost to Hillary Clinton in 2016, the story of the night was the Biden campaign's dramatic revival.

After poor results in the first two contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, Mr

Biden seized control of the nomination contest with victories — some by double digits — in Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Texas, the state with the second most dele-

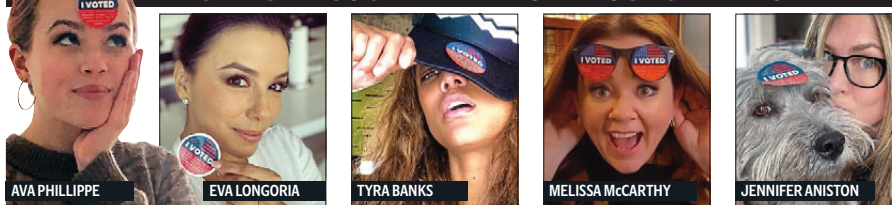
gates on Super Tuesday (228). Maine remained too close to call. Mr Biden was boosted by support from black and older, more moderate voters.

The victories followed endorsements this week from former nomination rivals. Former Democratic presidential hopeful Marianne Williamson described his comeback as a "coup".

In a fiery speech in Vermont, Mr Sanders took a veiled swipe at Mr Biden, saying: "We're taking on the political establishment. You cannot beat Trump with the same-old, same-old kind of politics."

Washington analysts now predict the nomination battle between Mr Sanders and Mr Biden could last all the way to the Democratic Party convention in July.

A-LISTERS HIT SOCIAL MEDIA TO ANNOUNCE 'WE VOTED'



Grenfell architect 'can't recall plans for disabled to flee a blaze'

Tristan Kirk Courts Correspondent

THE architect who led the Grenfell Tower refurbishment cannot remember considering how disabled residents would escape in the event of fire, he told the inquiry today.

Bruce Soune, from Studio E Architects, said issues around escape

routes and smoke ventilation had been prioritised over how fire might spread through the building during planning for the block's revamp in 2012. But questioned this morning, he conceded he could not remember assessing how disabled residents would be able to flee the tower, which had a single narrow staircase as the escape route. A Novem-

ber 2012 email to Studio E colleagues working on the project had confirmed there would be "no refuges" for disabled people, and said: "Mass evacuation is not part of the existing fire strategy."

The email added: "Generally people stay in their flat unless their flat is on fire. I assume the intention is for vulnerable people to refuge in other flats on the

same floor before being evacuated by the fire brigade."

Mr Soune confirmed he would have received the email but told the inquiry: "I can't remember any specific conversation or whether the topic ever came up. So I can't confirm or otherwise."

Kate Grange QC, counsel to the inquiry into the 2017 fire that claimed 72 lives,

asked: "Do you remember considering what was required by way of inclusive design to accommodate the evacuation of the disabled?" He replied: "No."

He also said he had not been concerned by the lack of reference to cladding the outside of the tower in documents from contractors Exova. The inquiry continues.



Dispute: Sheila Ferguson, who danced with Prince Charles at his 30th birthday party, wants to halt work on a mansion, right, she says is threatening her nearby property

Diva who danced with Charles in row over garages full of pop history

Tristan Kirk and Charlie Moloney

SOUL diva Sheila Ferguson is locked in a court battle with a wealthy property developer over fears that a collection of memorabilia from her singing career will be damaged or destroyed by demolition work.

The 73-year-old former lead singer of The Three Degrees is fighting to protect the keepsakes from her music career, which she stores in two garages near to her former home in Bray, Berkshire.

Mrs Ferguson fears demolition and digging work on a £1.4 million house next door — to create a luxury four-bedroom home overlooking the Thames — may cause the garages to collapse.

She and ex-husband Christopher Robinson, who also stores possessions in the garages, want a judge to halt the work. The couple lived in Bray during their 24-year marriage and have maintained the garages together despite splitting in 2004.

Developer Gordon Naylor was not in court yesterday, but his lawyers told the Standard he “disputes the proceedings”.

Nicholas Isaac QC, for Mrs Ferguson and Mr Robinson, said the work was “clearly threatening the structural integrity” of the garages, saying Mr Naylor’s project was started without their consent and has left the garages “exposed to the elements or inadequately protected”. They also claim a fence has been erected and building

materials piled up which stops them being able to get to their property.

“She is a former member of The Three Degrees and she stores albums and memorabilia there,” Mr Isaac told Central London county court.

He said demolition work had exposed party walls and structures and left the garages “either exposed to the elements or inadequately protected”.

Mrs Ferguson was lead singer of Three Degrees from 1966 to 1986, singing vocals on some of their best-known songs, including number-one hit When Will I See You Again.

Mr Naylor was given planning permission for the redevelopment of the site on a private road in Bray — home to Heston Blumenthal’s Fat Duck restaurant. But he is accused of not obtaining a valid party wall award, setting out the rights and responsibilities of a property owner undertaking works and those of the owners of an adjacent building.

Mr Isaac said: “There is complete demolition around and about our property and very significant excavations — on the face of it, for piling.”

He asked Judge Nicholas Parfitt for an injunction halting the work until the neighbours have settled their disagreements, and to stop access to the garages being obstructed. The judge ordered that a surveyor should be allowed access to evaluate risks to the garages, and adjourned the injunction application to a full hearing at a later date.

Smart car seat ensures it’s all right in the back

Mark Blunden
Technology Correspondent

HELP might soon be at hand for parents worried about small children wriggling free from car seats with the a new “smart” seat that keeps tabs on young ones in the back.

Tech giant Intel is working on a “child restraint system” which weighs and measures youngsters to ensure straps are fitted and tightened correctly, and uses streaming cameras and audio to allow parents in the front seats to keep a watchful eye.

Pressure and “strain sensors” inside the straps and buckles would monitor



POSED BY MODELS

No wriggle room: new seat would keep children safely strapped in

how securely the seatbelt needs to be fastened to safely prevent even the most energetic child from wriggling free. A blueprint published by the European Patent Office states that the

system — for infants to pre-teens — would calculate optimum seating position and strap adjustments, based on thousands of images of children positioned correctly.

After they are clipped in, a light would signal the safest position has been achieved. Analysis continues while the car is moving, making adjustments as straps are strained or loosened.

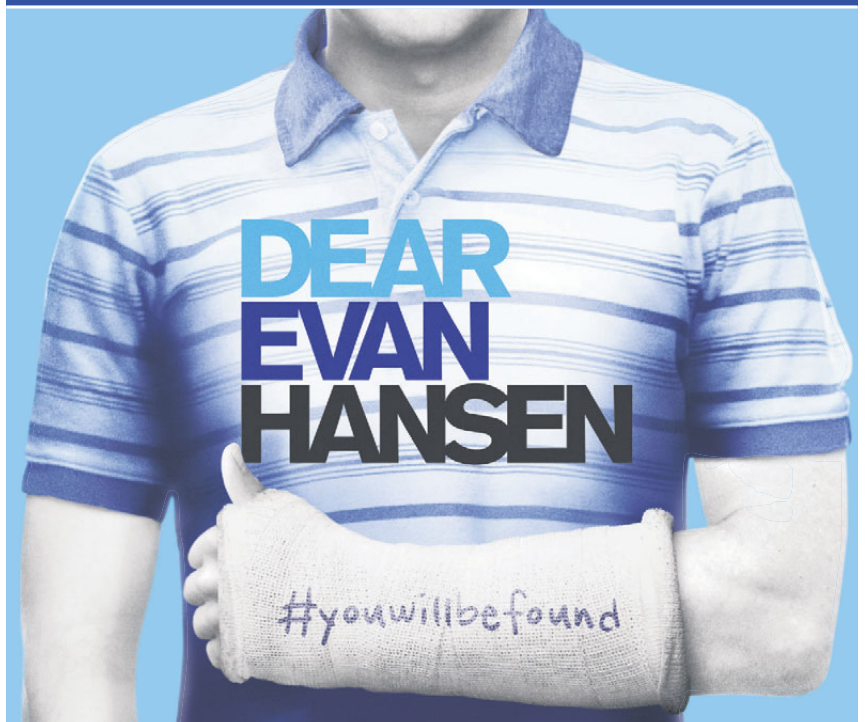
Sarah Hesz, co-founder of mothers’ meet-up app Mush, said: “I like the idea of reassurance as you strap them in but I hate the idea of beeps and alerts when you are driving — it’s stressful enough having to listen to Peppa Pig.”

Intel declined to comment.

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Social media curbs in new powers to tackle London's knife crime

Martin Bentham
Home Affairs Editor

NEW knife crime prevention orders will be introduced in London from next month to help the Met reduce the number of stabbings.

The powers will give police the ability to impose curbs, such as restrictions on the use of social media and a ban on associating with named gang members, on anyone aged 12 or over believed to be a regular knife-carrier. Courts will be able to compel subjects to take part in education and anger management courses, relationship counselling, sports schemes, "life skills" sessions or drug rehabilitation programmes.

Critics have claimed the orders, being introduced in London ahead of the rest of the country on a 14-month trial basis, could criminalise young people before they have been convicted of any offence.

But policing minister Kit Malthouse said the new power could play a valuable role in reducing violence on London's streets. "The rise in serious violence across the capital is deeply concerning and we are doing everything we can to end to this senseless bloodshed," he told



The rise in serious violence across the capital is deeply concerning

Kit Malthouse,
policing minister

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the Standard. He said the orders would provide "vital means to steer those most at risk away from serious violence and help young people to make positive changes in their lives, rather than being drawn into a life of crime".

Met Commander Jane Connors said the orders would give officers a "valuable tactic in preventing violence" and would protect vulnerable individuals while helping to keep communities safe.

The power for police and prosecutors to apply to the court for knife crime prevention orders was contained in the Offensive Weapons Act passed by Parliament last year, following a request by the Met. It was concerned that it lacked legal powers to help it divert young people away from knife crime before it was too late and has argued that the orders are a way of preventing, rather than causing, criminalisation.

To impose one of the orders, a court must be convinced that the person concerned has committed a blade offence at least twice. It must also deem it necessary either to protect the public generally or any individual, including the person receiving the order, from the risk of harm.



Can you Spot him? Police have appealed for information to help find this British bulldog, grabbed by two men with knives and bundled into a car boot

Thugs snatch £1,500 bulldog puppy out on walk

POLICE were today hunting two thugs who stole a dog at knifepoint during his morning walk. Three-month-old British bulldog Spot was dragged away and bundled into a car in Orpington just before 9am yesterday. His owner, whose stepfather was

walking the dog, said two men had their car boot open and pulled out a knife before snatching the dog, worth about £1,500. He said his stepfather tried to chase them in his own car, with his mother. He added: "I can't believe someone would do

this. I guess they probably want to sell him."

Police today said they were hunting for two young black men who fled in a Mercedes with registration LR18 UGP and asked anyone who can help to call the 101 line.

Ben Morgan

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Comment



IT'S International Women's Day on Sunday. We women are thrifty, so we've made one day stretch out all week. It's amazing what you can do with a stock cube. But, while I love celebrating brilliant women and their individual achievements, I feel kind of down about things. We aren't exactly living in a feminist nirvana on either side of the pond. Political female leadership seems to mean discovering how many people you can bully while turning a blind eye to the economic injustice many women still face.

Women work for free for two months of the year as a result of the gender pay gap, according to the TUC. Today is the first day of the year that the average woman begins to get paid. Congratulations ladies. Don't go spending it all at once now.

The Young Women's Trust has a report out today which shows that the unpaid work many young women do, including cooking, cleaning, caring and admin, is worth £140 billion — £8 billion more than financial services. The Domestic Abuse Bill has returned to Parliament, which is positive, but campaigners fear there will not be the new and necessary funding for services to help the victims (still mainly women) and their children and work with perpetrators to prevent further abuse.

Who is making the case for these important but politically unsexy gender issues in the corridors of power when female advisers are being chased out and we have an alpha-driven government with a big majority and no opposition to speak of?

It feels like politics is failing women right now and that most of the big advances are coming from outside. It's female activists from all ages and walks of life who are making change. Two of the most powerful moments in recent history have been the Repeal the 8th campaign which led to the legalisation of abortion in Ireland, and the #MeToo movement which finally lifted the veil

Ayesha Hazarika



The sisterhood could do with being a bit kinder this International Women's Day — we've lost our way

of secrecy on sexual harassment. These were created by women for women, who came together and took action, often at great personal risk and cost. Female activists show courage and get things going, while politicians and celebrities are happy to jump on the bandwagon when it's all up and running, ideally with a photocall in the gluten-free first-class buffet carriage.

I hope our record number of female MPs will learn from activists and channel their ability to collaborate and fight.

I was encouraged to see Conservative home office minister Victoria Atkins

sitting next to Labour's Rosie Duffield, who leads Labour's women MPs working together with charities and the NatWest bank to end financial abuse. More of that please. But we also need women to



It feels like politics is failing women right now and most of the big advances are coming from activists

come together. It feels like we are all pitted against each other, taking lumps out of each other on social media. And I make a special plea for some kindness to older women (not just because I'm heading there fast). This is a group that has lost out financially and held families and communities together for decades, but is invisible on screen, ignored in public policy and has its lived experiences routinely ridiculed.

The sisterhood could do with being a bit kinder, finding common ground and remembering who the real enemy is. That thing is called the patriarchy.

Bernie needs Joe-mentum to beat Trump

IT wasn't a super Tuesday for Bernie Sanders (pictured with wife Jane) as Joe Biden cleaned up at last night's primaries in the race to be the Democrats' presidential candidate. I'm sad for Elizabeth Warren but she has plenty of time for another crack.

It turns out the US is indeed a country for old men, but I understand a lot of delegates felt that the most important factor was who could take on Trump. Sanders's

firebrand socialist style was only going to appeal to his devoted base and that won't work. The only hope the Democrats have of beating Trump is to create a coalition of moderate

Democrats and decent Republicans horrified by Trump. Consolidate and grow that union of voters, particularly in swing states, and they may have a shot, although I still think

Trump will be hard to beat. But to have any chance, Sanders must display some grace, back Biden and get his people out when it counts. So far, that's not looking promising.



● I'M confused about coronavirus. I swing between dead calm and gibbering hysteria, although that's normal for me. I feel this is a virus which can't decide what it wants to be — grim reaper or the medical equivalent of the millennium bug?

It's hard to know how to prepare as I got bored of stockpiling after Brexit. I worry I won't be able to tell if I'm ill because I just work all the time and I've had a cold since 2014. A spot of self-isolating would be quite nice but only if I happen to be in a swanky hotel.

However, the idea of being stuck at home is less appealing. Especially as it means I would have to tackle the mountain of laundry and other tedious chores. No thanks.



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How will life change under a new virus law?

THE rising number of coronavirus cases in Britain isn't a surprise: the shocking thing would be if the total didn't go up. But the increase comes alongside something else. This is likely to be the moment that what is called "community transmission" starts occurring. The virus is already likely to be spreading from person to person in parts of the country, the Government's Chief Medical Officer for England, Chris Whitty, says today. That means people have started to become infected without having any link to cases abroad — just as happens all the time with ordinary colds and the flu. "I don't think it is a large amount," he adds. But as he warns, a Covid-19 epidemic is now "highly likely" in this country. So we need to prepare to deal with it.

It's an old rule of politics that laws made in a hurry turn out to be bad ones, but in this case emergency legislation about to be introduced by the Government is absolutely essential and should have Parliament's full support. As officials warned yesterday, up to a fifth of people may be off sick at any one time. Travel may become harder. Food supplies will be under greater pressure. Public services will be under strain, and not just the NHS. So we need to allow things such as video links in court cases to limit the risk of infection; new police powers; changes in schools such as larger class sizes; and a reduction in the red tape required to register a death.

Obviously many of these dramatic changes will be short term. But one thing history teaches us is that big, sudden changes in the way we live can have an unexpected long-term effect. If more people start working from home, for instance, the habit may stick. Employers who cut back on business travel now may make some of the shift permanent. We can't yet know the full effect of the virus. But Britain is about to find out.

Police need knife powers

IT'S been another tough night on London's streets. Two men were stabbed outside an Iceland store in Shadwell yesterday evening and a teenager was attacked in Hammersmith. The culprits need to be caught. But it would be better still to stop grim events such as these happening in the first place.

This paper argues for a public-health approach which stops crime by stepping in early to change lives for the better. We're glad that most candidates in this May's Mayoral election now say they agree. But do the police need new powers, too? The Government thinks so. Today it is announcing knife-crime prevention orders which can impose curbs on anyone aged 12 or older who might get caught up in knife crime, such as restrictions on the use of social media and a ban on associating with named gang members. These orders are meant to prevent crime, not punish the consequences — and they are backed by the police.

We think it is an approach worth trying — but there should be two tests. First, it's no good trying to apply the orders if the talk isn't backed up by action. Do schools, the police and youth services actually have the tools they need to divert young people away from crime? Second, the orders need to be used in a way that helps young people rather than stigmatises them. A system that brands some as potential criminals even before they have committed a crime might backfire.

The new powers are being tested for 14 months and will be made permanent if they succeed. London will be watching.

The sweet taste of art

A TEAM of husband and wife artists are exhibiting giant sweets made from Quality Street wrappers — and they are on sale for up to £3,950. That's enough to buy about 2,000 cartons of the chocolates, enough for a mountain of wrappers. We'll leave the critics to decide if it's art. We're reaching for the Strawberry Delights.

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Matthew d'Ancona

A new constitution could save our creaking democracy from crisis



IMMUNE systems come in many forms. And, as the threat of coronavirus has demonstrated pointedly, these systems are social as well as personal, institutional as well as biological. So step back and look at our democracy as a whole.

This nation's constitution, as writer and critic Lytton Strachey wrote, is "the child of wisdom and chance". True enough: for centuries, the UK's evolutionary political system has been shaped, in disaggregated form, by numerous statutes, court precedents, parliamentary conventions and assumptions about the relationship between (for instance) the monarch and her ministers, or Parliament and the judiciary, or central and local government.

It has been a central orthodoxy of British political culture that, constantly amended and reviewed, this structure of precedent and pragmatism is a sound, if slightly ramshackle, defence against tyranny, instability and injustice. To repeat an old Fleet Street joke: a "constitutional expert" is an academic who gives journalists their phone number.

We have revelled in the urbane informality of it all. But the joke is wearing thin. To revert to Strachey's language, wisdom is in short supply these days. And chance is delivering only turbulence, uncertainty and populist demagoguery. Consider recent events. Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, has been at war with her senior civil servants to an extent that far outstrips the normal rough and tumble of Whitehall argument. Last month, Sajid Javid resigned as Chancellor after No 10 sought, in effect, to annex the Treasury.

In September, in a ruling that still reverberates through the polity, the Prime Minister's prorogation of Parliament was declared unlawful by the Supreme Court. During the Brexit crisis it became routine — to an extraordinary extent — for senior ministers to say that they would wait and see what legislation said before deciding how to respond to it; in effect, reserving the right to disregard the law.

Since the Tory general election win, Boris Johnson and his Government have felt able, with impunity, to threaten all and any institutions or agreements that it has branded as hostile: the BBC, the judiciary, the European Convention on Human Rights, Whitehall officials who insist upon reminding ministers of the rule of law. While the PM postures as a One Nation Conservative, he is presiding over an administration that is radically populist in its objectives and guerrilla techniques.

All too often, the old rules are being ignored, or forgotten, or both.

It is in this immediate context that Tortoise — the slow media platform where I am an editor — is today holding a series of "ThinkIn" discussions across the country to debate the need for a codified constitution and its prospective contents. It is an ambitious listening exercise that we hope will inspire a set

of proposed principles and constitutional guardrails. How, for instance, do we bridge the gap between representative democracy (Parliament) and the direct version (referendums)? Is there mileage in the "deliberative democracy" pioneered by US academic James Fishkin, in which consultative assemblies and citizens' groups, assisted by experts, debate specific or general issues?

Is it fair that our electoral system requires nearly 51,000 votes to elect a Labour MP, compared to only 38,000 for their Conservative counterpart? What to do about the embarrassing mega-quango of political appointees that is still called the House of Lords? Does a 21st-century constitution make sense



This is a chance to bring freshness to a system where gentlemen's agreements are no longer sufficient

without iron-clad commitments on the climate emergency?

Traditionally, constitutions are codified at moments of crisis, such as revolution and decolonisation. So why now? Precisely because we are living through a time of crisis. As was clear to me and many other journalists on the road during the general election campaign, there was an extraordinarily high level of disillusionment with our democratic system and a sense of disconnection with its faltering processes.

The Conservatives won in December because they weaponised disgust at the very process that Johnson and his allies had launched. "Get Brexit Done" was a truly contemporary political slogan: it brilliantly exploited the public's fury at

the Westminster log-jam, institutional inertia and the system's failure to deliver a clear outcome. Again, this sense of disgust transcended routine scorn for politicians and their parties: there is no longer a shared sense that our political order is based on a commonality of rules, values and reciprocities. The social contract itself is in jeopardy.

