

Evening Standard

THIRD TIME LUCKY AGAINST LIVERPOOL?

FRANK LAMPARD READY TO LAND KNOCKOUT BLOW IN FA CUP TIE » SPORT PAGES 44 & 45



THE EURO STARS OF PARIS FASHION

YOUR 12-STEP GUIDE TO THE CATWALK TRENDS » LIFE & STYLE PAGES 25-27



WAR FOOTING

» EMERGENCY LAWS TO TACKLE VIRUS

» ARMY ON STANDBY TO HELP IN OUTBREAK

» ONE IN FIVE 'MAY BE TOO ILL TO WORK'

Joe Murphy, Nicholas Cecil and Sophia Sleight

ONE in five employees may be too ill to work during a coronavirus outbreak this year, according to the Government's battle plan which today put Britain on an unprecedented war footing against the growing threat.

It also disclosed that the police would be told to focus on "responding to serious crimes and maintaining public order" if the disease cuts through their ranks.

The Armed Forces will be on standby "to provide support to civil authorities if requested".

The blueprint warns "there could well be an increase in deaths arising from the outbreak, particularly among vulnerable and elderly groups".

Town halls are working on how to deal with a surge in funerals, including the need to keep bodies in storage if the system is overwhelmed.

As the grim, 28-page dossier was unveiled, Boris Johnson addressed the nation.

"I do think this is a national challenge and I do think that we are facing something... our country has to get



Precautions: a woman wearing a mask on the Tube today as Boris Johnson announced emergency plans

Continued on Page 4



PRESCRIPTION GLASSES from **£5**

Exclusive! Use **ES10** for 10% off*
www.lowcostglasses.co.uk/es

NEXT DAY GLASSES

ORDER BY 1PM & RECEIVE NEXT DAY BY 1PM



quality • speed • choice



LOW COST GLASSES



Watch your speed. The limit's changed.

If you hit someone at 30mph, they're 5 times more likely to die than if you hit them at 20mph. That's why as of 2 March 2020, we've reduced the speed limit across TfL roads in central London.

Search TfL safe speeds

MAYOR OF LONDON



**TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON**
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

News

Minister defends 'robust' Patel over bullying claims

Sophia Sleight Political Reporter

CABINET minister Matt Hancock defended Priti Patel over bullying allegations today saying she is "robust and determined".

The Health Secretary spoke out after Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched an investigation into claims surrounding the Home Secretary.

The Home Office's most senior official Sir Philip Rutnam resigned on Saturday, accusing Ms Patel of leading a "vicious" campaign to oust him and vowing to sue for constructive dismissal.

Mr Hancock told the BBC: "Priti is robust and determined and that is what you would expect in a home secretary."

"I've never seen her be anything other than courteous and professional in all the work that I've done with her."

Asked if he thought she would be cleared of the allegations, he added: "There's a process and I'm not going to prejudge that."

Former international trade secretary Liam Fox tweeted: "I have worked with [Ms Patel] for almost 20 years. In that time I have always known her to be courteous, diligent and fair."

The BBC has reported that a former aide received a £25,000 government payout after a threatened lawsuit in

which the then-employment minister Ms Patel was named.

Legal correspondence alleges the woman took an overdose of prescription medicine following the alleged incident in 2015.

Labour MPs have called for Ms Patel to step down as Home Secretary while bullying allegations are investigated.

Shadow home secretary Diane Abbott told BBC's Radio 4 Today: "We want a genuinely independent inquiry... to restore confidence in the respect that the Government has for civil servants."

She said if the allegations are true they would be a breach of the ministerial code and added: "You can't have a government that's at war with its civil service. It's just not sustainable."

Ms Patel has previously denied mistreating staff and Mr Johnson said he "absolutely" has confidence in his Home Secretary.

Announcing the inquiry, Michael Gove told the Commons: "The Home Secretary absolutely rejects those allegations."

"The Prime Minister has expressed his full confidence in her and having worked closely with the Home Secretary over a number of years, I have the highest regard for her. She is a superb minister doing a great job."

IN BRIEF

BORIS WILL 'ALMOST CERTAINLY' TAKE PATERNITY LEAVE FOR BABY

BORIS JOHNSON today said he will "almost certainly" take paternity leave when his partner Carrie Symonds has their baby. The couple have said they are engaged and are expecting their first child in the early summer.

Asked during a press conference at No 10 whether he planned to use his paternity leave entitlement — which is normally one or two weeks — the PM said: "Almost certainly, yes."

SAFETY FEARS WILL CLOSE BRIDGE TO OXBRIDGE BOAT RACE CROWDS

SPECTATORS at the Boat Race cannot watch it from Hammersmith Bridge this year because of safety concerns.

Hammersmith and Fulham council, who own the bridge which needs £120 million of repairs, said police asked them to close it between 12am to 5pm on March 29. This means that it will also be closed to cyclists.

Editorial Comment Page 14

LIGHTS

Sunset & lighting-up: 5.45pm, rises 6.38am; Moon rise: 10.33am, sets 2.09am
High water: London Bridge 6.45am (6.1m), 7.14pm (5.7m). Dover 3.46am (5.6m), 4.18pm (5.2m).

London's weather



TONIGHT
Largely dry with lengthy clear spells. Chilly
MAX **7C**
MIN **0C**



TOMORROW
Dry with sunny spells. Turning cloudier later
MAX **10C**
MIN **2C**



THURSDAY
Dry with plenty of sunny spells throughout
MAX **9C**
MIN **3C**



FRIDAY
Cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Drier later
MAX **9C**
MIN **5C**



SATURDAY
Cloudy and wet at first. Turning drier later
MAX **12C**
MIN **6C**



The Londoner
Stars
Puzzles

18-19
30
32

Television
Business
Sport

33
39-43
44-48

OUR STANDARDS We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high editorial standards. Under deadline pressure, errors can occasionally occur. If you spot a mistake or wish to complain about the Standard's editorial please use the complaints form at standard.co.uk/codeofconduct, or write to: Managing Editor, Evening Standard, Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5EE



Acceptable in the Eighties: Gigi Hadid, centre, closes today's Chanel show in a look reminiscent of Madonna. Inset, Kaia Gerber

Monochrome material girls unveil a no-frills era at Chanel

Karen Dacre
Fashion Editor

KARL LAGERFELD'S blockbuster shows for Chanel were as subtle as they were spellbinding, with the German designer transforming his stage at the Grand Palais into everything from a melting glacier to a fully stocked supermarket.

But in the hands of his successor, Virginie Viard, it seems a new, more subdued era for the house is under way. Highlighting the significance of form, silhouette and tone she unveiled her latest collection on a contoured set, with guests taking their seats on white bleachers undulating around a mirrored catwalk.

In her notes, Viard confirmed a "no-frills" mood for autumn/winter 2020, with "a very simple, very pure momentum. Romanticism but without any flourishes".

Her collection was predominantly monochrome, with the exception of the occasional flourish of pale green and raspberry. Perhaps thinking about wardrobe classics, Viard unveiled an ode to the white shirt with scalloped collars and ruffles among

the options on offer. Chanel's definitive bouclé jacket also played a starring role, including an oversized style embroidered with the house's logo and a cropped, boxy version presented in classic black.

There was no definitive era or obvious theme to hold this collection together. Instead a freedom and fluidity of ideas dominated. Among Viard's reference points were Gabrielle Chanel's race horse and a photograph of the late Lagerfeld wearing a striped suit with riding boots.

This equestrian influence crept into the collection via button-side jodhpurs which were worn open and presented alongside cropped jackets. Footwear included a play on Lagerfeld's boots, with a turn-over knee-high style among the options for next season.

A spirit of the Eighties was also apparent, with skirts slashed to the thigh and a dedication to sheer tights. This reference was displayed most explicitly by Gigi Hadid, who closed the show wearing hot pants and a crucifix in a look reminiscent of Madonna's Like A Prayer heyday. Today's show was live-streamed to audiences across the globe marking a first for the Chanel brand.



WATCH BIG STREAM BIG SAVE BIG

£54
£37
a month for 18 months

Prices may change during this period.
Set up: £39.95.

✓ Sky TV

✓ Superfast Broadband

✓ Plus Evening & Weekend Calls

sky

For New and Existing Customers

sky.com 0800 759 1300

Offer ends 12/03/2020. Sky Fibre areas only. Speeds vary by location. TV set-up: £20 for new customers. £39.95 offer eligibility fee for existing customers. Broadband: £9.95 router delivery; £10 connection fee. Separate 18 month contracts for Sky Entertainment (£12 per month (pm)), Sky Broadband Superfast (£25pm including line rental), and Sky Talk Evenings and Weekends (£50pm). All Sky Q kit is loaned and must be returned at the end of your subscription. Save Big: Based on saving £17pm (£306 across 18 months) compared with standard in-contract price for advertised products: Sky Entertainment: £22pm; Sky Broadband Superfast: £27pm; and Sky Talk Evenings and Weekends: £50pm. Sky Broadband Superfast: Average download speed 50Mbps. External factors such as internet congestion and home wiring can affect speed. Wi-Fi speeds vary by device and home set-up. No traffic management policy. See sky.com for more details, usage policies and to check your speeds. Standard price applies after 18 months (currently: Sky Entertainment (£27 per month (pm)), Sky Broadband Superfast (£32pm including line rental) and Sky Talk Evenings and Weekends (£50pm). Offer not available with any other offers. Subject to status. Upfront payment may be required. General: Compatible line required, otherwise £20 connection charge may apply. Non-standard set up/service visits cost £15 extra. Connect to TV using HDMI cable. You own the Sky dish. Prices may vary if you live in a flat. You must get any consents required (e.g. landlords). UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man residential customers only. Email address required so we can keep in touch about your services. Calls to Sky cost 7p/min plus your provider's access charge. Chicago Fire © 2019 NBC Universal Media, LLC. The Late Late Show with James Corden TM & © 2019 CBS Studios Inc. All Rights Reserved. Correct at 07/02/2020. Further terms apply.

News | Coronavirus crisis

London Marathon may have to

Continued from Page 1

through," the Prime Minister said. "But I have absolutely no doubt we have the resources."

Mr Johnson went on: "Let me be absolutely clear that for the overwhelming majority of people who contract the virus this will be a mild disease from which they will speedily and fully recover. But I fully understand public concern about the global spread of the virus and it is highly likely that we will see a growing number of UK cases — that's why keeping the country safe is the Government's overriding priority."

"Our plan means we are committed to doing everything possible, based on the advice of our world-leading scientific experts, to prepare for all eventualities."

England's chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, flanking the Prime Minister at the Downing Street press conference, said one per cent of those who get the disease "might end up dying", a figure that would "ramp up" among people over the age of 80. But the "great majority" will survive, even among the elderly, he said.

Under the battle plan, schools may have to close with emergency laws passed to allow class sizes over 30, so that children and staff can squeeze into nearby schools that are contagion-free. Time-limited emergency powers will allow the NHS to call nurses and doctors out of retirement to cope when there are high sick rates among health staff.

Decisions will be taken later whether to cancel major sporting gatherings and festivals. Officials said the benefits of such drastic action are probably outweighed by the costs of the disruption involved, because a coronavirus carrier could infect the same number of people watching a football game in a pub as in a stadium.

Overall the Government's message was to carry on but wash hands frequently. Mr Johnson said he continues to shake hands, in contrast with Mayor Sadiq Khan who announced he has stopped. "People must make up their own minds but...our judgment is that washing your hands is the crucial thing."

Holidaymakers can go ahead and

travel, though they should be careful they are going to countries that have healthcare.

The chief scientific adviser to the Government Sir Patrick Vallance said: "Once the epidemic is everywhere, then actually restricting travel makes no difference at all."

The government plan is clear that the impact on business may be very significant in the late spring or summer, when the number of cases is likely to peak. "Given that the data are still emerging, we are uncertain of the impact of an outbreak on business," it states. "In a stretching scenario, it is possible that up to one fifth of employees may be absent from work during peak weeks. This may vary for individual businesses."

"The nature and scale of the response depends upon the course of the disease, which cannot be predicted accurately at this point. As our understanding of the disease increases and its impact becomes clearer, we will issue further detailed advice."

Shortly before the document was published:

● Bank of England governor Mark Carney said policymakers were ready to help businesses and households through an economic shock caused by Covid-19 that could "prove large but will ultimately be temporary".

● The FTSE 100 was up more than two per cent mid-morning on expectations that central banks globally will cut rates in response to the crisis.

● Health Secretary Matt Hancock said officials may have to look at restricting the London Marathon on April 26 if there is a major outbreak but added it was "far too early" to make such decisions.

● A travel agency worker in Norbiton, south-west London, tested positive, online agency Travel Republic

Now wash your hands: Boris Johnson at Downing Street and posting on Instagram with Rishi Sunak to demonstrate hygiene routines



said. Meanwhile, a clinician at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Northwood, Middlesex, who was yesterday said to have Covid-19, has been given the all-clear after further testing, so as of this

morning there were 39 cases in the United Kingdom.

● In Italy, the infection count rose to 2,036, with 52 deaths, which appeared to be a higher mortality rate than other countries. Officials said it could take up to two weeks to know whether measures including quarantine in 11 north-

Singapore student beaten and taunted in race-hate attack

Anthony France
Crime Correspondent

A STUDENT from Singapore was attacked in the West End by thugs who set upon him after one said: "I don't want your coronavirus in my country."

Jonathan Mok, 23, who studies at University College London, was walking in Oxford Street when he heard racist comments from the group of four men and a woman.

Mr Mok 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.

His nose started bleeding and blood was spattered across the pavement, he added. "I felt really angry," said Mr Mok who posted images of his facial injuries on Facebook. "It is ridiculous people are being targeted for being Asian. I have experienced several



Victim:
UCL student Jonathan Mok, 23, says he was targeted for being Asian

racist statements directed to me in the past weeks, some involving references to the coronavirus. To the group of guys who saw fit to attack me because of my skin colour, here's something for you — I wasn't afraid."

Mr Mok, who is studying at UCL, said the group were no older than 20 and left before the police arrived.

He was treated by paramedics close to the scene of the attack near Primark and Tottenham Court Road on Monday, February 24.

Police are investigating.

Four more deaths in US, where up to 1,500 people may already be carrying Covid-19

Anthony France

FOUR more people have died in a coronavirus outbreak in the United States, bringing the total fatalities in the country to six.

The fatalities are the first from Covid-19 on US soil since Washington State declared a state of emergency over the weekend.

Five of the deaths occurred in King County, where Seattle is, and 18 cases have been confirmed, increasing fears that it will spread further.

Researchers who studied the first two Washington deaths said the virus might have been spreading there for weeks, and suggested that up to 1,500 people could have been infected.

At a press conference, President Donald Trump suggested a vaccine could be ready in a few months, only to be corrected by a top health official, who said it would take at least a year to 18

months. In Tenerife a sixth person has tested positive for coronavirus at the hotel where British holidaymakers have been trapped.

Authorities said the person is not linked to the Italian group that sparked the lockdown at the H10 Costa Adeje

5,186

Number of infections in South Korea, where President Moon has declared a 'state of war'

Palace and they are trying to work out how infection could have occurred.

The latest case was not showing any of the classic symptoms of the virus but has been transferred to hospital to be quarantined. Five Italians from the hotel are already in isolation in hospital, including the doctor who sparked the

alert in the south of the island. Regional health chiefs also confirmed 193 people had left the hotel by 6pm yesterday.

They include locals living on the island and foreign holidaymakers who had tested negative for coronavirus and were showing no symptoms of illness.

In South Korea, president Moon Jae-in has put the country into "a state of war" to tackle the outbreak.

Calling it "a grave situation", he pledged to release more than \$25 billion to fund clinics, aid for small businesses and other measures.

Coronavirus cases rose further, with 374 new infections reported. In total, 5,186 people in South Korea have tested positive for the virus.

Ukraine, meanwhile, confirmed its first case. Ihor Kuzin, acting head of the health ministry's public health centre, said the man had travelled to Ukraine from Italy via Romania. He was said to be in a stable condition.

be restricted in major outbreak



ern towns were working. In Germany, the number of cases rose to 188 today, from 157.

● Diplomats were seeking clarification from Iran over jailed London mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe's health and a suggestion that she may be temporarily released. Amid concerns over a

BE INFORMED
FOLLOW OUR LIVE BLOG
FOR LATEST UPDATES
standard.co.uk/coronavirus

possible coronavirus outbreak in the Evin jail, where she is being held, Iran's ambassador to the UK Hamid Baeidinejad said: "The spokesman of Iran's judiciary announced that Mrs Nazanin Zaghari is in good health condition and has not been affected with coronavirus." He added that one of the prisoners with security charge will be granted a furlough (reprieve) today or tomorrow to join family. So far in Iran, 77 people have died in and 2,336 have been infected by Covid-19.

● Japanese Olympics minister Seiko Hashimoto said it could postpone the 2020 Games in Tokyo, due to start in July, to end of year.

The Government blueprint explains that the current phase of containment will last until it is no longer possible to hold back the disease globally. At that point, action such as tracing "spreaders" will become a waste of resources.

The next phase, delay, will kick in with action designed to slow down the epidemic so that the peak of infections occurs during the summer, when seasonal illnesses such as flu are rare and warmer weather will naturally reduce infection rates.

"Action that would be considered could include population distancing strategies (such as school closures, encouraging greater home working, reducing the number of large-scale gatherings) to slow the spread of the disease throughout the population, while ensuring the country's ability to continue to run as normally as possible." The document adds: "The effectiveness of these actions will need to be balanced against their impact on society."

Other measures would include firms being allowed to postpone paying tax bills to help them ride out short-term cash flow problems and recover their finances after the outbreak is over.

Editorial Comment Page 14
Sport Pages 46-48

Tube ban unlikely, says Khan (but he's not shaking hands)

Ross Lydall and Nicholas Cecil

A BAN on using the Tube is unlikely to be implemented to restrict coronavirus, the Mayor of London said today.

Sadiq Khan, who called together health and transport chiefs at City Hall last night, said London was not considering widespread clampdowns on large public events seen in other world cities.

The Mayor, who admitted he was avoiding shaking hands, said he was monitoring precautions in other cities such as New York and Paris, but added: "I don't foresee a situation where we're advising people not to use the Tube or public transport. I don't foresee a situation where we do what other cities are doing and say 'don't go to concerts'."

"The advice is there is no reason at all to worry about using the Tube and the buses. The key thing is to wash your hands afterwards."

Asked by Piers Morgan on ITV's Good

Morning Britain whether he was still shaking hands, Mr Khan said: "At the moment I'm not, for the simple reason I'm out and about throughout the day and often I've not got access to a sink to wash my hands as much as you are supposed to."

"The advice is, it's a personal choice, there is nothing risky about shaking hands, the key thing is to on a regular basis during the day wash your hands."

Mr Khan today launched his re-election campaign by vowing to lobby the Government for rent controls if he is re-elected on May 7.

He said rents had risen by 27 per cent in a decade and that his own teenage daughters would be unable to afford to live in his Tooting neighbourhood once they graduated from university.

He added that a third of thirtysomething Londoners were still living with their parents due to the high cost of renting in the capital.



Behind the mask: commuters in London seek to protect themselves against the virus on public transport today

Pictures: Jeremy Selwyn



LEBARA

Search all you like...
you won't get more for a FIVER.

£5

2GB Data

1000 UK mins

1000 UK texts

100 International mins

Change or Cancel anytime

lebara.co.uk
Runs on the Vodafone network

T&C apply. SIM Only is a 30 days rolling plan, international mins valid for select 40 countries. See lebara.co.uk for full details and most current prices and allowances.



Nike HQ leads big shutdown as disruption grows in the capital

Jonathan Prynne, Ben Morgan and Emily Lawford

Nike's London headquarters in Soho has been shut down until Thursday at the earliest as disruption from the coronavirus outbreak gathers pace.

About 150 employees of the US sportswear giant were told to stay at home after a colleague returned from an overseas trip to one of the worst-hit areas, the Standard understands.

The three floors at Film House are undergoing a "deep clean" but no members of staff have reported feeling unwell or tested positive for the illness.

Nike shares the building with several film and television production companies. Reception staff today confirmed Nike employees had been told to stay away but other businesses were operating as normal.

Another Nike office at Doxford Park near Sunderland is also shut. In a statement, Nike said: "While we have no information indicating any exposure to

employees, out of caution we are conducting a deep cleaning of our offices."

It came as travel agent Travel Republic closed its office in London after an employee tested positive for coronavirus.

The company said its premises on London Road in Norbiton, south London, would be shut while they undergo a deep clean.

A spokeswoman said: "We can confirm that a member of staff received a positive test for Covid-19 yesterday. They are receiving medical attention. Our primary concern at this time is the health of our staff and we're working with the authorities to ensure best practice guidelines are being followed."

The Guildhall School of Music and Drama will also be shut for up to 14 days from Monday "as a precautionary measure" after a member of staff tested positive for the virus, according to an email seen by The Guardian.

In a statement, the City of London Corporation said: "The staff and princi-



Precaution: BA, easyJet and Ryanair have cancelled flights due to falling demand

pal are working with students to ensure that they receive appropriate advice."

The email says the teacher was in contact with "a limited number" of students and is now recovering in hospital.

St Cecilia's School in Southfields also said it was shutting for the rest of the week because of two unconfirmed cases

of coronavirus in individuals recently returned from Italy.

Meanwhile, British Airways, easyJet and Ryanair continued mass flight cancellations in response to falling demand from passengers. Most are on normally busy routes to places in northern Italy, close to Europe's worst virus "hotspot".

Religious groups 'to relax burial requirements in virus pandemic'

Joe Murphy Political Editor

FAITH groups in London will be asked to relax requirements for funerals and burials if a pandemic leads to a steep increase in deaths.

The plan is contained in a blueprint for how the capital would dispose of bodies safely and with dignity in the event of a major disaster.

It says that to prevent strain on cemeteries and crematoria, local religious groups which might usually hold funerals within 24 hours "have agreed in principle that certain requirements may not be adhered to if mass storage is necessary".

The plan was drawn up by the London Resilience Forum, an emergency planning group that brings together organisations including the emergency services and local government.

Measures include creating extra storage at crematoria, hiring chilled storage units if necessary and training police to identify death and rule out foul play in clear-cut cases. Burials should go ahead if families are unable to pay fees immediately, with money "reclaimed at a later date", and closed cemeteries could be reopened.

In the very worst scenario, which would far exceed current fears about coronavirus, mass graves and funeral pyres might be considered.

**EASTER EGG FAVES.
WITHOUT SHELLING OUT.
DON'T COMPROMISE.**

Selected
Easter Eggs

**3 for
£8**

ASDA
Save money. Live better.



ASDA.COM Selected stores. Subject to availability. Photography for illustrative purposes. Easter eggs £3 each; Cadbury Twirl large egg 262g (£1.15 per 100g)/Nestlé Smarties large orange egg 256g (£1.17 per 100g)/Free From white Kiddie egg 115g (£2.61 per 100g)/Free From chocolate bunny egg 100g/Cadbury Creme Egg large egg 258g (£1.16 per 100g)/Cadbury Freddo Treasures egg 153g (£1.96 per 100g)/Cadbury Marvellous large egg 271g (£1.11 per 100g). The Grocer Gold Awards 2019, Awarded to Asda 22 years running. The Grocer 33 Pricing Survey compares 33 randomly selected products each week from Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons & Waitrose. For verification write to Asda LS11 5AD.

The Crown's Diana turns heads at the opera house

ACTRESS Emma Corrin gives a regal wave outside the Royal Opera House after being transformed into Princess Diana for the fourth season of *The Crown*.

Wearing a strapless purple gown with a matching purple scarf, the 24-year-old star was last night shooting scenes alongside Josh O'Connor, 29, who plays Prince Charles in the Netflix drama.

The pair were filming a royal visit to the ROH in Covent Garden for Charles's birthday celebrations.

Season four, expected to be released this year, will reportedly take the story of the royal family up to the end of Margaret Thatcher's 11 years in power in 1990, with Gillian Anderson playing Britain's first female prime minister.

Olivia Colman will reprise her role as the Queen and Tobias Menzies returns as the Duke of Edinburgh.

Lizzie Edmonds



Big night: Emma Corrin as Princess Diana and Josh O'Connor as Charles, above, at the Royal Opera House. Inset, Diana in 1987

Museum in talks over return of prehistoric skull

Robert Dex Arts Correspondent

THE Natural History Museum is in "discussion" with the Zambian government about the possible return of a prehistoric human skull.

The Broken Hill Skull, dug up by mine workers in 1921, is thought to be as much as 300,000 years old. Described by the museum as "the finest known example of its kind", it provides vital evidence backing up Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

A museum spokesman said it was committed to "constructive participation" in talks over the fossil, which is "on free display" at the South Kensington institution, meaning it can be seen by around five million visitors from around the world every year.

Demands for the restitution of exhibits is one of the major issues facing London museums.

The Horniman Museum recently announced it would consult Nigerian Londoners about what to do with its collection of Benin Bronzes looted from Africa during the 19th century.

NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY BOSS WARNS PROFESSIONALS...

'Weekend cocaine habit fuelling climate change'

Martin Bentham
Home Affairs Editor

COCAINE users were today accused of fuelling climate change as the head of the National Crime Agency hit out at drug-taking professionals.

Lynne Owens said the cocaine trade was adding to global warming through deforestation and further harming the environment by polluting rivers and killing wildlife.

She also warned that the cocaine trade was helping to provoke violent crime in London and elsewhere, and highlighted the growing danger of "poly-criminality", in which organised crime gangs use profits from dealing drugs to switch into the firearms trade and people trafficking.

The trend was inflicting "real harm" and putting lives at risk, she said, and was carried out by "really cynical criminals" who were exploiting victims mentally, physically and sexually.

Ms Owens told the Standard: "If you are a middle-class drug user that's got

huge consequences for climate change, climate damage. If you look at Colombia alone, the number of forests that are destroyed so that a small quantity of drugs can reach the streets of the UK is significant.

"That means that if you are somebody that cares about climate change, but on a Friday and Saturday night you think it's OK to take cocaine, then you really need to look at the decisions you are making.

"By taking cocaine you are making the decision to damage the climate, to see other people exploited and you are financing all sorts of organised crime which will cause harm to many communities and is often behind the violence on our streets."

She added: "The way that cocaine is made there's also a whole load of fluid that ends up polluting rivers, killing fish and so on."

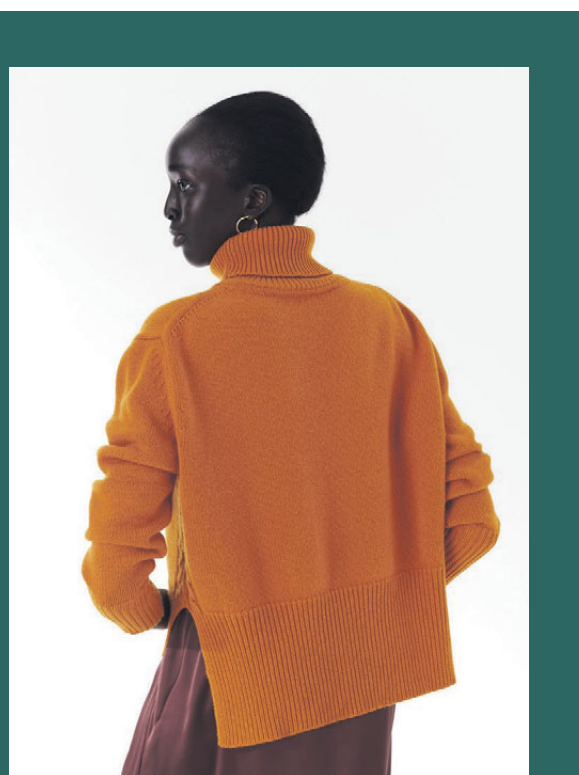
Met Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick criticised middle-class drug users in 2018 for being "hypocrites".

Ms Owens said crime gangs

involved in the drug trade were increasingly diversifying to ensure a steady income. "One day they might be involved in drug supply, the next day they think it's more profitable they will change their methodology," she said. "The key point about poly-criminality is that it has real harm. You see citizens in the UK exploited, children being used to run county lines or people being trafficked and putting their lives at risk."

Ms Owens, who has been director general of the National Crime Agency since 2016, said her organisation's successes in the past year include 167 arrests for organised immigration crime, modern slavery and human trafficking.

Last week of a government-commissioned review of the UK drugs market warned that the "supply and distribution of drugs have become increasingly violent", and that many of the 27,000 young people nationwide who were involved in gangs had been drawn in through drug dealing.



The Smart Slouchy

Oversized silhouette / Cabled seam
Gentle turtleneck / Knitted in London
Loro Piana cashmere

æthel

@aethelofficial aethel.com

US deputies 'shared graphic pictures of Kobe Bryant helicopter crash site'



Disaster scene: the helicopter crashed into a hillside during fog

Barney Davis

EIGHT American law enforcement officers were today revealed to have taken or shared graphic photos of basketball legend Kobe Bryant's helicopter crash site.

Los Angeles County sheriff Alex Villanueva said he was "devastated and heartbroken" at the "inexcusable" actions of the deputies. Bryant, 41, pic-

tured below, who played for the Los Angeles Lakers throughout his 20-year career, died along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven other people when their helicopter plunged into a hillside in California in January.

Mr Villanueva said he had ordered the wreckage photos that were either taken or shared by eight deputies be immediately deleted.

"That was my number one priority, to

make sure those photos no longer exist," he told NBC News.

"We identified the deputies involved, they came to the station on their own and had admitted they had taken them and they had deleted them. And we're content that those involved did that."

The sheriff said he learnt during the week of the crash that killed the American sporting great on January 26 that as many as eight deputies might have been involved.

"We've communicated in no uncertain terms that the behaviour is inexcusable," he said.

"I mean, people are grieving for the loss of their loved ones. To have that on top of what they've already gone through is unconscionable."

Mr Villanueva said the deputies are facing an investigation and possible disciplinary action.

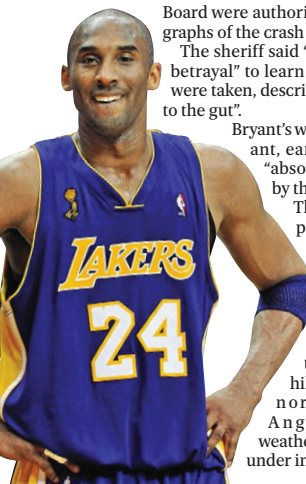
The Los Angeles Times reported last week that a source had seen one of the photos on the phone of another official in a setting that was unrelated to the investigation. He said the photos showed the scene and victims' remains.

Only the county coroner's office and the National Transportation Safety Board were authorised to take photographs of the crash scene.

The sheriff said "it's just a sense of betrayal" to learn that other photos were taken, describing it as "a punch to the gut".

Bryant's widow, Vanessa Bryant, earlier said she was "absolutely devastated" by the reports.

The passengers and pilot were on their way to a youth basketball tournament at Bryant's sports facility in Thousand Oaks when the helicopter crashed into a hillside in Calabasas, north-west of Los Angeles, in foggy weather. The cause is still under investigation.



That was my number one priority, to make sure those photos no longer exist

Los Angeles county sheriff Alex Villanueva

ROBINSON 'ARRESTED FOR HOLIDAY PARK POOL ASSAULT'

FORMER English Defence League leader Tommy Robinson has reportedly been arrested after a fight at a holiday park.

The Sun reported that Mr Robinson, 37, quarrelled with a man in the pool and punched him in the face. Police said a man was arrested on suspicion of common assault at Woburn Forest Center Parcs in Bedfordshire at lunchtime on Sunday.

A spokesman said a man was treated for a facial injury.



HUNT FOR MAN WHO EXPOSED HIMSELF TO GIRL ON TUBE

POLICE are appealing for help after a man exposed himself to a girl of 11 on the Tube.

She had got on the Bakerloo line at Baker Street just after 4pm on Tuesday, February 4 and the suspect sat opposite her after the carriage emptied. He left the train at Queen's Park.

Detectives today released an image of a man they believe may have information that could help. Anyone who recognises him should text 61016 quoting reference 276 of 02/03/20.

Hop on the bus. Tap and Save the Change.®

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



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

Grenfell architects 'expected specialists to handle cladding'

Tristan Kirk Courts Correspondent

ARCHITECTS on the Grenfell Tower refurbishment project expected a specialist firm to handle cladding of the tower as the work was so "complex", the inquiry heard today.

Studio E Architects was selected for the overhaul of the high-rise block without a competitive procurement process, interview or design competition, as it was already working on a new school and sports centre next door.

The firm's founder, Andrzej Kuszell, yesterday conceded his team lacked experience in high-rise residential refurbishments, and in a competitive process the company would likely not have been selected for the work.

This morning Bruce Soune, leading architect on the project, said the company initially "didn't expect" to be handling cladding the block itself, but would lay the groundwork in areas such

as price. "Something as discrete and sophisticated as over-cladding is usually let as a single contract to a specialist subcontractor," he told the hearing.

The cladding installed as part of the 2012 to 2016 refurbishment was a major contributing factor in the 2017 fire in which 72 residents died.

Mr Soune said of the project: "It was a high-rise, existing building with a single means of escape. That means of escape was internal. It was a building which was going to be altered quite significantly with residents in it. Tackling that was pretty complex."

In a 2012 email Mr Soune referred to the block as a "poor relative" to the Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre, which it was already working on. Asked to explain the comment, he said the budget of up to £6 million for Grenfell "sounded like too little". The budget was later increased to £8.1 million.

The hearing continues.

Art school chiefs hail top spots in global rankings

Robert Dex Arts Correspondent

LONDON'S art schools have been named the best in the world for another year.

The Royal College of Art (RCA) and the University of the Arts London (UAL) held on to the top two spots ahead of rivals including Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford.

Goldsmiths, in south London, is ranked 14th in the top 200, giving the capital three colleges in the global top 20 for the teaching of art and design.

It is the sixth year in a row the RCA, whose alumni include David Hockney, Tracey Emin and Sir James Dyson, has topped the rankings. RCA vice-chancellor Dr Paul Thompson said it was "a testament to the quality and commitment of our staff and the enormous talent of our students".

He added: "Part of our continued success stems from the ability to evolve, by continuing to support world-class art and design but also embracing new areas of expertise and innovation from robotics and AI to computing and materials science. I would like to thank our students, academic staff and research-

ers for their enormous contribution and unparalleled passion."

The college — which is in the middle of ambitious plans to build a new multi-million-pound flagship building in Battersea — said applications from EU students rose by 12 per cent last year despite worries over Brexit.

It is the second year UAL has been ranked second in the table, which is based on a worldwide survey among academics and employers.

The university, which includes Camberwell College of Arts and Central St Martins, highlighted the number of its graduates who become business leaders, with one in 10 founding start-ups.

Vice-chancellor Sir Nigel Carrington said: "This result builds on the recent evidence that shows UAL graduates not only receive a world-class education, but that a higher percentage of them go on to become business leaders than from any other UK university. This reiterates how vital creative education is to both our industry and economy."

● The full results are available from tomorrow.at/topuniversities.com

Editorial Comment Page 14



Star Wars fan gets her very own Skywalker arm

A STAR WARS fan has received an R2-D2 bionic arm and a phone call from Luke Skywalker.

Bella Tadlock, 11, raised nearly \$14,000 dollars (£11,000) for the limb, created by Bristol-based Open Bionics.

Her appeal caught the eye of Mark Hamill, whose character Skywalker lost his hand and received a robotic one, and he shared it on Twitter.

Bella became the first person in the United States to receive the advanced multi-grip arm, which has an R2-D2 design, and showed it off during a Skype call with Hamill.

Bella, from Tallahassee, Florida, was born with a left arm shorter than her right and wanted a non-surgical solution to make her left hand mobile.

She said: "I will be able to ride my bike, create in the kitchen and be like my friends. To be able to bend my fingers is a dream come true."

SAVE £270
ON THE GOOGLE
PIXEL 4 XL



Plus get **3 months access** to the BT Sport app

BT SPORT

All on the
UK's no. 1 network

£34 | **£50** | **4GB**
per month | upfront | data plan

Was £44 per month, £80 upfront. Annual price changes apply

Google Pixel 4 XL

Offer ends 30th March

Instore | ee.co.uk | 0800 956 6085



RootMetrics

By EHS Markit

UK RootMetrics® Report H2 2019

Monthly price will increase from March every year by RPI published in January. See ee.co.uk/increase Upfront cost applies as you're agreeing to a 24 month minimum term. Subject to credit check & availability. Online billing. Deposit needed for roaming in limited circumstances. You own device 6 months from plan start date. Personal use only. **BT Sport - 3 months access:** Customers on consumer plans requesting the BT Sport Add-On for the first time only. The three months start as soon as we receive your request for the Add-On or from the date you join or upgrade your price plan. At the end of the free period, you'll be automatically charged for the Add-On but can cancel at any time. Offer non-transferable. **NO. 1 NETWORK:** Best by ranking first in the RootMetrics® UK RootScore® Report: H2 (Jul-Dec) 2019. Tested at locations across the UK with the best commercially available smartphones on 4 national mobile networks across all available network types. Your experiences may vary. The RootMetrics award is not an endorsement of EE. Visit ROOTMETRICS.CO.UK for more details. Other terms apply, see ee.co.uk/terms Information and pricing correct as at 03.03.2020.



"Having a SumUp 3G Card Reader has been a game-changer for my business. It's helped secure more day-to-day sales and offers a level of flexibility that really helps me."

Matt, Vintage Furniture Dealer, Arch 389, London Fields
@fkenantiques

5,000 small businesses pick SumUp every day. Will you be one of them?



sumup.co.uk



FIRST NIGHT



Charming: Danny Mac and Aimie Atkinson succeed in making the story their own

Move over Julia, there's a new Pretty Woman in town

Pretty Woman
Piccadilly Theatre, W1
★★★★☆
Nick Curtis

YES, it's a musical about prostitution, but this adaptation of the 1990 Julia Roberts/Richard Gere rom-com is a triumph of exuberant zest over dodgy subject matter. It matches the charm of the film but has a subversive energy all its own.

Danny Mac imbues repressed asset-stripper Edward with just the right blend of arrogance and suavity. But it's Aimie Atkinson who is the undoubted star, vanquishing memories of Roberts — while stylishly carrying off a version of her cinematic wardrobe — as an utterly winning, heartfelt Vivian.

For the stage version the film's creators, JF Lawton and the late Garry Marshall, cleverly ramp up the fantasy element of the tale, while also subtly puncturing it.

Accompanied by a bouncy soft-rock score by Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance — mostly irresistible but with a couple of bum numbers — it's like a buoyant dream of Eighties LA.

After picking her up on Hollywood Boulevard, Edward improbably hires Vivian to be his companion while he callously loots a family

firm. In their ensuing rocky love story, she gets a taste of the pleasures and prejudices of classy living, while teaching him the value rather than the price of people and things.

Edward's predatory lawyer, Kit the chirpy hooker and the shop assistants who shun Vivian in that memorable scene are comically exaggerated. Bob Harms flits adroitly through the action in various roles, including that of the paternalistic hotel manager, like Vivian's fairy godfather. His joyful same-sex ballroom routine with Alex Charles's amusing bellboy undercuts the straight central romance.

Jerry Mitchell's light-touch direction and choreography, and David Rockwell's impressionistic sets, underline the idea that this is an escapist fairytale, not remotely real. Yet the love story convinces.

Mac plays it straight and gives the coltish, magnetic Atkinson room to shine. One of the original stars of *Six The Musical* in the West End, she is infectious in her glee, intensely moving when hurt, and brings both power and depth to her big numbers. This unexpectedly delightful show could do for her what the film did for Roberts.

● Until January 2 (0844 871 7615, prettywomanthemusical.com)

'Musical isn't outdated, it's just an amazing love story'

Robert Dex Arts Correspondent

THE star of *Pretty Woman* has hit back at criticism that it is out-dated and offensive, defending the show as "a perfect musical".

Aimie Atkinson plays the part that made Julia Roberts famous in the 1990 Hollywood romantic comedy about an LA prostitute picked up by a ruthless businessman.

She said: "It's an amazing love story at the end of the day and I think that's what people love about the show and about the film."

"Having it as a musical is only progressing on from that amazing love story and giving these characters more of a voice. What people are loving is the connection between these two people so I think it's actually a perfect musical."

Some critics have questioned the

show's plot as a sanitised view of sex work that is not appropriate in the #MeToo era.

Atkinson's co-star Danny Mac, who plays the part taken by Richard Gere in the film, said he was "surprised" by the idea of bringing the film to the stage because it is so "loved".

He said: "The only fear is it's going to be ruined and I think this celebrates everything the movie is and it flies with it and gives the movie back to people in a new way. The

Defence: Aimie Atkinson and her partner Genesis Lynea after the show

audiences that love the movie are coming in and we've been sold out since we opened. At the end of the day we're playing to packed houses and they want to come and celebrate the story live."

He said musicals could tackle dark subjects, pointing to Tony Award-winning *Parade* which was inspired by a real-life lynching of a Jewish businessman accused of rape in the Deep South.

Producer Paula Wagner said: "Right now you can make a musical about just about anything — it's about how you do it. Everyone goes out smiling and hugging and we need that now."



GETLINK

ROBUST 2019 ANNUAL RESULTS

Strong growth of
20% in net profit

€1.085Bn

Revenue

€560M

EBITDA
in line with
announced objectives

€159M

Net profit

€0.41/Share*

Dividend

€1.4Bn

Total return to shareholders
since 2008



www.getlinkgroup.com

Getlink is listed in Paris and London

*Proposed at the 2020 General Meeting

Fund in Jo's memory will aid world's poorest, says murdered MP's sister

Sophia Sleigh Political Reporter

THE SISTER of murdered MP Jo Cox today said she was "extremely proud" as the Government unveiled charities around the world that will benefit from a £10 million memorial fund.

Kim Leadbeater said it was "truly heart-warming" that some of the poorest countries would be helped in memory of the former Labour MP for Batley and Spen.

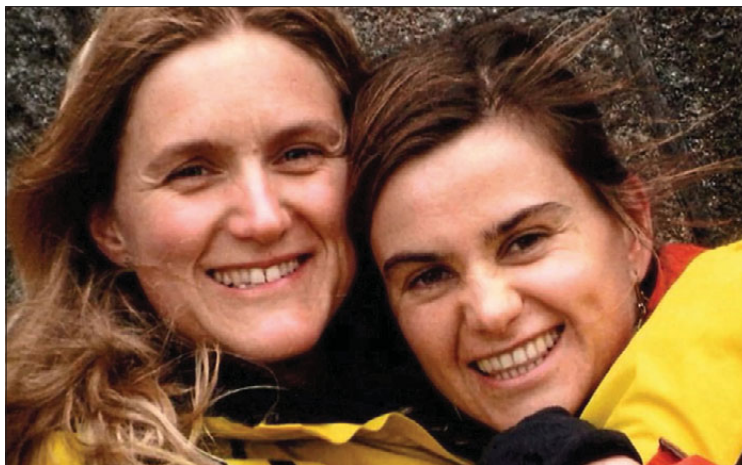
Ms Cox was shot and stabbed in the West Yorkshire constituency in the run-up to the EU referendum in June 2016. Right-wing extremist Thomas Mair was jailed for life for her murder.

Today the Government revealed that 18 charities have been awarded Jo Cox Memorial Grants, set up with £10 million funding from UK aid.

In an interview with the Standard, Ms Leadbeater described her sister as a "humanitarian" and added: "It's wonderful to see Jo's name used in such a positive way around the world."

"One of the things that's kept us going as a family over the past three-and-a-half years has been all the amazing things that have come out of Jo's horrific murder."

"For us things will never be the same again and we will never get over or understand what's happened but it's



Legacy: Kim Leadbeater, far left, with her sister Jo Cox: "It's wonderful to see Jo's name used in such a positive way around the world"

acts like this that enable us to keep going as a family."

The fund, set up by the Department for International Development, will support charities working on themes close to Ms Cox's heart, including empowering women and girls and preventing conflict.

Minister Baroness Sugg was today

meeting with some of the charities and said: "Jo dedicated her life to helping those in need. It's wonderful that as part of Jo's legacy, we can work together on these issues close to her heart to make a difference in the world."

Projects include giving vulnerable women in Zimbabwe education and training, supporting marginalised

women to get involved in local government in Nepal, and preventing identity-based violence in Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo.

When Brexit debates grew particularly heated, Ms Leadbeater spoke out to criticise politicians for using divisive language that risked stoking up violence.

Facing jail, gem burglars who drilled through wrong wall

Tristan Kirk

Courts Correspondent

BUNGLING burglars who drilled through the wrong wall during a £300,000 jewellery raid are facing jail today.

Florin-Cristin Neagu, 46, Sorin Munteanu, 44, and Nicolae Sisca, 46, plotted the "sophisticated and daring" break-in at George Attenborough & Son in Fleet Street on the weekend of March 23 and 24 last year. But they tunneled from a next-door building through the wrong wall into a branch of William Hill.

Sisca was caught on camera crawling through the hole and into the bookies, before realising the mistake and retreating back into the darkness. The burglars then drilled through the correct wall and stole £300,000 of jewellery. The raid was discovered on the Monday.

At Southwark crown court this morning Munteanu and Neagu were convicted of burglary, having denied involvement. Sisca earlier pleaded guilty to burglary and is serving a four-year prison sentence.

Sisca was caught as he tried to flee the country, while Munteanu and Neagu were extradited from Romania. They were due to be sentenced later today.



Discover your smile





EXPLORE MALTA'S HIDDEN SIDE

Make tracks for Malta and you'll discover more than just a Mediterranean beach hotspot. There's Valletta's scenic waterfront and historic centre, too.

App | Online | TUI Store

FLY FROM
GATWICK
AIRPORT

Comment



WELCOME back," began my father's WhatsApp message as I landed at Heathrow from Sydney on Sunday. "Have you settled up yet?"

The accompanying wink emoji confirmed my suspicions — this wasn't a hint at balancing my Splitwise bill with my fellow backpackers, but instead a reminder of his latest obsession: carbon offsetting.

My failure to financially neutralise my flight emissions has landed me in my father's bad books, and he's not letting go until I've paid up — all £140, if I opt for the cheapest compensatory scheme on offsetting site MyClimate (a reforestation one in Nicaragua).

I tell him I'll pay it next month, after my next pay cheque — forking out for skydives and koala meet-and-greets has drained my Monzo account. He tells me he'll be on my case until I do.

My father's hassling might feel joyless, but beneath my teasing ("Have fun in Sussex. Hope you've offset the drive") I know he's right, especially given the timely nature of my trip Down Under.

In Sydney I met people whose homes had been ruined by last month's flooding; in Brisbane I cuddled the koalas whose habitats had been destroyed by the recent bushfires.

Australia is feeling the global climate crisis in the extreme, and flights like mine are a large part of the problem. According to current figures, the aviation industry accounts for two per cent of global carbon emissions, and this is expected to rise to a frightening 15 per cent by 2050. Global passenger numbers are expected to double to 8.2 billion by 2037.

Airlines are beginning to take responsibility — EasyJet spends £25 million a year on offsetting, and British Airways now offsets all domestic UK flights — but we as individuals should pay the price, too, if we are serious about

Katie Strick



I owe it to the koalas I cuddled in Australia to offset my air pollution trail but luckily it's never been easier

following Greta Thunberg's lead and reducing the amount we fly.

According to carbon calculators, my return flight to Sydney will have emitted more than six tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere — more than twice that produced by a family car over the course of a year. The least I can do is cancel that out from my own pocket.

Mercifully, it turns out I won't have to skip lunch to settle my carbon debts. On another site, Co2nsensus, I can offset my trip via a forest-planting scheme in Uruguay for £65, or a wind power project in Turkey for £36 — a small price

to pay to travel more consciously, but that shouldn't lead to complacency. A tree planted today won't remove carbon from the atmosphere for years, and critics warn that the danger of offsetting



I can atone for my trip via forest-planting in Uruguay for £65 or a wind power project in Turkey for £36

schemes getting too cheap is that travellers won't change their behaviour.

Greta is still right: we need to seriously reduce the amount of flights we take if we are to truly tackle global warming. But if you must get on a plane, offsetting will at least help to reduce the impact (and make you think twice next time you're on Skyscanner). That £36 on top of the cost of your trip isn't a pass to guilt-free travel, but a crucial last resort and a small yet significant tax towards saving the planet. From now on, I'm setting my phone background to a sad koala and paying up.

Working from home fills me with dread

IT LOOKS like we'll soon be urged to work from home to prevent the spread of coronavirus, and this thought has been met with inevitable glee among my WhatsApp groups — with lawyer pals sharing nail designs they intend to replicate at the kitchen table, and housemates compiling Spotify playlists and sending "Snow day!" memes.