Second, and perhaps most profoundly, the digital revolution is testing to destruction the constitutional assumptions of the old world (the law that regulates referendums, for instance, was passed four years before Facebook was invented — which means that it is useless). Digital networks now challenge traditional institutions for primacy; social media platforms proliferate disinformation and unleash tribal furies on a scale and at a speed previously unimaginable.

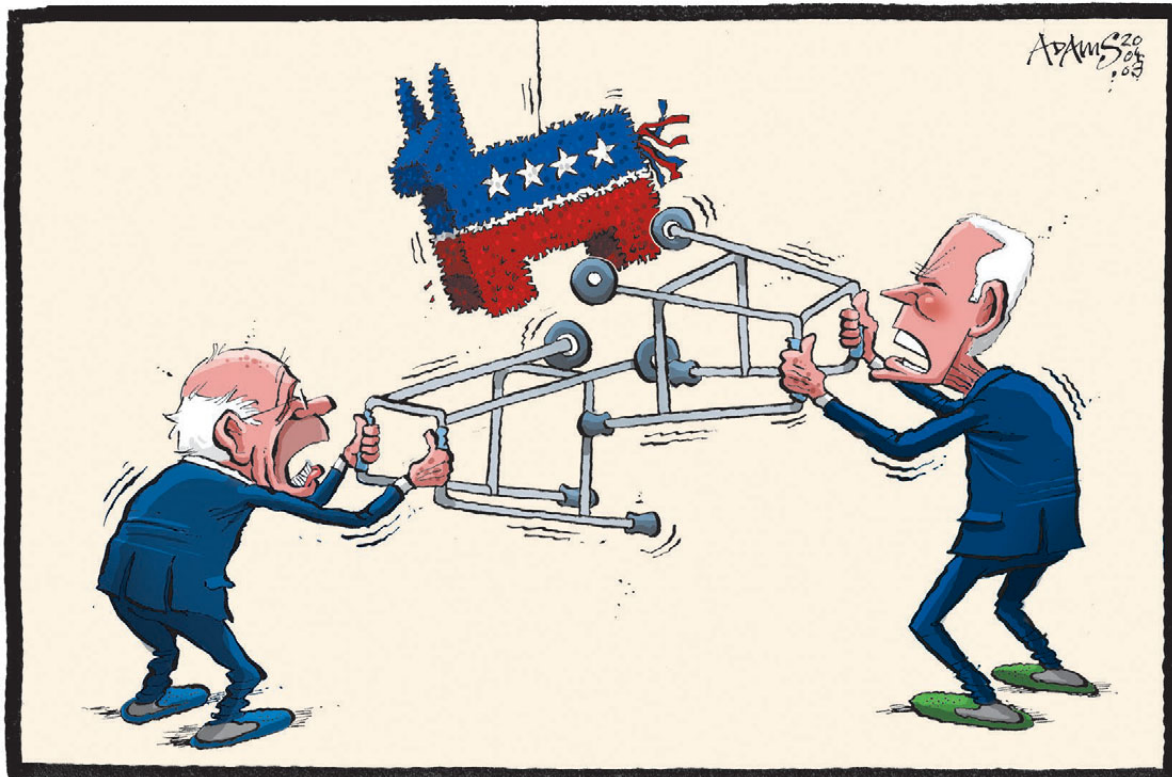
Third, this debate has already started, whether we like it or not. The Conservative manifesto commits the Government to establishing a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission "in our first year". Whether or not Johnson sticks to that timetable, his government's appetite to reconfigure our uncoded constitutional settlement is clear and present. Other protagonists, such as Tortoise, must hark into the narrative.

The drafting of new rules is not a social panacea, nor an opportunity for social engineering. Instead, it is an opportunity to bring rigour and freshness to a system in which custom and gentlemen's agreements are no longer sufficient; to modernise a loudly creaking institutional structure; and to address the pathologies of our democracy at root — to listen, to learn, and, sooner rather than later, to act.

● To join the debate visit tortoisemedia.com/friend and use the code MATT50, or email me at matthew.dancona@tortoisemedia.com



Firebrand: the statue of Oliver Cromwell at Parliament. In 1653, as Lord Protector, he said he wanted to "perfect" a new written constitution — does Britain need one now?



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Labour is on life support and there's no one to cure it

Ian Austin



IT HAS been a year since I walked out in disgust at the extremism that poisoned the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn. Eight other Labour MPs joined me.

I grew up listening to my dad — a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia — tell me how his family had been murdered in the Holocaust, and joined the party as a teenager to fight racism. I still can't believe I had to resign to fight it too. Leaving was a huge wrench and destroyed friendships that lasted decades, but I have never regretted making a stand. If you won't do what's right on something like racism, what are you in politics for?

Some Corbyn supporters were furious — others celebrated, as if driving people away helps win elections. But people in Dudley, where I was an MP, could not have been more supportive. I was stopped in the street, while shopping or in cafés by people telling me I was right.

Most Labour MPs quietly agreed, but kept their heads down. What sort of leadership is that? They hoped the public would solve the problem for them.

In the general election they certainly did, handing Labour a huge defeat. It would have been even worse if Nigel Farage had not let Labour scrape by in 30 seats. Listening to people in the Midlands and the North, I think Labour could fall even further, but there's no sign they've begun to face up to the scale of the problem.

Labour lost because of Corbyn, Brexit, extremism and racism and much more besides. Huge victories in Hackney or Islington don't help if you're hammered in Dudley, Bassetlaw and Bolsover.

Many former Labour voters don't just think their party didn't listen. It's much worse than that. They think Labour's leaders look down on them, sneer at their patriotism, ignore their anguish about industries they've lost and dismiss concerns about immigration.

The leadership debates are a joke. The contenders blame the party's defeat on the media, attacks on Corbyn or even the voters. They seem to have spent longer debating trans rights than housing or jobs. I've not heard a word about welfare reform or massive questions such as equipping Britain for artificial intelligence and globalisation. And while Corbyn is going, the extremists who joined to support him haven't gone away and many of the new MPs are much more Left-wing than the moderates they replaced. Even Sir Keir Starmer — supposedly the credible candidate — loyally served in Corbyn's top team, said he backed him "100 per cent", campaigned to make him prime minister and praised his radicalism.

All he seems to talk about is unity — but voters don't want to see him uniting with Corbyn and the cranks and conspiracy theorists. They want the extremists and racists booted out. Labour is on life support and so far, none of the candidates seem to even understand that, let alone have a plan to bring it back as a credible alternative.

● Ian Austin is the former Labour MP for Dudley North

The Reader Your letters

Budgeting for social care

THE social care sector is a vital lifeline for millions, yet it has been deprioritised by successive governments and forced to survive on emergency cash injections while battling increasing pressures.

With 79 per cent of older people worrying about affording decent care, government must address social care reform once and for all.

However, our research shows the public are becoming more optimistic. Trust in government to deliver on social care reform has increased by seven per cent since the last election. The upcoming Budget is an opportunity to reassure the public their trust is not misplaced.

Jane Ashcroft CBE
Chief executive, Anchor Hanover

The joy of London is our differences

I WAS saddened to hear of S Pathak's experience of racial abuse [The Reader, March 2]. I recently suffered two incidents of racist abuse and know the complex emotions that follow such assaults. British Transport and the Met Police pursued two successful prosecutions.

As a white man of British origin and exceptional stature, to be assaulted for being "English" seems bizarre. Yet it also highlights the inane mindset of those who cannot embrace the joy of difference that we celebrate in London.

Matthew Evan Smith

EDITOR'S REPLY

My Super Tuesday wish is unity among the Left

SIX days ago I stood in a room in Camden and found myself close to tears. We, a group of 80 strangers, were all there for the same reason. We were moments from becoming British citizens. So as someone who grew up in America, what I'd like to come out of Super Tuesday is unity.

I support the two most Left-leaning candidates, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. I have no doubt that Warren's supporters would get behind whichever candidate received the nomination. I cannot say the

same of Sanders or Biden supporters, but it is my deepest hope that I am proved wrong — and that anyone who opposes Trump understands what a second term would mean for migrant children, women, and the millions in need of systemic changes to healthcare. I hope that the Left can believe in good faith that our goals are shared, though our strategies to achieve them differ, and that come November we remember: we are all there for the same reason.

Arianna Reiche



George Osborne
Editor



Dear Arianna

SUPER Tuesday was created to achieve two things for the Democrats. First, to sew up the nomination for the frontrunner and bring unity. Last night's result didn't achieve that. Joe Biden's remarkable resurrection means we are now set for a long, bitter two-horse race between him and Bernie Sanders.

Second, Super Tuesday was designed to help the most centrist, electable candidate emerge, because you need the backing of the party establishment to win a nationwide contest. On this it has partly worked.

Biden is a moderate, and has now reclaimed the title of frontrunner.

My observation, having met him a few times, is that he is best placed to beat Trump. That's not to say it will be easy, as four fifths of sitting presidents are re-elected and Trump has done a better job than those who hate him acknowledge. But Biden is likeable and can relate, while Trump is divisive — and coronavirus means the economy is not certain to be strong this autumn. At 77, Joe Biden might not be the Comeback Kid, but he could be the Comeback Grandpa.

George

This country has no airports policy

THE ruling of the Court of Appeal that the Government did not consider the UK's commitment to the Paris Agreement when legislating for Heathrow expansion means that — temporarily at least — this country has no airports policy. Put simply, the ruling could quite easily have applied to all airports that have growth ambitions.

Over seven years since the Coalition government set up the Airports Commission to consider the acute shortage of airport capacity in the South East, we are still no nearer to getting spades in the ground, and our international competitiveness is steadily being eroded by the day.

Last month, the UK aviation sector committed to delivering net zero emissions by 2050, and stressed that this can be achieved while accommodating expected demand for air travel.

Until and unless the Government reviews whether growth in aviation is compatible with Paris this seemingly never-ending paralysis will continue.

Tim Alderslade
Chief executive, Airlines UK



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Gangs lie in wait to target lone cyclists for bikes

Mark Blunden

POLICE are investigating a surge in robberies where London cyclists are targeted for their bikes or equipment.

Met figures reveal a near 13 per cent rise in such robberies last year. Incidents in one borough soared by more than 200 per cent.

London Cycling Campaign said riders are attacked on "isolated stretches", often pushed off by gangs lurking around canals and park cut-throughs.

Last year, there were 1,287 recorded robberies "where bicycles or accessories" — including helmets and navigation gadgets — were stolen, compared with 1,140 incidents in 2018.

Hackney had the highest number with 145 bike robberies last year, a rise of 11.5 per cent. Haringey suffered the largest leap, with 130 compared with 40 in 2018. Westminster saw a 90 per cent rise with 95 bicycle robberies.

An escalation in crimes where "suspects often push victims off bikes and make off riding them" led police and Haringey council officials to set up a new robbery group to focus on the problem. Bicycle or accessory robberies

made up 3.4 per cent of 37,399 violent thefts in the capital last year, according to police statistics.

Campaigners held a protest ride over the spate of muggings on the Greenway, or Quietway 22, a cycle path linking Stratford to Beckton, which they say gives riders "Hobson's choice" of using the route or a dangerous main road.

LCC infrastructure campaigner Simon Munk said: "I was riding along the Greenway, suddenly there's loads of people on mopeds with metal bars riding after me, so I'm pelting it for my life, and managed luckily to get away. "Cyclists are expected to use isolated, often dark, low-footfall areas."

Another rider, a man in his thirties targeted on the same stretch, said: "A group of around 10 teenagers was waiting for someone to pass... I was thrown off and beaten until they got my bike and phone. Luckily I only got some bruises and a couple of scrapes."

Scotland Yard launched Operation Spoke last year, and officers were seizing bikes they believed had been stolen. Nigel Hardy, TfL's head of healthy streets, said: "Everybody should feel safe while travelling in London."



Flower power! Dion does Sixties style

CELINE DION took inspiration from the Sixties while out and about in New York.

The singer, 51, who is travelling the globe with her Courage World Tour, wore a blue flower-print coat and matching leggings in the Big Apple yesterday.

The star finished off the look with a white turtleneck jumper and dark glasses.

She stopped for photographs with fans as she made her way to Long Island, where she was performing last night.

The tour is coming to Europe in May and she is performing at London's O2 in September.

Woody Allen memoirs not fact-checked on abuse, claims son

Ben Morgan

WOODY ALLEN'S journalist son Ronan Farrow has threatened to walk away from his publisher after it emerged the company was putting out the filmmaker's memoirs.

The family has been divided since Dylan Farrow — Allen's adopted daughter with actress Mia Farrow — accused the director of molesting her as a child in the early Nineties.

Allen, 84, denies the allegations and was not charged following two separate investigations.

His memoirs, *Apropos Of Nothing*, will be released in the US in April by Grand Central Publishing, part of Hachette Book Group. Hachette worked with Ronan Farrow on his acclaimed book *Catch And Kill*, which explored how powerful men including Harvey Weinstein avoided punishment for sexual crimes.

Farrow, 32, accused the publisher of not fact-checking the memoirs, saying Dylan, 34, had not been contacted to respond to "any denial or mischaracterisation of the abuse she suffered at the hands" of Allen. He said that "a publisher that would conduct itself in this way is one I can't work with in good conscience".

Hachette has been contacted for comment.



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A lot of Tracey at HIV charity auction

TRACEY Emin attended last night's Auction 2020 at Christie's in aid of the Terrence Higgins Trust, the HIV and sexual health charity. Emin contributed a print of her 2016 work **I KEPT THINKING OF YOU** to the lots.

This morning, pupils and teachers packed out Wembley Arena to hear talks from Love Island presenter Laura Whitmore, refugee and inspirational speaker Maya Ghazal, activist Athian Akec, model Adwoa Aboah and singer Leona Lewis at an event in aid of WE Day UK, which encourages young people to take part in positive social change.

In south-east London, Richard Bacon presented a Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust award to Dr Waqas Khaliq, the ICU consultant, who "when I was fast asleep on a trolley with a happy triumvirate of multiple organ failure, sepsis and a double lung infection, took the very specific decisions that saved my life". Khaliq was too busy to collect his award at the ceremony, so Bacon gave it to him in the hospital. Fair to say he earned that.



RICHARD BACON



ADWOA ABOAH

MAYA GHAZAL

LAURA WHITMORE

A chilli reception

JEREMY Corbyn and Sadiq Khan last night played starring roles in Westminster's oddest and most spectacular tradition – the British Kebab Awards. But even the joyous bonding experience of a late-night kebab didn't ease the political tensions.

Corbyn, who posed for selfies with Tories, used his speech to stick a subtle skewer into the people who have betrayed him. "When you go through difficult times and you've still got friends and supporters, you know who your friends are," he

said, to a smattering of boos. Well, one person who certainly isn't a supporter is Tory MP Jonathan Gullis.

The Londoner spotted Gullis taking a picture of one of his constituents and Corbyn (left). Would he keep the snap as a personal souvenir? We asked. "No, mate, I'd use it as a f***ing dart board," he replied. Charming. So much for "being kind".

Dehenna Davison, who is partial to a lamb shish with garlic, was also spot-



The pub v publicity

NIGEL Farage would move mountains for a moment in the spotlight.

"He'd be sitting there in the pub in Place du Luxembourg, after a hard day sitting in the pub in Place du Luxembourg... and Newsnight [would] call. An opportunity for three minutes," Gawain Towler, Ukip's former press secretary, recalled at a Mile End Institute event last night.

"He'd be on the Eurostar to London... the tiniest thing that was available he went for it."

And Farage's appeal? "He's human. We all knew he drinks, he smokes and he shags a bit."

BERNIE Sanders is looking for an unpaid volunteer in London to help manage his press relations. The job begins immediately and runs until March 10, when the Democrats Abroad primary ends. Sanders usually pays his interns \$15 per hour, but the press officer will join what is an all-volunteer crew. That's commitment to the cause. Sanders loves to talk the injustice of low wages, what about no wages?

COMEDIAN Jo Brand says she's never been seen as cool by her kids, but once her fame did give her daughter Maisie pause for thought. After her eldest's first day of reception, Brand tells Jessie Ware's podcast, she came home and quietly asked her mother: "Are you Jo Brand?"

Londoner

TOM BEST
TRACEY EMIN

LEONA LEWIS

ATHIAN AKEC



● WESTMINSTER has more exposure and outraging public decency offences than any other London borough, with 475 offences taking place there between 2017 to 2019, an FOI request reveals. "Westminster has huge footfall and the highest rates for many crime types," a Met spokesman said. There's no suggestion of misbehaving politicians, despite recent footage of new Tory MP James Grundy flashing in a Leigh pub in 2007. The naked truth.



● CHARLOTTE Nichols MP (above) reveals a big Westminster secret: there's a ladies for MPs near the Parliamentary Labour Party office with a bath. Nichols tells us: "If we finish early one Thursday I'm going to take a lush bath bomb in there and one of those little mini bottles of wine."

● BUT not all Parliamentary washrooms are so lavish. Speaking in the Commons yesterday, Chris Bryant revealed there are lots of loos in Parliament "that do not work properly" and "in which there is no soap". Good time to fix that.

her in the past. "She's had my Pot Noodle she's not having my chicken kebab, she's had my chicken and mushroom Pot Noodle," she said.

The Londoner had a run-in with Corbyn over kebabs as we touched a sore spot. He told us he's tried to make his own but he's "not very good at it. You've got to have a certain patience to get the herbs and things right".

Would he soon have more time on his hands to perfect his technique?

Put out, the Labour leader huffed: "No. No. Very, very busy."

The Londoner online:
standard.co.uk/thelondoner



for Corbyn's foes

ted smiling for a selfie with Corbyn. She told us about her favourite kebab experience. "When I'd just got my flat in London, I ended up ordering some mixed grill just so the dog could have something. That was probably number one", she said.

The London Mayor (far left), meanwhile, enjoyed handing out the awards, telling the audience "the best speeches are like the best politicians: they should be short".

Labour deputy leader candidate Angela Rayner revealed she wouldn't share a kebab with her flatmate Rebecca Long-Bailey because the leadership hopeful has stolen a Pot Noodle from

The bug lands on Jemima's doorstep

● JEMIMA Goldsmith is trying to stay calm about the spread of coronavirus even though it might have reached her doorstep. "I'm still not panicking but my neighbour's entire family were taken off in an ambulance by medics in full suits this morning with suspected coronavirus," the journalist and ex-wife of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said last night. "My (hypochondriac) son is now convinced he has a strain so insidious it has no symptoms." The hand-washing championships begin now.

Edited by
Robbie Smith



Ayesha Hazarika

QUOTE OF THE DAY

'This might be a terrible novel'

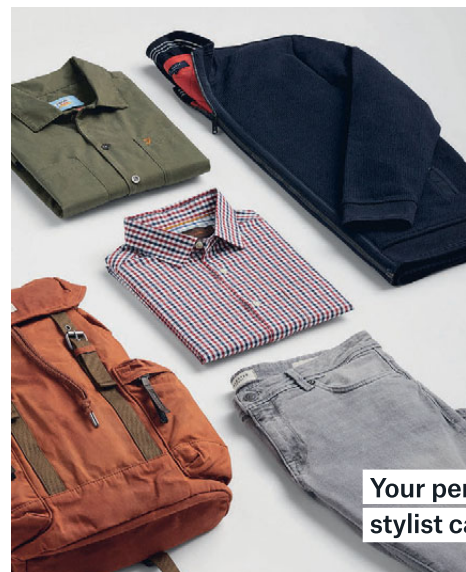
The admirably honest Oliver Letwin publicising his own novel this morning



LIFE & STYLE TODAY

PIZZA: THE CLASSIC DISH GETS A MODERN TWIST
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Something brewing as Fortnum's stocks London mother's herbal tea for children

A CHILDREN'S herbal tea range invented by a mother in her kitchen in north London is being stocked by royal grocer Fortnum & Mason.

The department store is famed for its own-brand selection of teas which it first created in 1902 after Edward VII challenged the company to "bring me the finest tea in all of the world".

Mother-of-two Kate Towers, 38, of Muswell Hill, and friend Becky Coletto, 36, invented their Small & Wild range two years ago to encourage their children to drink more healthily. It is understood to be the first non-

Fortnum & Mason blend in its tea hall. Mrs Towers said: "It's fantastic that Fortnum & Mason is paving the way for a new generation of tea drinkers to embrace wholesome herbal and fruit blends from a young age."

Their four tea blends are said to be entirely natural, caffeine free and with no added sugar. Ingredients are "ethically sourced" and packed into biodegradable pyramid tea bags.

A spokesman for the store said they "like to support new and upcoming products wherever possible".

Benedict Moore-Bridger



Kitchen creation: Kate Towers, far left, and her son Ted enjoy some Small & Wild tea with Becky Coletto and her daughter Amelle in Muswell Hill

WINNER 4 OLIVIER AWARDS INCLUDING BEST NEW MUSICAL

"THE BEST MUSICAL OF THIS CENTURY."

THE NEW YORK TIMES BEN BRANTLEY

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'Charity helped me escape streets now I want to do same for others'

Naomi Ackerman

A WOMAN who turned her life around after escaping domestic abuse is now supporting homeless Londoners through similar struggles.