But to tell the truth, the thought of having to spend more than one day working from my living room fills me with dread.

I haven't opened my laptop in six months (will it turn on? What will I do without Microsoft Word?) and my cycle to work is the one ritual sure to get my brain in gear.

The few occasions I've WFH have

sent me stir crazy due to lack of human interaction. Twitter can't make up for the spontaneous exchanges at the water cooler.

There's an environmental downside, too: last month researchers found that working from home all year round would increase the average British commuter's carbon footprint by 80 per cent thanks to all the extra central heating used over the winter months. Bad news for my bank account too, then, once I've offset the carbon — don't tell my dad.

● WHEN I was five, my mother had to clean her room after my friend and I got over-excited when applying

lipstick. It went everywhere. We were trying to look more like our doll-up Barbies in the hope we'd find a boyfriend like Ken. But had we grown up now it might not have been lipstick my mother found us trying on, but trainers. A Barbie doll of Dina Asher-Smith, Britain's fastest woman, was unveiled today ahead of International Women's Day. I hope girls look to her as a role model.

I wish I'd had one when I thought the school cross country was uncool. Who needs Ken when you can have a gold medal?



WHERE'S HOME? IS IT WHERE YOU WERE BORN? WHERE YOU GREW UP? OR WHERE YOUR HEART IS? WITH A
95% MORTGAGE,
 PLUS A 35 YEAR LENDING TERM, WE COULD HELP YOU FIND A PLACE WHEREVER FEELS LIKE HOME TO YOU.

SEARCH HSBC MORTGAGES OR VISIT US IN BRANCH.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



95% LTV product range is available to both First Time Buyers and Home Movers, 35-year term is available on all residential purchases and remortgages of the same amount. A longer lending term means more interest is payable overall. 95% mortgages are only available on our residential product range if you're purchasing a property with a loan size of up to £400,000.

Together we thrive

Comment

Evening Standard

Established 1827



Government sets out its pandemic battleplan

UNTIL this week the Government's public response to coronavirus has been unhurried, too much so. That's changed. Today it has set out its battleplan. It aims first to contain the disease for as long as possible to allow the NHS and businesses to prepare. Then, if containment fails, to manage the country through a pandemic that the document suggests could peak in the spring and early summer. That is exactly what a Government in a mature democracy should be doing: spell out to the public in an adult and informed way the steps it is taking now to protect them, and the more dramatic steps it is prepared to take if necessary.

In a severe outbreak, the Government's battleplan reports today, one in five employees may be off work at any time. Pressure on public services would be extreme. The police would focus their efforts on serious crime and public disorder. Emergency legislation may be needed to manage the effect on schools and allow former NHS staff to return to the frontline to provide care. Major public events would be suspended — for instance the London Marathon might not take place although it is “far too early” to confirm that. Football chiefs are preparing plans to play matches in empty grounds.

The Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, was at last allowed by Downing Street to go on the major media shows this morning to spell all this out — and did so effectively. Boris Johnson has also stepped up. But the Government's pragmatic and rational response is only the beginning. Much of the advice in the plan remains steady. The single most important thing people can do to limit the spread of the infection, it says, is wash their hands properly. More will be needed if the infection becomes as serious as the battleplan warns. “In the event of the outbreak worsening, or a severe prolonged pandemic, the response will escalate.”

Health experts suggest that in the worst case between 60-80 per cent of the population could become infected at some point in the course of the outbreak. Some other countries have, unfortunately, reached that point already. Here, we are still getting ready. Public servants deserve all our support as they do that.

Singing the praises of art

“SHE studied sculpture at Saint Martins College, that's where I caught her eye,” sang Jarvis Cocker, a quarter of a century ago. Since then St Martins has moved into smart new quarters at King's Cross and the standing of London's art colleges has risen higher than ever. The Royal College of Art and the University of the Arts London — which includes St Martins — have taken the top two spots once again in a world survey of schools of art and design. They have beaten the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford in the US — which, although the judges didn't include this test, haven't produced any memorable opening lines in music, either.

Goldsmiths, in south London, does well in the survey too giving London three colleges in the worldwide top 20. That's where Damon Albarn and Graham Coxon met Alex James to found Blur. We think Pulp (formed, we have to admit, at Sheffield Polytechnic, not in London) has the edge. But then great art has always been a matter of taste.

No view from the bridge

HAMMERSMITH Bridge, as residents of south-west London don't need reminding, is still closed. In fact, the closure is getting worse. Safety fears mean it won't be open to spectators on Boat Race day. MPs are debating what to do about it today. Transport for London has paid for £25 million of early survey work and talks with councils are under way about funding a full repair. No one yet knows how long that will take or quite what it will cost. Meanwhile the queues continue.

Listen and subscribe to **The Leader** podcast at:
2 standard.co.uk/theleader



Anne McElvoy

The coronavirus 'black swan' will peck away at our intertwined world



PEOPLE take health scares at their own pace. Mine was lagging, finally dawning during an appointment at Paris Fashion Week, when I let out an unguarded allergy sneeze, and the room promptly scattered as if I had just announced I had leprosy. I texted home about a fashion-world overreaction. Yet just a week later the sight of travellers diligently donning masks no longer looks so bizarre and I have an acquaintance in quarantine in Scotland, who skied in an affected part of the Italian Alps. We have all become dedicated handwashers and tissue-banners now.

Even the most avid subscribers to the Keep Calm and Carry On tendency among us can see that the rapid spread of the virus across northern Europe heralds consequences for our economies and healthcare systems — assuming we dodge the full onslaught of a coronavirus pandemic.

The surge in illness and a rising death toll in northern Europe has changed the terms of political trade and will also fire up fierce arguments about how to stave off economic damage — and who should foot the bill.

For the West, mercifully spared the experience of Ebola and the Sars epidemic, a fast-moving illness feels like a return to another era. When the German writer Thomas Mann wrote *Death in Venice*, his haunting novel about a writer trapped in the Italian city in a cholera epidemic, it was the result of Mann's own contact with “Asiatic cholera” originating from India in 1912.

Grim necessity is now jolting the complacencies of politics. As Downing Street has just discovered, a fat majority can enable you to slam the table in trade talks, deal abruptly with troublesome civil servants and allow a new PM some time out of sight. But voters will hang around after elections and the very British mood of asking what the fuss is about is replaced in double-quick time with anxious calls to radio phone-ins asking if the NHS is as prepared as it might be and how can they get tested when a cold might be something worse.

As a result, the mood feels more febrile and uncertain than it did a week ago, exposing the Prime Minister on a flank which has always been a weak spot in his personal armoury — the ability to show seriousness and empathy. This is not quite the same charge as the more routine and partisan one — that Johnson is a buffoon. He is an adept tactician who wins the big races he goes in for, from City Hall to the EU referendum and a gamble on a Christmas election.

Whether liberal elites like what he says or not, he connects to many people in a way they could not and they need to learn from that, rather than obsessing about his weaknesses.

However, I always find myself holding my breath in Boris Anxiety Syndrome when he takes on a more dolorous topic. Not least because I recall that his worst parliamentary appearance as a new MP

was in a welfare debate — not because he cannot grasp the detail, but because the rumbustious tone fell flat on a subject which, whatever one's views on policy choices, has real hardship at the end of it.

Watching the PM's outing in a giant yellow protective tent of protective gear reminded us that, now as the nation's political figurehead, he also needs to do the sombre stuff, along with the bulldozer moments which bring out his flair and ability. “We'll beat it, we'll get through it,” was a characteristically Churchillian first stab at coping, but voters also need clarity and reassurance. And in the end, that comes from reliance on the civil service, via the Department



Even Trump's thick hide can't mask a nervousness at the White House at the virus upsetting the election

of Health and the Treasury, with which No 10 has recently had its little local difficulties. For all their shortcomings, a robust system of response in steps to ameliorate the crisis are worth half a dozen future-gazing weirdos and super-forecasters. Being a pragmatic survivor underneath the punk exterior, I am also pretty sure the PM will grasp this too.

However, in the jaded spin-doctor's phase, a crisis is also a good time to bury bad news — and a get-out of jail free card from earlier pledges and a plausible excuse for economic shocks or under-performance.

European governments are already returning to type — Italy seeking stimulus funds to address the economic damage of the virus and asking the eurozone (with Germany as paymaster) to bend fiscal rules to that end, while in France, Emmanuel Macron has overseen the decision to close the Louvre as

staff at the most visited museum in world voted almost unanimously not to open. Macron has withdrawn himself from public events to “personally manage” the crisis at a safe distance from the crowds.

I arrived in the US to find Donald Trump publically trouncing his one of America's leading experts on infectious diseases, when they ventured that a vaccine for mass use could take a year to be proven. “A couple of months sounds better to me,” the president shot back, haggling over epidemiology with his own invited experts.

But even Trump's thick hide and a desire to showboat in front of clinicians and pharma bosses can't mask a nervousness in the White House at the potential of this ‘black swan’ event upsetting a run into the November presidential election — one which has been looking promising from Trump's point of view as Democrats divide and the stock market has shown itself (so far) resilient.

Beneath the antics, his prospectus is built on the economy sustaining the momentum of a “Trump bump”. But the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is predicting a slowdown in the global economy very soon as a result of the virus's spread.

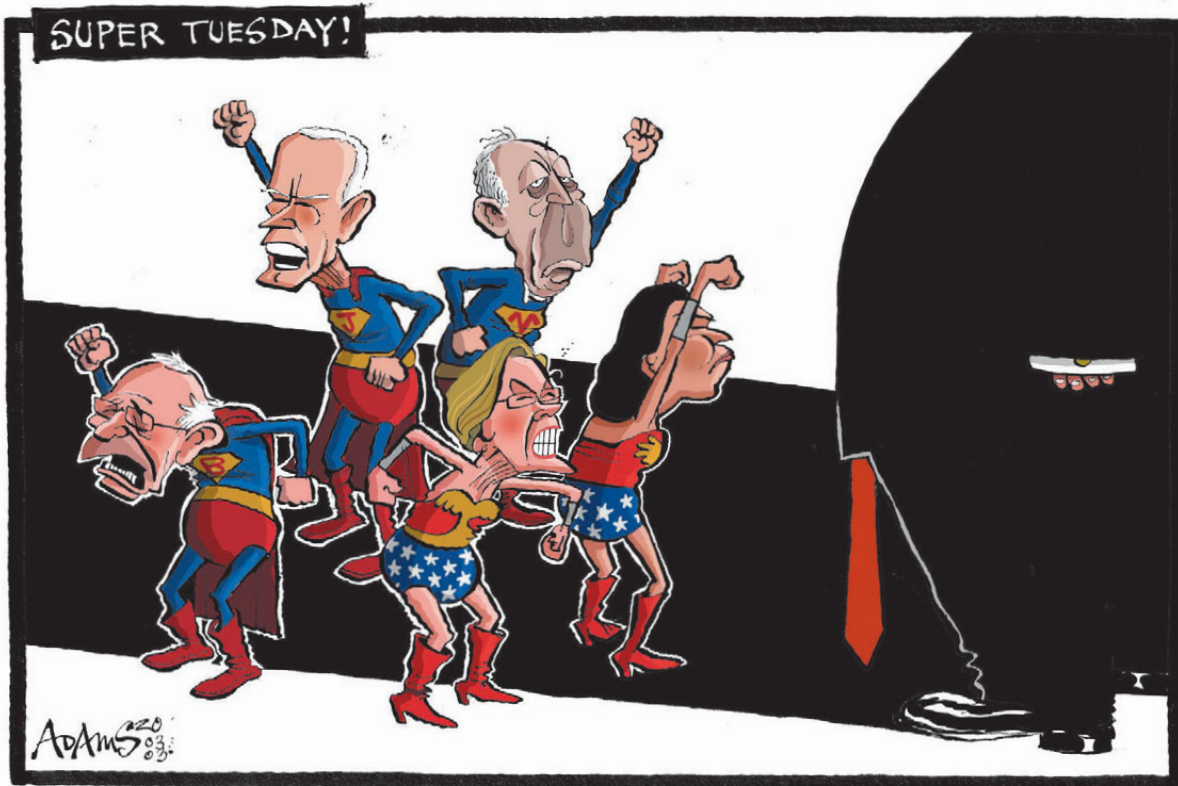
Curbs on tourism and business travel slow down deals and hit the retail sector. It is true that monetary policy and interest-rate fixes can alleviate some aspects of a short-term crisis. But as soon as people stay home from work in large numbers because schools close or transport freezes up, output inevitably drops.

From a China-US trade war, to Johnson's quest for a magic medicine, enabling him to avoid shadowing EU regulation while gaining a trade deal, the agenda has been thrown into the air by the risk of a pandemic. It's sobering that the links of an interconnected world are not easily decoupled. A sneeze from China echoes mightily around the globe.

● Anne McElvoy is Senior Editor at *The Economist*



Guarded: face masks were the hottest accessory at the London and Paris fashion weeks



To order prints or signed copies call 0191 603 0178 or visit eveningstandard.newsprints.co.uk • Contact Adams at: cartoonist@standard.co.uk • Instagram: @adamstoon

The Reader Your letters

20mph zone will increase pollution

THE intention of TfL to reduce 30mph speed limits to 20mph ["C-charge zone speed limit cut to 20mph from Monday", February 27] is disastrous for air pollution and accidents. This will cause an increase in pollution and an increase in the likelihood of an accident, simply because vehicles will be on the road longer for the same journey distance.

I carried out research on this for the Department for Transport a few years ago (published by the Transport Research Laboratory), so TfL and the Mayor know they will be causing vast amounts of air pollution.

The increased air pollution in recently implemented 20mph zones has been often reported in the Evening Standard.

This insane decision should never be implemented. Clearly TfL has failed to assess the impact of this proposal on climate change.

Jon Wallsgrove

TfL should google 'underselling'

£2 MILLION for a year's advertising by Google on London's Underground is laughable. With 5,686 readers across the network that amounts to £351 per reader for the year or 96p per day per reader!

Who brokered such a shocking deal for TfL? Google must be rubbing their hands with glee.

Miles Barton

EDITOR'S REPLY

Virus has exposed our global health systems

THE Covid-19 epidemic is punching way above its weight in terms of its economic effects relative to the current number of cases and deaths. This disproportionate effect stems, in part, from the interdependent nature of the global economy, with China playing an especially important role as both a major market and a source of critical materials in countless supply chains. It also has to do with the uncertainty surrounding the virus and our collective sensitivity to risk.

Covid-19 will require a non-trivial response on a global scale. Big steps

are needed going forward, including sustained and substantial investment in, and improved co-ordination of, our pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms. It's time for the cycle of panic and neglect to come to an end.

As the old proverb goes, "fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." It's hard to say how many times we've been fooled by now. Let's not get fooled again.

David E Bloom and Daniel Cadarette
Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health



Ross Lydall
Health Editor



Dear David and Daniel

THE rapid escalation of coronavirus has thrown our health systems into a not entirely flattering light.

Staff at Public Health England, a small government organisation outside the NHS, are working seven days a week and are at risk of burnout. Calls to NHS 111 take an age to answer. Intensive care beds in the NHS were already at 90 per cent-plus capacity.

The suggestion of calling up a Dad's Army of retired GPs seems

ill-advised as they belong to the two most at risk categories: the elderly and health workers.

Wellcome Director Jeremy Farrar says a \$10 billion commitment from the World Bank is urgently required. Research into finding a vaccine is progressing at pace but is probably a year away. Of more pressing concern is readying poorer nations.

We have enjoyed the benefits of globalisation, now we are seeing its risks.

Ross

The quiet power of a trouser suit

I WOULD like to take issue with some of the points Helen Lewis raised ["If you want equality, start with the politics of power dressing", February 28]. Women can dress in a trouser suit, not pantsuit, as we would call them rather than the American word. In fact the suit doesn't have to be a sober navy.

Angela Merkel has remained German Chancellor without bothering with "power dressing" and now we have a European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, who also prefers dressing simply in trousers and blouses.

Yet if women politicians in this country want to dress as they wish, it doesn't seem to affect their rise to the highest position. Theresa May I am sure has no desire to dress in a navy suit and dark shoes without her chunky jewellery.

Most women, like men, usually dress according to the occasion. An MP wearing an off-the-shoulder dress in the Commons didn't go down well, as would be the same if a male MP appeared dressed for his morning run.

Linda Green



Have your say

Email: thereader@standard.co.uk

Twitter: @ESTheReader

Online: standard.co.uk/thereader

Please give a daytime phone number. Letters withholding name and address will not be published.

Brexit leaves Emmanuel Macron with a dilemma

Sophie Pedder



GIVEN recent cross-channel provocations, it would hardly be surprising to learn that the French are quite happy to see the back of us. Boris Johnson last year referred to our nearest neighbours as "turds", in a comment that had to be cut from a BBC documentary. French President Emmanuel Macron is playing tough on a new trade deal, has accused Leavers of lying and only just managed a friendly word on our departure.

In reality, the French have long had mixed feeling about our presence in Europe. They twice refused to let us in. Two years before the referendum, the former French PM Michel Rocard spoke for many when he wrote: "Amis anglais: just leave, before you break everything".

But now that we have gone, I think that a sense of loss is dawning on the French. Around 60 per cent told a recent poll that Brexit would be bad for France. "The void left by the British departure is of an almost philosophical order," Le Monde reported.

The British are those pesky outspoken neighbours that everyone grumbles about until they move on and are strangely missed. "I will never celebrate Brexit," Macron told me in January at his new year's press reception.

The truth is that Brexit leaves the French with a dilemma. Without the UK, France finds itself in an awkward place inside Europe: alone as a big power, face-to-face with Germany. Given current tensions, this is not a comfortable spot to be. The Germans feel the same way.

On the future trade deal, the French will certainly push Brussels to act tough. The French want their fishermen to keep trawling in British waters and will insist on "level playing-field" rules in return for preferential access to the single market. Foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian thinks that the two sides will "rip each other apart".

Yet, at a time of shifting geopolitical forces, the French are also acutely aware of the need to keep working closely with the UK on diplomacy and defence and security policy. Over Iran or climate change, Britain is more closely aligned with France than the US. Ask any senior French military figure which other European armed forces they would choose to work alongside and there is no hesitation, it is Britain's.

Macron is still trying to work Johnson out. They may be polar opposites yet they are also both "insider-outsiders", members of an educational elite who seized power by political insurrection. And each is pragmatic. They may end up working surprisingly well together.

My best bet is that the pair will tread warily, at times hugging each other close, at others turning their backs on one another. But Brexit will prompt neither unqualified French relief nor rejection. The French kept us out. Once in, many wanted us to leave. Now that we're off, au revoir is tinged with regret. ● Sophie Pedder is The Economist Paris bureau chief and author of *Revolution Française: Emmanuel Macron And The Quest To Reinvent A Nation*

Let's welcome back Labour MPs who quit, says deputy hopeful

Sophia Sleigh Political Reporter

LABOUR deputy leadership hopeful Dawn Butler today said MPs who left the party should be "welcomed" back.

The shadow minister for women and equalities told the Standard she would like to see MPs such as Dame Louise Ellman, who quit the party over anti-Semitism, return to Labour.

Dame Louise, a member for 55 years, was among MPs who quit the party last year amid a chorus of criticism over Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. Ms Butler said: "She always said she would never join another party and would like to come back to the Labour Party."

Asked about others, such as former Labour MP Luciana Berger, who co-founded The Independent Group for Change before joining the Liberal Democrats, Ms Butler said: "It has to be within party rules. But if people want to come back to the party that is something to be welcomed — of course."

Under Labour rules anyone who joins or supports another political organisation cannot be a member. Applications for readmission are decided by the National

Plea for unity: Dawn Butler is the only deputy leadership candidate who has served as a minister

Executive Committee, usually after a minimum of five years.

The Brent Central MP made the comments after a meeting with Labour members in a cafe in Camberwell. She has been holding "grassroots" meetings with members around the country and making her case as a "unity" candidate.

She added: "Hopefully when I become deputy leader we'll have citizen's assemblies where we can discuss areas that might need a policy change or something that we are considering."

Asked what set her apart from rivals, including frontrunner Angela Rayner and Scotland's only Labour MP, Ian Murray, she said she was the only candidate to have served as a minister. "In fact, there's very few people in Parliament that have served in a Labour government now. I'm almost like the last woman standing."

Ms Butler became an MP in 2005 and was minister for young citizens and youth engagement under Gordon Brown. Also vying to be deputy leader are Tooting MP Dr Rosena Allin-Khan and Left-winger Richard Burgon.



Heidi's got talent in tweed

HEIDI KLUM arrives for the first day of filming on America's Got Talent. The model wore a tweed top and trousers as she headed to film the 15th season of the show in a windy Pasadena, California.

Leading women make case for quotas in live global debate

Naomi Ackerman

QUOTAS are needed in the City to ensure women secure top executive roles, according to an expert panel.

Leading women in business, the arts, politics and the public and voluntary sectors met in six cities worldwide yesterday for the second annual Athena40 Forum.

The forum, ahead of International Women's Day on Sunday, discussed "making the case on female leadership". The London panel was hosted at the Evening Standard's offices, with live feeds to Karachi, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Beirut and Amman, and talks in California and Athens.

BBC World presenter Tim Willcox chaired the London event, with economist Vicky Pryce, High Commissioner of Rwanda Yamina Karitanyi, Vicky Booth, CEO of charity Inspiring Girls, author Shamim Sarif, entrepreneur Paola Diana and Global Thinkers Forum founder Elizabeth Filippouli taking part.

All panellists argued for quotas. ● *The Global Thinkers Forum is to hold all-day panel discussions at the British Library on April 23 — athena40forum.com*

Watch the video:

standard.co.uk/forum



LNER.co.uk

London to Leeds for £29 is Mighty Fine

When you travel between 10am and 3pm, Monday to Saturday. Booked up to a week ahead.

THIS IS OUR
LNER
LONDON NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

51,200 seats available at stated price booked up to one week before travel. Off peak services only. Subject to availability.

>LL
POINTS
E>ST

VICTORIA PARK
LONDON E3

BANK HOLIDAY

SUN 24 MAY

xMassive Attack//

SPECIAL GUEST

THOM YORKE

ACOUSTIC SOLO PERFORMANCE

NILS FRAHM

YOUNG FATHERS

NENEH CHERRY

SEVDALIZA

FATOUMATA DIAWARA

TNGHT

ALFA MIST

GAIKA

JACQUES GREENE

SKINNY PELEMBE

HOTEL LUX

MAD PROFESSOR

DUBS 'MEZZANINE' LIVE

+ MANY MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED



AMERICAN
EXPRESS



Firestone

axs

f festicket

TimeOut

NME



Gazette

Advertiser

EYE FASHION

Discover Viktor&Rolf's new eyewear range
See page 28 for details

Evening Standard



Specsavers

Rules & Procedures apply. Players must be 16+.

thelondoner@standard.co.uk

@esTheLondoner

The

Parasite director at Tilda's big night

TILDA Swinton was the recipient of a BFI fellowship as the toast of Hollywood gathered at the Rosewood Hotel for a dinner in her honour.

"Fellowship and BFI are two of my favourite words..." Swinton told the audience. "I share [the award] entirely with my beloved filmmaking playmates, living and departed."

Playmates assembled included the Oscar-winning director Wes Anderson, who has cast Swinton in his last four films. Two further Academy Award-winners, costume designer Sandy Powell and Parasite director Bong Joon-ho, made the dinner, as did Kylie Minogue, Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke and Yorke's partner, the Italian actor Dajana Roncione.

Meanwhile, at Fortnum & Mason, Rob Brydon stopped by for Turn The Tables, an evening in aid of Cancer Research UK. The actor, who stars in a new series of comedy travel series The Trip alongside Steve Coogan, was joined at the event by Elizabeth Hurley.



BONG JOON-HO

THOM YORKE

KYLIE MINOGUE

The BBC's Gracie

BBC presenter **Carrie Gracie** has said that she is ready to quit the corporation after two years of fighting for equal pay. "I'm nearing the end of my rope at the BBC because I've done what I've needed to. I've fought the fight... I've helped row the boat to shore," Gracie (right) said at an event in Soho last night.

"I'm kind of done, so I can actually start thinking about leaving."

She went on: "They've announced 450 job losses in news, I'm an expensive person — I should go." Gracie laid

into BBC bosses, saying they were over-compensated.

"Too many managers ... are paid too much... the foot soldiers are paid too little" she said, adding: "The managers get in the way, take them all out."



She went on: "The meetings you see in W1A, the truth is weirder than the fiction, all those people sit around having meetings... doing nothing useful for a lot of the time."

Gracie was speaking at a Media Society

A Dawn chorus

THE parents of Dawn Sturgess, the innocent woman killed by novichok in Salisbury in 2018, have thanked author Tony Bassett for dedicating his new novel featuring Russian spies to the memory of their daughter.

Bassett has dedicated The Lazarus Charter, published by Conrad Press, to Sturgess and Alexander Litvinenko, who were both killed by substances brought in by foreign agents.

Commenting on how Sturgess unwittingly picked up a poison-laced perfume bottle, Bassett told The Londoner: "It could have been anyone, couldn't it?"

HEPTATHLON world champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson is a trusting soul. "I let two Jehovah's Witnesses into my apartment today," she said yesterday, "who I automatically thought were drug testers because they opened with, 'Bet you weren't expecting us.'"

AS the NHS considers ways to combat the coronavirus, will the outbreak provide dubious openings for retired medics? Doctor and writer Phil Hammond deadpans: "The Government is going to ask retired GPs to help out in a coronavirus pandemic. Those over 80, in which the mortality rate is highest, will be particularly attracted to this job opportunity." Not the kind of jobs boom anyone wanted.

Londoner

TILDA SWINTON
WES ANDERSON

ROB BRYDON

ELIZABETH HURLEY

DAVE BENETT



● JEREMY Corbyn (below) has revealed why he and Arsenal fullback Héctor Bellerín rankled Piers Morgan in 2017. "Hector Bellerín was a nice guy, very interesting," Gunners fan Corbyn explains, but the GMB broadcaster "kept interrupting our conversation and asking about [Arsene] Wenger."



So we transferred our conversation into Spanish". Fellow Arsenal fan Morgan, Corbyn told the Islington Gazette, "became extremely annoyed and then tweeted about it". Well, if you will interrupt...

● JEREMY Hunt says he has "a very sweet tooth". Surrounded by cakes at a Lords event yesterday, the ex-health secretary whimpered: "I always give up sweet things for Lent so this is a little bit painful."

● SPOTTING a pop-up shop in Parliament recently, we asked what the bestsellers were. Mints came top, but the hottest property of the day was a set of wooden cutlery. Remedies for bad breath and wooden spoons? How apt.



Ayesha Hazarika

QUOTE OF THE DAY

'In the American version, people actually faint to the ground'

Antiques Roadshow host Fiona Bruce says British contestants need to up their reaction game



says: 'I should go'

event at the Groucho Club, hosted by Phil Harding.

She hit the headlines in 2018 after she resigned as the BBC's China Editor when it was revealed that she earned half as much as supposed equivalent North America editor Jon Sopel.

She then returned to London to work as a presenter.

Gracie revealed she received a £361,000 payout from the corporation, which she donated to the gender equality charity the Fawcett Society.

Rows about the gender pay gap have rumbled on for nearly three years, with presenter Samira Ahmed winning an employment tribunal last month.

Weeks later, the BBC announced it was shedding 450 jobs in news in an £80 million savings drive.

"Unless the BBC [improves pay equality] it will die and it will rightly die frankly, because it's essential to show respect for your workforce" Gracie, who has worked for the BBC for more than 30 years, said.

She added that it was tiring to be constantly fighting for parity.

"I don't want to be rigid in warrior mode, it's a very exhausting place being in fight mode all the time".

The Londoner online:
standard.co.uk/thelondoner

Resourceful Jenny has got virus covered

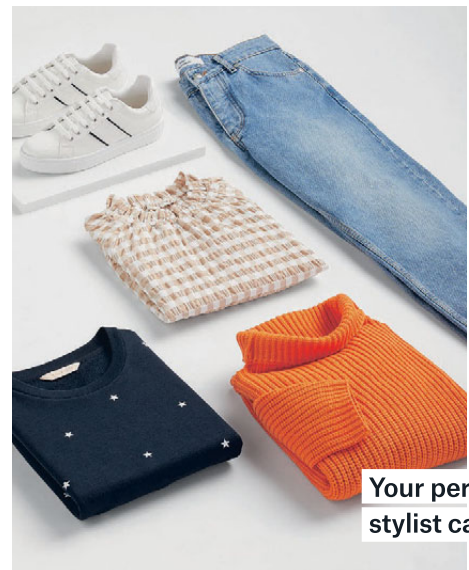
● JENNY Eclair wonders whether an unexpected substitute could help prevent the spread of coronavirus. The writer, who is "secretly stockpiling food" but only collecting Cup-A-Soup, as well as Valium, explained: "I can't find any facemasks, so I'm considering using sanitary towels." She joked to an audience at the Romantic Novelists Awards in St Paul's last night: "We are from a generation where sanitary towels came with loops, absolutely perfect for looping around the ears... so it's not a bad idea."

Edited by
Robbie Smith

Mask solution:
Eclair

S
SPORT
TODAY
CAN THE BLUES FOLLOW WATFORD AND BEAT LIVERPOOL?
PAGE 44

When you realise you own 8 grey jumpers



Your personal
stylist can help

STITCH FIX

Styling for women & men from 100+ brands
Free delivery & returns | Try before you buy

Stay up to date all day every day at:
standard.co.uk/sport



Old rivals back Biden in bid to block Sanders

Super Tuesday boost for Democratic presidential hopeful

UNITED STATES

Michael Howie

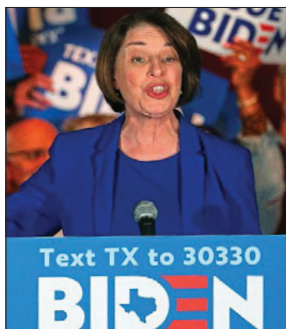
JOE BIDEN today entered the biggest stage of the Democratic primary battle buoyed by a trio of endorsements from former rivals seeking to block left-winger Bernie Sanders's path to the nomination.

Beto O'Rourke backed the former vice-president this morning, following fellow moderates Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar, who earlier announced they were supporting his campaign after quitting the race.

The move gives Mr Biden, 77, a significant boost on "Super Tuesday", when 14 states vote for their favourite Democratic candidate to take on Donald Trump in November's presidential election.

Mr Biden was joined on stage by Mr O'Rourke and Ms Klobuchar at a rally in Dallas last night, and suggested he was already offering them positions in his potential administration.

He told Mr O'Rourke: "I'm going to guarantee you, this is not the last you're seeing of this guy. You're going to take care of the gun problem with me, you're going to be the one who leads this effort. I'm counting on you." Mr



New ally: Amy Klobuchar at a Biden rally

O'Rourke had run on a pledge to tighten gun control laws.

Earlier, Mr Buttigieg, 38, joined Mr Biden at a restaurant to formally endorse him after withdrawing from the contest on Sunday night.

"When I ran for president, we made it clear that the whole idea was about rallying the country together to defeat Donald Trump and to win the era for the values that we share," the former mayor of South Bend in Indiana said.

"And that was always a goal that was

much bigger than me becoming president. And it is in the name of that very same goal that I'm delighted to endorse and support Joe Biden for president," he said.

Speaking at the rally, Mr Biden said his former challenger reminded him of his eldest son Beau, who died from brain cancer in 2015. Like Mr Buttigieg, Beau Biden was a military veteran.

"I know that may not mean much to most people but to me it's the highest compliment I can give any man or woman," he added.

Mr Trump turned on Mr Biden at a campaign rally in North Carolina, picking on his propensity for rhetorical gaffes. "I honestly don't think he knows what office he's running for," Mr Trump said. The President speculated that if Mr Biden wins the White House, "he's not going to be running it. Other people are going to."

He said: "They're going to put him into a home and other people are going to be running the country and they're going to be super-Left radical crazies."

Mr Sanders, the nomination front-runner, shot back on CNN, telling the President to "stay out of the Democratic primary", adding: "Why don't you do your job as President for a change?"



Warm relations: Joe Biden with Pete Buttigieg, who he said reminded him of late son Beau.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Educating the workforce of the future

The Citi GPS study stresses the importance of lifelong learning in an era of technological change

Our workplaces are changing dramatically. Technology is revolutionising how many sectors operate, and also creating new industries. Innovative developments such as AI, electric vehicles, e-commerce and smart utilities are all having significant impact.

According to Rob Garlick, head of Citi Research EMEA, this is likely to create greater headwinds and tailwinds for many occupations: "The world of work has always been dynamic, but the difference today is the pace and scope of change has never been greater, and the benefits are not being evenly shared."

Technological advances have always changed the employment landscape. For example, over 40% of Americans worked in agriculture in 1900; today it is less than 2%, according to the Citi GPS Technology at Work v4.0 report. There have been similar changes in areas as diverse as

citi
Welcome what's next

steam power, factory electrification and computers, with PCs only becoming regular workplace fixtures in the 1980s.

In the future, other employment areas will grow, again fuelled by evolving technology: ageing infrastructure in developed markets will need upgrading; new charging stations will need building for electric vehicles; and renewable energies will be further embraced.

HARNESSING POTENTIAL

The burning question is how to harness the potential of new technologies in



our working and personal lives, while minimising levels of disruption.

Workers are likely to have six different careers in their lifetime, on average – and 60% of those jobs do not yet exist, according to the Citi GPS study.

The report calls for an education revamp to equip future workforces with the ability to take advantage of emerging technologies, and flexibility to change careers when required.

"Improved training and employment support are also needed to adapt to fast-changing occupational requirements, to reinvigorate careers and to minimise spells of joblessness," it states.

The study also emphasises the importance of developing human characteristics that machines cannot replicate. These are what it calls the four Cs: Critical thinking, including problem solving; Creativity, such as

shaping new ideas; Communication, including leadership; and Collaboration, that involves teamwork.

Education is not just about academic standards, but also about building character and developing life skills, according to Rob Garlick.

"The most consistent advice from the experts in this report is the need for continuous learning in an era of rapid technological change," he said.



Donald Trump, inset, ridicules Mr Biden

GLOBAL BRIEFING

TURKEY
THOUSANDS OF MIGRANTS STOPPED FROM CROSSING BORDER RIVER
GREECE today said it had stopped more than 5,000 migrants crossing from Turkey in 24 hours, as tens of thousands continued to try to find ways into Europe.

Many were wading or rowing across the Evros river that runs along most the length of the Turkish frontier. Greece said it had prevented 5,183 people from entering and arrested 45, mostly from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Morocco and Bangladesh. It has increased its military and police presence since Turkey declared its borders with Europe open on Friday to force the EU into helping it handle the fallout from Syria's war.

SPAIN
RECORD £320M DRUGS HIDDEN IN MARBLE BLOCKS SEIZED BY POLICE
POLICE have seized a record-breaking £320 million haul of methamphetamine due to be sold around Europe after discovering the drugs hidden in marble blocks.

More than 750 kilos of meth had been stashed in tubes inside the blocks which were being imported from Mexico to Valencia port on Spain's east coast. Police say the smuggling technique had never been seen before. Footage released by officers today showed the moment the 25-tonne marble blocks were smashed open using JCBs, drills and other machinery to reveal the illegal stash inside.



UNITED STATES
LEANING TOWER COLLAPSES
A TOWER block that became a tourist attraction when a controlled implosion went awry has finally collapsed after two weeks of pounding. The 11-storey "Leaning Tower of Dallas" attracted visitors who took whimsical selfies.

UNITED STATES
VETERAN TV STAR RESIGNS ON AIR AFTER SEXISM CLAIMS
A VETERAN news anchor has abruptly resigned on air as he apologised for inappropriate remarks about a woman's appearance.

MSNBC's Chris Matthews, 74, said last night's Hardball show, which he has hosted since 1997, would be his last. He said remarks that he and other men "might have incorrectly thought were OK were never OK", after a guest had said he had made her feel uncomfortable on a show in 2016.



Netanyahu claims 'colossal victory' after high turnout in third election in a year

ISRAEL

Robert Fox

PRIME minister Benjamin Netanyahu today claimed "an enormous victory" in Israel's general election, although exit polls suggested his bloc would fall just short of a majority.

Likud and its allies were predicted to capture 59 seats out of the 120 in the Knesset.

Mr Netanyahu, 70, is looking to secure a record fifth term in office — two weeks before he is expected to stand trial on corruption charges. He denies wrongdoing.

"It's a night of colossal victory," Mr Netanyahu told a raucous crowd of supporters early this morning. "We won against all odds — we prevailed. We made lemons into lemonade."

Likud is expected to emerge as the biggest party in Israel's third election in under a year, winning 36 or 37 seats. Its nearest challenger, former defence chief Benny Gantz's Blue and White, was tipped to land between 32 and 34 seats. Official results were due to be declared today.

Despite being called to the polls three times in 11 months, Israelis turned out in greater numbers than expected. More than 71 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballot — one of the highest turnouts for years.



Celebration: Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara after exit poll results

After the last election, both Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gantz tried and failed to form coalitions. After an ugly campaign Mr Gantz appears unlikely to consider a unity government between Likud and Blue and White.

Mr Netanyahu benefited from his tough stance on security, including pledges to annex Palestinian territory and secure the West Bank settlements. If his victory is confirmed, he would have 28 days to form a coalition.

US President Donald Trump said: "He's been a great ally and he's a friend. I'd like to congratulate him on a well-thought-out race."

citi



The study also emphasises the importance of developing human characteristics that machines cannot replicate

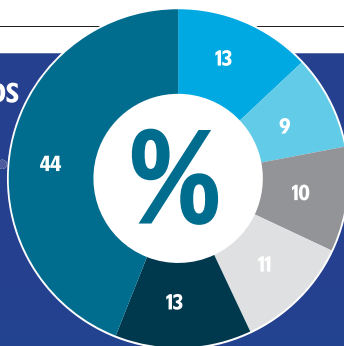


Read more at
citivelocity.com/citigps/technology-work-v4-0

AVERAGE RESKILLING NEEDS (SHARE OF WORKFORCE)*

- Less than 1 month
- 1 to 3 months
- 3 to 6 months
- 6 to 12 months
- Over 1 year
- No reskilling needed

*56% of the workforce will need to retrain

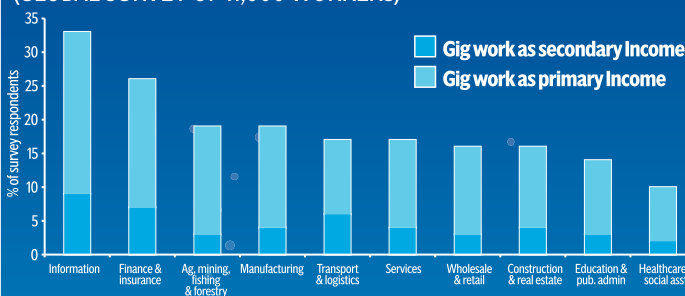


NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN CITIES



The amount of people living in cities is expected to increase by 2 billion people...

RANGE OF GIG ECONOMY WORK (GLOBAL SURVEY OF 11,000 WORKERS)



"HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY COULD MEAN A SHORTER WORKING WEEK"

Workers will be able to spend more time using their creative skills, thanks to the automation of repetitive tasks, according to Guillaume Menuet, Euro Area Economist at Citi Research, pictured below.

"Higher productivity should also mean more flexibility and, probably, a shorter working week. That will help increase the overall impression of wellbeing," he says.

Menuet believes technological improvements that help workers' productivity can lead to an increase in corporate profits and the prospect of higher wages. "If managed properly, productivity gains ought to be able to translate into a reduced working week, as is being experimented with in some firms without any loss of output," he explains.

Naturally, politics will have a role to play as individual countries will take different approaches. "Some prefer more employment — labour intensive with lower pay — while others like better-paid workers to the detriment of outsiders, but with higher levels of social protection," he explains.

Either way, key requirements for workers of the future will include job mobility and flexibility, such as changing roles within firms, moving between companies, and embracing different locations.

More public resources will also be directed towards employment-support programmes in order to respond to the challenges posed.

"Lifelong learning should be a priority, keeping skills up to date and employability high," Menuet adds.



The mother fighting terror

Her son Martyn died in the Manchester Arena attack — now Figen Murray is on a mission to make our public spaces safer. She tells **Samuel Fishwick** why he wouldn't want us to live in fear

We do odd jobs

That's why, at NatWest, we do MoneySense lessons in schools, for free. Whether it's teaching 5-year-olds to manage pocket money, or 18-year-olds to crowdfund projects, we're never too young to learn. It's just one of the things we do to help everyone feel money confident.

Search NatWest MoneySense
We are what we do



NatWest

On the night Martyn Hett was killed at Ariana Grande's Manchester Arena concert three years ago, Figen Murray had a premonition of her son never coming back home.

"[My husband] Stuart was convinced Martyn was in the pub ordering drinks for his friends," she says, recalling the moments they waited for news at their home near Manchester. "I just said, do you know what, he's dead. I couldn't feel him. There was nothingness. I had no sense of him whatsoever."

Murray wants to ensure no parent has to worry about a child returning safely from a night out. The past 12 months have been dedicated to lobbying for the creation of Martyn's Law, stronger anti-terror security measures that would legally compel private companies to better secure public spaces such as the Manchester Arena. As of last week, pending a review in spring, Martyn's Law is becoming a reality — the government will now consult with venues.

"I can't bring Martyn back," says Murray, 59. "But I want to ensure that other people's children can go out and enjoy fun in a free country without the fear of not coming home". She was struck last month, reading reports of the terror attack in Streatham, by a girl running alongside somebody else asking "is this what I'm supposed to do? Am I supposed to run?" Under Martyn's Law, she says, every place of work will have trained its staff to have an answer.

Martyn's Law will never stop terrorism, she says. "But a terrorist would think twice if they saw bag searches, metal-detector wands for security guards there. It's no different to stopping your house being burgled."

Martyn Hett, aged 29, was among 22 killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing. He was a vivacious, "wickedly funny" bon vivant who worshipped Ariana Grande, Mariah Carey and Coronation Street's Deirdre Barlow (he had a tattoo of her, as well as a sizeable Coronation Street-themed fancy dress wardrobe). Once he "took a 14-hour bus journey up to Scotland just to sit at the front of Pop Idol contestant Michelle McManus's tiniest gig". He knew every word to all her songs.

"He always took the mickey, and I was the butt of all his jokes," says Murray. "And you said you hated it, but you loved it," adds Stuart, Martyn's stepfather, sitting across from her at the h Club London in Covent Garden. Stuart, a strait-laced GP, has taken up the "baton" of Martyn's legacy by having a Barlow tattoo of his own in tribute.

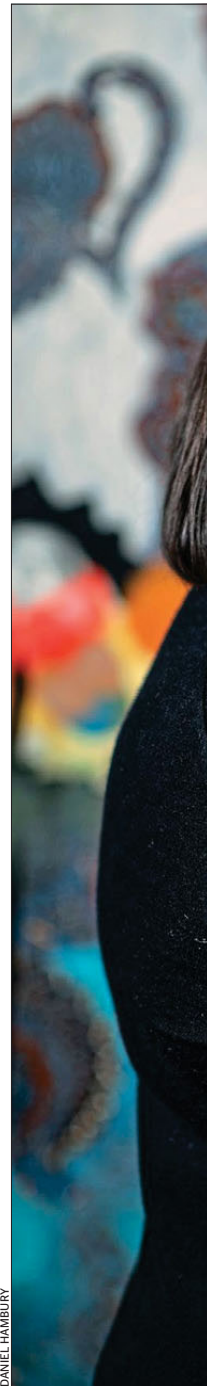
Before the bombing, Murray was a clinical counsellor with a thriving home practice for 20 years. "That just stopped overnight when Martyn died," she says. "I couldn't do it anymore. I couldn't



Nobody should stop going to these places. It's wrong. If you stop doing what you want, the terrorists will win

Building a legacy: Figen Murray, who is leading a campaign for more rigorous security measures at public venues

DANIEL HAMBURY



Planking, solitary bike rides

TEXTS, images, emails, cuttings — my laptop and phone are alive with communication from relatives, friends, contacts, and people I have lost touch with. I feel so beautifully connected. And yet the absence of three-dimensional human company armed with beating hearts plays hard on the soul.

I am in "self-isolation" after coming back from Iran, where there are cases of coronavirus Covid-19. The white tulips I bought

before I went into confinement won't last another week. But having survived one week myself I now know it can be done. People have been incredibly kind and generous — a bottle of wine on the step, a massive balaclava to enable me to get out incognito on my bike — yes, it's permitted so long as I keep pedalling and give people a wide berth. The local Greenberry café in Primrose Hill (pictured) boosts my morale with delicious boxed suppers, and won't let



News in Focus



possibly listen to anyone telling me about their problems, because part of me will always think you're alive — stop moaning."

The family found out Martyn had died the day after the bombing. Humour helped with the waiting. "The later it got, the worse the jokes got", says Murray.

"We were saying the police will come in any moment and say don't worry, we've found Martyn, he's been being sick in the toilet," adds her husband.

And so Murray became determined to build something from nothing. A year after the attack, she and Stuart attended a small gig in Manchester as a Father's Day present to him (not their first; they'd attended the One Love tribute concert at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground two weeks after the attack).

"I made the assumption that there would be security everywhere after the attack", she says. "But we walked in and nobody even checked our tickets. I sat in the concert and at one point I remember crying, and Stuart saying, it's a sad song isn't it? But they were tears of frustration. Blimey! Nothing has changed."

Murray has five children, including Martyn, and she and Stuart's daughters Louise and Nikita, now 19 and 22, were the first in the family to attend a public concert after the attack, a Paramore gig in Manchester. "They said to me 'Mum, we'll not go'." Murray insisted they attend, as long as they texted her at the beginning, middle and end. "Nobody should stop going to these places. It's wrong. If you stop doing what these terrorists want you not to do, they win."

BUT changing the law became her mission. Martyn's Law has many points. Venues must be trained for terrorism events "as they would be for fire evacuations"; vulnerabilities must be properly risk assessed, and any risk reduced as much as possible. "If that means in a small pub adding a security camera or security light, then small measures are fine. Stick a lock on where there's a door not locked". Larger venues, she says, must work better with local authorities; she has worked with Manchester City Council on legislation to ensure the traffic lights around stadiums allow swifter traffic flow after events. "When you look at Bataclan [the terror attack in Paris in 2015], the terrorists walked in half way through, with Manchester Arena it was at the end. So security needs to be right from the moment they arrive to the time

Not forgotten:
a memorial at Manchester Arena and Figen with Martyn in 2017



everyone's completely left." Penalties for not obliging, she says, should range from fines to trial in court. Murray has done her homework, studying for a Master's degree in counter-terrorism. She bought £29 metal detector wands to illustrate that cost-effective measures can be introduced securely in front of the press at a conference last year. "Martyn's Law is about simplicity, and it should be stressed that the cost to venues is always proportionate," she likes to emphasise. You get the impression there's nothing she wouldn't tackle. "I have literally lost the ability to give a sh*t", she says. "I used to be an introvert before Martyn died. I used to hate weddings, parties, anything with big crowds. Now, I just don't care."

She says she received a barrage of abuse on Twitter when she publicly forgave the suicide bomber. "People said I was deluded, a foolish woman, in cloud cuckoo-land, if that was their child I'd murder that person. And I'm thinking hate isn't an answer." How did she forgive him? Three days after the attack, still numb, she saw the suicide bomber's face for the first time on one of the newspapers that collected around the house "and thought 'Oh my God! You're so young. Why on earth would you do such a stupid thing you stupid boy?' And that's how I saw him, as a stupid boy."

That revelation coincided with the vehicle attack on Finsbury Park mosque days later, in which the Imam and worshippers formed a human chain to protect the man who'd attacked them from an angry mob.

"These human beings, among all this chaos and fear, chose to be humane. I thought, I can stay within my humanity, too."

THERE'S been plenty of outside support: activist Brendan Cox, husband of murdered Labour MP Jo Cox, phoned her "out of the blue" to offer his help raising awareness after reading about her petition; former National Counterterrorism Co-ordinator Nick Aldworth helped her draft the proposal to the government. "They carried me through". She criticised the pop rock band The 1975 on Twitter for detonating a fake suicide vest in a music video; she took Eminem to task online too for lyrics in which he glibly imagines himself as the Manchester Arena bomber. "[The 1975 fans] absolutely crucified me online. The Peace Foundation rang me to ask if I was OK. I said I'm absolutely fine." Is it worth it? "Although she says she an introvert... you don't

take sh*t off anyone", Stuart says. "You've always been one to stand your ground though." Murray says, "Well, Martyn was like that, wasn't he?"