Josephine, 45, moved to London from Ghana when she was younger but seven years ago, after violence at home, she ended up in a women's refuge and at risk of sleeping on the streets.

Having previously worked in odd jobs, mostly as a cleaner, she found she could not return to her earlier employment and was "in a very bad situation". It was then that the manager of UK Pret Foundation, the charitable arm of the cafe chain, offered Josephine the chance of an interview for a role in-store.

Within two weeks, Josephine started training as an apprentice at a Pret branch. Today, she is working to become an assistant store manager.

Since its launch last February in Tooting, Josephine has also been one of about 10 people living in Pret House, which offers both accommodation and paid work to homeless people.

It is run in conjunction with West London Mission — one of the charities that makes up the Homeless Collective supported by the Standard's Homeless Fund campaign. It offers its "rising stars" a safe, comfortable place to live for six to 12 months before helping them move into private rented property.

Residents receive all-round support — including counselling and guidance from professionals — and Josephine is on hand as "the mum of the house".

In an interview to mark the first anniversary of the project, Josephine said: "What I see is that about 80 per cent of the things that people have gone



New life: Josephine was given the chance to find work through the UK Pret Foundation

through, I've been through it. So I try to encourage them [the other residents] to know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Helping other people is a way of healing myself as well, that's how I see it... I am going through a lot of issues at the moment, but Pret has been very supportive. I don't know how to thank the company. It's not just the shop that you see... they are helping a lot of people."

Juanita Cracchiolo, UK Pret Foundation manager, who initially offered Josephine a job, said that although housing was a new venture "it feels like a community, like a home, which is exactly what we wanted". Roger Clark, chief executive of West London Mission, said: "Through this partnership Pret has really set the standard in creating such a beautiful physical environment. It's very much a hand-up rather than a handout."

For the latest on our fund:
standard.co.uk/homeless-fund



Sweet show of nostalgia for art gallery

A WEST END art gallery is showing a series of larger-than-life treats created from Quality Street wrappers.

Husband and wife Simon and Vic Dry were inspired to make the Sweet Art collages — some



measuring almost a metre high — after making their way through a tin one Christmas. The works, which sell for up to £3,950, include a Creme Egg, Toblerone and a Lindt Bunny, left. Sweet Nostalgia is at Gallery Different, Percy Street, until Sunday.

Welcome to your pop-up drug den: neighbours' war on park dealers

Emily Lawford

POSTERS advertising a "pop-up drug den" have been put up in west London by residents concerned over a rise in dealing in their area.

The laminated flyers, which claim to offer a 10 per cent discount for new customers, even provide a phone number to "pre-order" drugs — which in fact belongs to Ealing's Safer Neighbourhoods team.

They were created by members of Hanwell neighbourhood watch group, who want action taken against "open-air" drug dealing in Brent Meadow, a patch of grassland near Ealing Hospital.

A resident, who gave her name as Miss Hutchinson, said she helped to distribute the posters. She told the Standard: "The den has been up and running for the last two months and authorities have done nothing about it. So now the public has decided that they will."

"I have a six-year-old daughter who has been exposed to the well-known drug problem that Hanwell has."

A large arrow on the posters directs prospective customers to the "drug den" in Brent Meadow, which is popular with families and dog walkers.

A member of the neighbourhood watch, who wished to remain anonymous, said some users went to local



Neighbourhood fightback: one of the posters erected by those angry at the scourge of drug dealing in the west London area

shops to beg and shoplift after collecting drugs, adding: "The number of addicts has skyrocketed. Something needs to be done. This situation can't be ignored by the authorities any longer."

David Millican, a local councillor, tweeted a photograph of one of the posters yesterday, writing: "Poster spotted this morning by St George's Field Hanwell posted by residents frustrated

at lack of action to rid the area of the scourge of drug dealing."

The pictures were also uploaded to the Hanwell and Ealing Friends' Facebook group, where residents have previously aired concerns about drug usage in the neighbourhood.

Latest Met data shows in January this year there were 158 drugs offences in the Norwood Green policing ward,

which covers Brent Meadow, compared to 125 in January 2018.

On Monday, Norwood Green police tweeted that they had arrested a man for possession of heroin and crack cocaine after he tried to run into the canal at Brent Meadow.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said local officers were "absolutely committed to arresting offenders".

Queue here for outside shower, residents told as pipes burst

Ruth Bloomfield and Ted Hennessey

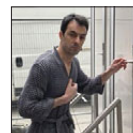
RESIDENTS of an upmarket housing development have been told to use "festival-style" outdoor showers after pipes in their building burst.

Some 200 people living in 90 flats in the Aurora development have been without hot water for more than a week.

The building's freeholder, One Housing, has installed four portable showers outside the building off Stratford High Street and will be working on Friday for four weeks. But residents have calculated that if they all spend 10 minutes in the shower then getting the whole building washed would take more than eight hours.

Resident Luca Mignari, 35, pictured at the showers above, said: "We shouldn't have to shower near a road, anyone can be peeking through."

One Housing said: "We apologise for the problems. We understand their frustration and ask them to bear with us while we sort it out."



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Super Tuesday and the Biden bounce

It looked like it was game over for the establishment candidate in the Democratic primary contest — until last night put the former VP back in the running. But with Bernie and his fans mobilising and Bloomberg with cash to burn, it ain't done yet, says **Philip Delves Broughton**

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JOE BIDEN has now established himself as the frontrunner to challenge Donald Trump in the presidential election, as he far exceeded expectations on Super Tuesday, the biggest day of voting in the Democratic primaries.

Despite limited funds and a slapdash approach, Biden came from behind to win several Southern states, building on strong support among suburban and African-American voters. But he also reached far beyond his assumed base by beating Senator Elizabeth Warren, 70, in her home state of Massachusetts.

The results indicated that Democrats have concluded Biden, 77, is their best hope for defeating Trump. Although Barack Obama has yet to endorse his former vice-president, Biden has become the candidate of the Obama restoration. While Senator Bernie Sanders, 78, was predicted to win California — the biggest prize of the night — Biden took the next biggest, Texas.

Overall, he vaulted ahead of Sanders, his main rival, who had won the three earliest primaries. Sanders was hoping to gain a commanding number of the delegates who will choose the Democratic presidential nominee at their July convention in Milwaukee.

Instead, Biden came roaring back — galvanised by endorsements from his former opponents Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar — and convinced voters that the best challenge to Trump will come from the centre of the party. His performance will have come as a huge relief to many Democrats, who were worried that Bernie Sanders's brand of socialism would be brushed aside by Trump in November's election.

Rather than feeling any great love for Biden, many Democrats simply want the candidate most likely to prevent four more years of Trump. Biden is a reminder of a more consensual, mainstream politics, away from the extremes of the current President on the Right and Sanders on the Left.

Sanders turned on Biden last night, painting him as an establishment throwback, the relic of a best-forgotten past. "You cannot beat Trump with the same old, same old kind of politics," he said.

A re-energised Biden argued that he, not the socialist Sanders, was the true revolutionary. "People are talking about a revolution. We started a movement," he said.

The results validated his decision to bet everything on victory in South Carolina last week. His convincing win changed the

energy of his campaign. In many states, he had little money to spend and no formal organisation, but suddenly emerged as the safest choice.

Over the weekend, the Sanders campaign issued a memo saying that the "stark" choice is now between Sanders and Biden. The next primaries are on March 10, in several states including Michigan and Washington. Then, on March 17, all eyes will be on Florida, Illinois, Ohio and Arizona.

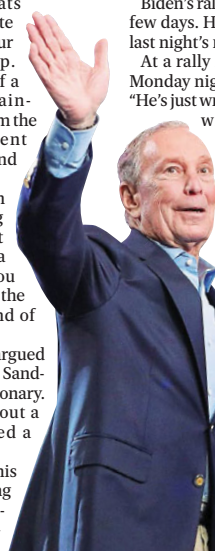
Sanders's campaign events have always been much livelier than Biden's. His crowds are largely young and enthused by his plans to raise taxes on the rich, increase access to healthcare and offer free university education.

Biden's rallies were dozy until the last few days. He hopes that he can carry last night's momentum forwards.

At a rally in St Paul, Minnesota, on Monday night, Sanders said of Biden: "He's just wrong on the issues. He's just wrong with regard to his vision for the future." He said Biden's support for free trade had led to job losses.

Last night was also a big disappointment for former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, 78, whose only win was in tiny American Samoa. He has taken an unorthodox route through these primaries, waiting until yesterday's votes to put his name on the ballot. He dipped into his personal fortune to vastly outspend all of his

Setback: Bloomberg on Super Tuesday



News in Focus



Sanders has stoked the theory that the party's top powers are trying to deprive him of the nomination

stoked the theory that the Democratic establishment is conspiring to deprive him of the nomination. On CNN on Monday, he said: "From day one we have been taking on the establishment, whether it is the corporate establishment on Wall Street, the drug companies, the insurance companies, the fossil-fuel industry, or the political establishment."

That theory was repeated by Trump's campaign manager, Brad Parscale, last night: "The media is hyperventilating about Joe Biden but everyone should remember that he is just as terrible a candidate right now as he was a few days ago. At the same time, establishment Democrats have ganged up to try to deny Bernie Sanders the nomination, which is causing even more mayhem."

Sanders has argued that he is the only candidate capable of mustering up the excitement Democrats need to defeat Trump, saying: "To defeat Donald Trump, we're going to have the highest voter turnout in the history of this country and I think our campaign is uniquely suited to be able to do that."

Trump made his now-customary pre-vote intervention on Monday night, by holding a rally in Charlotte in North Carolina, one of the Super Tuesday voting states. He was buoyant about the stock market rebound following the coronavirus crash last week. One of his key campaign messages in November will be on the strength of the economy during his presidency.

He taunted Biden for calling Super Tuesday "Super Thursday" and mixing up the states he visits. Yesterday, Trump tweeted out a Fox News compilation of Biden's gaffes, adding: "WOW! Sleepy Joe doesn't know where he is, or what he's doing. Honestly, I don't think he even knows what office he's running for!"

He also went after Mike Bloomberg, tweeting: "Mini Mike Bloomberg can never recover from his incompetent debate performances. Also, as mayor he was very bad under pressure — a choker!"

When asked about Trump's tweets, Sanders told the President to "stay out of the Democratic primary. Why don't you do your job for a change as President? Stop lying. Stop running a corrupt administration. Pay attention to the American people, not just your own political aims."

@delvesbroughton

rivals, hoping that he could tiptoe through the wreckage of a vicious primary season.

His strategy appeared to have legs until his weak performances in two television debates. The real Mike Bloomberg came across as frail and crotchety — nothing like the swaggering Bloomberg shown in hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of television ads.

He will have to decide if it is worth staying in the race until the July convention, but hopes that he can emerge as a compromise candidate if the bad blood between Biden and Sanders supporters continues. In a Fox News town

hall event on Monday, Bloomberg dismissed Biden as a "legislator" rather than a leader and said that Sanders's ideas were "crazy".

Earlier this week, Bloomberg said: "The most likely scenario for the Democratic Party is that nobody has a majority and then it goes to a convention where there's horse-trading and everybody decides to compromise. It doesn't even have to be one of the two leading candidates. It could be somebody that had only a small number of delegates." But if Biden rolls into Milwaukee with a strong delegate lead, Bloomberg's hopes will be dashed. Sanders has

Bring it on: Joe Biden in LA yesterday. Right, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren

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'WAR ZONE' AT LEAST 24 DEAD AFTER TWISTERS TEAR THROUGH NASHVILLE AS FAMILIES SLEEP**UNITED STATES****Ben Morgan**

PARTS of Tennessee's "Music City" were compared to "a war zone" by residents today after tornadoes left a trail of devastation.

Albree Sexton, 33, and her partner Michael Dolfini, 36, were revealed to be among at least 24 dead after being hit by debris in Nashville. Two twisters struck in the early hours yesterday, ripping through 10 miles of the city and wrecking 100 buildings in Putnam County. Governor Bill Lee declared a state of emergency.

"It hit so fast, a lot of folks didn't have time to take shelter," Putnam County mayor Randy Porter said. "Many of these folks were sleeping."



WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE
standard.co.uk/nashville

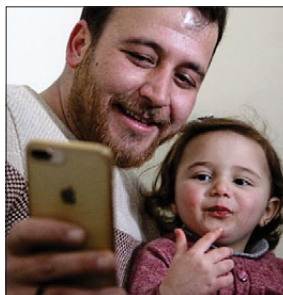
Syrian girl, 3, who learned to laugh at bombs reaches safety in Turkey

TURKEY**Anthony France**

A THREE-YEAR-OLD Syrian girl who was taught by her father to laugh at the sound of bombs so she wouldn't be afraid of them has reached safety in Turkey, it was revealed today.

A video of Salwa Mohammad playing a game as warplanes dropped bombs near her home in Idlib province went viral last month.

Following an outpouring of sympathy, the Turkish government helped her and her parents cross at the Cilvegozu border gate. In a new video, Salwa dances around her Turkish home in a pink



Child's play: Abdullah Mohammad taught Salwa that loud noises can be fun

princess dress, no longer having to listen to the sounds of civil war.

Nearly a million people have fled to the Syrian-Turkish border since December, amid heavy fighting between Turkish-backed rebels and Russian-backed Syrian government forces.

Salwa's father Abdullah, 32, came up with the game as a unique way to cope with the air strikes. He used the sound of children setting off fireworks to show her that loud noises could be fun, and said the game helped his daughter stay calm and happy.

In a video clip, Mr Mohammad can be heard asking his daughter: "Is this a jet or a bomb?" She replies: "A bomb..."

When it comes we will laugh." The UN's top humanitarian official for Syria last night warned the crisis in north-west Idlib is "probably the biggest... we have in the world today".

Kevin Kennedy said that despite a massive relief operation, the needs were overwhelming and "we have a long, long way to go".

Ankara has sent thousands of troops into the area, but has not been able to stop the Syrian government offensive to retake Idlib.

Today the military said two Turkish soldiers had been killed in a Syrian government attack. More than 50 Turkish troops have died in the past month.

Victory at the polls, but Bibi's fate is in the balance

BENJAMIN Netanyahu's political future remains up in the air as preliminary results from Monday's Israeli election confirmed a stunning victory, bringing his Likud party within a couple of seats of a clear majority in the 120-member Knesset. Two general elections last year had brought stalemate and demands for a rerun.

"Bibi" officially has just under four weeks to form a coalition led by Likud in alliance with Jewish Orthodox and nationalist parties. Unofficially, the deadline is Tuesday, March 17, when he will indicate to President Reuven Rivlin

Israel's leader faces a momentous fortnight with a looming corruption trial and a coalition talks deadline, says **Robert Fox**

if he can make a working coalition. If he does, he will become elected prime minister for a record fifth time, making him Israel's longest-serving premier.

Also on March 17, Netanyahu is due to face the Jerusalem district court on three charges of corruption, bribery and breach of trust in office. They are the most serious charges a sitting prime minister has faced. It is still a matter of urgent legal debate in Israel whether a PM can be allowed to form a new

government while under an indictment of this gravity. The trial itself could last a year — which would seriously cut into the daily activity of government.

The election, with the last few results from soldiers and overseas votes still to be calculated, shows that democratic politics in Israel are still very much alive... though more than a little chaotic. Turnout rose to over 71 per cent.

The big loser is the main opposition bloc of the Blue and White alliance led

by former defence chief Benny Gantz. They have dropped back slightly on last September's result to around 33 seats and cannot form a viable coalition as Gantz has ruled out an alliance with the Joint List of Israeli Arabs, which is a major factor after coming third with 15 seats. Arab voters turned out largely in protest against Donald Trump's "deal of the century" peace plan, offering key Palestinian territory to Israel.

Netanyahu, 70, campaigned hard on the plan, settlements and tougher security. But for now the focus is on his future, which the courts must decide.

GLOBAL BRIEFING

BRAZIL 16 KILLED IN LANDSLIDES AS DEADLY STORMS CONTINUE

AT LEAST 16 people have died and dozens more are missing after a storm pummelled the south-eastern coast of Brazil causing landslides.

The deaths occurred in the cities of Guarujá, Santos and São Vicente in São Paulo state. Worst hit was Guarujá, where about 200 people have lost their homes. "There is no way to live in this place again," said resident Laercio Fiel da Silva.

Heavy rain has lashed the region since the start of the year. Dozens died in landslides in January in the neighbouring state of Minas Gerais.

NEW ZEALAND MOSQUE PATROLS STEPPED UP FOR MASSACRE ANNIVERSARY

POLICE have stepped up patrols at two Christchurch mosques ahead of the first anniversary of a mass shooting in the city that killed 51 worshippers.

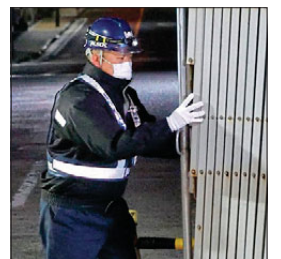
It follows reports that a picture of a man standing outside the Al Noor mosque wearing a balaclava with a threat against worshippers was posted on social media. Police chief John Price said that "this type of imagery has no place in New Zealand". A gunman struck at Al Noor and another mosque on March 15 last year.

FRANCE MACRON PENSION REFORM SEES OFF NO-CONFIDENCE VOTES

EMMANUEL MACRON's centrist government today saw off two no-confidence votes to push through an overhaul of the retirement system that has led to months of protests and strikes.

Protesters illuminated the Champs-Élysées with red flares as politicians in the National Assembly accused the French president of "dictatorial" behaviour in a debate that lasted past midnight.

Opponents fear the pension changes will mean people have to work longer for less money.



JAPAN TOWN CLOSED BY NUCLEAR DISASTER OPENS TO PUBLIC

A TOWN off-limits since the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 has partially reopened.

Some 7,000 people were ordered to leave Futaba after three reactors melted down because of damage to the town's nuclear plant brought on by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami. Unrestricted access is only being allowed to 1sqm near the main Futaba train station, which will reopen later this month for the first time since the accident. The gate at a checkpoint, above, was opened at midnight.

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Smart moves

By **David Spittles**

Stamp your look on a Postmark flat

POSTMARK can be called a first-class new address, thanks to its origins as the UK's most famous Royal Mail depot. For more than a century, Mount Pleasant in WC1 has been the main hub of the nation's postal distribution system.

Royal Mail is continuing operations from its splendid Art Deco headquarters there but the site's sorting offices and car parks are being redeveloped into four distinct schemes. In total there are 10 new blocks, rising up to 16 storeys. About half the land will be open space, with public squares and roof gardens, while new pedestrian routes will slice

through the site, creating new links with the wider district. Up to 700 homes will be built on 12 acres of land bordering Clerkenwell and Bloomsbury.

Signature Place is the latest phase, with 109 apartments across two new blocks featuring podium gardens and communal roof terraces plus a luxurious "wellness centre".

The handsome mansion block-style architecture by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios revives the area's traditional brick façades. These homes have views of the City and West End and recessed balconies.

Postmark is expected to become a lively commercial quarter, with



Prices from £895,000: flats at Signature Place, the latest phase of the Postmark development at Mount Pleasant, WC1. Residents can use the luxurious new wellness centre



street-level shops, restaurants and offices for the district's creative workers.

The site sits above the "lost" River Fleet, buried underground, with a network of tunnels, the famous "Mail Rail", now a cultural and tourist attraction, which, together with a new museum, will be a key feature of this new address. Just to the north is

reborn King's Cross, while a little to the south is Farringdon, soon to be London's most important Crossrail interchange, the only station with north-south and east-west connections, and serving all five London airports.

Prices from £895,000. Call Taylor Wimpey on 020 8023 5000 for more information.



IF YOU can't afford to live in Canary Wharf but you still covet a panoramic view of its glittering skyline, check out **Time Quarter** in nearby Bow.

Apartments with a terrace, above, or balcony in this new 19-storey tower start at £432,000, while developer Linden Homes is offering a £15,000 cashback incentive, either off the price or as a stamp duty refund. Devons



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Road Docklands Light Railway station is only moments away and it's a 15-minute walk along the canal to Canary Wharf. Call 020 3131 2656 for

further information. Staying in east London, Poplar is even closer to Canary Wharf. On the banks of Limehouse Cut, **Explorer's Wharf** has 184 warehouse-style apartments with either a projecting or inset balcony. Residents can use podium gardens between the blocks. Prices from £369,000 to £565,000. Call developer Bellway on 020 8131 7898.

Grammar schools dictate the location



LONDONERS moving to the country juggle many factors when it comes to location, not least whether a cheaper house further down the line makes up for the hassle of a longer journey.

Grammar schools and great commuter links keep Kent in the good books of family home buyers.

Royal Tunbridge Wells has 45-minute trains to London Bridge, and though the town has a reputation for being an outpost of traditional British values, with architecture to match, it has been quietly changing in recent years with the arrival of a younger set who want new, low-maintenance homes of character in an elegant town with good shops,

restaurants and amenities. The local arts scene is poised for a boost with a new 1,200-seat theatre and Everyman cinema, while one housing project includes a new free school.