Murray talks candidly about mental health. She's had eye-movement desensitisation and reprocessing therapy (EMDR) to try and overcome the worst moments of her life; seeing Martyn's body in the morgue, and visiting the spot where he died. She finds knitting therapeutic. She began knitting small, "peace" bears well before Martyn's Death (they provided a distraction and helped her stay positive when she became deaf in one ear); indeed, Martyn helped make her incidentally famous, using his public relations nous to raise the profile of his mother's hobby. She hadn't sold any at a craft fair and texted Martyn; he used Twitter to send her cause viral. On the day of his funeral she received an email from her online stockist saying its site had crashed because the online shop was getting 500 bear orders a minute.

Life has continued. The Murrys have had another grandson. They had "a re-wedding", too, after being married for 25 years last November.

"We lost a son, we gained loads of sons and daughters", Figen says. "Martyn had a good circle of loyal friends, including two of his ex-partners".

The family and friends had a tree planted in his name in a local park, stand around it, 20 of them, and all sleep at the Murray's house. "I don't know who needs who," says Murray. She says that sometimes she can't believe she's had to drive Martyn's Law into the public consciousness. "It's amazing it doesn't exist." His voice, his name, his presence always brought her such joy, she says. Now it stands to protect the lives of others.

and lots of FaceTime — Jon Snow reports from Covid-19 self-isolation

me pay. And even more wonderful, the young woman next door has texted to say that she's going away for 10 days and if my wife — who comes back from a business trip tomorrow — wants to remain free of having to "isolate" she could stay there.

Last night my wife and I were able to dine together online using FaceTime. I was getting cooking instructions and was able to observe that my fried shrimps looked a lot more tasty than her anchovy pasta. The dog could hear her voice and maybe could even see her on the screen but remained barkingly confused. As to my freedom,

going to a shop, pub, cinema, any other enclosed public space is forbidden. Yesterday afternoon my regular trainer gave me a session online — two-minute planks, press-ups, and the rest, once again via FaceTime.

It makes me wonder what on earth enforced "self-isolation" would have been like before the digital age.

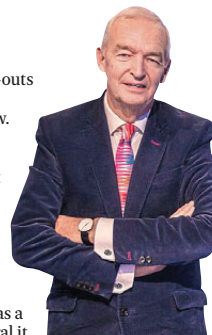
People offer to send me books, box sets, and endless tips for films I must see. But in truth, somehow I simply don't have time. I make work for myself cleaning, and sorting, and writing. I'm putting off the moment



People offer to send me books but in truth somehow I simply don't have time

when I must re-awaken a book project I started over a year ago. Somehow the pages of the print-outs remain stubbornly unturned. I know what, I'll get to it tomorrow.

I recognise in that sense I am fortunate. Indeed, when I woke up yesterday morning, I thought my emotional condition was holding up. But later, listening to one of my Channel 4 bosses, Dorothy Byrne, on Desert Island Discs, one of the pieces she chose was Dido's Lament by Henry Purcell. Ever since I was a chorister at Winchester Cathedral it



has been one of my absolute favourite pieces of music. Sitting alone at the kitchen table, I paused. A few large adult tears made their way down my cheeks. But then that's no test. Dido's Lament always does that to me. But at least I had the luxury of listening to it in my own home.

I am mindful that in talking about my tiny endurance that there is far greater suffering elsewhere in the world. Think of those totalitarian regimes where sufferers are being forced into internal exile or are frightened to seek help.

Jon Snow

Showbiz news & gossip

Mumford star's mission: Bring music back to heart of capital

Alex Lawson

MUMFORD & SONS star Ben Lovett is launching a music venue in King's Cross to help bring the "beating heart" of London's nightlife back to the centre of the capital.

Keyboardist Lovett, right, is unveiling Goods Way tomorrow. The complex,



off St Pancras Square, will house live music venue Lafayette, New Orleans-inspired bar Sweetwater and food market The Courtyard. He said: "I grew up in the suburbs of London and lived in New York for a while then moved back to central London. It wasn't the London I grew up visiting as a kid coming in from the suburbs where

Soho was at the centre of cutting-edge culture. It was the real beating heart of the city. We want to make sure that people don't go to work in the centre of town then go and spend their evenings out in the suburbs, that feels a bit upside-down. London needs to nail its night-time economy."

According to City Hall the number of grassroots music venues in London fell by a third between 2007 and 2016, to 94. Last year they rose to 100.

DON'T DELAY, MOVE TODAY!

MOVING TO PORTUGAL



BREXIT
UPDATES

LONDON SHOW & SEMINARS TUESDAY 17th MARCH 2020, 11am to 9pm

Pestana Chelsea Bridge Hotel, 354 Queenstown Road, London SW11 8AE
(Nearest Tube: Sloane Square, Bus route: 452, 137, 44)

Our expert speakers will give you the latest post-Brexit facts on:
tax and retirement, healthcare and daily life and where to buy your new home.

If you're thinking of moving to Portugal, 2020 is the year to do it!

Seminars start at 11.30am, 3pm and 6.30pm.

• Live in the sunshine • Healthy lifestyle • Lower cost of living •

Meet Portugal's leading property agents and developers!
Portuguese wine! Free Entry!

To register your place go to: www.movingtoportugal.org.uk

Organised by

**Portuguese Chamber
of Commerce in UK**

Tel +44 (0) 20 7201 6638

www.portuguese-chamber.org.uk

See the full feature in the April issue of Vogue available via digital download and newsstands on Friday



I DIDN'T WORK FOR MONTHS...I STUNK OF DESPERATION, REVEALS COMER

JODIE COMER has spoken about her career struggles before being cast as Villanelle in Killing Eve. The Liverpool-born star told British Vogue that she didn't work for eight or nine months one year. "What I realised, the more that I wasn't working, was that I stunk of desperation, basically," she said. Comer has won a Bafta and an Emmy for Killing Eve and will return in the third series later this year.

'I've made a children's album ... but my son doesn't like my voice!'

Lizzie Edmonds

Showbusiness Reporter

GLEE star Matthew Morrison says he loves singing to his son — but the two-year-old isn't a fan.

The singer and dancer, a captain on BBC1 show The Greatest Dancer, said his love of singing to Revel, his son with wife Renee, had inspired his latest album of contemporary versions of Disney songs.

"I sing to my son a lot, so I wanted to do a children's album," he said. "My wife and I, we love to sing. Now we are getting to this point, Revel will be like: 'No no. I don't want to listen to you sing.' My kid is saying no ... It is so funny."

The album, called Disney Dreamin' With Matthew Morrison, features songs from Disney movies including Aladdin, Toy Story, Pinocchio, Tarzan and Peter Pan. It is out on Friday.

Morrison, 41, who played JM Barrie in the Broadway production of Finding Neverland for almost a year, said he had been using his parenting skills to help his acts on The Greatest Dancer.

He said: "I have taken so well to being a father and I love it. I have been taking a lot of my dad skills, and taking that



Circle of life: Matthew Morrison with wife Renee and two-year-old son Revel

and incorporating them in to the lessons I am teaching my acts every week ... [which] has been really fulfilling."

On whether or not he was a "harsh" captain, Morrison said: "I don't think I am harsh. I am just saying what people at home are thinking. It is hard when you have kids that you are talking to. I probably could be harsher. But I am reining it back as I don't want them to cry in front of me."

Soloist Harrison, Morrison's last remaining act, will compete in Saturday's final against ballroom dancers Michael and Jowita, child performers Lily and Joseph, and troupe Dancepoint.

Life & Style

Fashion
WE KNOW WHAT
YOU'LL BE WEARING
NEXT SEASON
3-PAGE SPECIAL

The next big thing

FASHION

From doomsday dressing to a fetish for latex, the Paris catwalks were a melting pot of trends. **Karen Dacre** and **Emma McCarthy** report from the front row



1. Celine

2. Balenciaga

3. Maison Margiela

1. Time for a knees-up

Hedi Slimane's preoccupation with bourgeoisie Parisian style has found itself a rebellious streak. Certainly, she's less "lady who lunches on the Left Bank" and more "lady who launches herself into mosh pits" as a rock 'n' roll edge infiltrates the new Celine woman. Her arrival on the catwalk means fitted velvet jackets, sheer tights and crucially, a hem line that remains above the knee. In Slimane's vision this manifested in everything from shift dresses to shorts. Expect to see this look everywhere next season. **KD**

2. Prepper chic

Talk of rapidly spreading disease was momentarily halted on Sunday morning when Balenciaga's master in command put the climate crisis back on the agenda. The spectacle, staged around a waterlogged catwalk, saw scenes of boiling seas and ferocious fire projected onto the ceiling, while an army of caped crusaders clad in clergy-style robes

and stomping rubber boots waded through the water. For Covid-19 swabbers, or indeed anyone preparing for the end of the world, this is the new survivalist style. **KD**

3. The deconstructed gown

Recycling may be a hot topic in fashion circles, but only John Galliano could make it an entirely new genre. "Recicla" — as he called it in his Maison Margiela pre-show podcast — takes forward the concept of vintage re-editions, pioneered by the house's founder in its Replica line. By trawling charity shops, Galliano sought to deconstruct pieces to capture "freeze frames [of] work in progress" — "instead of slavishly copying". He added: "It's a return to worth. It's slower fashion. It's that you can give something another life and it's also buying invention with a conscience." Among the most sublime additions were dresses stripped of their outer layers

Continued on Page 26

DULWICH
PICTURE
GALLERY

Official Paint Partner
MYLANDS

Supported by
The Dulwich Picture Gallery
The Dulwich Picture Gallery
The Dulwich Picture Gallery

BRITISH
SURREALISM

26 FEB – 17 MAY 2020

Break with convention...



Book online and save
dpg.art/british-surrealism

Curry Medals, The Dulwich Picture Gallery, 1998. © 1998. All rights reserved. All other rights reserved. The artist's daughter, Chris, is the author of the book. Photos by Chris Jones Limited.

Life & Style | Fashion

Continued from Page 25

to reveal the bare bones of sheer lining — or rather the “ghost of a dress”, as described by Galliano. **EM**

4. Uniform wares

Models for Lemaire don't march down the catwalk, they meander in a nonchalant-everyday-yet-significantly-well-dressed sort of way. So it follows that the brand's clothes are among some of the most approachable yet aspirational at Paris Fashion Week. Many of next season's outfits were neutral in colour and seemingly prepared to handle the hooley that was busy blowing outside. Think hooded trench coats



4. **Lemaire**

complete with storm flaps and a utilitarian one-beige-fits-all uniform. **EM**

5. Victorian trims

Under the vaulted medieval ceiling of Paris's Conciergerie — better known as the prison of Marie Antoinette — Paco Rabanne's Julien Dossena unveiled a collection adapted from historical dress, with military coats to full Joan of Arc-inspired chainmail armour on display. What does it mean for your wardrobe? Unless you're one of a few die-hard fans, there's no need to stock up on WD-40, but a Victorian-style collar will stand you in good stead for the new season.

The higher, frillier and more pie-crust-like, the better. **EM**

6. Fashion fetish

For an indication of the best looks on the Balmain catwalk, one must look to what Kim Kardashian wears two days later. Stepping out in Paris on Sunday, the reality TV star modelled not one, but two all-latex looks — one chocolate brown, one caramel-hued — which were unveiled on the catwalk on Friday. If top-to-toe latex is a little much for you, consider Saint Laurent instead, which incorporated skintight vinyl in all of its 66 looks, from taut glossy trousers to seriously kinky boots. **EM**

7. Cape crusaders

Cape spotting has been sport during this month's season of shows, with superhero style as commonplace as anti-bac gel and germ masks. Undoubtedly in times of unrest, a determination to swaddle manifests via capes for day, evening and everything in between. They are an outerwear prerequisite



6. **Balmain**

Raising a city from the rubble



Mosul was liberated after three years under IS control. The conflict razed the city to the ground and displaced thousands. This documentary shows the struggle to rebuild the city and a life there through the perspectives of a young inhabitant wanting to return home and a senior UN official.



Real Lives, Real Stories

City of Two Springs

TONIGHT AT 9PM



A Victorian pie-crust collar will stand you in good stead next season — the higher and frillier the better

Freeview 8 Sky 117 Virgin 159





7. Givenchy

8. Valentino

9. Loewe

10. Dries Van Noten

11. Dior

12. Alexander McQueen

for next winter. In Clare Waight Keller's vision for Givenchy — a chic, cinematic showcase that celebrated French film heroines of the Nouvelle Vague and the intertwining of a woman's clothing and her power — the cape emerged as the secret weapon of the super (model). **KD**

8. Black is the new black

A veil of darkness has shrouded the shows in Paris this week, as the fashion world's favourite colourway found itself back on the catwalk.

At Balenciaga this blackout was Demna Gvasalia's nod to the clergyman who partly inspired his collection. At Valentino on Sunday, where Pierpaolo Piccioli showcased 25 looks of head-to-toe black, the beautiful basic was a means to explore the stereotypes of a feminine silhouette. From coats to gowns to

ornate leather dresses, colour has been removed from the agenda. **KD**

9. Art works

The worlds of art and fashion are inextricably linked. At Dior, the feminist discourse of art collective Claire Fontaine lit up the catwalk via flashing neon signs. At Chloe, Natacha Ramsay-Levi invited painting and poetry into her showcase through Rita Ackermann's figurative line-drawn prints and a spoken-word soundtrack from Marianne Faithfull. But for Loewe's Jonathan Anderson, art has consistently proven a key inspiration. This season, he recruited Japanese ceramicist Takuro Kuwata to create porcelain pieces which were incorporated into panels on dresses. For accident-prone types, an abstract-print hourglass gown is perhaps a safer bet. **EM**

10. It's all about the waist

Whether belted, cinched or

accentuated with a giant frilly peplum, there was no doubting that autumn/winter 2020 is all about the waist. Dries Van Noten presented what is perhaps the most accessible take on the trend — simply sling a shirt around your waist. His inspiration came from the Kurt Cobain school of dressing, with a Nineties grunge-inspired plaid that was cut from silk and teamed with psychedelic florals and gold brocade for a take on after-dark glamour that was more Camden Palace heyday than cocktails at the Ritz. **EM**

11. Ties are compulsory

For those concerned with what accessory to drop their paycheck on next season, statement shoes and It-bags are not the answer. Instead, invest in a tie. In Milan, Prada set the tone with sharp silk ties in scarlet or ice blue and a modern workwear collection which meant business. For Dior's Maria Grazia Chiuri, pages of her own teenage

diary were littered among the references, resulting in more than one school uniform-ish outfit. Though Dior's ties, of course, were crafted from the finest chiffon. **EM**

12. Blanket checks

Sarah Burton's eternal research project into the mythology and magic of Celtic culture continued in Wales this season. Inspired by a trip to Cardiff, and specifically the city's tailoring and manufacturing practices in Victorian times, Burton combined scarlet borrowed from Wales's national dress with suiting fabrics and, most beautifully, a reuse of the famed Welsh blanket. Swaddled around the body to protect and empower, some were worn inset with leather panelling to bestow the wearer with a warrior-like quality that's typically McQueen. A monochrome blanket coat was another highlight. **KD**

@karendacre
@miss_mccarthy

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Specsavers

Eye fashion

The new Viktor&Rolf vision range
takes eyewear to new heights

Renowned for their cutting edge style, Viktor&Rolf are among the world's most prestigious designers. Whether they are constructing masterpieces from recycled fabrics, sending models baring bold face tattoos down the catwalk, or embellishing haute couture creations with such statements as 'Sorry I'm late, I didn't want to come',

the Dutch fashion house reveals time and time again why its approach is nothing short of inimitable.

Who better for Specsavers – a brand similarly renowned for its unique style – to partner with in the creation of a show-stopping new range of spectacles and sunglasses?

The Viktor&Rolf vision collection epitomises androgynous chic and can be found exclusively at Specsavers. Created for men and women, the range

VIKTOR®ROLF VISION

It was in 1993 in Paris that Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren – two Dutch graduates of Arnhem Academy of Art & Design in the Netherlands – entered into a partnership that would develop into a globally-respected fashion house.

Designers of womenswear, menswear, accessories and haute couture, Viktor&Rolf have innovated from the start, with their inaugural collection – Hyères – winning no less than three prestigious awards.

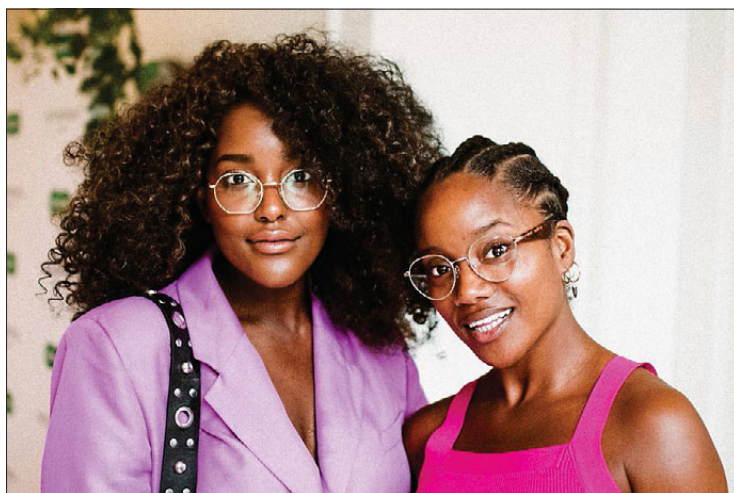
The pair went on to take the industry by storm, producing designs that merge fashion with art, and collaborating with renowned brands – everyone from Samsonite to Shu Uemura and Piper-Heidsieck. In the 2000s, Viktor&Rolf moved into fragrance. Flowerbomb was created in tandem with L'Oréal and went on to become one of the most successful perfumes of recent years.

As they approach their third decade in business, Viktor&Rolf remain top of their game, still intent on bringing the most creative designs imaginable to life.



Specsavers®

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



ALEXANDER SPÖRE

consists of 15 optical and three sunglasses, boasting designs based around three themes.

Three themes

'Patchwork' – a technique often used in Viktor&Rolf's work – links an inner and outer frame and combines slim rims with thicker temples to create silhouettes that are all about variance.

'Sculptural' designs are pairs with interesting shapes, made using acetate and featuring metal Flowerbomb details on the front or tip-end of each style, in homage to the brand's famous eau de parfum of the same name.

Then there is 'Evening'. These designs are made for day-to-night and come with a super-luxe addition – a Swarovski crystal accessory which can be clipped onto the frames themselves, immediately elevating any day or night time look to the realms of true trendsetter status.

Boasting a vibrant colour palette of rich burgundies, bright hyacinths, brilliant yellows, glistening golds and sparkling metallics, this collection takes

Bright idea: Influencer Mary-Anne Kammeron (@lifebymary_), above left, wearing Viktor&Rolf 14 30790087; actress Yootha Wong-Loi-Sing (@yoothasings), above right, wearing Viktor&Rolf 03 30789975

ubiquitous styles and reworks them to eye-catching effect. It includes squared-bottom Aviators and tortoiseshell glasses in the round, with distinctive Great Gatsby vibes – just two of many examples.

All are available as single-vision, varifocals or bifocals, so whatever lenses your eyes require, this outstanding collection delivers.

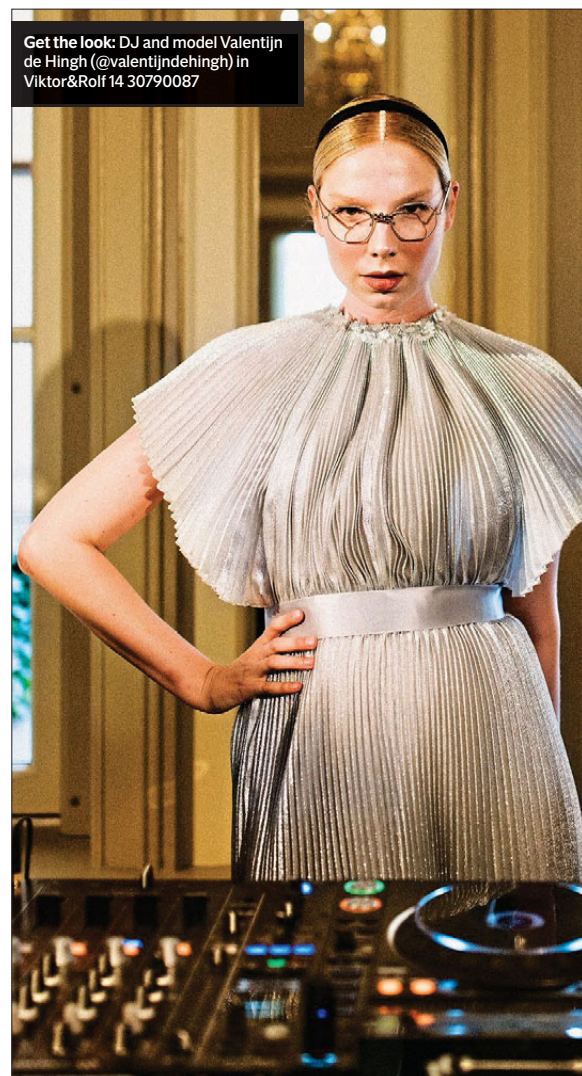
Here's the pièce de résistance: because high fashion doesn't have to mean high price tags, all pairs in the Viktor&Rolf range are available as part of Specsavers 2-for-1 offer, meaning you can buy them in store from just £169*.

If you want your eyewear bang on-trend this year, get down to your nearest Specsavers store. With the Viktor&Rolf range, you'll find frames at the very forefront of fashion – and they can be yours for highly appealing prices.

Find out more about the collection in store or online at [specsavers.co.uk](https://www.specsavers.co.uk)

VIKTOR®ROLF
VISION

Get the look: DJ and model Valentijn de Hingh (@valentijndehingh) in Viktor&Rolf 14 30790087



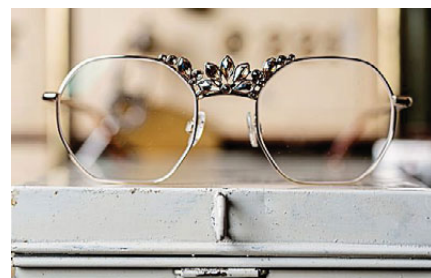
ALEXANDER SPÖRE



Classics reimagined: Viktor&Rolf 11 30790056



Tasteful trim: Viktor&Rolf 05 30789999



Statement specs: Viktor&Rolf 14 30790087



Modern retro: Viktor&Rolf 09 30790049



In the round: Viktor&Rolf 08 30790025

Style pick:
Fashion influencer
Alanna Doherty
(@alannanicoles)
wearing Viktor&Rolf
15 30790094

ALEXANDER SPÖRE

Specsavers®

*Terms & Conditions: Cannot be used with any other offers. Second pair from the same price range or below and to the same prescription. Both pairs include standard US single-vision lenses (for 1.67 or 1.67+ lenses ranges). Vertical/bifocal/progressive lenses in first pair only. Excludes SuperDigital, SuperDrive varifocals, and safety eyewear. Additional charge - Extra Options.

Arts & Culture

Megahit wonder brings busking to the big stage

POP
Tones and I
O2 Forum, Kentish Town
★★★★☆
Rick Pearson

"I WANTED to write a song that would make people dance; I didn't realise it would become the biggest song in the world." Tones and I (aka Toni Watson) is speaking about Dance Monkey, the insanely catchy earworm that has propelled her from Byron Bay busker to world-conquering venue-filler. Topping the charts in 31 countries, Dance Monkey spent 11 weeks at number one in the UK — a record for a female solo artist.

When success arrives suddenly, it can take a while for the live show to catch up. With just a keyboard, loop pedal and six-track EP for company, her show at Kentish Town had the feel of a very well attended busking set.

Still, you could say the same about Ed Sheeran's live set-up. Can't Be Happy All the Time was a stripped-back piano ballad, while Never Seen the Rain's hip-hop-inspired groove and towering chorus had the young crowd hand clapping.

Watson's voice is likely to prove as divisive as Brexit, and her habit of trying to sing as many notes per syllable as possible can quickly become an-oy-oy-oy-oying. But tracks Johnny Run Away and The Kids are Coming suggest her extraordinary journey may yet continue beyond her monster hit.

AS HE approaches his 90th birthday, David Gentleman shows little sign of slowing down. The artist best known for designing the mural at Charing Cross underground in 1978 which depicts medieval workers going about daily tasks, still spends seven days a week toiling in his Camden Town studio or walking the streets of London, sketch pad and pencil in hand. For the last two years he has been working on a book, *My Town*, which brings together his favourite illustrations of London from a career spanning 70 years. Published this month, it's a love letter of sorts to the city, in all its "fascinating and deplorable" glory, which began when he arrived as a penniless art student in the early Fifties and continues to this day.

From his early sketches of Fulham gasworks and the riverfront at Battersea, to recent moody watercolours of Primrose Hill, Gentleman has always had a knack for capturing the essence of his subject in a few quick strokes. "I'm interested in the subject of change and novelty, which are obvious subjects in themselves, but I also like the unchanging things like the trees and seasons, which interest me as much as they ever have," he says.

He looks out of the window of his studio on the top floor of the terrace in Gloucester Crescent that he and his wife have lived in for fifty years. The view looks onto silver birch trees and beyond to the back of Arlington House, a Victorian red-brick building originally built as a hostel for Irish immigrant workers, and is still a hostel for the homeless. "I used to rather hate the building but I've come to love it," he says.

Gloucester Crescent was "pretty shabby" when he first moved in, he says. But it gradually gentrified and by the Seventies had developed a reputation for being an intellectual hub, with resident literary stars like Alan Bennett,

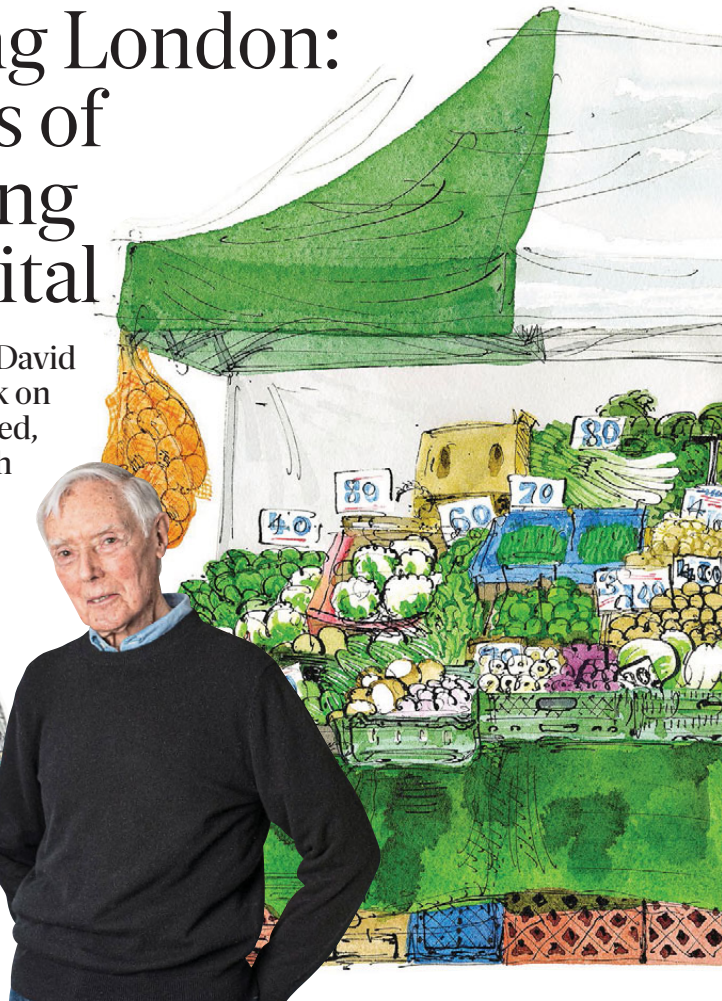
Drawing London: 70 years of sketching the capital

As the illustrator David Gentleman's book on the city is published, he looks back with
Katie Law



Rough sketch: Gentleman's drawings and watercolours of life in London include the homeless, far right, the City, above, and markets

DANIEL HAMBURY



STARS SHELLEY VON STRUNCKEL

Aries March 20 - April 19

You're uneasy about others' slow pace dealing with certain tasks. But, actually, there's no rush. The real issue is acknowledging that, in agreeing somebody else will deal with these matters, you must allow them to do it their way.
0904 470 1141 (65p per minute)*

Taurus April 20 - May 20

While connections with family and long-standing friends come first, certain individuals who have taken an important role in your life are of increasing significance. Be patient. Their idea of loyalty may be different from yours.
0904 470 1142 (65p per minute)*

Gemini May 21 - June 20

When your ruler Mercury went retrograde on February 17, it was in the part of your chart that accents your activities and goals. Now Mercury is shifting to accent broadening your horizons, unexpected ideas take you into new territory.
0904 470 1143 (65p per minute)*

Cancer June 21 - July 21

Recently, you didn't realise certain individuals felt so strongly about normally straightforward matters. For now, say nothing. The odds are good that discussions will resolve these, and any that remain won't be difficult to deal with.
0904 470 1144 (65p per minute)*

Leo July 22 - August 22

Because of your nature, people tend to assume you'll easily ride out challenges and aren't bothered by anybody's rudeness. But that's by no means the case. Explaining it won't be easy, but it's a vital necessity.
0904 470 1145 (65p per minute)*

Virgo August 23 - September 22

While the period during which your ruler Mercury is retrograde is associated with troublesome mistakes, you're beginning to discover just how informative some can be. In fact, this will come in very handy.
0904 470 1146 (65p per minute)*

Libra September 23 - October 22

The last thing you want is a confrontation with those who are tricky to get along with when everything is going smoothly. The trick in such circumstances? It's to force them to politely ask for your support.
0904 470 1147 (65p per minute)*

Scorpio October 23 - November 21

Nobody is more conscious of the importance of being both honest and discreet. However, those you're dealing with aren't nearly as aware of this, and could say too much, too soon. You're urged to be ready for surprises of this nature.
0904 470 1148 (65p per minute)*

Sagittarius November 22 - December 20

While there's no arguing that getting the facts on complex issues could be a challenge, it's one that you, as an inquisitive Sagittarius, would enjoy. The trick is to define what you need to learn, then go after it.
0904 470 1149 (65p per minute)*

Capricorn December 21 - January 19

You're in a cycle during which it's essential you can come up with an arrangement that will endure the test of time. With so much in transition, what seems final should be regarded as an experiment, one from which you'll learn.
0904 470 1150 (65p per minute)*

Aquarius January 20 - February 17

Over the coming weeks, be aware that while the world around you is changing, you're also in the midst of a period of growth. And it will be in ways as unexpected as they'll be thrilling. You'll wonder what's up, but be patient.
0904 470 1151 (65p per minute)*

Pisces February 18 - March 19

While it's easy to blame Mercury's retrograde cycle for all the problems you're facing, most involve certain individuals who are selfish and calculating. They're using this as an excuse for making changes that benefit them.
0904 470 1152 (65p per minute)*

IF IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY TOMORROW...

Your birthday chart accents the importance of examining your own point of view about certain arrangements and talking things over with those whose approach either makes no sense or, possibly, you fear is undermining yours. Whatever the case, and this will differ from one situation to the next, discussion is key. You may worry the resulting conversations will be tricky or endless. On the contrary, the simple act of talking things over will change everything.

NEED ADVICE ON WORK?

Call and speak to one of Shelley's Astrologers on
0906 400 1008**
(£1.50 per minute)



DO YOU WANT A LIVE CONSULTATION WITH ONE OF SHELLEY'S TEAM OF PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGERS? CALL 0906 400 1008** NOW

*Astro line horoscopes are updated every Friday. Calls cost 65p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge and will last approximately five minutes. **0906 number costs £1.50 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Maximum call duration for live services is 20 minutes. Service open daily from 8am-1am. You must be over 18 years old to use this service. Calls recorded and regulated by PhonePayPlus. For entertainment purposes only. Service provided by Spoke. Customer service: 0333 202 3392



ARTS & CULTURE TOMORROW

BLUE PLAQUES FOR WOMEN!

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



ENGLISH HERITAGE
GERTRUDE BELL
1868-1926
Traveller,
archaeologist
and diplomat
lived here



Jonathan Miller and Claire Tomalin all supposedly gate-crashing each other's dinner parties and having affairs. "I didn't feel a part of that. I was more of an onlooker and always thought that they were much cleverer than me," he says quietly.

But then, as an artist, he has always been an observer. He remembers Miss Shepherd, immortalised by Bennett as The Lady in the Van, but not especially fondly, although on one occasion he did feel sorry for her as he watched her aghast as her van was being hoisted onto a recovery truck. "I just had time to make a hurried scribble of the way she was standing."

Eventually the intellectuals, the lady and her van, left, giving way to younger, richer families. Fortunately they included one of his daughters Tabby and her family, who live a few doors down, while his youngest daughter, Guardian journalist Milly, also lives close by with husband Jo Johnson.

How does it feel for someone who describes himself as "Left-leaning" to have a Tory Prime Minister's brother as a son-in-law? Gentleman pauses. "It's too bad." Then, after a moment. "No, it's fine. Jo is a very good egg and I've got no wish to get involved in politics."

Still, he calls Brexit "catastrophic" and worries about the growing divide in London between rich and poor. "I never saw any beggars when I first came here but now there are people sleeping rough everywhere." He



has observed other changes, too, like his beloved Inverness Street market, which used to be a cockney fruit and veg paradise but is now a tourist attraction with stalls selling cheap tat.

The crowded pavements around Camden are "exciting, cosmopolitan and youthful" and he loves drawing the new architecture in the City. Likewise he delights in exploring life along the canals. But he is happiest on Primrose Hill, with its spectacular views of the distant City and the West End, "forever changing and transforming, and the best there are in London". So, Gentleman's Town is in good shape then? "Yes. It's OK."

● *My Town: An Artist's Life in London* by David Gentleman (Particular Books, £25) is published on March 5

Sexploitation drama lost in cheap laughs

THEATRE

Women Beware Women

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, SE1

★★★★☆

Nick Curtis

THE time should have been right for Thomas Middleton's racy 1620s Jacobean drama. Its awkward mix of horror, humour and sexual exploitation chimes perfectly with our post-moral era.

Unfortunately, Amy Hodge's Eighties-set revival repeatedly misfires, particularly in the labyrinthine first half. It's by turns gimmicky, arch and silly. Some morbid momentum is gained after the interval, as we hurtle towards the pile-up of bodies at the end, but by then half my row had left.

Women are commodified in Middleton's play, but are also the most compelling characters, and the most troubling. Thalissa



Air of camp comedy: Gloria Onitiri in the male role of Guardiano

Teixeira's young bride Bianca ends up murderously in thrall to the Duke who raped her.

Olivia Vinall's Isabella is obscenely inspected by the idiot cuckold who will cover up her incestuous relationship with her uncle.

Tara Fitzgerald as merry widow

Livia, who enables the incest and facilitates Bianca's rape, is as amoral as any man.

When Marianne Elliott staged the play at the National in 2010, this all seemed disconcerting and wrong, an insurmountably patriarchal construct. Now we can all think of contemporary parallels. And the sardonic self-awareness of the women is thrilling. But, oh dear, it's bungled here.

I enjoyed Fitzgerald's turn as a husky Jackie Collins seductress in capri pants but Hodge sends her up relentlessly. The gender-switched casting of some roles adds nothing to our understanding of the play, and the score (blurring saxophones, plinky toy piano) and an air of camp comedy overwhelm pivotal moments. It's a waste to play the whole thing for laughs. A waste and a shame.

● *Until April 18 (020 7902 1400, shakespearesglobe.com)*

ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH

rmg.co.uk

Major exhibition

Tudors to Windsors

British Royal Portraits

Until 31 Aug 2020 | National Maritime Museum

Organised in partnership with

National Portrait Gallery

Royal Museums Greenwich
National Maritime Museum | Royal Observatory | Cutty Sark | The Queen's House

→ Cutty Sark → Greenwich (only 8 mins from London Bridge) → Greenwich Pier

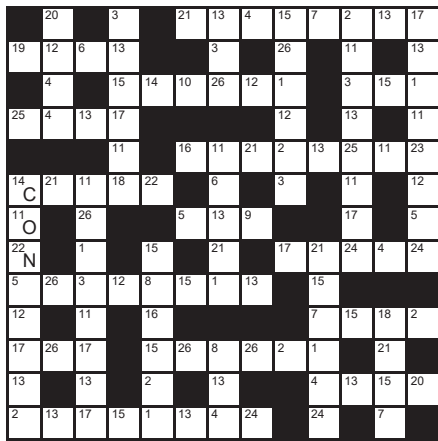
Puzzles & Games

CODEWORD

WIN AFTERNOON TEA FOR TWO



Don't miss tomorrow's paper for another chance to enter



AB 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: **BURQUINI**

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 Afternoon Tea For Two. 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.

MINI CODEWORD

WIN A COCKTAIL MASTERCLASS FOR TWO

Enjoy a fun, interactive cocktail masterclass for two adults at MAP Maison. Learn the history and technique of cocktail making with helpful tips from experienced mixologists, before you create two delicious cocktails yourself.



CRYPTIC ACROSS

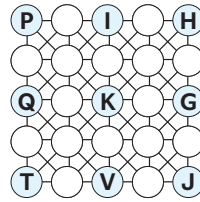
- Might it have bought you an animal outright? (5)
- A lot of workers go to new positions (5)
- Lovers can share it with cream on (7)
- It's habitual for us to get older (5)
- It has its peers (5)
- Horse with a saintly head? (5)
- Goes over the faults (7)
- The amount can upset us a lot (3)
- Only parts of areas? (4)
- Norway lobsters in Italy? (6)
- A girl to cling? (5)
- Cricketer who'll start with a half of beer (6)
- In Ireland, a river used by southerners (4)
- A positive gesture (3)
- Of London or Manchester, the bigger (7)
- Smart guys with useless ways (5)
- A little dash can be a bit amusing (5)
- Can be a goat (5)
- Apart from the north, a noble source of cedar? (7)
- Cedric Hildebrand's youngster (5)
- Don't argue - change gear, sweetheart! (5)

DOWN

- List a resort as irregular (6)
- Rages wildly about a U-turn? (6)
- Is it as low as you can get? (3)
- Tactful omissions by a straw weaver? (5)
- High-pitched sound from creches (7)
- What the editor has to pay? (4)
- Extremely short of space (4,2)
- Keep on the road! (5)
- A true friend of the classics (5)
- Honoured the troop leader during a meal (5)
- Quick return of trams (5)
- A sociable drink? (5)
- Reminders of how one was stupidly crass? (5)
- Read that there were keys to a new purse (7)
- Surprisingly, perhaps, it may be French (6)
- Mitigating something bad in a turbulent age (6)
- The maudlin Ms Dean? (6)
- Reach the broken gate where I've left it (3,2)
- A brilliant rebuttal (4)
- You wouldn't want one to have a crush on you (3)

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 spelt out in this way.

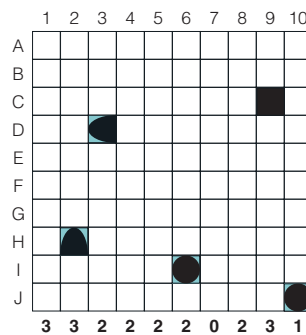


ADO
BUMP
DAWN
DRENCH
FRESH
IMP
JANGLE
KERR
MEND
NAVY
SIX
TORQUE
TOY
WAX

AB C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Play more puzzles:
**standard.co.uk/
games**

BATTLESHIPS

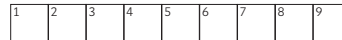


THE FLEET 1 x Battleship 3 x Destroyer
2 x Cruiser 4 x Submarine

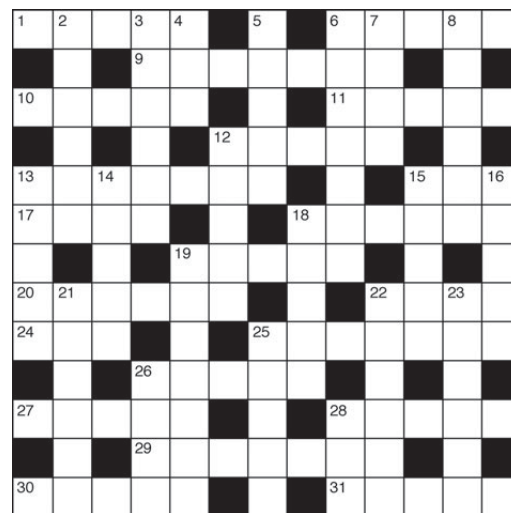
Find where the fleet of ships is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid show how many squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. Some squares have been filled in to start you off, a coloured square denotes a clear space. Ships do not touch each other,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



THE CLUES 3129 gives a colour
15176 gives a colour
617498 gives a colour



THE TUBE QUIZ

Plan a journey using the Tube map from **RICHMOND** to **SHADWELL**. 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.

RICHMOND

Which station sounds like the maker of a cross-keen or a ball-keen?

Which station combines hydrogen, an Italian definite article, heather, a bit of a celebration and nitrogen?

Which station is an anagram of MOOT RAGE?

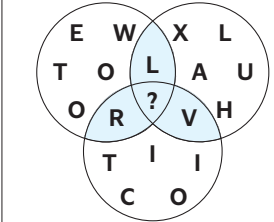
John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, was married in a church by which landmark?

SHADWELL

Yesterday's solution: **OLD STREET**, King's Cross St Pancras, Green Park, Swiss Cottage, Euston, **FINSBURY PARK**

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?

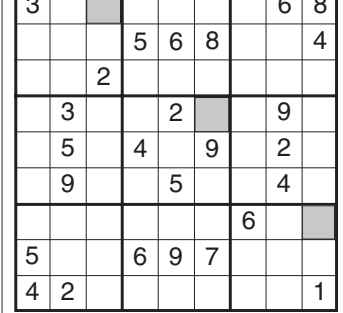


Need a little help getting started? Text or call our clue line for a keyword clue. Text **ES CIRCLECLUE** to **85100**. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge*. Or call 0901 293 5270. Calls cost £1 plus your network access charge*.

Yesterday's solution: T: Gaultier, Westwood, Vuitton, all Fashion Designers.

SUDOKU

For solutions: standard.co.uk/sudokuanswers



Fill the grid with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains the numbers 1 to 9. Target: 30 min.

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.

buyagift.com

Answers and clues change each day at 23:59. Usual promotion rules apply - see 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

- Rabbit's cage (5)
- On the ocean (2,3)
- Repulsive (7)
- Sag (5)
- Opposite of heads (5)
- Previous (5)
- Inanely foolish (7)
- Ventilate (3)
- Unfortunately (4)
- Convince, guarantee (6)
- Number (5)
- Hand tool (6)
- Flank (4)
- Still (3)
- Stroll (7)
- Backless shoes (5)
- Regal (5)
- Small fish (5)
- Garment (4,3)
- Scornful expression (5)
- Sorts, kinds (5)

DOWN

- Imaginary, illusory (6)
- Group of singers (6)
- Pelvis (3)
- Dreads (5)
- Postmortem examination (7)
- A tyrant (4)
- Chocolate finger cake (6)
- Student (5)
- Ornamented, decorative (5)
- Unspoken (5)
- Inspection of accounts (5)
- Allude (5)
- Book of maps (5)
- Temporal (7)
- Diamorphine (6)
- Smart, fashionable (6)
- Ten years (6)
- Searches (5)
- Pal (4)
- Chronic drunkard (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 42

*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.

Alastair McKay *The Viewer* A-ha! Coogan and Brydon mimic a 10-year Greek Odyssey in six days

The Trip To Greece
Sky One, 10pm, 10.30pm, Now TV
★★★★☆

KNOWING Steve Coogan, knowing Rob Brydon, what do we know? We know they are both very knowing performers with well-developed personas. They both do impressions, often of themselves. And in *The Trip to Greece*, without getting too meta-, they are in a playful comfort zone, sending each other up, while hiding in plain sight.

Knowing how knowing the Knowing Me, Knowing You star and his slightly more showbiz chum are doesn't get in the way of finding them funny. But it does help to obscure the thinness of *The Trip's* concept.

Perhaps I've said this before — indulgence prompts indulgence — but the format is reminiscent of a programme proposal once outlined to me by a punk filmmaker. This punk retread of *On the Road* was going to be called *Two Punks on a Bus*, and it would have done what it said on the ticket. Two ageing veterans of the gob wars would travel the country by public transport, meeting people and reflecting on their journey. The flaw in this idea was the absence of aspiration.

The Trip is a colour supplement brought to life; a travel freebie with two beloved entertainers. It is an ad-libbed holiday with all-inclusive fine dining and a PA at home to iron out the logistics.

The conceit takes a little ingenuity, which removes it from the realm of the plausible into fantasy. The Steve character, the Coogan Coogan, is supposed to be a journalist working on travel stories for *The Observer*, while also being the film star and "troubled TV funnyman" (inverted commas: model's own). Rob, the Brydon Brydon, is his friend, the "light-hearted entertainer". In reality, you



Pillars of showbiz: Rob Brydon and Steve Coogan are reunited in *The Trip To Greece*

might expect that Coogan and Brydon would be troubled by selfie-hunters and sun-scorched fans in sandals, but their personas travel more easily, with just the odd ambient cry of "A-ha" to lighten the mood and undermine Coogan's playful pomposity about his work.

This time, Greece is the word. The Coogan Coogan and the Brydon Brydon are following in the steps of Odysseus, while eating watery custard, mussels and espresso powder-dust. The food bit is just punctuation, and an excuse for two middle-aged men to wrinkle their chinos and impersonate Ronnie Corbett. "Ten-year Odyssey in six days," says the Brydon Brydon. "It's ambitious, Steve."



It is an ad-libbed holiday with all-inclusive fine dining and a PA at home to iron out the logistics

What do we learn about Greece? Not a lot, except that it is beautiful when viewed from the restaurant by the bay where they filmed *Mamma Mia!* There's a passing glimpse of a refugee camp, but mostly the view is of the actors' reflections in a steel cloche.

It's fun, of course, to imagine Alexander the Great talking in the voice of Marlon Brando, Ray Winstone and Bob Hoskins, to hear Henry VIII as a cockney.

Some of the impersonations will need subtitles for viewers less familiar with Eamonn Andrews and Michael Parkinson, but the sound of the Brydon Brydon farting while under attack with a massage mitt requires no translation.

@AHMcKay



TONIGHT
The Windsors
Channel 4,
10pm

The entirely implausible and not at all realistic spoof of royal life continues. Charles (the brilliantly befuddled Harry Enfield, above) and Camilla (Haydn Gwynne) agree to visit Kate's parents, Mike (Simon Day) and Carole Middleton (Julia Deakin), with Wills (Hugh Skinner) and Kate (Louise Ford), for Mike's birthday. Sibling rivalry between Kate and Pippa (Morganna Robinson) spills over. Fergie (Katy Wix) takes Beatrice (Ellie White) and Eugenie (Celeste Dring), to Glastonbury.



TONIGHT
Match of the Day: The FA Cup
BBC One, 7.30pm

Gary Lineker presents the action from Stamford Bridge, where both Chelsea and Liverpool will be hoping to overcome their recent slumps in form. National treasure Ian Wright offers analysis with Alan Shearer and Glen Johnson. West Brom's clash with Newcastle is on the red button (8pm kick-off). The match between Reading and Sheffield United is being shown on Facebook Watch.

CATCH UP
Doctor Who
BBC iPlayer

Well, nobody expected that, did they? Chris Chibnall's series finale, starring Jodie Whittaker (above), has shaken the foundations of the series, with Whovians reaching back to the beginning of the original series (in 1963) for clues as to what's really going on. It's all about the identity of *The Timeless Child*, and it has proved so controversial that William Hartnell trended on Twitter.



LONDON LIVE
Obsessed With My Body, 8pm

Body image is becoming more important to young men, with teens seeking constant approval online. This documentary investigates the way the internet is playing a key role in a boom in teen body building and grooming. But exactly how far will they go to achieve perfection? And what happens when things are taken to extremes?

TONIGHT'S TELEVISION

BBC1

- 6.00 BBC News at Six (S,HD); Weather.
- 6.30 BBC London News (S); Weather.
- 7.00 **The One Show** (S,HD). Another mix of nationwide reports and live studio-based chat.
- 7.30 **Match of the Day Live: the FA Cup** (S,HD). Chelsea v Liverpool (Kick-off 7.45pm). Gary Lineker presents all the action from the fifth-round tie at Stamford Bridge. With analysis from Alan Shearer, Ian Wright and Glen Johnson.
- 10.00 BBC News at Ten (S,HD).
- 10.25 BBC London News (S); Weather. Followed by National Lottery Update.
- 10.35 **Beauty Laid Bare** (S,HD). 1/3. New series. Four members of the public investigate the secrets of the beauty industry, beginning by travelling to the Hollywood Hills to attend a major make-up convention.
- 11.15 **The Truth About Takeaways** (R,S,HD). Nikki Fox teams up with scientists at Liverpool John Moores University to learn what takeaways do to our health.
- 12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead (S,HD). 12.20 BBC News (S,HD).