Regency Grange offers new traditional-looking houses, pictured, with up to five bedrooms and a garage. Behind the façade of warm brick and gabled roofs are modern, open-plan living areas. Prices from £560,000 to £1.2million. Call Countryside on 01892 884514.

Regal Wells Park, in the town centre, has Regency-style houses, mews houses and apartments in lavishly landscaped grounds. Prices from £330,000. Call 01892 886996.

CUT A DASH IN HOXTON

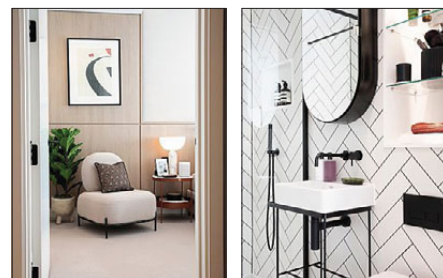
Homes with a designer edge

IN 1643, Robert Dash, a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, one of London's 12 great livery companies, left an endowment to pay for the construction of almshouses for the poor and a school for 20 children. Little did he know that some four centuries later, homes in this Hoxton hotspot would cost more than £1 million.

Dash is a boutique scheme of 47 properties named after the philanthropist. This mix of flats and duplexes with a design emphasis includes sanctuary-like communal spaces — a secluded courtyard, a herb garden and roof terrace. Some apartments come with two balconies.

Prices for homes at Dash start from £670,000 and range up to £1.35 million. Call 020 3504 8310.

HKR Hoxton, pictured, is a similar urban retreat, with 69 flats, designed with panache by Hawkins\Brown Architects. The stand-out architectural feature is a rhythmic, grid-frame façade of weathered steel. The



rusty-looking metal structure is made to resist corrosion and constantly evolves, changing in tone as it ages.

Residents can make use of a gym and landscaped garden plus a sky terrace at the top.

Crisp, restrained interiors have Crittall glass screen partitions. Prices from £535,000. Call Knight Frank on 020 7718 5202.

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MATT WITTE

Another slice of the action

FOR something Virgil once wrote about, pizza remains a very modern love. "It's existed forever," says Pizza Pilgrims co-founder Thom Elliot. "You can find it in the Aeneid, people topping baked bread with mushrooms!"

Big with the Trojans then, even bigger with Londoners today. The second wave of London's pizza renaissance is well underway: in the past month alone, L'Antica Pizzeria Da Michele (as featured in Eat, Pray, Love) opened a second outpost in Soho, Zia Lucia moved to the City and Firebrand's made it to Clerkenwell. Pizza Pilgrims, meanwhile, are headed to Camden this

TRENDS

The capital's pizza renaissance has begun. From curried crusts to madcap toppings, try a piece of this pie, says **David Ellis**

month with their 13th site — one that comes complete with an academy, as well as a "pizza theatre".

"We've built these bleachers, kind of like at university," Elliot says, "which overlook the kitchen. So if we want to show people how we do it, they sit there. When a pizza is being built, it's actually

quite a beautiful thing to behold — a team up to speed is quite balletic."

He laughs. "I know that sounds over the top."

Details of the academy are still being determined, Elliot says, but the courses will be free — the project paid for using the pizzeria's profits — offering anyone

with a week free "an idea of what we're about". A seven-day course will offer basic training in food and service, with a qualification to match, and longer courses will follow.

"Hospitality has a massive role to play in teaching people about how to deal with people. You genuinely learn so much about what makes people tick — that stuff is relevant whatever you do in the rest of your life."

"It's a serious thing, but we wanted to make it fun and 'us', not too worthy."

For those who would rather tuck in than get stuck in, the capital is

Continued on Page 30

THE LIST

GIVE IT SOME WELLY

Claridge's

A suitably luxurious Wellington of whole lobster wrapped in pastry, served with sauce Américaine and truffle fries.

£86 for two, claridges.co.uk



Sussex

This wild food-focused spot celebrates a different meat every week, with fillings ranging from hare to fallow deer. From £58 per sharing portion, W1, sussex-restaurant.com



45 Jermyn St

Come here for a classic with a side of drama: the beef is served with a peppercorn sauce flambéed tableside with plenty of brandy. £80 for two, SW1



Holborn Dining Room

Pastry maestro Calum Franklin hosts "Welly Wednesdays", plating Wellingtons by the slice with roast potatoes. £29.50, WC1, holborndiningroom.com



The Nitery

Sunday roasts at Gizzi Erksine's pop-up treat vegetarians to a Wellington filled with meat-free haggis, mushroom duxelles and spring truffle. £20, WC2, morganshotelgroup.com
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at London's LGBT+ Theatre & Bar

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abovethestag.org.uk

a play by Jake Brunger

Four Play

The Morning After

a comedy by Peter Quilter

BUYER and CELLAR

Jonathan Tolins' smash hit set in Barbra's basement!

Life & Style | Food & Drink

Continued from Page 29

experimenting. In Tufnell Park, Devinder Singh has opened East West, where the menu binds Indian and Italian flavours — something like curry pizza, in other words.

"I grew up in northern India, in Punjab, so that's where the eastern bit comes from," Singh says. "And pizza? Because my kids love it."

When a site came up Singh decided to try something different, and pizza toppings include butter chicken and masala jackfruit.

"I started working with this chef and I asked him to do some contemporary northern Indian dishes — the way they're done in India, not the UK — and I thought, why not use a pizza base?"



Top that: southern Italy and northern India meet with East West pizzas

Lots of people do it with naan, but let's try a really good traditional dough and see if it works."

And? "Chef knocked it out of the park!"

Though unusual toppings have been



LIFE & STYLE ONLINE

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tried before — Hampstead bar Bobby Fitzpatrick opened in 2017 with a full English pizza, since dropped — Singh is more sincere than silly.

"I spent four months on the menu," he says. "The base is strictly southern Italian style, and the eastern side is really authentic — we get the spices sent over from my wife's grandmum."

Elsewhere, in Clapton, A Slice of Blue opened recently as London's first "pizza pub", with the teams behind Santa Maria and Firezza teaming up for pints with traditional Neapolitan pies, and live music three times a week. "East London, I love it," says co-founder Pasquale Chionchio, "You have the freedom to do whatever you like!"

Pizza's enduring appeal is winning over celebrities all over again, too.

Singer Jessie Ware is celebrating the release of her new Table Manners cookbook — named for her popular podcast — with a "Jew-ish" pizza available at Yard Sale. Ware covers her base with beef brisket, cola onions, potato latkes and dill pickles — "I can't stand when people are tight on toppings!"

Why pizza? It's a regular mention on her podcast, she says, "but we've never made it on the show. There's an art to it!"

Pizza Pilgrims man Elliot agrees. "People see it as an easy solution, but it's a constant battle to make it great."

After all, he says, the pizza isn't ancient by accident. "People talk about it like it's a crutch. You lose your job, you break-up — you get pizza. You get pizza because it's a hug of a thing."

Back to Sun Hill for more police drama



In this spin-off from classic crime thriller series, **The Bill**, London detectives get to the bottom of grisly murders on the streets of the capital. With guest appearances by **Danny Dyer, Will Mellor and Gary Kemp**.



Murder Investigation Team

TONIGHT AT 9PM



Clodagh's Kitchen

Tender, marbled sirloin in a creamy, spicy sauce

Steak au poivre

Serves: 2

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 25 minutes

Serve with: Langhe Nebbiolo 2016 De Forville, £11.99 from Majestic Wines

This is a classic grilled steak with a peppered sauce and sea salt roasts. Steak can seem simple, but it's all in the shopping. When buying a piece, look for one that's been aged for 28 days at a minimum, with the beef a dull dark colour, rather than bright red. Usually, the darker the steak, the longer it's been aged and the more tender it will be.

If you can't get your hands on a well-aged steak then do what I do and suspend the meat in a sieve over a bowl, and sit it in the fridge for a few days — this will help improve the tenderness. It's a neat trick.

The next thing to look for is the marbling. A great steak will have lots of thin threads of fat running through it, which is where all the flavour comes from. Once you've picked your piece, be careful with the cooking — too long on the griddle and all your thoughtful choices will have been for nothing.

Ingredients

- 2 x 300g sirloin steaks
- Sea salt, freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp oil

For the peppered sauce

- 85ml stout
- 185ml beef stock
- 125ml double cream
- 3 tsp coarsely crushed whole black peppercorns

For the rosemary and sea salt roast potatoes

- 700g potatoes (Maris Pipers or King Edwards), peeled
- 100g butter
- 2 cloves of garlic, sliced
- 2 tbsp rosemary, finely chopped
- Sea salt, freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Remove the steaks from the fridge and put them on a plate. I like to do this at least half an



hour before I cook them so the meat comes up to room temperature; this makes it more tender.

2. Next, prep the potatoes. Cut the peeled potatoes into one-inch cubes and place in a saucepan filled halfway with salted water. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to low and cook the potatoes for 15 minutes before draining. Place a frying pan over a medium heat and add the butter, tossing the potatoes in it, then add the chopped fresh rosemary, sliced garlic and season with salt and pepper. Cook for 10-15 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked, crispy and golden in colour.

3. The sauce is wonderfully easy. Simply combine the ingredients in a saucepan over a medium heat and stir. Once the sauce starts to come to the boil, reduce the heat to low and simmer for 15 minutes. Taste and add more pepper if you wish.

4. Once the sauce and roasts are done, cook the steak. Heat a griddle or frying pan over a high heat until smoking hot. Lightly brush the steak with a little olive oil and season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. Place the prepared steaks on the hot pan, and cook to the following times — this is a guide only, and will depend on how thick the meat is.

- Blue: 1 minute each side
 - Rare: 1½ minutes each side
 - Medium-rare: 2 minutes each side
 - Medium: 2½ minutes each side
 - Medium-well done: 2½ – 3 minutes each side
- Let the steaks rest for about three minutes before serving, to allow the juices that have been drawn to the surface relax back into the meat.

● Follow Clodagh on Instagram @clodagh_mckenna



Freeview 8 Sky 117 Virgin 159

LONDON LIVE

David Sexton

Unrewarding grill proves unworthy of past glories or present priciness



RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

The Connaught Grill

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
The Connaught, Carlos Place, W1K 2AL
(0207 499 7070, the-connaught.co.uk)
Open daily 12-2.45pm, 6-10.45pm
Meal for two around £300 incl. service

HAVING a resplendent history can be as much a burden to a restaurant as an asset. Anyone trying to recreate past glories might envy the freedom enjoyed by a pop-up.

The Connaught Grill displays on its website a rave review from The New York Times saying it serves "the finest meal in the British Isles" — but this puff dates back to 1972. Originally opened in 1955, it was overseen by head chef Michel Bourdin from 1975 to 2000, when it closed, serving French cuisine to starry clientele.

Now reopened and sited on the ground floor, it is entered through a corridor displaying works of art and prize bottles of wine. Architect John Heah's design majors on displaying timber from the Pennsylvania company George Nakashima Woodworker.

The 46-seat dining room contains a set of spacious, semi-private booths, rather like lavish train seats, which surround large plank top tables made of big pieces of American black walnut, beautifully polished, while a kind of wooden pergola encloses the space.

It's an extraordinary minimalist/luxury installation and yet, impressive though the work may be, it's oddly unsettling. A bit David Lynch and not in a good way, reckoned my guest, the atmosphere further lowered by grisly



All aboard: the restaurant is a set of semi-private booths, like lavish train seats. Above, the Oeufs en Surprise starter

muzak. Overseen by Jean-Georges Vongerichten with Anshu Anghotra as executive chef, the menu includes oysters and sashimi but centres on dishes from a wood-burning grill and rotisserie, classics given a saucy twist.

Trophy ingredients ride high: truffles,

foie gras, caviar, lobster, kobe beef. From the starters we tried Jean-Georges's Oeuf en Surprise (£22). This peppery, three-cheese soufflé was inept, burnt on top but sloppily liquid within — undercooked. On asking if it was meant to be like this, it was taken off the bill: it

DAVID'S DISHES

HOTEL HOTSPOTS

The Ritz

John Williams deserves a second Michelin star for this masterful restaurant. 150 Piccadilly St, W1J 9BR, theritzlondon.com

Davies and Brook

US chef Daniel Humm is an offbeat thinker; it shows in his inspired cooking. Claridge's, W1K 4HR, davesandbrook.co.uk

Ormer

Underrated but always reliable, something of fun secret to have. 7-12 Half Moon St, W1J 7BH, flemings-mayfair.co.uk

shouldn't have left the kitchen like that. Welsh rarebit with Cromer crab (£19) proved equally disconcerting, a daunting slice of sourdough toast with mustardy cheese accompanied by a tiny timbale of crabmeat, topped with a fleck of mayo, these two items having little to say to each other.

Time to admit we didn't finish anything. A half of spit-roasted Racan chicken (£31) — it's a distinctive black-feather breed from the Touraine — came jointed into three, still retaining most of its black foot. To tackle it I was offered a choice of steak knives, opting for the fiercest-looking, but even so, the way this noble bird had been cooked left it so fibrous it was hard to cut, let alone eat, a greasy lemon-flavoured gravy offering little help.

The Dover sole (£58), ferociously grilled and deboned at the table, was also unrewarding, its accompanying brown butter vinaigrette with capers adding to the burnt aftertaste. On the side, Brussels sprouts (£7) were charred outside, soggy in, unsuccessfully tarted up with balsamic vinegar, pecan nuts and herbs. Black truffle potato rösti (£15) came crisped to perdition and blackened with a daft quantity of truffle dust.

At this point we were offered complimentary desserts, either from natural courtesy or because we had been spotted reviewing. We didn't finish these either, neither a coconut and pineapple sorbet, nor a sugary sticky toffee pudding.

With three of the cheapest glasses of wine available (ho-hum Argentinian Chardonnay, £20, fine Chianti classico, £26), we paid £243.56. Had the freebies been billed, it would have been over £300. We'd have enjoyed ourselves more at Côte. Or maybe Nando's. And Soho, the most creative restaurant scene anywhere, is a stroll away.

FIVE THINGS DAVID ATE THIS WEEK

● After a sunny visit to the ever improving gardens of Myddelton House in Enfield, a dash in a hailstorm to the nearby pub, The Pied Bull, for fish and chips.

● At home, the best and easiest quick meal: confit

duck legs, brought back from France last weekend. Will I tire of this one day?

● After Monday's press screening of Military Wives, pasta sustenance at Manteca: tonnarelli, brown crab

cacio e pepe (pictured).

● Laurie and I both love the Lot-et-Garonne tomme de brebis I brought back from Lauzerte market. More!



● Grilled duck donburi on brown rice is my new staple at Wagamama Kensington — these things change about once a year.

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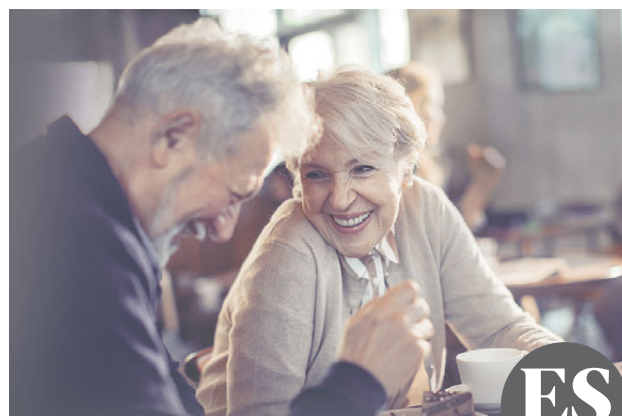
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Arts & Culture

OUTSIDE the door of 4 St James's Square, now home to The In and Out club, there's an unmissable blue plaque: Nancy Astor, it says — the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons. All of a sudden the place takes on a different aspect. Instead of being another distinguished building in a square full of them, it's the local habitation of a lively figure from history, a redoubtable hostess, social reformer and the woman whose presence in the Commons caused Churchill to say he felt that she had surprised him in his bathroom with only a sponge to cover him.

That's the thing about blue plaques; they surprise you by grounding people you've heard about in a specific building or bringing to your attention people you should know about but don't.

This year, for the first time, half of the dozen plaques that will be unveiled will commemorate women. "It's a great step forward," says Anna Eavis, director of the arm of English Heritage responsible for blue plaques, when I meet her.

The first will be Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, botanist and leader of the first women's army corps, to be followed by two brave British agents active during the last war, Noor Inayat Khan and Christine Granville, and also the sculptor Barbara Hepworth. Unusually, two plaques will commemorate institutions — the two wings, militant and moderate, of the women's suffrage movement: the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Women's Social and Political Union.

So why has it taken so long to get blue plaque parity for the sexes? It's down to popular demand. "The nominations come from the public," says Eavis. "We did a lot to raise awareness, but we weren't getting many for women. So please nominate!" There isn't a quota, but Eavis has been working to make the plaques more representative, not just

Not just for boys — the women getting their due in blue

HERITAGE

Only 14 per cent of plaques commemorate great women, but **Melanie McDonagh** finds the balance is being redressed

of women, but of different communities and backgrounds. Whereas only 14 per cent of the 950 existing blue plaques commemorate women, about half of the current batch of nominees are female. "We're now seeing a healthier spread of nominations."

The first plaque for a woman was for the 18th-century actress Sarah Siddons, but there are all sorts. On another side of St James's Square there's one to Ada Lovelace, a pioneer of computing; last year one was erected in Chelsea for Martha Gellhorn, the war correspondent.

There are three criteria for consideration for one of the dozen plaques each year. One, the subjects should be dead at least 20 years — that allows the dust to settle on their reputa-

tions; he or she should have a proven link to a particular building (that's harder than it sounds, and was one reason why it took a while to erect a plaque to Bob Marley) for a reasonable time; and finally they should be notable in some field.

The tricky categories are often the scientists, working in obscure areas. "There tends to be a lot written about writers and artists; far less about scientists," says Eavis. "We're keen to have nominations from as many areas as possible — sport, medicine, animation."

Another problem is tracking down freeholders to give their permission for a plaque: not everyone is keen.

Then, once the

nominations are in, there's a committee of experts, including the biographer-historian Rosemary Hill and Jane Glover, the conductor, who consider candidates from a shortlist of 100. It's chaired by Ronald Hutton, a hippyish history professor.

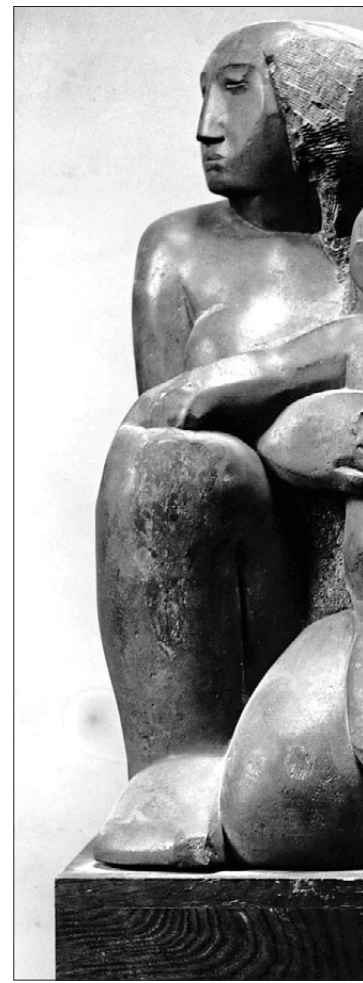
The plaque business has been going on for longer than you might think. It began under the aegis of the Society of Arts in 1866, one of the first in the world. In 1901 the London County Council took it on, says Eavis, "to help define the significant connection between persons and buildings". From 1965 it was passed to the Greater London Council, and after that it ended up with English Heritage. The plaques weren't always blue; earlier ones were brown or green. The plaques help commemorate areas; one, to Samuel Beckett, off King's Road, marks a time when Chelsea was louche and arty rather than drop-dead expensive.

When the recipients are among the

Step forward: Anna Eavis



MATT WRIGHT



STARS SHELLEY VON STRUNCKEL

Aries March 20 – April 19

Few things make you happier than being able to surprise somebody you care about. However, think carefully about your desire to make it a surprise. While you, as an Aries, would enjoy that, not everybody feels the same way.

0904 470 1141 (65p per minute)*

Taurus April 20 – May 20

When certain promises were made, the actual situation in question was clear, and so was your role. However, since then, things have changed a lot. So much so that you're urged to pause and review what's expected of everybody.

0904 470 1142 (65p per minute)*

Gemini May 21 – June 20

Turning ideas into lasting plans can be quite an undertaking, meaning a top-to-bottom reorganisation of your life. Overwhelming as this seems, certain of these changes are long overdue. This would kick-start the process.

0904 470 1143 (65p per minute)*

Cancer June 21 – July 21

Your objective in sidestepping certain matters wasn't to deceive anybody, as certain individuals may think. On the contrary, you were hoping to avoid dramas. Ironically, they'll force the facts out in the open.