BBC2

- 6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** (S,HD). 92/100. With Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Amol Rajan and Ellie Taylor.
- 6.30 **Great British Railway Journeys** (R,S,HD). 7/15. Michael Portillo travels from Belfast to Portrush.
- 7.00 **Top Gear** (R,S,HD). 6/6. Paddy McGuinness, Freddie Flintoff and Chris Harris put emergency vehicles to the test. Last in the series.
- 8.00 **Back in Time for the Corner Shop** (S,HD). 2/6. The Arderns get a taste of corner shop life in the Twenties.
- 9.00 **Murder 24/7** (S,HD). 5/5. A forensic search gives police the breakthrough they need. Last in the series.
- 10.00 **Better Things** (S,HD). 9/12. Sam tries out a new play for Broadway.
- 10.30 **Newsnight** (S,HD). With Emily Maitlis.
- 11.10 **Weather** (S,HD).
- 11.15 **Putin: the New Tsar** (R,S,HD). The story of Russian President Vladimir Putin's rise to power.
- 12.15 Sign Zone: Win the Wilderness: Alaska (R,S,HD). 115
- Sign Zone: Murder, Mystery and My Family (R,S,HD). 2.00
- Sign Zone: Island Medics (R,S,HD). 2.45 This is BBC Two (S,HD).

ITV

- 6.00 **ITV News London** (S,HD); Weather.
- 6.30 **ITV Evening News** (S,HD); Weather.
- 7.00 **Emmerdale** (S,HD). Marlon feels guilty over April's recent bullying.
- 7.30 **Dr Ranj: On Call** (S,HD). 1/4. New series. Dr Ranj Singh offers advice on common illnesses and accidents.
- 8.00 **Love Your Garden** (S,HD). 2/4. Alan Titchmarsh and the team creates an elegant tea garden with a fully equipped kitchen for a charity volunteer in Birmingham who makes cakes for injured members of the services.
- 9.00 **Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods** (S,HD). A report from the communities that were hardest hit by the recent storms.
- 10.00 **ITV News at Ten** (S,HD); Weather.
- 10.30 **ITV News London** (S,HD); Weather.
- 10.45 **Tyson Fury: the Gypsy King** (R,S,HD). 2/3. The boxer celebrates a victory over Tom Schwarz.
- 11.40 **Tenable** (R,S,HD). A team of five family and friends take part.
- 12.30 **Ideal World with Vibrapower** (HD). 3.00 **The Home Game** (R,S,HD). 3.50 **ITV Nightscreen** (HD). 5.05 **Judge Rinder** (R,S,HD).

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Simpsons** (R,S,HD). 21/22. Homer upsets a new neighbour.
- 6.30 **Hollyoaks** (R,S,HD). Edward lets Marnie down when she comes on too strong.
- 7.00 **News** (S,HD).
- 8.00 **Nightmare Cruises: Going Overboard** (S,HD). Documentary examining cases of cruise passengers falling overboard.
- 9.00 **24 Hours in A&E** (S,HD). A teenager is rushed to hospital after putting his hand through a pane of glass.
- 10.00 **The Windsors** (S,HD). 2/6. Charles and Camilla reluctantly attend Kate's father's birthday celebrations.
- 10.35 **Celebrity Crystal Maze** (R,S,HD). 2/6. Anita Rani, Jeff Stelling, Hannah Cockroft, AJ Pritchard and Tom Rosenthal compete.
- 11.30 **Prison** (R,S,HD). 3/3. The emotionally charged difficulties of being a mother in prison. Last in the series.
- 12.30 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (R,S). 1.20 **Film: What Richard Did** (S,HD) (2012). Drama, starring Jack Reynor. 2.55 **Come Dine with Me** (R,S,HD). 3.50 **Grand Designs** (R,S,HD). 4.45 **Location, Location, Location** (R,S,HD). 5.40 **Kirstie's Vintage Gems** (R,S,HD). 5.50 **Countdown** (R,S,HD).

LONDON LIVE

- 6.00 **London Live News**.
- 7.00 **Anthea Turner's Hot Topics**. Can the UK go carbon neutral by 2050? What changes can we make in our homes? Anthea quizzes the experts to find out.
- 7.30 **The Ronnie Wood Show**. The Rolling Stones guitarist is joined by Alice Cooper.
- 8.00 **Obsessed with My Body**. Documentary following British lads in their pursuit of the ideal body, examining how far they will go to achieve perfection.
- 9.00 **City of Two Springs** (2019). Documentary about the international effort to rebuild the city of Mosul, seen through the eyes of a local child and a senior UN figure.
- 10.15 **Wakefield** (2016). A suburban family man apparently vanishes one day, and proceeds to secretly observe his wife and children from their garage attic. Drama, starring Bryan Cranston, Jennifer Garner and Beverly D'Angelo.
- 12.25 **Ultimate Force**. 1.30 **The Bionic Vet**. 2.15 **Film: A Perfect Man** (2013). Drama, starring Jeanne Tripplehorn and Liev Schreiber. 4.15 **Film: Pop Pirates** (1994). Drama, starring Spencer Chandler. 5.25 **Walks Around Britain**.

Help make a change.
Do something meaningful
with deep purpose.



Join our pioneering work.
We are holding interviews in Brighton
on Tuesday 17th March 2020.
For details, see wildlifeforall.org

FANTASTIC COURSES

“

The course was fantastic! My daughter came back much more confident, having thoroughly enjoyed the course and the tutor was excellent. First class!

”



Justin Craig
Education
The Exam Experts

01727 744340
WWW.JUSTINCRAIG.AC.UK

GCSE/A LEVEL TUITION FOR YEARS 10-13: EASTER & MAY HOLIDAYS

**ARE YOU AGED
18 OR OVER?
THEN WHY NOT...**



BECOME A VOLUNTEER CADET INSTRUCTOR



You will get the opportunity to:

- Gain knowledge about the LFB
- Support young people in your local community
- Become a role model
- Receive FREE ongoing training
- Develop new transferable skills
- Represent LFB at local & national events
- Participate in making your community safer

We would really like to hear from you, visit our website to find out more...



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Visit: [www.london-fire.gov.uk/
community/young-people/fire-cadets](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/community/young-people/fire-cadets)



FREE ENTRY

VISIT LONDON'S EXCLUSIVE...

MASTERS EVENT
7 March

TopUniversities.com/ES

MBA EVENT
8 March

TopMBA.com/ES

📍 **Park Plaza Victoria**

Meet admissions directors from HEC-Paris, NYU-Tandon, London Business School, Imperial, UCL, ISB, ESADE, Bocconi, IE, IESE, INSEAD, King's, NUS, Warwick, and EDHEC and many more!

Powered by

- ▶ Meet Amazon & Top Career Coach
- ▶ Access \$7M in Scholarships



Property Purchase

**ARE YOU
IN DEBT?
ARE YOU A
HOMEOWNER?
AT RISK OF LOSING YOUR HOME?**

**WE HAVE THE PERFECT
SOLUTION FOR YOU!**

Our dedicated team will do far more to help you stop repossession or resolve difficult financial issues.



**CALL US URGENTLY ON
0800 011 9233**
FasterPropertySolutions.co.uk (Free from Mobile)

To advertise call **020 79 38 38 38**

Construction & Engineering

Steel Fitters Required

In London and surrounding areas.

Please call
0207 738 7338

Immigration Problems?

Call to book a **FREE** consultation

EXPERTS IN:
All UK Visa Applications
Asylum & Human Rights
Applications
Immigration Appeals
European Residence Permit
Applications
Judicial Review Applications

**PAUL JOHN & CO
SOLICITORS**
11 Leytonstone Road, Stratford,
London, E15 1JA

020 8215 1205
www.pauljohnandco.co.uk
Authorised and Regulated
by SRA • No 641221

Education & Courses

**Project Management
5-Day Training
PRINCE2**
Microsoft Project
Agile Project
IT/ Microsoft Excel
66 Great Suffolk St, Southwark
Tel. **0207 998 5850**
info@londoncomputercollege.co.uk

Education Appointments

**TEACHING
ASSISTANT/
CHILDCARE
COURSES
IN WEMBLEY**
Starting in March 2020
FCL College
020 8903 9580

RASHID & RASHID Immigration Solicitors

**Specialists in
Immigration & Asylum**
Family Matters (Divorce),
Overstayers, Brexit Changes
Illegal, Failed Asylum
European Law, Marriage Visa
Entry Clearance, Human Rights
Authorised & Regulated by SRA - SRA No 514264
02085 401 666
07878 33 5000
130 Merton High St, South Wimbledon, London SW19 1LJ
1 minute walk from South Wimbledon tube station
www.rashidandrashid.co.uk

**Do you want to be more
useful at work?**

AAT

Accountancy Courses

No previous qualifications required

**Courses start
Monday 9th March 2020!**

Part Time Study
Qualify by July 2020!

Course price from **£30/week**
5 mins from Old St/Barbican/Moorgate tubes
Give us a call on **07961 015 929**
or contact us at www.mcarthurmorgan.com

Evening Standard

All advertisement bookings are accepted subject to terms and conditions, copies of which are available on request. Some advertisements may also appear in other media, including our websites. To provide the highest level of customer care all telephone calls are recorded.

Recruitment

**Sixth Form
Administrator**
Temporary (maternity cover)
Full time during term time
For April 2020

The Godolphin and Latymer School is one of the country's leading independent day schools for girls.

We currently seek applications for the above post. For full details about the role and the application process, please visit www.godolphinlatymer.com/vacancies/.

Applications will be considered on receipt and interviews may occur at any stage.



Godolphin and Latymer, Ilfley Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 0PG
www.godolphinlatymer.com

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The Charity called The Godolphin and Latymer School (charity registration number 312699) is administered by The Godolphin and Latymer School Foundation, a charitable company limited by guarantee (Company number 3598439) (RNC/GSA 800 girls 11-18 (200 in the Sixth Form)).

#MusclesMatter

It's the big 4-0 for the Great North Run

Join #TeamOrange and be one of our angels in the North

Sunday 13 September 2020

**Muscular
Dystrophy UK**

Fighting muscle-wasting conditions



Unlucky in the ballot?

You're in luck as we have a place for you! Lace up your trainers get your place with #TeamOrange.

40% off for the big 4-0!

Registration fee: ~~WAS £35~~ NOW £21

We ask you to pledge to raise: £350

Lucky in the ballot?

We'd still love you to join #TeamOrange with your own place and we'll be here to support every step of the way.

No registration fee

We ask you to pledge to raise: as much as you can!

Make every step count in the race to beat muscular dystrophy

www.musculardystrophyuk.org/GNR20

0300 012 0172 / volunteerfundraising@musculardystrophyuk.org / @MDUK_News

Muscular Dystrophy UK, 61A Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0BU. Registered Charity No.205395 and Registered Scottish Charity No. SC039445



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



EVO DENTAL

— be you again —

Have you been...

- Suffering from **extensive tooth loss?**
- Facing a life with **dentures?**
- Diagnosed with **advanced gum disease?**

Call us today to book your
**FREE no obligation
Full Clinical Assessment**

📞 Call 0808 1495 970
🌐 Visit us at evodental.com



A world without fear of smiling confidently or
the ability to chew effectively

EvoDental Vision Statement



Anne - Both Jaws treated with EvoAdvanced™ - 2019

We are unique. We are the only UK
healthcare provider that has chosen to
focus exclusively on full jaw dental
implant solutions for those with failed
or failing teeth.
This is ALL we do, all day everyday.

Both Jaws from
£9,900
£2,000 Deposit
£152 a month*
Over 5 years
EvoEdentulous™

Other EvoSolutions available

EvoEssential™

Both Jaws - £12,000

EvoAdvanced™

Lower Jaw - £10,000
Upper Jaw - £11,000
Both Jaws - £19,000

Evo Dental Centre Ltd FRN: 629860 are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. We are a credit broker not a lender - credit is subject to status and affordability, and is provided by Hitachi Capital (UK) PLC. Terms & Conditions Apply. Representative example - Finance example for the above two jaw treatment EvoEdentulous™, priced at £9,900, deposit of £2,000, Amount of credit £7,000, receivable by 60 monthly payments of £151.81. Total amount payable £9,108.60 at 5.9% APR. Interest rate 5.9%



MRC Medical
Research
Council

We are recruiting people with
CONSTIPATION
for a research study

We are looking for adults to take part in a study on the
causes and treatment of constipation

8 Visits and the study will involve:

An MRI Scan • Colonoscopy • Comparison of 2 currently
available medications • A blood test

Want to hear
about other
studies?
Join our
mailing list

An inconvenience allowance
is payable (up to £500)
plus travel expenses

Ways to get in touch:

Email us at
a.zdanaviciene@qmul.ac.uk
mention the RECLAIM study

Call us on
(0207) 882 2645

Reclassifying Constipation
Online Advert Patients Final Version 1.0 16/12/16

Valuation
Days

Tuesdays & Thursdays
(by appointment)

Bellmans
FINE ART AUCTIONEERS

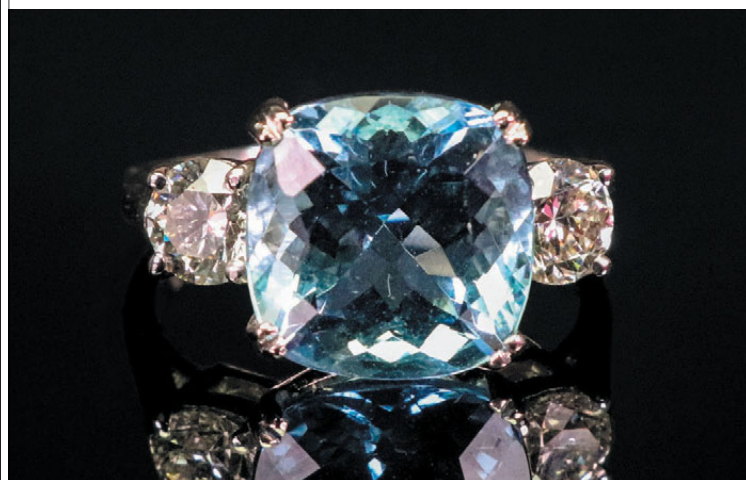


Image: Lot 566 A platinum, aquamarine and diamond three-stone ring. Sold for £2,300 (plus BP).

For appointments:

London
50 Brook Street,
London W1K 5DR
london@bellmans.co.uk
0203 538 8287

Come and meet our specialists
for a free auction valuation.

bellmans.co.uk

Results subject to buyers premium @ 22% + VAT.

It's good to have options

We know that you have your own unique trading strategy. That's why we've built our platform to be fully customisable, from background colour to charting intervals.

 cmc markets



Trade your way

Spread betting & CFDs:
FX | Indices | Cryptos | Commodities | Shares



CMC
30 YEARS

Spread bets and CFDs are complex instruments and come with a high risk of losing money rapidly due to leverage. **70.5% of retail investor accounts lose money when spread betting and/or trading CFDs with this provider.** You should consider whether you understand how spread bets and CFDs work and whether you can afford to take the high risk of losing your money. The speculative nature of cryptocurrencies combined with leverage could lead to significant losses.

FTSE 100
6815.35
up 160.46

FTSE 250
19,873.79
up 572.09

£1 buys
\$1.2778
down 0.31 cent

1 Bitcoin buys
\$8826
down \$44

£1 buys
€1.1493
up 0.35 cent

€1 buys
\$1.1124
down 0.55 cent

Ethical doubts

Sustainability is all the rage but the metrics are muddy, says Anthony Hilton » **Page 40**

Beating up the bank

Splash the cash, analyst tells management as RBS flounders » **Page 42**

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

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

Business

Regulator is right to put the brakes on Tilney merger

Jim Armitage



COMMENT

SMITH & Williamson's takeover by — sorry, “merger with” — Tilney appears to have landed in the rough.

The two wealth managers declared they were tying the knot last year in a deal valuing the combined group at £625 million, but getting it done is proving harder than making the announcement.

There's been much speculation as to why, including complaints from S&W shareholders that the deal is funded too much in shares and not enough in cash.

But then it emerged in January that the main blockage is actually the FCA.

Details are sketchy, but reports this week suggest a fundamental problem has arisen: the regulator doesn't think the business would be financially robust enough.

Why? Because it appears Tilney's private equity backers at Permira were inclined to fund the deal with high levels of debt.

That's the standard playbook for private equity firms, which get a big tax advantage against funding with traditional equity, but it makes the resulting business more vulnerable to future shocks.

You get a flavour of the Permira model from Tilney's most recent accounts, showing net debt of £385 million and operating profit of £22.9 million. The company reportedly refinanced since then, but that's clearly the model.

The regulator, it seems, took fright at such a structure handling some £45 billion of people's money. As analyst Jeremy Grime of Charlton Illingworth puts it, given what we've seen in the markets lately, that's no bad thing.

Back to the drawing board, chaps.

@ArmitageJim

CORONAVIRUS AGGREKO ON ALERT AS TOKYO'S OLYMPICS ARE THREATENED

AGGREKO today said it is watching virus developments “very closely” ahead of its work on the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The FTSE 250 firm is providing back-up power generators to 44 venues and the athletes' village in a \$250 million (£195 million) contract.

CEO Chris Weston said he was “comfortable” with the company's exposure to the event despite reports it may be delayed.

Profits rose 13% to £241 million despite a 1% fall in revenues to £1.6 billion. The shares were up 51p, or 8%, to 726p after a 3% increase in the dividend to 18.3p.

Alex Lawson



Carney admits Bank's powers over virus impact are limited

MARKETS
Simon English

MARK Carney today admitted the Bank of England's anti-coronavirus firepower was limited because interest rates are already so low.

Speaking after the Bank and its peers in the US, Japan and Australia signalled they would take coordinated action to ease market panics over the virus, the outgoing governor said: “Monetary policy space is limited.”

He said the Bank was unlikely to cut the cost of borrowing to negative interest rates, but other moves such as asset purchases were possible.

Markets across Europe rallied for the second day running after Wall Street enjoyed a near 5% bump last night and European markets responded, aided by a sharp cut in interest rates from the central bank of Australia to 0.5%.

The Bank of Japan threw cash into the financial system and pledged to buy assets directly to maintain stability.

President Trump upped his usual pressure on the Fed, tweeting it should “ease and cut rate big”.

In London there was a clear shift in sentiment from fear of a complete wipe-out to greed at missing out on a prolonged rally. The FTSE 100 was up 160 points, 2.3%, at 6815.35.

Winning shares included a bounce for the airlines — TUI up 4%, IAG up 4% — and homebuilders Persimmon, up 4.6% and Taylor Wimpey, 4.5%.

Peter Cruddas at CMC Markets, unveiling his firm's third profit upgrade for the year, said his plan to target higher-value clients was working. While increased volatility has been good for business, that turbulence has lately left clients unsure.

Some analysts cautioned that co-ordinated activity by the central banks, as



The good news is that, unlike natural disasters, capacity should bounce back once things return to normal
Anna Stupnytska
Fidelity International

in 2008, is unlikely because the China flu isn't yet a worldwide financial panic.

The latest IHS Markit PMI Construction figures for February recorded the sharpest rise in new orders since December 2015. At 52.6, the index soared from 48.4 in January.

Duncan Brock at the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply said: “After a sustained period of contraction in construction last year, the resurgence in levels of new work at the fastest rate since December 2015 was a surprising but much-needed development for a sector that was on its knees.”

That suggests a recession is not presently on the cards.

Fidelity International analyst Anna Stupnytska said: “The good news is that, unlike natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, capacity should bounce back once things return to normal.”

@SimonEngStand

CD&R MAKES A £400 MILLION SWOOP FOR MARKETER

US PRIVATE equity firm Clayton, Dubilier & Rice made a £400 million swoop to buy healthcare marketing and PR owner

Huntsworth today. Huntsworth owns PR firms Citigate Dewe Rogerson, Grayling and Red Consultancy. It also does marketing and communications for drugs companies through a unit called Evoke.

CD&R will pay 108p per share, a 50% premium to the share price. CD&R is advised by Bank of America, Houlihan Lokey and RBC. Huntsworth is using Rothschild.

TWITTER TELLS STAFF TO STAY HOME AS MUSK BACKS CHIEF

SOCIAL media giant Twitter today advised its staff to stay at home to prevent the spread of the virus. In a blog post, the firm said it is “strongly encouraging” all of its 5,000 employees not to come into work. It has made it mandatory for staff in Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea to work remotely. Separately Twitter's chief Jack Dorsey received the support of Tesla's Elon Musk after reports that activist investor Elliott Management wants to replace him. “Just want say that I support @Jack as Twitter CEO. He has a good [heart]”, tweeted Musk.

Business

Robert Walters warns virus could add to profits fall

RECRUITMENT

Ben Woods

RECRUITER Robert Walters has warned today that the coronavirus outbreak could hit profits as “unprecedented” global turbulence took its toll on growth.

The company said the virus was likely to “negatively impact” its full-year profit for 2020, adding another layer of uncertainty to an unpredictable recruitment market. Robert Walters has exposure to Asian markets, with the Japanese recruitment arm proving its most profitable.

The comments came as pre-tax profits edged 3% lower to £47.4 million for the year to December. Revenues fell 1% to £1.2 billion over the period.

Investors took flight at the profit warning, sending shares down more than 8% to 484p.

The company said it was performance was resilient despite the market being hit by the US-China trade war, Brexit uncertainty and protests in Hong Kong and Paris.

On coronavirus, chief executive Robert Walters said it was ready to tackle the disruption as it had recently invested in technology that let staff work from home.

He added: “Whenever there has been a pause in recruitment activity, you tend to get a pent-up demand that is satisfied when things return to a stable basis.

“I see no reason why this shouldn't be the same.”

@Ben.Woods01

Ashted aiming to boost UK arm

US-FOCUSED tools rental giant Ashted promised to inject more life into its British division today.

The UK unit, known as A-Plant, has struggled compared with US sister company Sunbelt. Ashted's main driver of growth. A-Plant sales fell 1% in the third quarter to £272 million versus a 13% rise at Sunbelt to \$4.2 billion.

Ashted has hired a new CEO, former Speedy Hire man Andy Wright, to run the division.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

I promise you I'll start to be more careful and listen



SoftBank's Masayoshi Son strikes a contrite note with investors after its backing of WeWork soured

Anthony Hilton

Sustainability is all the rage but the metrics are muddy



HAWKSMOOR Investment Management did one of its country roadshows last month, where it told its investment advisers and clients that its focus this year was on investing in sustainable portfolios. It was not alone. Environmental, Social and Governance, or ESG, issues are rapidly becoming mainstream, be they the concerns of a small fund manager like Hawksmoor or the biggest like BlackRock.

Indeed the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance reported that in 2018 global investment products linked to ESG were worth \$31 trillion, and industry projections are that they will top \$40 trillion this year.

Be that as it may, Hawksmoor looks for investments which aim to make a positive impact on the environment and society. It looks for investments which embrace the best practices and avoids the sin stocks like gambling, tobacco and armaments.

All good stuff but the 2020 version of the Credit Suisse Global Investment Returns Year Book, written as usual by Professors Elroy Dimson, Paul Marsh and Mike Staunton, decided to look closely at what ESG actually does.

Does it have its own reward in terms of high returns for lower risk? Do investors sacrifice returns as the price for

their principles? Do we actually know what ESG is?

The final point is fairly fundamental because some of the biggest index providers and rating agencies don't always agree. For example, Tesla is, according to MSCI, ranked at the top for sustainability. But FTSE ranks it as the worst global cars producer. A third, Sustainalytics, says it is in the middle. The difference is that MSCI focuses on the car and its lack of emissions while the FTSE looks at the factories and what goes into the batteries.

Nor is it just Tesla. According to the Year Book, Facebook gets a very low ranking for environmental issues by Sustainalytics, whereas MSCI ranks it highly. On the social pillar the rankings are reversed. MSCI rates Facebook as good whereas Sustainalytics places it among the bad.

MSCI ranks three companies, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Pfizer as being extremely poor on governance



Do we actually know what ESG is? Some of the biggest index providers and rating agencies don't always agree

but Sustainalytics rates them as very high. MSCI says Walmart is good on social, but FTSE says it is terrible. Johnson & Johnson is good or bad on governance depending on whether one asks MSCI or Sustainalytics.