0904 470 1144 (65p per minute)*

Leo July 22 – August 22

The line between blaming somebody for their unwise decisions and acknowledging they got it wrong by offering a helping hand is exactly that, it involves caring about them and the matter in question. But it will work out in the end.

0904 470 1145 (65p per minute)*

Virgo August 23 – September 22

While you've tried to deal with certain complex matters in the past, finding the necessary facts or meeting the people you need to hasn't been easy. Don't give up. A surprise encounter could change everything overnight.

0904 470 1146 (65p per minute)*

Libra September 23 – October 22

You don't want to push others so far that you could force issues out in the open. But, actually, there would be nothing better than an open discussion of certain matters you've been discreet about. It would be a relief for everyone.

0904 470 1147 (65p per minute)*

Scorpio October 23 – November 21

Somebody you're fond of but who can also be unreliable, will be taking a crucial role in your life. This leaves you the choice of discreetly manipulating them from the sidelines or discussing your concerns frankly.

0904 470 1148 (65p per minute)*

Sagittarius November 22 – December 20

There have been times when you've told fibs. You don't think of them that way, because your intention was to make life easier for everybody. Still, update others on the facts now, before events do it for you.

0904 470 1149 (65p per minute)*

Capricorn December 21 – January 19

Events and/or the demands of others have drawn you into dramas that are confusing and time-consuming. Steering clear of them may seem unkind. But the fact is those individuals have valuable lessons to learn from them.

0904 470 1150 (65p per minute)*

Aquarius January 20 – February 17

When you make a plan, you try to think through every possible option. You feel that preparing for the unexpected broadens your perspective, which is always wise. Still, the events of the coming weeks will surprise even you.

0904 470 1151 (65p per minute)*

Pisces February 18 – March 19

Tempting as it is to speak your mind about the manoeuvres of certain underhand individuals, review both your facts and strategy. Then wait and watch. After that, you'll be thinking and speaking with greater clarity.

0904 470 1152 (65p per minute)*

IF IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY TOMORROW...

The planet Venus accents close relationships, personal and out in the world, including business, it also is strongly connected with what is of worth in your life, from your time, your assets and even your right to have what you want. Consequently, its move into its own sign, Taurus, on your birthday indicates a new focus on, then making improvements on, each of these elements of your life. The heavens have given you a wonderful birthday gift.

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ARTS & CULTURE TOMORROW

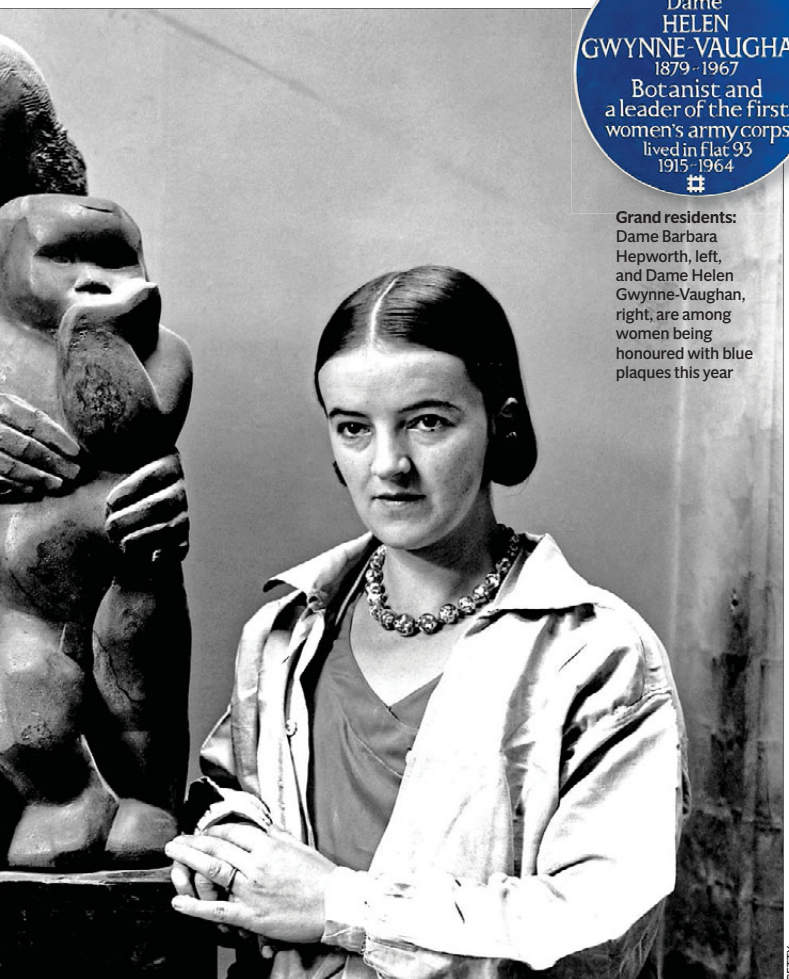
DERMOT O'LEARY ON HIS NEW KIDS' BOOK

Read the latest reviews online standard.co.uk/arts



ENGLISH HERITAGE
Dame
HELEN
GWYNNE-VAUGHAN
1879-1967
Botanist and
a leader of the first
women's army corps
lived in flat 93
1915-1964
#

Grand residents:
Dame Barbara
Hepworth, left,
and Dame Helen
Gwynne-Vaughan,
right, are among
women being
honoured with blue
plaques this year



*We're keen to have
nominations from as many
areas as possible — sport,
medicine, animation*

recent dead, the unveiling of the plaque can be an occasion for a party. When Marley's was unveiled, there was a group of children reciting poetry and playing steel drums; at Gellhorn's, Alan Hollinghurst gave an address.

Once you realise that anyone can nominate someone for a plaque, it's hard not to think of candidates (though it's worth checking first; they may be somewhere already). I came up with the London-Welsh artist David Jones, but you may have your own ideas. Go to the blue plaques section of the English Heritage website, and give it a go.

● english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques

Follow our blue plaques walk from Pankhurst to Pankhurst via Radclyffe Hall and more at standard.co.uk/go

GETTY

Voices ring with ardour in Mozart's rom-com

OPERA

Così fan tutte

Hackney Empire, E8

★★★★☆

Nick Kimberley

SOME people will tell you that Mozart's *Così fan tutte* is frivolous, immoral, even misogynistic. Others among us disagree. True, we must be prepared to accept that, in order to test their lovers' fidelity, two men pretend to go off to war, only to reappear in disguises that the faithless women fail to see through: far-fetched, perhaps, but surely not that hard to swallow.

Nor does the misogyny charge stand up. Although the opera's title blithely proclaims "That's just how women are", no-one, male or female, emerges unscathed from the comic intrigue. In the end, we're all fools for love. As for emotional nuance, Mozart's music provides plenty.

Laura Attridge's new production for English Touring

Opera places the action, somewhat arbitrarily, in Alexandria in the Thirties, the location's light and warmth reflected in the saturated colours of Oliver Townsend's set. If there is too much knockabout buffoonery from the disguised lovers, the acting overall is restrained, occasionally to the point of reticence. The singing, on the other hand, is often exquisitely expressive: every one of the six-strong cast is fully inside Mozart's vocal idiom, and the sense of ensemble performance is acute.

It helps that the opera is sung in Jeremy Sams's wise and witty translation, so that communication is

immediate. The voices receive light, breezy support from the period instruments of the Old Street Band, conducted by Holly Mathieson.

Moments of deliciously cranky intonation from the wind instruments only add to the atmosphere.

● *Performance Friday, then touring (englishtouringopera.org.uk)*



Expressive: Martha Jones as Dorabella

Man and automation struggle on a very slow spin cycle

VISUAL ART
Cao Fei: Blueprints
Serpentine Gallery, W2

★★★★☆

Ben Luke

THERE'S much about Cao Fei's video installations that I want to like. Her principal theme, the human struggle amid technology's exponential rise, is vital. She also draws on rich, unexpected references: everything from Soviet science fiction's influence on her native Chinese culture to movie dance scenes.

But only in the virtual reality work here, *Eternal Wave*, do they gel into a compelling experience. And even that's encumbered by VR's eternal pitfall: the clunky headset set-up and need for assistance that denies you the immersive illusion it potentially offers. It's in Cao's unnecessarily long films that she's at her most frustrating. Two of them, *Nova* (2019)



XXXCAP CREDIT XXXX

and *Asia One* (2018), have captivating premises: *Asia One* is set in a warehouse where two workers struggle for agency in a world of automation, triggering a series of outlandish events. *Nova*, which relates to the VR experience, is a tale of a boy whose father "sacrifices" him

Lacking dynamism:
Cao Fei's *Asia One*, 2018, Video, 63'20"

to an experiment that leaves the boy abandoned in the "deferred zone" of cyberspace for 40 years.

We leap forward and back in this fragmented narrative, set in and around the former cinema that is now Cao's studio in Beijing. The film has allegorical hints, evoking communist utopias and their failures, and also acts partly as a sci-fi sequel to a 1958 Chinese film, also called *The Eternal Wave*, which haunts the story.

Both films have a beginning and an end, so should be seen in full. But together, that's about three hours. And despite some compelling sequences and beautiful cinematography, there's too little dynamism; the pacing in both is exhaustingly slow and *Nova* is further burdened with leaden dialogue and wooden acting. Cao has an uncanny knack for making promising material soul-crushingly dull.

● Until May 17 (020 7402 6075, serpentinegalleries.org)

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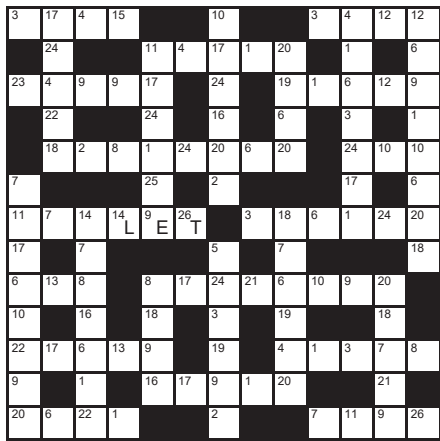
Puzzles & Games

CODEWORD

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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



Yesterday's codeword: **BINGEABLE**

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CRYPTIC ACROSS

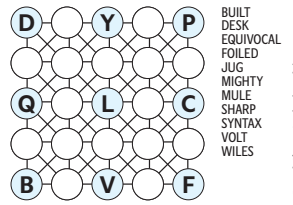
- Complain against the repetitiveness? (6)
- Short of time? (5,3)
- They're useful when moulding a new side (4)
- It flies North, perhaps, out East (6)
- Fish lying on the bed? (6)
- A fifty pound total (3)
- It's my disorder that makes things so hazy (5)
- Is she ruddy beautiful? (4)
- Chap touring a film centre in Italy (5)
- Figures to accept a poem as perfect (5)
- So placed as to sit on the end of the bed (5)
- Never hit an unmarried woman (4)
- Where some players sit and read their notes (5)
- A standard of soft warm-heartedness? (3)
- At half time, left a note for the king (6)
- Possibly signed drawing (6)
- Cars can turn round in them (4)
- Not moderately biased? (8)
- My dog? (6)

DOWN

- She has many an alternative choice (6)
- Chiefly sorts the N.Y. mail (6)
- A trusty heart can be a bad thing! (4)
- New medical system? (7)
- Sharp instruments? (5)
- Condemn a railway after one short month (5)
- To a doctor and sailor, it's dull (4)
- It can easily get out of hand (3)
- Form an attachment with happiness at heart (3)
- General attitude of people in fishnet hosiery (5)
- Extra deliveries (5)
- Angry about an anagram? (5)
- An abbreviation of automotive relevance (3)
- Guided by a little light (3)
- I'd a slim chance of getting lost (7)
- Could an Eskimo use one? (3)
- Could be lucky at many a meeting place (6)
- Fairish girl? (4)
- The more developed one, sir? (6)
- Singular data (5)
- The employees sat around being very noisy (5)
- By being a bit superior (3)
- Some time in a daze, we hear (4)

GOGEN

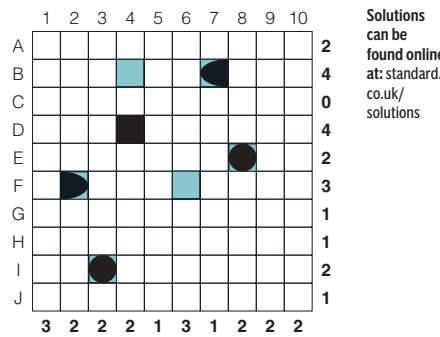
Insert letters to form the listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. Insert the remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so that all the listed words are spelled out in this way.



Due to an error by our puzzle compiler, PA, the word 'six' should not have been in yesterday's list. We apologise for this mistake.

Play more puzzles:
standard.co.uk/games

BATTLESHIPS

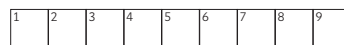


THE FLEET 1 x Battleship 3 x Destroyer
2 x Cruiser 4 x Submarine

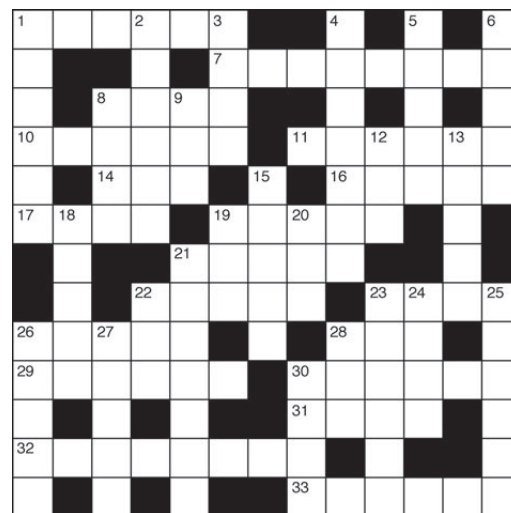
Find where the fleet of ships is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid show how many squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. Some squares have been filled in to start you off, a coloured square denotes a clear space. Ships do not touch each other, even diagonally.

HOW TO PLAY

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word that uses all nine letters. Yesterday's solution: LUBRICATE



THE CLUES 81762 gives a country
4535885 gives a country
92452 gives a country



THE TUBE QUIZ

Plan a journey using the Tube map from BRENT CROSS to CLAPTON. The answer to each question will suggest to you the name of a station at which you should stop to change to a new line or branch.

BRENT CROSS

If A is encoded as 1, which station appears here: 3 1 1 3
4 5 14 20 15 23 14?

Durdle Door in Dorset and Green Bridge in Pembrokeshire are examples of what natural feature?

In John Buchan's The Three Hostages, Richard Hannay is nearly hypnotised in Madame Breda's house in which area of London?

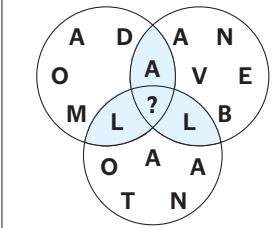
Which station is an anagram of CHALKY ENTRANCE?

CLAPTON

Yesterday's solution: RICHMOND, Hammersmith, Hillingdon, Moorgate, Tower Hill, SHADWELL

CIRCLEGRAM

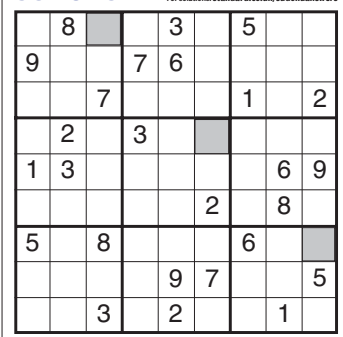
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



Need a little help getting started? Text or call our clue line for a keyword clue. Text **ES CIRCLECLUE** to 85100. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge*. Or call 0901 293 5270. Calls cost £1 plus your network access charge*.

Yesterday's solution: A: Waterloo, Vauxhall, Victoria, all stations on the London Underground.

SUDOKU



For a chance to win £50 complete the Sudoku puzzle to discover the numbers in the three shaded squares. Text **ES SUDOKU** followed by your answer (reading left to right) and name to **85100** e.g. ES SUDOKU 123 John Smith. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge*. One prize of £50 is available each week.

The winner will be chosen from all correct entries received between Monday at 00:01 and Friday at 23:59. Texts after this time will not be entered but you may still be charged. Answers change each day at 23:59. Text helpline 0800 839 174.

TO ENTER: Text **ES MINICODE** followed by your answer to **85100** by 23:59 tonight (eg: ES MINICODE AMSTERDAM). Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge, or call 0901 292 5006. Calls cost £1.02 plus any network extras. Need a little help getting started? Text or call our clue line for up to three extra letters. Text **ES MINICLUE** to **85100**. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Or call 0901 292 5063. Calls cost £1.02 plus any network extras.

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Answers and clues change each day at 23:59. Usual promotion rules apply – see www.standard.co.uk/rules. Phone & Text Services Helpline: 0800 839 174. One prize of a Cocktail Masterclass For Two, 18+ only. Terms & Conditions will be sent with the voucher. One winner will be selected at random from all correct answers received from 2/3/2020 to 6/3/2020.

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

EASY ACROSS

- Fall awkwardly (6)
- Sauntered (8)
- Ceremonial splendour (4)
- Room for manoeuvre (6)
- Water down (6)
- Pistachio, for example (3)
- Alcoholic drink (5)
- Harsh grating noise (4)
- Cold dish (5)
- Iron, for example (5)
- Stinking (5)
- Ready money (4)
- Pompous girl (5)
- Steal from (3)
- Loves deeply (6)
- Commotion (6)
- Leave out (4)
- Burial ground (8)
- Sibling (6)

DOWN

- Cashier (6)
- Explode (4,2)
- Catch sight of (4)
- Of current affairs (7)
- Nimbus, for example (5)
- Loafer (5)
- Writing tools (4)
- Floor covering (3)
- Removable cover (3)
- Rips (5)
- Proportion (5)
- In front (5)
- Harden (3)
- Stripling (3)
- Souvenir (7)
- Distant (3)
- Comedians (6)
- Adjoin (4)
- Boastful talk (3,3)
- Month (5)
- Doctrine (5)
- Strange (3)
- Playthings (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 34

*If you call or text after competition closing date you will not be entered, but you may still be charged. By using our competition text and phone services you are agreeing to receive occasional sms messages from Evening Standard Ltd informing you of promotions and events. You will not be charged for receiving these messages and you may opt out by texting STOP to the originating number at any time.

Lucy Pavia *The Viewer*

Nosy neighbour Dawn French turns public enemy no. 1 in dinky Devon



The Trouble with Maggie Cole

ITV, 9pm

★★★★☆

SURELY the greatest blessing of being a Londoner is never having to deal with a local busybody. The selfish anonymity of living in an eyes-down metropolis means no one knocking on your door to let you know your car tax disc is up for renewal or rope you into a fête tombola.

But I did wonder if having a load of people up in my business would be worth it if I got to wake up every day in the gorgeous Devon setting of Dawn French's new comedy-drama *The Trouble with Maggie Cole*.

The fictional Thurlbury channels the spirit of another old ITV favourite, *Doc Martin*, with its dinky seaside village location — all chocolate-box cottages and a sparkling blue harbour dotted with fishing boats (you'll be googling Devon staycations as you watch) but this time the protagonist is local sticky beak Maggie Cole (Dawn French), a fourth generation village resident with everyone's number.

French has a knack for making even a grating character like Maggie Cole likeable, the sort of woman who pressures her headmaster husband (Mark Heap) into asking their daughter-in-law about reproductive plans over dinner.

As caretaker of the castle ruins (styling herself as a "local historian" when she really runs the gift shop), Maggie is naturally thrilled when county radio show Coastland FM asks her to do a segment on Thurlbury to celebrate its anniversary.

But trouble begins when condescending Jez, the journalist sent out to record the segment ("Have you even been to this place, it's like 2004 or something,"



Echoes of Dibley: Jill Wheadon (Julie Hesmondhalgh) and Maggie Cole (Dawn French) play friends in the ITV comedy-drama

he moans), discovers if he fills Maggie with enough gin she'll provide a sizzle reel of local titlle tattle.

Nuggets include the GP neighbour whose husband is rumoured to be playing away with another man, the "promiscuous" Polish shopkeeper's daughter ("I could count on one hand the number of boys she hasn't been carrying on with") and the pubican with London "gangland" roots.

Oblivious Maggie is so excited for everyone to hear her broadcast that she throws a garden party. Quicker than you

can say jam-on-cream, she goes from harmless local busybody to public enemy number one.

This show does require you to believe an entire community would tune in and listen to the same radio station in real time (surely Spotify has reached the South-West by now?) but with a strong supporting cast of telly favourites (Lee Boardman, Vicky Pepperdine), you can forgive the narrative stretch.

There are also pleasing Vicar of Dibley echoes in the friendship between Maggie and best pal Jill (Julie Hesmond-

halgh) — "not the sharpest tool in the shed" — and the brilliant Pepperdine wrings as much comedy as possible from her every brief appearance as the headmaster's humourless PA with a thinly disguised crush on her boss.

This is a drama with soft edges but one that also dovetails with the more modern theme of public online shaming. "I'm a meme!" Maggie wails as the anger escalates. A dose of local infamy can be lethal — how her neighbours will exact revenge remains to be seen. Perhaps she should relocate to London.

TONIGHT

Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers

BBC Two, 9pm



When former Royal Marine Aldo Kane did his jungle training in the forests of Malaysia, he might reasonably have expected to encounter a wild tiger. Twenty years later fewer than 200 remain in the Taman Negara National Park. Kane now collaborates with conservationists, working to stop the illegal trade in tiger parts, which are traded for their supposed aphrodisiac properties in Vietnam and China.

SERIAL BOX

Love Is Blind

Netflix

Blind Date was not like this. If you haven't already caught up with this amped-up dating show, now is the time. The idea is a bit like a romantic spin on *The Voice* in which contestants attempt to form an intimate bond without visual distractions. The participants are in isolated pods, trying to make a connection. Then, stuff happens.

TONIGHT

Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist

E4, 10pm



In this breezy comedy/drama Jane Levy (right) stars as Zoey Clarke, a Bay Area coder who finds herself trapped inside an MRI machine when an earthquake hits. Suddenly, this unassertive young woman finds herself able to divine how people are feeling. It's an odd superpower, not least because it is expressed via the media of popular song and dance. Yes, life is a mental musical.

LONDON LIVE

London Real: Greg Rutherford, 10pm

London Real, hosted by Brian Rose, introduces you to some of the most fascinating people in the world, offering a fresh, unscripted and unedited look into the lives of real people. From activists to scientists, authors to fighters, politicians to drug smugglers, they present their stories, uncensored and uncut. In this episode, Rose is joined by Olympian Greg Rutherford.

TONIGHT'S TELEVISION

BBC1

- 6.00 BBC News at Six (S,HD); Weather.
- 6.30 BBC London News (S); Weather.
- 6.55 Party Political Broadcast (R,S,HD). By the Labour Party.
- 7.00 The One Show (S,HD). Magazine show, with stories of interest from around the UK, plus celebrity guests in the studio. Alex Jones and Matt Baker present.
- 7.30 Match of the Day Live: the FA Cup (S,HD). Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester City (Kick-off 7.45pm). Gary Lineker presents all the action from the fifth-round tie at Hillsborough.
- 10.00 BBC News at Ten (S,HD).
- 10.25 BBC London News (S); Weather. Followed by National Lottery Update.
- 10.35 Eating with My Ex (S,HD). 7/8. A woman wants to know why her ex left in the middle of the night.
- 11.05 Fight Dirty (S,HD). Two teams of housemates go up against each other to clean each others' homes.
- 11.35 Killing Eve (R,S,HD). 3/8. Villanelle lures Eve to Berlin while on a mission to kill a Chinese army colonel.
- 12.20 Killing Eve (R,S,HD). 1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead (S,HD). 1.10 BBC News (S,HD).

BBC2

- 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (S,HD). 93/100. With former winners Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor.
- 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys (R,S,HD). 8/15. Michael Portillo visits Stranraer and the Mull of Galloway.
- 7.00 The Andrew Neil Show (S,HD). Interviews, discussion and analysis from Westminster.
- 8.00 Saving Lives at Sea (S,HD). 10/10. The team race to rescue two teenagers. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers (S,HD). Aldo Kane reports on the illegal tiger trade in South East Asia.
- 10.00 Live at the Apollo (R,S,HD). 1/7. Sarah Millican hosts, with Tom Allen and Arj Barker.
- 10.30 Newsnight (S,HD). With Emily Maitlis.
- 11.10 Weather (S,HD).
- 11.15 Win the Wilderness: Alaska (R,S,HD). 6/6. The two remaining couples pay a visit to the empty property.
- 12.15 Sign Zone: See Hear (R,S,HD). 12.45 Sign Zone: Universal Credit: Inside the Welfare State (R,S,HD). 1.45 Sign Zone: Hospital (R,S,HD). 2.45 This Is BBC Two (S,HD).

ITV

- 6.00 ITV News London (S,HD); Weather.
- 6.25 Party Political Broadcast (S,HD). By the Labour Party.
- 6.30 ITV Evening News (S,HD); Weather.
- 7.00 Emmerdale (S,HD). Marlon feels betrayed by the Dingles.
- 7.30 Coronation Street (S,HD). Daniel resolves to prove his devotion to Bethany.
- 8.00 Harry Redknapp's Sandbanks Summer (S,HD). 3/4. Harry Redknapp welcomes Nick Knowles and Rita Simons.
- 8.30 Coronation Street (S,HD). Bethany realises she needs to leave.
- 9.00 The Trouble with Maggie Cole (S,HD). 1/6. New series. Drama, starring Dawn French and Julie Hesmondhalgh.
- 10.00 ITV News at Ten (S,HD); Weather.
- 10.30 ITV News London (S,HD); Weather.
- 10.45 Peston (S,HD). Political magazine show presented by Robert Peston.
- 11.40 Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods (R,S,HD). A report from the communities hit by the recent storms.
- 12.30 Ideal World With Mulberry Silk (HD). 3.00 Broadchurch (R,S,HD). 3.50 ITV Nightscreen (HD). 5.05 Judge Rinder (R,S,HD).

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Simpsons (R,S,HD). 22/22. Bart betrays Milhouse during sports day.
- 6.30 Hollyoaks (R,S,HD). Edward prepares a romantic dinner for Tony and Diane.
- 7.00 News (S,HD).
- 8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R,S,HD). 7/10. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer meet Christine Attwood and Tony Congdon in Purley, Croydon, who need help deciding whether they should sell or upgrade their home.
- 9.00 100 Kilo Kids: Obesity SOS (S,HD). Following young patients in Britain's leading childhood obesity clinic.
- 10.00 Home (S,HD). 5/6. Peter tries to hold the family together.
- 10.30 Gogglebox (R,S,HD). Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV.
- 11.35 First Dates (R,S,HD). An actor seeks a leading lady.
- 12.30 The Windors (R,S,HD). 1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R,S). 1.50 My Family and the Galapagos (R,S,HD). 2.45 Come Dine with Me (R,S,HD). 3.40 Grand Designs (R,S,HD). 4.35 Location, Location, Location (R,S,HD). 5.35 Kirstie's Vintage Gems (R,S,HD). 5.50 Countdown (R,S,HD).

LONDON LIVE

- 6.00 London Live News.
- 7.00 Callan. First episode of the spy drama, starring Edward Woodward. Callan is begrudgingly assigned to protect a Nazi war criminal living in hiding.
- 8.00 Henry VIII: the Mind of a Tyrant. David Starkey examines how the Tudor king went from being a handsome young prince whose ascension to the throne in 1509 filled the nation with hope to a ruthless monarch.
- 9.00 Murder Investigation Team. The unit's first case takes them to the familiar streets of Sun Hill, where Sgt Matt Boyden and a teenager have been killed in a drive-by shooting.
- 10.00 London Real: Greg Rutherford. Broadcaster and entrepreneur Brian Rose is in debate with some of the world's most interesting minds. Former British athlete Greg Rutherford, MBE talks about his success secrets.
- 12.20 Film: Ex Dominatrix (2017). Documentary following a dominatrix whose life went in a surprising new direction.
- 2.20 Henry VIII: the Mind of a Tyrant. 3.20 Film: Love Birds. Short documentary about pigeon racing. 3.30 News Rewind. 5.00 Talking Points.

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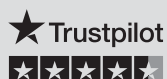
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Pensions rip-off

The battle to claw back a claimed £40bn in mis-selling » **Page 40**

Crisis? What crisis?

Insurance giant insists virus hit will be a blip for the world economy » **Page 41**

City Editor **Jim Armitage**
standard.co.uk/business

Read by more City people than the Financial Times,
Daily Telegraph and The Times combined

Business

Crisis deepens at Intu as £1.5bn cash call is axed

PROPERTY

Joanna Bourke

THE future of shopping centres giant Intu was plunged into doubt today after it failed in its bid to raise an emergency £1.5 billion from investors.

Shares in the cash-strapped Lakeside mall owner, facing a near £4.7 billion debt pile, crashed more than 24% to just 8p following the update.

The fall came as the firm also warned that depending on the performance of the business and further falls in valuations, there is a risk it might breach certain bank covenants when they are next tested in July.

Intu, whose shares are worth just £109 million, had been hoping to raise between £1 and £1.5 billion.

Like rivals, it has suffered from retailers closing shops or demanding rent cuts. Competition from online brands has also hammered the sector, and Intu today said the value of its portfolio plunged 22% to £6.6 billion in 2019.

Intu said: "The board believes the current uncertainty in the equity markets and retail property investment markets precluded a number of potential investors from committing capital into the business."

Up until last month it had been in talks with Hong Kong real estate giant Link about the fund-raiser, as well as property tycoon John Whittaker's Peel Group, which is the firm's largest shareholder with a 27% stake. Peel today said it remains "fully supportive" of Intu.

TOP ASSETS DEVALUED

Mall	2019 value	Fall on 2018
Trafford Centre	£1.7bn	-22%
Lakeside	£1bn	-22%
Metrocentre	£677m	-20%
Merry Hill	£588m	-24%
Watford	£325m	-20%

Intu said it received "several expressions of interest to explore capital structures and asset disposals".

Chief executive Matthew Roberts said: "Some existing shareholders and new investors made alternative proposals, including them making outright purchases of some centres, buying stakes in some, or investing in the PLC."

He added: "We are not embarking on any immediate sales but will look to consider an orderly disposal programme of some assets in whole or in part."

PwC and Rothschild are advising.

Roberts said footfall rose in the first eight weeks of this year. "There is a disconnect between the value of the business and what is happening on the ground, with good new lettings at higher rents and more new openings planned."

Analysts at Peel Hunt said: "Options from here include covenant waivers, debt restructuring and distressed asset sales. A take-private is still possible, but a bidder may be better waiting to strike a deal with creditors."

@es_journe

Watchdog fines drug companies £3m

BRITAIN'S competition watchdog has dished out more than £3 million in fines after four companies flouted the law over the sale of a depression treatment.

The Competition and Markets Authority found King Pharmaceuticals and Auden McKenzie (Pharma Division) colluded to share the supply of norfentanyl to a drug wholesaler and fixed prices and

quantities. The CMA has fined King and Accord-UK — which now owns Auden McKenzie's norfentanyl business — £75,573 and £1,882,238 respectively. The two agreed to pay the NHS £1 million.

It has also fined King, Lexion (UK) and Alissa Healthcare Research £75,573, £174,912 and £1,220,383 respectively for illegally sharing data to boost prices.

IN THE PINK OLYMPIA LANDS REVAMP CASH



Glamorous venue: the Queens' Walk during RuPaul's DragCon UK at Olympia

THE major revamp of Olympia London came a step closer today as its private-equity backers secured an £875 million loan from a fund managed by Goldman Sachs.

The Broad Street Real Estate Credit Partners fund has lent the money to Yoo Capital and Deutsche Finance International who together bought the exhibition centre from Capital &

Counties in 2017. The 134-year-old west London venue will remain open during the revamp, which will see it host two theatres, a cinema, a café, two hotels and several restaurants.

Work is scheduled to begin this month. The £1.3 billion project is now fully funded as it had existing backing from two German investors.

Alex Lawson

Panic over malls giant will only make it worse

Jim Armitage



COMMENT

REMEMBER The Diana Effect? For months after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, every badly run company in the land took the chance mendaciously to blame the tragedy for their woes.

Coronavirus will surely be seized upon by the same duplicitous brand of bosses seeking to use external disaster to excuse their incompetence.

So, fist bumps to Intu for not taking this well-trodden path. The fact is, its efforts to raise £1.5 billion were doomed long before the virus took hold, and it gives the bug nary a mention today.

The fact is, investors were never going to chuck more good money at a bad business like this. Shopping malls have fallen in value by nearly a third since 2017 with no sign of a let-up. The Trafford Centre alone fell the thick end of half a billion quid in the past 12 months.

So, what next for Intu, with £4.7 billion of debt, £109 million of equity and a customer base made up of retailers, that structurally screwed group who can now genuinely put coronavirus on their growing list of sorrows.

Well, shareholders are an irrelevance, so the question is, what will the banks demand? Fire sales? Hopefully not. Prices are falling fast enough without sticking "distressed sale" on the front lawn. Besides, a flood of Intu centres coming up for sale will make the market even worse.

No, this is time for calm. Trade the sites through the virus, perhaps splitting them into a good-mall-bad-mall structure, and break it up gradually.

It will be nerve-wracking for the bankers, but panicking will only make their losses worse.

@ArmitageJim

The battle to fix a '£40bn' pensions rip-off

Jim Armitage



FOCUS

ANDY Willerton is a tough, proud man. That's why it's so shocking to see him weep. For more than 30 years, he's toiled for British Steel in Scunthorpe, part of a team that can hone 300 tonnes of molten metal into finished steel products in 50 minutes flat. The work is hard — scorching in summer, cold in winter.

With failing health at his 53 years of age, you can't blame him for wanting to retire early. But his dreams were dashed in 2016 by financial advisers who told him to pull his money out of British Steel's generous defined pension scheme and into a private one.

Andy now pays almost as much in fees every year for his private pension than he'll be able to withdraw. Worse still, had he stayed in the company scheme for a few months longer, an upwards revaluation by the pension trustees would have nearly doubled his £248,000 transfer pot.

He says: "I thought I was doing the right thing for my wife, my kids, my grandchildren, to make our futures safe. But I let them down. Now I will have to work for another six years, maybe more, but I just can't do it."

Andy is one of around 8000 British Steel workers advised to opt out of the pension when the scheme was closed in 2017. As many as 7500 are now worse off as a result. Within the company scheme, employees were guaranteed an income. Outside, they face big fees and likely exposure to far more risk.

This week, British Steel was taken over by China's Jingye Group, throwing potential redundancy into the mix of their messed-up personal finances.

But while British Steel is the cause célèbre of defined-benefit rip-offs, lawyers say they are only the tip of the iceberg. At a hearing with MPs and regulators in Westminster last week, Philippa Hann, whose law firm Clarke Willmott is representing 450 British



Dreams dashed: British Steel workers were among those advised to switch

Steel workers, estimated people have lost £40 billion from being wrongly transferred by IFAs out of companies' defined-benefit schemes, from Jaguar Land Rover to Ford to Welsh Water.

"Billions have been taken out of some of the most deprived parts of the country," she says. "And when those people begin to run out of money in their seventies and start needing care, what is going to happen to those communities then?" Industrial plants, where large

groups of workers, estimated people have lost £40 billion from being wrongly transferred by IFAs out of companies' defined-benefit schemes, from Jaguar Land Rover to Ford to Welsh Water.

"Unless you're dying," she says, "for the vast majority of people under the age of 50, opting out of a defined-benefit scheme is never the right option."

She says the system is skewed so the advisers get paid more if they get you to opt out than stay put. "The temptation seems to have just been too great."

The Financial Conduct Authority reckons the amount of mis-sold defined-benefit transfers to be more like £20 billion rather than Hann's £40 billion estimate, but even so, putting it right is proving impossible. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme

A ROLLS-ROYCE FOR RETIREMENT

DEFINED-benefit pension schemes are the Rolls-Royce of retirement savings. Companies usually contribute generously every month, alongside the employee, and guarantee an income on retirement based on the salary and length of service. Most have been closed, with employees like British Steel's Andy Willerton (above) offered the chance to transfer out. For the majority of people, it is better to keep the money with the old scheme, but over a three-year period, the FCA found IFAs recommended transfers in 69% of 234,951 cases.



caps compensation at £50,000 or £85,000, barely scratching the surface on many claims. So victims end up suing the companies instead.

But there they run into difficulties, too. First off, they can't claim five years after the mis-sell, and many won't realise they are worst off until it is too late.

Then, they may face another problem. Lawyers are covered by insurance for their past advice. Victims can claim against it for compensation. But, says Hann, IFAs' insurance can exclude previous years' activities. Of the 42 she is pursuing for clients, only one has full professional indemnity cover.

That firm is Quilter, the stock market-quoted company which got entangled in the British Steel mess when it bought IFA group Lighthouse last year.

Lighthouse was invited in to British Steel's Scunthorpe administrative offices by the workers' union, Unite. Its advisers were even given office space in the works' administrative building. There, according to Al Rush, an IFA now advising workers how to get their affairs back in order, "they were just transferred en masse. Eight, nine, 10 people, in and out, one after the other."

As the publicity over Lighthouse's alleged role gathers pace, the British Steel scandal poses a reputational risk for its new owners. About 300 British Steel employees were advised to transfer out by Lighthouse. An employee has been suspended pending investigation.

Quilter said: "We are aware of the concerns surrounding British Steel pension transfer advice, including that provided to these members by Lighthouse prior to its acquisition by Quilter in 2019. We are in the process of reviewing each of these cases."

Those advised through Quilter stand a chance of redress. Others less so. Several companies have merely declared themselves bankrupt, leaving victims hanging.

In Scunthorpe, Andy, his son and his son-in-law all work at the British Steel plant. His son-in-law was laid off on Monday.

The Government wants to "level up" towns like this. It should start with a thorough pensions review to make people financially whole again.

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BLEAKER VIEW HOSTELWORLD IN A PLUNGE AFTER IT FLAGS UP £3.5 MILLION HIT FROM OUTBREAK

HOSTELWORLD today warned coronavirus could hit first-quarter profits by up to £3.5 million as the online booking platform grappled with a drop in demand.

The company said the virus had sparked a fall in bookings and a rise in cancellations, prompting a spurge on advertising to attract customers.

Chief executive Gary Morrison said the forecast was "caveated", adding: "If the coronavirus were to take hold in a brand-new region like the US, then that would affect the guidance we have just given."

Hostelworld's pre-tax profits fell 55% to €3 million (£2.6 million) for the year to December, as bookings dropped 5%. Sales also slipped 2% to €80.7 million for the period.

Morrison said there were signs his strategy to reboot the business was working after sales rose 1% in the final three months of last year.

Hostelworld said it would cut its payout to shareholders to fund a takeover spree, which will push the business towards offering travel experiences as well as hostels.

The shares plunged 11% to 92.9p.

Ben Woods

**WIZZ AIR WARNS OF 10% CUT IN CAPACITY FROM NEXT MONTH**

BUDGET carrier Wizz Air today said it could cut its capacity by 10% from next month after a virus-induced plunge in demand. The airline, which has axed two-thirds of flights to Italy, said it was difficult to predict the impact on its new financial year, which begins next month. Wizz specialises in flights to central and Eastern Europe. It did not say exactly how many flights would be affected, but follows rivals Ryanair and easyJet in cutting back on flights. The shares, down around 20% over two weeks, rose 2% to 346.0p.

Legal & General's boss: There is no virus crisis

Michael Bow

THE boss of one of Europe's largest insurers Legal & General played down the threat of coronavirus today saying the issue was not a full-blown crisis for the economy.

Nigel Wilson, chief executive of the £16 billion FTSE 100 company, suggested markets had overreacted to the global sweep of the virus and compared the panic to similar market blow-ups like the Millennium Bug in 1999 and Brexit in 2016.

He said Chinese manufacturing looked to be coming back onstream after its coronavirus shutdown, which boded well for the future.

"I don't think it's a major risk to the global economy," he said. "The economy moves up and down and markets move up and down. That's going to continue for 30 or 40 years like it has the past 30 or 40 years. Will GDP fall

[because of coronavirus]? Yes. Will it come back in the second half of 2020 or 2021? Yes.

"They cause temporary dips but in the long term there are amazing opportunities in the economy and we have to seize those opportunities."



Will GDP fall [because of coronavirus]? Yes. Will it come back in the second half of 2020 or 2021? Yes.

Legal & General is heavily exposed to death rates because it sells life insurance policy.

Wilson said coronavirus would have "minimal or no impact" as deaths from it were so small. Legal's full-year

operating profit rose 12% to £2.1 billion for the year ending December.

In more corona news:

- The 10-year US Treasury yield, considered the safest asset on earth, slumped below 1% for first time in its 150-year records after the Federal Reserve's emergency rate cut;
- Central banks have pledged to prop up the economy in the face of growing corona fears;
- Markets in Asia and Europe stabilised with US stock markets expected to rise as Joe Biden's surprise comeback on Super Tuesday blunted investors' fears Bernie Sanders may win the Democratic nomination;
- Anglo American's De Beers said diamond sales had dropped due to problems in the Chinese markets, with customers deferring rough diamond shipments until the crisis blows over.

@bymichaelbow

Boris bounce continues but flu fear grips

Simon English

THE economic bounce from the Boris election victory appears to have continued into February, but optimism is being swamped by grim forecasts of the hit from Covid-19.

The UK services sector — two-thirds of the economy — saw an increase in business activity, although new orders and employment rose more slowly than they had in January.

IHS/Markit's CIPS index was 53.2 for February, down from 53.9 the previous month, but comfortably ahead of the 50 mark which indicates no change.

Chris Williamson at IHS Markit said: "The post-election rebound in service sector growth lost some of its bounce in February, in part due to coronavirus-related disruptions to



Rebound: services grow after PM's win

sectors such as travel and tourism, but continued to expand at an encouragingly robust pace."

He added: "Alongside an improve-

ment in manufacturing and a return to growth in the construction sector, the survey data are consistent with quarterly GDP growth of just over 0.2%, up from stagnation in the fourth quarter of last year."

Business sentiment is now at the highest since June 2015. Brexit worries have calmed somewhat but have been replaced by concern about just how serious coronavirus could get.

Some experts are far from sanguine. Oxford Economics says the world economy is facing a sharp downturn in Q1 due to the impact of coronavirus. "A dramatic slowdown in China plus the effects of worsening outbreaks elsewhere suggest world GDP will contract in the quarter. The damage to trade looks set to be especially large."

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2019/20	High	Low	2019/20	High	Low
CONS & BUILD MATERIALS			Homeserve	1235	-8 1352 957%
Bellway	3762	-22 4336 2656	Ricardo	672%	-7% 846 592
CPI	2780	-23 3116 2266	Robert Walters	489	-11 676 428%
Taylor Wimpey	209%	-2 237% 141%	TRANSPORT		
ELECTRONIC & ELEC EQUIP			Go-Ahead Grp	1896	-10 2304 1773
discoverIE Grp	530	-14 606 381	UTILITIES OTHER		
ENGINEERING & MACHINERY			Drax Group	265	-1% 390% 247%
Bocycle	765%	-2 975 638%	AIM		
FOOD PRODUCERS			Appreciate Grp	57	-1% 80 46
Cranwick	3492	-42 3912 2454	Ashstead Group	2370	-38 2797 1744
HEALTHY			Christie Grp	109	-1% 132 84
Admiral Group	190	-2% 225% 130%	Coltort	602	-6 738 354
Beazley	533%	-3% 634 501%	Dart Group	1190	-1 1950 675%
Hiscox	1241	-35 1795 1140	Elecosoft	73%	87% 68%
INSURANCE			MMC Saatchi	76%	-2% 405 69%
Avi Global Trust	711	-4 802 680	Sophom	750	-10 1220 549%
Custodian REIT	111	-% 120% 106	Tristel	462%	-21% 514% 260
UKPR	84	-1% 93 78%	Union Jack Oil	0%	0% 0
LEISURE & HOTELS			United Oil & Gas	2%	-4% 2%
Marston	87%	-% 133% 86	Walker Greenhalgh	65%	-2% 91% 55
MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT			RECENT ISSUES		
Certain Media	38%	-1% 59 30%	Adriatic Metals	69	-% 102% 63
OIL & GAS			Bricability Group	68	-1% 77 61
Cairn Energy	138	-1 216% 133	Calsonic	220	-1 245 214
Hunting	303%	-1% 657 283	EverArc Hldgs	1482%	-195 1490% 761%
Premier Oil	79%	-1 120% 64%	Galliford Try Hldgs	150%	-% 201 103
Pharos Energy	30%	-% 78 29%	Genfields Grp	10%	12 10
PHARMS & BIOTECH			Helios Towers	119	-1 160 111%
Hikma Pharms	1924	-44% 2212 1540	Impreg SpA	19%	199 190
REAL ESTATE			JPMorgan Gbl Core	102%	-% 109 99
Capital & Cities	206	-3 275 181%	Just Eat Takeaway	7050	-40 8330 6480
CLS	257	-5 322% 209	Longboat Energy	86	-2 105% 86
Derwent Land	4148	-24 4362 2858	M&C	202%	-% 225% 190
Grainger	304%	-1 341% 215	MJ Hudson	58%	61% 56
Helical	479%	-4% 540 320	Mustang Energy	11	15% 10
Raven Property	44%	-% 51% 36%	National World	117	11% 10
Raven Prop Pref	127%	143 116%	Octopus Financials	107%	-1 112 100
Savills	1114	-19 1268 809%	Pebble Group	145	-3% 159 118%
U and I Group	170%	-4% 203% 125%	Taseko Mines	32%	50 39%
Urban&City	342	-2 375 260	Vaico Energy	150	
Workspace Grp	1172	-5 1317 797	ZAIM Credit Systems	3%	4 2%
RESTS PUBS & BREWERIES					
Fuller S.A.	880	-38 1250 830			
SPECIALITY & OTHER FIN					
Mattoli Woods	840	-5 965 455			
Paragon	458%	-% 555% 385%			
SUPPORT SERVICES					
Dignity	595	-765 455%			
Experian	2825	-13 2926 1975			
Ferguson	7884	-82 7696 4992			
Hays	134%	-% 186 131%			

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YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC Across: 1, G-r-oat 6, Shift 9, Romance 10, Us-age 11, Realm 12, St-eed 13, Defects 15, Su-M 17, Are-s 18, Scampi 19, Peach 20, Open-er 22, Erne 24, Nod 25, Greater 26, Dud-ES 27, Minus 28, Billy 29, Lebaro-N 30, Chid 31, Agree-6.
Down: 2, Roster 3, Arg-U-es 4, Toe 5, Wants 6, Screech 7, Heed 8, Full up 12, Steer 13, Damon 14, Fe-e-d 15, Smart 16, Mixer 18, Scars 19, Perus-ED 21, Polish 22, Ea-sing 23, Nellie 25, Get a-t 26, Dull 28, Boa.
EASY Across: 1, Hutch 6, At sea 9, Hideous 10, Droop 11, Tails 12, Prior 13, Fatuous 15, Air 17, Alas 18, Assure 19, Sixty 20, Chisel 22, Side 24, Yet 25, Saunter 26, Mules 27, Royal 28, Sprat 29, Tank top 30, Sneer 31, Types.
Down: 2, Unreal 3, Chorus 4, Hip 5, Fears 6, Autopsy 7, Tsar 8, Eclair 12, Pupil 13, Fancy 14, Tact 15, Audit 16, Refer 18, Atlas 19, Secular 21, Heroin 22, Snappy 23, Decade 25, Seeks 26, Mate 28, Sot.
BACK PAGE Across: 1, Duress 5, Pardon 9, Attic 10, Baffle 11, Living 12, Eased 14, Isle 17, Mud 18, Feel 20, Speed 22, Range 23, Ringlet 24, Solid 26, Dated 29, Clue 30, Asp 32, Late 33, Cited 35, Rubber 36, Dangle 37, Debar 38, Danted 39, Legend.
Down: 1, Debris 2, Raffle 3, Sale 4, Steam 5, Piled 6, Acid 7, Driven 8, Niggle 13, Suggest 15, Spool 16, Eerie 18, Fatal 19, Egret 21, Dred 22, Red 24, Scored 25, Lumber 27, Tangle 28, Depend 30, Aired 31, Pedal 33, Cede 34, Dare.

How to make paper gains
when shops are on a rollSimon
English

MARKET ROUND-UP

ABOUT a year ago the chief executive of Morrisons noted that customers had begun stockpiling toilet roll, concerned about a run (sorry) on supplies should Brexit be as bad as the gloomsters predicted.

City traders mostly mocked this unnecessary little-Englander panic. Newspaper publishers hoped an actual shortage could be a boost to sales. Piers Morgan columns might have some use after all.

This jocularity has been replaced by genuine queasiness. Brexit might be shrugged off. But a national shortage of loo roll is no laughing matter – time to buy Andrex and shares in the US giant Kimberly-Clark that makes it.

Closer to home, most toilet paper, and other siege essentials such as painkillers and tinned meat, is sold through supermarkets. Which might explain a 4p jump in Tesco to 239p and a 3p bump in Sainsbury's to 210p. Morrisons added nearly 3% to 182p.

Germany's Wepa is the biggest supplier of toilet and kitchen roll to UK supermarkets, £1 billion worth a year. It is not clear if shareholders get a discount on the products.

Back in 2016, and to predictable Viz comic-style gags, Accrol Group Holdings joined AIM with a stock-market



Empty shelves: taking precautions but there were slim pickings in a Paris supermarket

value of £93 million. Accrol imports paper from around the world and converts it into material even post-lunch City traders find of comfort.

The stock didn't live up to its initial promise but has had a fine run (sorry) lately, up another 2% today to 39p.

The wider market was jittery. Maiké Currie, investment director at Fidelity, predicted a "market correction is imminent", which didn't help the mood of those who thought we'd already had one.

Of particular concern is how little effect last night's cut in interest rates by the Fed seemed to have. The FTSE

100 added 94.93 points to 6813.13, but the Bank of England and others pondering when to unleash what little firepower they have left might have hoped for a more sterling reaction.

Investors who bought into Rentokil a year ago, perhaps suspecting a plague of rats, have reason to be pleased. It is one of the stellar performers, up another 3% at 35p.

Reckitt Benckiser also rallied, up 2.7% to 5940p, presumably on the basis that if we do run out of toilet paper, Dettol might come in handy.

@SimonEngStand

City Spy



@City_Spy

Smith finds
paradise is no
escape from
disease dives

FUND guru Terry Smith's knack for stock-picking has helped make his Fundsmith an £18 billion giant but even Smith's Midas touch cannot escape the coronavirus-induced plunge in markets.

Fundsmith, the flagship fund which last year made investors a staggering 26% return, had its joint worst month on record during February, with the fund tumbling 6.9%, according to the latest monthly update. That leaves the giant fund down 4.4% for 2020, meaning Smith has some work to do to keep his unbroken record of never losing money since the fund launched. Big share price falls in US stocks like Visa and Microsoft were to blame for the poor performance. Smith resides in the beautiful paradise of Mauritius (current coronavirus cases: 0) but even going off-grid doesn't put you out of the way of the dreaded bug.



POWER giant Aggreko struck a bullish note on its £195 million Tokyo 2020 contract yesterday, despite reports the Olympics may be delayed. Another of its marquee deals is for Glastonbury festival: will boss Chris Weston be in attendance to watch headliner Sir Paul McCartney karaokeing Hey Jude to a field of thousands? "We do get some tickets and some find their way into the employee base but I won't be attending personally." No daytripping then Chris.

A ROW between private-equity firm Pollen Street and one of its former investment trusts, Pollen Street Secured Lending, has roped in a staggering four PR firms. Pollen Street was last month sacked as manager of the PSSSL after the board decided to sell the company to US fund manager Waterfall. The complex situation has lured the services of Brunswick, which is advising the board of PSSSL, and Garfield Advisory, which looks after Waterfall. Pollen Street has not one but two PR firms in its corner, Camarco and Greenbrook. Nothing like a dust-up to boost those fees.

AS IF stock-pickers haven't got enough on their plate now, sell-side City analysts are asking them to vote in the annual Institutional Investor Exel survey. The poll, considered by some to be the Oscars of the City, has categories ranging from best overall broker, best equity sales and best equity analyst and garners around 15,000 votes from City folk per year. Voting opened yesterday with the survey running until the start of April. Good luck all.

Email us at:
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England looking quids in after Manu rejected Racing's millions

Centre's decision to stay in this country is paying off, with the power-packed player starring in the Six Nations

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A YEAR ago, Manu Tuilagi was weighing up whether to end his England career to move to Racing 92, who were offering him £2.5million across three years.

Tuilagi visited their lavish Parisian training base and Eddie Jones claimed he had been given some gentle ribbing in England camp. "We just have fun about it," said Jones. "Give him baguettes, croissants, wear berets."

Tuilagi's injury record was horrendous and, at 27, a big-money move abroad after the World Cup would have been perfectly understandable. But he chose to stay with Leicester and England, and — staying fit and playing some of the best rugby of his career — all three parties are reaping the rewards now.

Since returning to the England side last February in Dublin, there have been some memorable days for the national team and Tuilagi has been at the heart of every single one.

In 13 months, Tuilagi has played 15 Tests. His previous 15 Tests had taken him six years to accrue as the injuries added up. England could not replace a presence like him; Ben Te'o had stepped in occasionally, but was a pale imitation of Tuilagi. Matt Proudfoot, England's new forwards coach, put it yesterday: "My family came to watch the Ireland game and I said, 'Who is your favourite player?' They all said No13. I said, 'Yup, he's that type of player.'"

England are at their best when their big ball carriers — and Tuilagi is among the biggest — get into the game early. They need the same to be true against Wales at Twickenham on Saturday. Henry Slade, with whom he has struck



No holding back: Manu Tuilagi goes on the attack against Ireland at Twickenham last month

up a fine partnership in the centre, describes the "massive lift" that brings.

"He is an incredible carrier which is something we look for a lot," he said. "When Manu gets us over the gainline, it's great to see. He is always getting up from the breakdown with a smile on his face. It is nice to be with him when he is doing that."

Not only is Tuilagi a key player for England but, as a mellowing senior statesman, he is a key figure in camp, too. A mentor to younger players, but also a coffee aficionado (like Elliot Daly,

he brings his industrial Espresso machine into camp) and games obsessive. First, he was thrashing his teammates at pool. Now, it is chess, which he took up during the World Cup and is now "obsessed with".

Slade says Tuilagi gave him a "rude awakening" on the couple of occasions he has played, each of which lasted "about 30 seconds".

Slade puts his finger on Tuilagi's addictive personality: "Once he starts something he wants to be really good at it and he has put a lot of hours into it". The man

himself is delighted with the call he made 12 months ago. "I definitely made the right decision," he says. "I have loved it. I still love playing for my club even though we are not in a good position at the moment it will come."

England, no doubt, are even happier with that decision, as there is no one quite like Manu.

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Mo tipped for glory

ATHLETICS

Matt Majendie

MO FARAH has been backed to win a fifth Olympic gold having switched back from the road to the track.

Farah pulled out of his first planned race of 2020 — Sunday's Big Half in London — because of injury but race winner Kenenisa Bekele tipped his former track and road rival to be victorious in Tokyo.

"It's really difficult to

judge right now what will happen in Tokyo in a strong field," said Bekele of Farah's bid for a hat-trick of 10,000metre titles.

"He has a very big chance to win, he's strong enough to win and, unlike most people, he knows how to do it. If he works hard, I think he will be on top for sure."

Ethiopian Bekele also tipped Farah to shine if he returns to marathon races after the Games. "For sure he can be a success again at marathon," he added.



TENNIS

JOHANNA KONTA picked up her first victory of the year by defeating Kim Clijsters at the Monterrey Open.

British No1 Konta (above) beat the Belgian 6-3, 7-5 but hopes of a second-round clash with Heather Watson were denied when last week's Mexican Open winner lost to Tatjana Maria 7-6, 3-6, 7-5.

Fifty-fifty Hundred

CRICKET

Will Macpherson

The ECB have announced that there will be equal prize money for the men's and women's competitions in the Hundred.

There is a £600,000 prize pot for the two eight-team competitions, which start in July, with the money split equally between the men's and women's competition.

The base salaries of the men's tournament (where the player draft had a top

bracket of £120,000) dwarf the women's, but the ECB called this move "a step towards the long-term commitment to making cricket a gender-balanced sport".

Of the £600,000 prize pot: winning teams will get £150,000, runners up will pocket £75,000 and third will receive £50,000. There will also be four individual prizes (Most Valuable Player will get £10,000 and £5,000 will go to the best batter, bowler and fielder).

If it comes down to a rain dance, then I'm happy to volunteer!

Nat Sciver



TOMORROW is T20 World Cup semi-finals day here in Sydney and there is real anticipation and excitement in our group about our game against India.

I have played in a few games like this before and this one does feel a bit different as people are concerned about the weather.

We cannot worry about things we cannot control, like rain, but obviously we have spoken about it.

We are avoiding rain dances and fully expecting to play. And if it does come down to a dance-off, I will have to volunteer!

After qualifying we had a day off. Some did 'touristy' things like visiting the Sydney Opera House, others went to the beach. I chose to spend a lot of the day lying down — six weeks into tour you can feel a bit tired and jaded.

We lost our opening game to South Africa, which meant that we have effectively had three knockout games already to get out of the group. We put in three strong performances, with the bowling group keeping things



If we can get a few wickets up top and put pressure on the middle order, life will be tricky for India

tight and even the batters who haven't scored that many runs feel in good form. We feel very well prepared and know it is about which team stands up on the day.

I was really pleased to score my third fifty of the tournament against the Windies. I don't think I've ever had a run of form like this in T20 cricket, but I know I need to make it count now. These are the games, semis and finals of global events, that you want to make a big impact.

India will be a tough proposition tomorrow. At this stage of a tournament there aren't too many secrets. We played them in the tri-series before this event and so know quite a lot about them.

We know that if we can get a few wickets up top and put that pressure on the middle order coming in earlier, then life will be tricky for them.

We trained at the SCG today, but the rain meant some of the session was indoors. We are in the away dressing room and looking at the Honour's Board is cool.

Sunday's final is at the MCG, another amazing stadium with great history. We haven't played at these places often, especially with a big crowd in, so these are very special times.

Welcome boost for Lampard as Billy the kid seizes his chance

Chelsea manager makes all the right calls... including bringing in teen star, writes **James Olley**

Chelsea Willian 13, Barkley 64	2
Liverpool	0



21

victories from 47 matches for Frank Lampard as a player against Liverpool.

7

wins for Chelsea in 11 FA Cup clashes against the Reds, while they have reached the quarter-finals in four of the past five seasons.

6

competitions played by Billy Gilmour this season — Premier League, FA Cup, EFL Cup, EFL Trophy, Premier League II and UEFA Youth League.

11

goals and five assists for Willian in the FA Cup since 2014, more than any other Chelsea player.

THIS was a victory for Frank Lampard as much as Chelsea. The 41-year-old's legendary status will buy him more time than most Blues managers but questions were still starting to surface as to how much he could address his team's problems and not just correctly identify them.

Lampard has described himself as a "broken record" in lamenting errors at both ends of the pitch, particularly at home where they have already lost eight times across all competitions.

It has been possible to make a case for Chelsea's head coach contributing to those shortcomings at times — perhaps in his underuse of Olivier Giroud or in his choice of formation — but here he got everything right on a hugely satisfying evening which should engender fresh confidence for the challenges ahead.

Liverpool were not at full strength or, seemingly, fully engaged for the challenge. Jurgen Klopp named a stronger line-up than many anticipated, however, and there will still enough threatening moments to make this a credible test of Lampard and his players.

Kepa Arrizabalaga's recall was a triumph, his triple save from Sadio Mane, Divock Origi and then Neco Williams bristling with the character lacking prior to his six-game omission.

The return to a back four helped limit the space Liverpool's full-backs could operate in while keeping Willian and Pedro in areas they could hurt the opposition.

Willian's 13th-minute strike owed plenty to sloppiness from Liverpool, first in conceding possession cheaply before Adrian fumbled the Brazilian's shot. But Willian had moments earlier found himself in space to fire a fierce effort, symptomatic of Chelsea preparing to go toe-to-toe in a manner similar to their two previous meetings.

Giroud helped link the play better than Michy Batshuayi would surely

have done — another judgment call paying off — but the biggest success of the night was Billy Gilmour.

Just when it seemed Lampard had run out of youngsters to re-energise Chelsea, along comes an 18-year-old able to withstand the Liverpool press and use the ball with intelligence far beyond his years.

It was a particularly surprising call, given Jorginho was left on the bench as a result. The Italian will be suspended for Chelsea's next three games after picking up a two-match domestic ban which will precede his European punishment in the return leg against Bayern Munich — and so surely he would start here with an enforced 10-day absence imminent.

But operating in Jorginho's position, Gilmour was a 90-minute revelation, joining the list of youthful talent to help inject fresh impetus into the Blues after Tammy Abraham, Fikayo Tomori, Mason Mount and Reece James.

Abraham's recent injury problems combined with Tomori's struggles to make the starting line-up of late had threatened to suggest the boost from youth was fizzling out. Mount is now rediscovering more of his early-season

QUARTER FINAL DRAW



THE draw takes place tonight at Hillsborough following the conclusion of Sheffield Wednesday vs Manchester City on BBC One. Follow it live: standard.co.uk/thecup

BALL NUMBERS

- 1 Sheff Wed or Man City
- 2 Sheffield Utd
- 3 Chelsea
- 4 Newcastle
- 5 Leicester or Birmingham
- 6 Derby or Manchester Utd
- 7 Tottenham or Norwich
- 8 Arsenal

form, James is a reliable presence and if Gilmour can reproduce this more often, Chelsea's midfield options do not look as depleted as first thought.

Injuries are mounting, however. Mateo Kovacic and Willian were forced

off with Achilles' problems. Lampard expressed particular concerns over Kovacic and so with N'Golo Kante sidelined by an adductor issue alongside Jorginho, Gilmour could easily get another chance very soon to prove last night was no one-off.

That is also Chelsea's challenge as a whole. Chelsea produced a performance of similar conviction against Tottenham only to fall short of that level against an admittedly strong Bayern team but also at Bournemouth.

Consistency will come with further work and a summer overhaul of the squad but Lampard believes a discussion held with his players two weeks ago helped to define the task at hand.

"I felt we needed a general meeting on where we want to get to and the realisation of the work it will take to get us there. We're not Chelsea of different eras gone. We're in a different place.

"We've got younger players and some older players. We're trying to bridge a gap upwards. It's important to know that unless we work hard every day in training, unless we behave well and go home thinking how we can be better as a group, we can't make that jump up.

"Our issue has been in both boxes and sometimes there is a mental side to that. So, it was trying to take that on, the mental issue.

"All the players agreed, we all said the same and that's a good start. But beating Liverpool is not the end, we have to replicate it again and again."

This was a positive step towards Lampard getting into stride, too.

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Kane on track to make Euros, says Southgate

Continued from Back Page

that news and of course it is good to hear."

Southgate is also sweating on the fitness of Manchester United's Marcus Rashford, who has a back problem, but he added: "We've had really good updates right the way through and Harry and Marcus are exactly where we were expecting them to be.

"Both players will give themselves the best possible chance of being available, that's their mentality.

"That's the only bit we can guarantee, what we can't guarantee is how that rehab will develop. But they are both on track from the information we were given."

Kane's loss was compounded for Spurs when Heung-min Son suffered a fractured arm against Aston Villa last month, with the South Korean also expected to be sidelined until next month.

Mourinho is likely to use Dele Alli as a false No 9 again in tonight's FA Cup clash against Norwich and he has said Lucas Moura and Troy Parrott are his other options up front for his side.

The Portuguese was initially downbeat about the loss of his only two senior strikers but he struck a more positive note last week, saying before the defeat by Wolves: "There's a good possibility that before the end of the season that we have Harry and Sonny playing together."



Partnership: Campbell and Kane

Gilmour takes his chance to impress

Continued from Back Page

step by step. The first half I could get on the ball and the second half was more about doing the dogged work. Most folk would say because I am small I wouldn't do that, but I love a good tackle."

Gilmour has made the odd senior appearance this season, mainly in the Carabao Cup, but Lampard has now made him a permanent part of the first-team squad after he began the campaign in the Under-23 side.

"It is a true come true. To be out there training with the players - [Mateo] Kovacic, Jorginho — I am learning from the very best," added Gilmour, who was born three days before Lampard signed for Chelsea from West Ham United, on June 14, 2001.

"It is something that I will get better from."



Star wars: Billy Gilmour clashes with Curtis Jones during an impressive display

Jose faces up to truth as he says Dele is his best option for false No9 role

TOTTENHAM v NORWICH

(Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, 7.45pm, BBC Red Button)

Dan Kilpatrick

TOTTENHAM manager Jose Mourinho says Dele Alli is the closest thing he has to a striker without Harry Kane and Heung-min Son and insists the England international is in a positive frame of mind, despite his FA charge.

Alli is expected to continue as a false No9 in tonight's FA Cup fifth-round tie after bagging both assists in Spurs' 3-2 defeat by Wolves.

The 23-year-old has until tomorrow to respond to an FA charge of discrimination for a social media video mocking the coronavirus outbreak.

"Dele, from all the squad, is the one that has more the profile of a No9," Mourinho said. "He is probably the closest one to it. So sometimes it'll be

Dele, sometimes Lucas Moura and a bit of Troy Parrott, step-by-step, too.

"Dele's fine. You don't play lively and committed like he did [against Wolves] if you're not in the right frame of mind. Is he the happiest guy in this moment? [No], I'm not either. If you're happy when you don't win matches, there's something wrong with you.

"So he's not jumping with happiness but he's not depressed. And I'm not. He's looking forward, he plays tonight again.

"It's the second match of a cycle of four that ends in Leipzig. We're not going to arrive [in Leipzig] as a fresh team but we have to make sure we arrive as a team that goes there to fight for qualification."

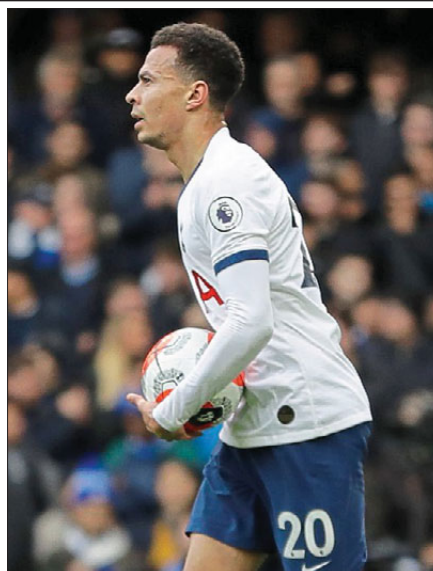
Erik Lamela could make his first start since late January after Mourinho said he had trained with the squad on consecutive days for the first time since

the manager's appointment in late November. Lamela has lately been troubled by a thigh complaint and Mourinho said: "He is that kind of player who can have a muscular problem.

"He needs his confidence levels very high to feel ready. He is a very explosive player who feels, in order to perform, he needs to be without any problem."

With Ryan Sessegnon also available again, Mourinho's attacking options look healthier ahead of tonight's clash and 18-year-old Parrott is expected to be on the bench again after scoring for the Under-23s in a 45-minute run-out on Monday.

"I told Troy, 'Every time you play with kids of your age, you have to show your colleagues why you are training in the first team,'" Mourinho said. "It was something he was not doing. When he was playing with the kids, he had the mentality of, 'I should not be here.'"



Up for the cup: Dele Alli is 'feeling positive' despite FA charge

SPURS MISFIT WANYAMA OFF TO MONTREAL

TOTTENHAM last night allowed Victor Wanyama to join Montreal Impact on a free transfer, having wanted £9million for him in January.

Wanyama, who played just 12 minutes under Jose Mourinho, joins the MLS club on a three-year deal after failing to secure a move away from Spurs during the European transfer windows.

The 28-year-old, whose Spurs deal was set to expire in 2021, impressed initially after joining from Southampton in June 2016 but was never the same after a knee injury.

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Hammers and Palace to face Fowler's Roar in pre-season

Jack Rosser

WEST Ham and Crystal Palace will both travel to Australia as part of their pre-season preparations this summer.

They will take part in the inaugural EVA Air Queensland Champions Cup, also featuring A-League side Brisbane Roar, managed by former Liverpool and England striker Robbie Fowler.

Palace and West Ham will face each other at the Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane on Saturday July 18.

Hammers boss David Moyes said: "It's not only a great opportunity for West Ham to play two exciting games in front of our fans down under, it's also a great opportunity to visit a beautiful country which loves their sport and is extremely knowledgeable about football.

"I've had the pleasure of going to Brisbane before and it was a fantastic place with warm and friendly people. I'm very much looking forward to going back

with West Ham United for what will be an important part of our preparations for the 2020/21 season."

Palace chairman Steve Parish said: "We are absolutely delighted to be visiting Australia for the first time in the club's history.

"It will be fantastic to witness Crystal Palace play against two excellent teams in these wonderful stadiums in front of our Australian fans.

"We also look forward to spending time exploring stunning Queensland and meeting as many people as we can."

Palace will play Fowler's side in Townsville on July 11 with the Hammers facing Brisbane on July 15.

West Ham have not visited Australia since 1995 when, off the back of their visit, manager Harry Redknapp signed winger Stan Lazaridis for £300,000 with the Australian international going on to make more than 70 appearances for the club.

SOUTHGATE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HUGE TEST AGAINST WORLD'S BEST

ENGLAND boss Gareth Southgate is relishing the prospect of playing world No 1 team

Belgium in next season's Nations League.

England have been drawn in League A alongside Belgium, with Denmark and Iceland completing the group.

"The best way to improve is to play the best teams," said Southgate (above).

THE KEY DATES...
September 5 v Iceland (A)
September 8 v Denmark (A)

October 9 v Belgium (H)
October 12 v Denmark (H)

November 12 v Belgium (A)
November 15 v Iceland (H)



Arsenal to offer supporters subsidised travel to Etihad

Simon Collings

ARSENAL will subsidise coach travel for fans after their Premier League match at Manchester City was swiftly rearranged for this time next week.

The fixture was due to be played last Sunday but was postponed due to City's involvement in the Carabao Cup final against Aston Villa – which they won for a third successive season.

It was confirmed late last night that it will now be played next Wednesday and Arsenal have agreed to subsidise supporters able to travel to and from the Etihad on the day of the game for £15.

City's congested fixture schedule until the end of the season meant that there were few midweek slots left for the match against the Gunners.

Pep Guardiola's side are 2-1 up from the first-leg of their Champions League last 16 tie with Real Madrid and progression in that competition hinders

their midweek availability. The club also need to rearrange their game with Chelsea, which was meant to be on March 21, but it now cannot be played then because the Blues will be competing in the FA Cup quarter-finals that weekend.

City may also have an FA Cup quarter-final then, if they win at Sheffield Wednesday tonight in the fifth round.

Arsenal play West Ham this Saturday before travelling to the Etihad on Wednesday, but City now have to cope with playing rivals Manchester United on Sunday first.

There had also been fears UEFA may block the game being rearranged for Wednesday as it would clash with the broadcasting of Champions League matches, but European soccer's governing body have given the green light.

Meanwhile, Arsenal are still waiting to discover the extent of the ankle injury Lucas Torreira suffered at Portsmouth.



ALLI MY ONLY REAL OPTION LEFT TO FILL STRIKER ROLE, SAYS JOSE
TOTTENHAM v NORWICH PREVIEW
Page 45

KANE: I WILL DEFINITELY BE AT THE EUROS

» STAR HANDS SOUTHGATE MAJOR BOOST AS HE TARGETS SPURS RETURN NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING INJURY LAY-OFF

EXCLUSIVE

Dan Kilpatrick

ENGLAND captain Harry Kane says only "something drastic" would prevent him from being fit for Euro 2020, as he targets a return for Tottenham early next month.

Kane has been sidelined since New Year's Day with a torn hamstring tendon, which required surgery in mid-January.

The Spurs striker began outdoor training ahead of schedule last week, prompting his manager Jose Mourinho to speculate that he could be fit for the final "three, four or five" matches of the season, having suggested he could miss the remainder of the campaign and the Euros.

Kane refused to predict exactly when he would be fit but says he is definitely preparing for this summer's Euros and hopes to return to action in around a month.

"In my head, I am definitely at the Euros," Kane said in an interview with Alastair Campbell coming soon in ES Magazine.

"Unless something pretty drastic



Optimistic: Southgate is waiting on Kane

happens between now and then, I'll be there. I'm still not back training with the first team, but I'm working hard in the gym, I'm getting stronger all the time.

"We're talking a few more weeks, and I'll be playing again. I don't want to make a prediction for which game I might be back, but I am hoping somewhere between the start and the middle of April."

Spurs would play a two-legged Champions League quarter-final on

April 7-8 and 14-15 if they overturn a 1-0 deficit at RB Leipzig in the last-16 second leg next week, while they can set up an FA Cup semi-final on the weekend of April 18-19 by beating Norwich at home tonight and winning a subsequent quarter-final.

Kane will surely have his sights set firmly on the first derby against Arsenal at Spurs' new stadium, scheduled for April 26, while Mourinho's side also potentially face Sheffield United, Everton and Bournemouth in April.

The 26-year-old will definitely miss the international friendlies at home against Italy and Denmark this month but England boss Gareth Southgate is also optimistic that Kane will be fit for the Euros, which England begin against Croatia at Wembley on June 14.

"As far as I am concerned he's on schedule, with all the information that we've had we know he is progressing well," Southgate said at last night's UEFA Nations League draw in Amsterdam.

"He'll give himself the best chance of being fit by following everything to the absolute letter. I am not surprised by

Continued on Page 44



Leach: My sepsis horror

Will Macpherson

JACK LEACH has revealed he feared for his life after being struck down by sepsis on England's winter tour of New Zealand.

The spinner, who has played ten Tests, did not feature in the series victory in South Africa after failing to recover fully from sepsis which he picked up in November.

"I didn't know too much about it at the time, how serious it could be, but I remember feeling very, very ill," said Leach (above).

"I remember thinking, 'Don't fall



asleep because you might not wake up'. It was that serious in terms of how I was feeling. I was out of it, really. My blood pressure was dropping quickly, my heart-rate was 190 and my temperature was 40 degrees.

"That's when they called an ambulance and got me to hospital. Once I got there, got the antibiotics in my arm and on to a drip. I started to feel better quite quickly but it still took a couple of nights in hospital and I was probably still recovering when I flew back from New Zealand. It took longer to get over than I thought."

Brawn warns: No F1 if teams barred

FORMULA 1 bosses are adamant no world championship grand prix will go ahead if one or more teams are denied entry to a country in response to the coronavirus.

There has been conjecture that members of the Ferrari and AlphaTauri teams travelling from Italy, which has become a European hotbed for the virus, could be barred.

But F1 managing director of motorsport Ross Brawn told Reuters: "If a team is prevented from entering a country, we can't have a race. Not a world championship race, anyway, because that would be unfair."

Gilmour ready to star again

Jack Rosser at Stamford Bridge

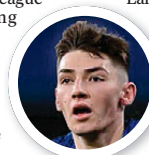
CHELSEA teenager Billy Gilmour wants to play a role in the club's push for FA Cup glory and Champions League qualification after starring against Liverpool last night.

The Scottish midfielder, who does not turn 19 until June, was named man of the match as Chelsea won 2-0 at Stamford Bridge to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals.

Gilmour (right) bossed the Premier League champions-elect and hopes to have forced his way into Frank Lampard's immediate plans.

Mateo Kovacic suffered an Achilles injury last night, Jorginho is suspended for Chelsea's next three games and N'Golo Kante is also sidelined, leaving Lampard short on experience.

When asked if he is ready to play a role in the final months of the season, Gilmour said: "Hopefully. That is the gaffer's decision, but tonight I came in here and I tried to play my best to show that I can be picked. We will just have to wait until the weekend. It was a really good game, a good win. I take it



Continued on Page 44



IF IT COMES DOWN TO A RAIN DANCE, THEN I'M HAPPY TO VOLUNTEER!

NAT SCIVER'S WORLD T20 SEMI-FINAL FEARS
Page 43



SPORT ONLINE
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FA CUP QUARTER-FINAL DRAW**
standard.co.uk/thecup



Joy and agony: Harry Kane on England duty (left) and with Dele Alli after injuring his hamstring on New Year's Day

HARRY'S GAMES

If Harry Kane returns at the beginning of April, which is his best-case scenario, then, with his club still in three competitions, he could play 14 games for Spurs and two for England before he skips his country in their Euros opener against Croatia on June 14 at Wembley.

SPURS GAMES

Apr 4	Sheff United	A
Apr 7/8	Ch League QF, 1st leg	H/A
Apr 11	Everton	H
Apr 14/15	Ch League QF, 2nd leg	H/A
Apr 18/19	FA Cup semi-final	N
Apr 18	Bournemouth	A
Apr 26	Arsenal	H
Apr 28/29	Ch League SF, 1st leg	H/A
May 2	Newcastle	A
May 5/6	Ch League SF, 2nd leg	H/A
May 9	Leicester	H
May 17	Crystal Palace	A
May 23	FA Cup Final	N
May 30	Ch League Final	N

ENGLAND GAMES

Jun 2	Austria	A
Jun 7	Romania	H

Confusion reigns as Mako cleared to play for Saracens after England stand him down

Will Macpherson
Rugby Correspondent

SARACENS have declared Mako Vuniola "available for selection" against Leicester on Saturday despite the prop being stood down by England as a coronavirus precaution.

Confusion reigned yesterday as it was revealed that Vuniola had never come into camp, even though on Monday he had been named in England's squad to face Wales this weekend.

The player missed the last game against Ireland to attend a family issue in Tonga with his injured brother, Billy.

The pair had flown back via Hong Kong and England's medical staff decided that as a precaution he should not return to the team's Bagshot base.

Vuniola has shown no symptoms and is not ill, but the RFU medical team's decision erred on the cautious side, given the players and staff all stay in camp together at Pennyhill Park.

Forwards coach Matt Proudfoot had initially confused matters by saying only that it was "a medical issue" — which provided little clarity when there is widespread concern about the impact of coronavirus, both on the Six Nations and wider society with the number of cases in the UK rising to 53 this morning.

That only enforced the view that the RFU had been slightly caught on the hop over the issue, which might have been predicted before the player returned from Tonga.

Vuniola's club Saracens — where players do not live on site and spend less time together — took an altogether different view. Despite not being welcome with England, he trained in St Albans with his club team-mates yesterday and is expected to train again tomorrow (today is a day off) and face Leicester this weekend as they follow official guidelines.

"Billy Vuniola and Mako Vuniola returned to Saracens after visiting family in Tonga, which included a



Arms race: Mako Vuniola holds off Francois Louw while in action for Saracens

Ashton signs for Harlequins

HARLEQUINS today announced the signing of England wing Chris Ashton, writes *Simon Collings*.

The club have acted fast after the 32-year-old reached an agreement with Sale on Monday to terminate his contract early.

Ashton, the third-highest try scorer in the Premiership with 86, said: "I know that I have still got a lot to give. I am confident that being at Quins will help me with my aspirations of reaching 100 Premiership tries."

short stop at Hong Kong Airport," read a club statement this morning.

"Travellers returning from Hong Kong are not currently subject to mandatory quarantine or self-isolation unless they become symptomatic.

"Neither Billy or Mako have displayed symptoms of the coronavirus (Covid-19) and on their return to London were assessed by the club's medical staff. The duo have been around

the Saracens environment for the past couple of days, with the latter available for selection this weekend.

"Saracens will continue to follow the Public Health England and World Health Organisation regulations surrounding coronavirus and the medical staff will be closely monitoring Billy and Mako on a regular basis."

Coronavirus has already had a major impact on the Six Nations, with Ireland's meeting against Italy on Saturday postponed and fears over whether other matches will go ahead.

England's trip to Rome on the final weekend — for which Vuniola was also expected to be unavailable for — is one of the most at risk, with Italy among the worst affected areas.

Fortunately for England, Vuniola's position at loosehead prop is one of great strength, with Joe Marler and Ellis Genge both performing well so far in the Championship.

Marler is expected to be starting when head coach Eddie Jones names his team tomorrow.

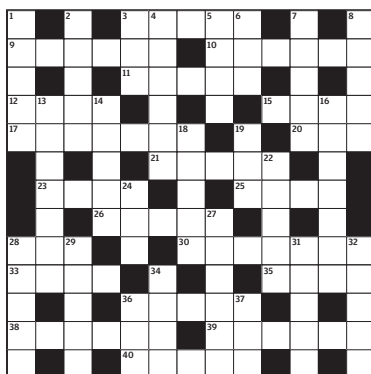
Anthony Watson and Mark Wilson are available for the first time since the World Cup, while George Furbank is in a 27-man squad, too.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 3 Squander (5)
 - 9 Rotated (6)
 - 10 Concern (6)
 - 11 Order (5)
 - 12 Essence (4)
 - 15 Broad (4)
 - 17 Penetrated (7)
 - 20 Guided (3)
 - 21 Cubed (5)
 - 23 Trick (4)
 - 25 Game (4)
 - 26 Senior (5)
 - 28 Poem (3)
 - 30 Strolled (7)
 - 33 Departed (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Platform (5)
 - 2 Believe (5)
 - 3 Tiny (3)
 - 4 Confused (6)
 - 5 Diplomacy (4)
 - 6 Newt (3)
 - 7 Carp (5)
 - 8 Avarice (5)
 - 13 Break in (7)
 - 14 Taut (5)
 - 16 Fan (7)
 - 18 Frogman (5)
 - 19 Vitality (3)
 - 22 Suspect (5)
 - 24 Moose (3)
 - 27 Sooner (6)
 - 28 Due (5)
 - 29 Follow (5)
 - 31 Restrict (5)
 - 32 Parched (5)
 - 34 Maiden (4)
 - 36 Limb (3)
 - 37 Attempt (3)

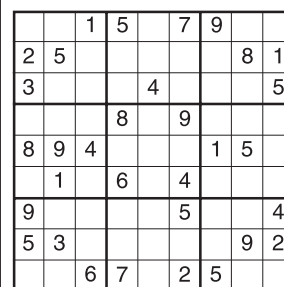
DOUBLE CROSSWORD - PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN AN AFTERNOON TEA FOR TWO WITH CODEWORD: PAGE 34
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS: PAGE 42

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Official WLTP fuel consumption figures for the Audi A1 & Q5 in mpg (l/100km) from: Combined 30.7 (9.2) – 117.7 (2.4). NEDC equivalent CO₂ emissions: 177 – 49g/km. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO₂ figures (known as WLTP). The CO₂ figures shown however, are based on a calculation designed to be equivalent to the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. For more information, please see audi.co.uk/wltp or consult your Audi Centre. Data correct at 14/02/2020. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please consult your Audi Centre for further information. Image for illustrative purposes only.

*UK residents 18+. Subject to status. T&Cs and exclusions apply. Offer available to retail customers who purchase a new Audi (excluding RS models) in cash or with retail finance from participating Centres only. Vehicle must be ordered and registered between 21 February – 31 March 2020. Saving of £250, £750, £1000, £1500, £2250 or £3000 depending on the selected model. Maximum £3000 saving applies to A8, Q7, Q8 and R8. Saving inc VAT will be applied to the retail invoice. Subject to availability. Offer may be combined with all current offers. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Ask your Centre for further details or visit audi.co.uk