Even the overall ratings where Environmental, Social and Governance scores are combined don't help. For example MSCI ranks Wells Fargo as poor (12th percentile) for ESG, while FTSE ranks it highly (94th percentile).

It is not that any of the organisations are wrong as such, but they do look at different data.

Then there is the problem of weightings. In the insurance industry for example, Sustainalytics places roughly similar weights on all three ESG components. In contrast MSCI places a 5% weight on environmental; 74% on social and 21% on governance.

All this makes the benchmarks “interesting”, so anyone looking to invest in a fund should find out what it contains.

Also have a look at its back history before it was launched, because this always shows significant outperformance, followed, when it is launched, by underperformance or at best only tracking the wider market.

Find out, too, whether or not the global benchmark includes the United States because it is quite different from Europe.

Now on to the second part of the authors' question: are actions to boost ESG, or Corporate Social Responsibility (more or less the same thing) rewarded by appreciation in the share price? Or does it involve sacrifice?

Basically no, on the share price, the authors say, having studied the research and data from scores of academics.

There is one-off appreciation to positive changes in governance as investors adjust but after that, the “G” of ESG is in the price.

Shares responded positively to E and S changes, but again over time the effect becomes muted. After all, companies have to invest significant sums, which may not be a plus in share price terms. The overall implication is that ESG ratings may now be fully reflected in stock prices.

The same is true if you exclude sin stocks from your portfolio.

There may be a slight underperformance, though this is ambiguous, and even if it is, it is hardly material.

All this does not stop Hawksmoor or anyone else buying into such a fund. Indeed it is probably a good idea. But some ESG metrics are better than others. So be careful what you ask for, in case you get it.

Anthony Hilton's archive:

standard.co.uk/author/anthony-hilton



Tesco's triple-whammy on sales slide, fraud attack and court loss

RETAIL

Alex Lawson

RETAIL behemoth Tesco today faced a triple-whammy of headaches — falling sales, an attack by fraudsters and a court defeat.

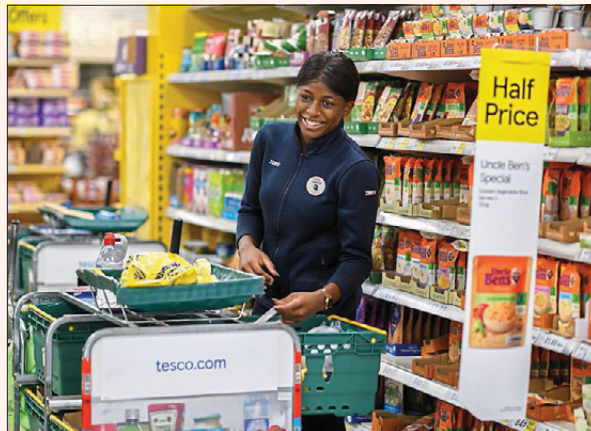
The supermarkets group failed to follow up a strong Christmas as sales fell 0.8% in the 12 weeks to February and its market share slipped to 27.2% from 27.7% a year earlier, Kantar data showed.

By contrast, arch-rival Sainsbury's experienced its first sales growth since last October, up a modest 0.3%. Morrisons, Asda and Waitrose saw sales fall while Lidl was the UK's fastest-growing grocer. It experienced an 11.4% rise in revenues, boosted by a surge in sales of Valentine's Day-related products.

Britain's supermarkets are preparing for potential virus-related panic buying.

Separately Tesco was forced to apologise to customers after an attack by scammers. The supermarket wrote to 620,000 customers informing them it had become “aware of some fraudulent activity on your Clubcard account, which included an attempt to access your Clubcard vouchers”.

Tesco believes fraudsters accessed the accounts of users using lists of stolen username and password combinations



Festive hangover: the supermarkets group failed to follow up a strong Christmas

from other sites. It stressed that no customers would lose Clubcard vouchers or points accrued and sent new physical cards to those who use them.

A spokeswoman said: “We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.”

Tesco has reported itself to the Information Commissioner's Office but does not expect a fine as financial details were not exposed. Tesco Bank was fined

£16.4 million after a 2016 hack. The European Union's highest court said a system in Hungary that levied a progressive tax on phone companies and retailers, including Vodafone and Tesco, was in line with EU law.

The EU Court of Justice in Luxembourg backed the Hungarian system after local courts sought its view.

@MrAlexLawson

Chinese takeover of British Steel sees more than 3000 jobs saved

MANUFACTURING

Simon English

MORE than 3000 jobs were saved today when China's Jingye Group got its purchase of British Steel over the line after weeks of wrangling.

Business Secretary Alok Sharma called the takeover a “significant milestone”.

He added: “Having met and spoken to British Steel employees, the Unions and Jingye, I know just how committed they all are to a successful future for the business. Work continues towards completing the sale, which will give certainty to British Steel's dedicated and talented workforce in Scunthorpe, Skinningrove and on Teesside.”

While most jobs have been saved, it seems that 400 will go. Union leaders branded their treatment “disgraceful”. British Steel has been in liquidation since last May.

The terms are still not public, but it is expected that Jingye will pay £70 million for the company and invest a further £1.2 billion.

The deal brings an end to almost a year's uncertainty. It does not yet include the British Steel plant in Hayange, France.

@SimonEngStd

Vegan fans feed Greggs' rise of 31% but storms are a blow

RETAIL

Ben Woods

BAKERIES chain Greggs cheered surging profits today, but said the storms battering Britain had dampened sales at the start of the year.

Pre-tax profits lifted 31% to £108.3 million for the year to December 28, as it enjoyed strong demand for its vegan range of sausage rolls and pastries.

But Storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge left a sour taste last month, as heavy downpours and flooding dealt a "significant" blow to this year's sales.

Greggs was forced to shut 40 shops for five days because it could not supply them with pastries and cakes after its factory in Treforest, South Wales, was flooded.

Chief executive Roger Whiteside said the largest weather impact came from fewer shoppers hitting the High Streets. Despite the hit, same-store sales were still up 7.5% for the first nine weeks of the year.

Whiteside said: "We have had three named storms in a row and that has impacted footfall everywhere. People are just not out shopping because the weather has been so awful."

The update came as Greggs unveiled record results, as total sales climbed 13.5% to £1.2 billion for last year.

The move has been driven by a shift away from being a seller of just cakes and bread towards becoming a food-on-the-go chain that offers fast and healthier meals. The company said it



Extra helpings: the bakeries chain gave a £7 million special bonus to its 25,000 staff in January

closed 41 shops over the period and opened 138 new stores, lifting its estate to 2050. It plans to roll out another 100 sites this year.

To mark the rapid expansion, it dished up a £7 million special bonus to its 25,000 staff in January.

Greggs is facing the prospect of escalating costs due to a hike to the National Living Wage and higher pork prices.

The company said it would invest £10 million this year to shield customers

from price hikes at the tills. The chain said the outlook for 2020 was "uncertain" due to coronavirus.

Whiteside added: "We are very confident of the things we can take precautions for that might impact our own network."

"The issue is, what happens if it becomes more widespread and people stop travelling or going to work. That could impact demand."

@Ben_Woods01

Landlords baulking at Khan's rent control poll

PROPERTY

Joanna Bourke

LANDLORDS in the capital today threw cold water over plans by Sadiq Khan to introduce rent controls if he is re-elected as Mayor of London.

Khan, pictured, launched his re-election campaign by declaring the election is a "referendum on rent controls", in a move the property industry cautioned could deter investors from building new homes.

The Labour Mayor has previously called on the Government for extra powers to cap rents. He said if re-elected in May it represents an "undeniable and irresistible" mandate for rent controls. "The

Prime Minister will have to give us the powers we need."

But James Saunders, chief executive of Quintain, which is building thousands of rental flats in Wembley, said: "London hasn't been building enough new homes for

decades... rent controls will only make this situation worse."

"If rent controls were introduced into the build-to-rent sector, investment would diminish and once again renters

would be left to deal with amateur private landlords."

Ryan Prince, UK boss of Canadian investor Realstar, said: "I don't know of one city in the world where rent controls have achieved their stated goals."

@esjobourke



Big boost from smaller shops for Travis Perkins

RETAIL

Michael Bow

A PLAN by builders' merchant Travis Perkins to slim down and concentrate on smaller shops for on-the-go builders paid off after it reported better than expected full year results.

The group decided last year to spin off Wickes, the chain for home DIY enthusiasts, and devote greater time and resources to brands like Travis Perkins and Toolstation, which cater for professional tradesmen.

The launch of the smaller Toolstation store format,

where builders can order on the phone and pick up the kit later, in High Street locations has helped underpin stronger sales across the FTSE 250 group.

Sales for the year ending December 31 rose 3.2% to £6.9 billion and profits 7.8% to £442 million above analyst forecasts.

"The group had become too complex and the addition of businesses had diverted our attention from our core trade customers," said chief executive Nick Roberts.

The demerger of Wickes is expected to be completed by June.

@bymichaelbow

... and winds buffet Direct Line by £35m

INSURANCE

Michael Bow

INSURER Direct Line expects to fork out £35 million to meet claims from the damage inflicted by Storms Dennis and Ciara, it revealed today.

The two storms ripped through the UK in January and February, flooding homes and damaging properties in

Yorkshire, Wales and the Midlands. Direct Line said there had been around 8700 customers claiming so far and most of the bill will be storm related, such as gusts of winds blowing off tiles and damaging roofs.

A small proportion of the claims, numbering the low hundreds, come from flood damage but they are more expensive to fix.

Chief executive Penny James said: "Storm claims tend to be easier and cheaper to fix than flood claims."

Last week RSA said it had received thousands of claims while Hiscox yesterday said it had only 112 so far.

Direct Line is also hunting for a new chairman after Mike Biggs said he will stand down.

@bymichaelbow



Damage claims: Penny James

A daily news podcast from the
EveningStandard.

The Leader

Listen and subscribe on your usual podcast platform or visit standard.co.uk/TheLeader

SHARE PRICES

SECTORS

2019/20	High	Low	2019/20	High	Low
CON'S & BUILD MATERIALS					
Bellway	3846	+171	4336	2656	
CRH	2893	+85	3116	2266	
Taylor Wimpey	2135	+105	2374	1414	
ELECTRONIC & ELEC EQUIP					
discoverE Grp	518	+8	606	381	
ENGINEERING & MACHINERY					
Bodycote	7745	+26	975	6385	
FOOD PRODUCERS					
Cranwick	3496	+122	3912	2454	
HEALTH					
ConvaTec Group	1964	+14	2254	1304	
INSURANCE					
Admiral Group	2196	+56	2356	1989	
Beazley	533	+45	634	5015	
Hiscox	1230	+46	1795	1140	
INVESTMENT COMPANIES					
AVI Global Trust	7184	+104	802	680	
Custodian REIT	1095	+11	1205	106	
UKCP	825	+15	93	785	
LEISURE & HOTELS					
Marston	91	+34	1334	86	
MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT					
Certain Media	40		59	304	
OIL & GAS					
Cairn Energy	1434	+41	2164	133	
Hunting	3225	+34	657	283	
Premier Oil	805	+4	1204	645	
Pharos Energy	315	+1	78	304	
PHARMS & BIOTECH					
Hikma Pharms	1911	+12	2212	1540	
REAL ESTATE					
Capital & Cities	2064	+7	275	1814	
CLS	2575	+51	3225	209	
Derwent Land	4118	+178	4362	2858	
Grainger	3064	+74	3414	215	
Helical	4645	+7	540	320	
Raven Property	46	+2	514	365	
Raven Prop Pref	127		143	1165	
RavenProp CnvPrf	103		103	103	
Savills	1116	+35	1268	8095	
Triax Big Box	1364	+41	1625	1265	
U and I Group	1633	+4	2035	1254	
Urban&Civic	339	+4	375	260	
Workspace Grp	1155	+46	1317	797	
RESTS PUBS & BREWERIES					
Fuller S.T.A.	8504	+14	1250	830	
SPECIALITY & OTHER FIN					
Mattoli Woods	842	+3	865	455	
Paragon	4755	+135	5555	3854	
SUPPORT SERVICES					
Dignity	588	+7	765	4554	
Experian	2798	+91	2928	1962	
Ferguson	7032	+252	7696	4992	
Hays	1384	+25	186	1314	

Ice DATA SERVICES
www.theice.com/data
For enquiries call +44 (0)20 7825 8300

Splash the cash, analyst tells RBS as it flounders

Joanna Bourke

MARKET ROUND-UP

DO THE management of Royal Bank of Scotland need taking into a padded room and slapped about until they come to their senses?

Ian Gordon at Investec doesn't quite say that, but his note to clients today is somewhere between sarcastic and downright abusive.

The bank we must soon begin to call NatWest after a rebrand has got loads of cash to play with – a capital ratio of more than 16%, in bankers' jargon.

Since management, and others, plainly believe the shares are undervalued, why not use that cash to buy back the stock now?

The shares today edged up 3p to 175.5p. That's still a 44-month low. As Gordon puts it: "It seemingly remains unwilling to conduct an open-market buyback at circa 170p. It prefers to wait until the Government is willing to sell 'higher up', perhaps at circa 240p."

Sounding understandably cross, if not a little baffled, the Investec veteran

Who's who:
Escape Hunt has a deal with BBC Studios to launch A Dalek Awakens

asks: "Why pay 240p later when you can pay 170p today? Just get on with it!" Indeed.

The FTSE 100 improved 160.46 points to 6815.35 and the FTSE 250 was up 572.09 points at 19,873.79 amid renewed confidence over the handling of the coronavirus.

IWG, the world's largest serviced offices firm, impressed with a big rise in annual profits. It last year shifted its focus to being a franchiser rather than an operator, and agreed a number of deals to sell the rights to use IWG's brands including Regus and Spaces.

IWG gets paid ongoing fees for providing franchise services, including tech and marketing. A flurry of these deals, including a £320 million sale of

its Japanese arm, helped profits soar to £489.5 million from £138.7 million.

Chief executive Mark Dixon said the coronavirus outbreak means 28 of the firm's 140 China sites are closed, which will hit revenues there.

However, with around 3400 offices worldwide, that counts for a small part of the business.

Shares in the offices business improved 9.7p to 355p.

Wizz Air said the spread of the illness prompted "slightly lower load factors", a measure of how full aircraft are, in February. However, total passenger numbers were still up 25.6% to over three million. Shares in the airline jumped 129p to 3453p.

@es.jobourke



Small-cap spotlight

SHARES in AIM-listed Escape Hunt today gained 0.5p, or more than 4%, to 12.25p, after it inked a deal with BBC Studios to launch a new Doctor Who game. The escape-rooms operator, led by Richard Harpham, said A Dalek Awakens will be the second Doctor Who game it unveils, something it expects to boost footfall and interest in the company.

City Spy



@City_Spy

Sugar won't have his wings clipped by the corona crisis

CORONAVIRUS has taken its toll on airline shares but there's at least one business pundit keen to catch the falling knife: Lord Sugar. "I think it is a bit over-dramatic that the stock market has dropped tremendously, and I'm seriously thinking of buying some easyJet or Ryanair shares, because it's a nonsense that they should have dropped down so much. And some British Airways," he tells City Spy. "I think everybody [in business] will weather the storm. True British spirit, we will just get through it." Sir Alan, you're hired.

INVESTEC'S spin-out of fund manager Ninety One is proving a nice little earner for the raft of advisers on the deal. In total, Investec expects to spend £37 million on fees to launch the £2 billion stock-market listing, according to the prospectus,



DATING addicts, never fear, your evenings could prove lucrative as well as, um, fruitful in matters of the heart. So it proved for Radha Vyas who dispensed with the small talk and spent her first date with Lee Thompson, left, discussing her idea for a travel company. She tells private equity firm Piper's latest How I Grew My Brand podcast their ensuing "dates" included going to "an adventure travel show, the library and read[ing] up on setting up a business". The pair now have Flash Pack, turning over £13 million and organising adventures for travellers who are single. The only sting in the tail: they don't qualify to use it – they're now married with a daughter.

MORE on this month's property event Mipim being moved to June by coronavirus. The Cannes jamboree is known for its dealmaking, conferences and parties, with a sea of suits attending. One regular asks Twitter: "If Mipim takes place in June, would it be appropriate to wear shorts and flip-flops rather than the traditional dark suit?" A legitimate question, Spy reckons. Answers on a disinfected postcard please.

with sponsor JPMorgan Cazenove receiving £7 million, Fenchurch Advisory £6 million and underwriters on the deal sharing £6.2 million. But the lawyers get the most: Linklaters

will be paid a cool £11 million for its work. Good day at the office.

Email us at:
cityspy@standard.co.uk



NEOM
ORGANICS • LONDON

WHO WOULD YOU
RATHER sleep WITH?

THE LAVENDER ONE

THE CHAMOMILE ONE

Find YOUR Perfect Sleep Partner
neomorganics.com

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC Across: 3, Claws 8, Pip-it 10, Epsom 11, Cur 12, Piper 13, Menaces 15, Val-U-e 18, Tar 19, Clinging 21, Central-L 22, Wood 23, Alto 24, Di-sable 26, Eleven 29, Rat 31, T-I-t-an 32, Ter-E-nce 34, Night 35, Rut 36, P-plays 37, Tenon 38, Aesop.
Down: 1, N-Ice-r 2, Pi-rated 4, Lois 5, Wee-VIL 6, Sprat 7, Bosun 9, Pun 12, Pertain 14, Can 16, L-I-lle 17, E-GG-on 19, Ca-bare-t 20, S-we-et 21, Cove-t 23, Altered 24, Denise 25, Bar 27, Lisle 28, Vanya 30, Actor 32, The-O 33, Nun.
EASY Across: 3, Gamut 8, Canal 10, Newtons 11, Bitt 12, Linen 13, Militia 15, Votes 18, Nab 19, Seraph 21, Terrain 22, Hare 23, Mile 24, Traitor 26, Sentry 29, Let 31, Media 32, Radical 34, Adder 35, Van 36, Litre 37, Petal 38, Argon.
Down: 1, Habit 2, Matinee 4, Asia 5, Uneven 6, Tenor 7, Steep 9, Nil 12, Library 14, Tar 16, Tapir 17, Sheep 19, Similar 20, Chasm 21, Trend 23, Motives 24, Trader 25, Ted 27, Eerie 28, Tiara 30, Banal 32, Redo 33, Cat.
BACK PAGE Across: 4, Prime 7, Rubbed 9, Fee 10, Lad 12, Ready 13, Alias 15, Timid 17, Debase 19, Yarn 20, Arena 22, Art 24, Drapery 27, Nip 28, Esal 31, Diva 33, Decent 35, Clear 37, Kick 38, Unite 39, Rat 41, Oaf 42, Muslim 43, Heard.
Down: 1, Armada 2, Abrade 3, Gel 4, Peri 5, Ready 6, Moderate 8, Data 11, Disappear 14, Send 16, Mere 18, Barn 21, Radiance 23, Tree 25, Aide 26, Yank 29, Stifle 30, Liking 32, Actor 34, Crum 36, Lead 40, Tub.

On the money

Most people don't want to know about a 50% savings interest rate

Simon Read



THERE'S a savings account that pays you 50p extra for every £1 you put in. Sounds too good to be true? It's not. It's the Government's Help To Save account but millions of people who could have one have turned their nose up at it.

Why? That's hard to say, as it's designed to help struggling people by rewarding them for saving.

It is only available to anyone entitled to Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit.

Obviously there are likely to be lots of hard-up people who simply believe they can't afford to save.

But the Help To Save account is aimed at encouraging them to save and it makes it as easy as possible for them to do so.

It allows people to stash as little as just £1 whenever they can afford to. And they can take the cash out at any time they need it.

But while there are 3.5 million people across the country eligible for the account, only 163,000 have been opened in the 18 months since it was launched, according to new figures released by the Government.

In fact only 126,000 accounts have any money in them.

Only 86,000 people are paying in each month, with the average monthly deposit standing at £47.

The problem is obvious. "Building up a savings pot is unlikely to be a key priority for those struggling to make ends meet," says Myron Jobson, a personal finance campaigner at Interactive Investor.

The way the accounts work is simple:



you can save between £1 and £50 a month and you don't need to pay in each month.

You can withdraw as much cash as you want at any time.

The free cash comes over two years when you'll be paid 50% of the highest balance you've saved. After four years, there's another bonus before the account is closed.

"If you qualify for the scheme, it's worth taking the time to consider if there's any way you can afford to put away any money each month," points out Sarah Coles, a personal finance analyst, at Hargreaves Lansdown.

"It's a generous scheme, offering up

to 50p for every £1 saved over four years. You can start from £1 a month, and the fact you can get your hands on the cash at any time means there's no harm in trying."

But struggling people need to be careful that the attraction of an extra gov-

ernment handout doesn't lead to financial difficulties.

"A 50% savings bonus is too good a carrot to ignore for those eligible, but those on a low income should consider whether saving is a priority if it would mean they would have difficulty meeting outstanding debt commitments, particularly priority debts such as council tax, as a result," warns Jobson.

To apply for a Help to Save account you'll need a Government Gateway user ID and password.

Find out more at gov.uk/get-help-savings-low-income
@simonread

Building up a savings pot is unlikely to be a key priority for those struggling to make ends meet

HOW TO SAVE IT

Switch and save, no fear!

If you get a text telling you your mobile, broadband or pay-TV contract is coming to an end, don't be alarmed. Telecoms companies are now being forced by Ofcom to tell customers when contracts finish. The watchdog reckons 20 million people are overpaying for services and hopes the texts will encourage them to switch to cheaper deals that can be found online. It says mobile customers could save £15 a month, for instance.

Book direct for hotel deals

When booking a hotel, it's probably cheaper to book it direct than online. Which? reckons that commission charged by hotel booking sites means it is usually more expensive to book online. The consumer group got lower-cost deals by contacting hotels direct in eight out of 10 cases. "Even in cases where they can't offer a better price, there's a good chance they'll throw in a freebie or two," says Rory Boland of Which?

Send mum away for £28.99

Mumcation is a horrible made-up word, but it's what Travelodge has badged its Mother's Day offers this year. It's offering 28,000 rooms for £28.99 for stays on Mother's Day weekend, March 20-23. Central London hotels are excluded from the deal.

Your own free will

March is Free Wills Month, which means you can get your legacy sorted and ensure your vinyl collection goes to someone who will really cherish it. There are a number of solicitors signed up to the scheme but in return you'll be asked to leave some cash to a charity, such as Dogs Trust, Breast Cancer Now and Mencap. You need to be 55 or older to apply at freewillsmoth.org.uk

A more rewarding ISA.

Your money helps someone else and that helps you.

My RateSetter Innovative Finance ISA gives me 4.0% interest.

I got a quick decision on my loan application and a great APR.

Capital at risk. No FSCS protection.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. 4.0% is the current annualised Going Rate with our Max product. RateSetter is a trading name of Retail Money Market Ltd (Company No. 7075792) and our registered office is at 6th floor, 55 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3AS. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Ref. 722768).

RateSetter Investing and borrowing rewritten for everyone.

Chelsea 3-4-3



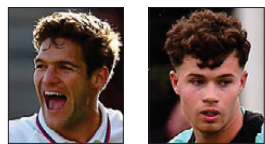
Liverpool 4-3-3



THE KEY BATTLES

Michy Batshuayi v Dejan Lovren

With his limp display against Manchester United last month, Batshuayi wasted a chance to show that the Blues were right not to sign a striker in January. He has fallen below Olivier Giroud in the pecking order and has a point to prove tonight. Lovren came in for heavy criticism as Liverpool's invincibles bid came to an end at Watford, and the defender will also want to answer some critics.



Marcos Alonso v Neco Williams

Chelsea full-back Alonso (above left) has had quite a few days, from scoring against Spurs to being sent off against Bayern Munich and then claiming a brace at Bournemouth. The Spaniard has impressed since his return to the side and will be some match for 18-year-old Williams (above right).

Mateo Kovacic v Adam Lallana

Two players more than capable of dictating proceedings with the ball at their feet. Kovacic has blown hot and cold at times but is slowly becoming a more consistent presence, capable of sharp exchanges or driving runs. Lallana is now being used more as a holding midfielder by Jurgen Klopp and, equally, can be Liverpool's metronome in the middle.

Jack Rosser

James Olley

Chief Football Correspondent

CHELSEA v LIVERPOOL
(Stamford Bridge, 7.45pm, BBC One)

IT would be a stretch to suggest that Liverpool have brought out the best in Chelsea this season, but their two previous meetings provided some of the promise Frank Lampard believes he has built on since.

Lampard's second competitive game in charge pitted the Blues against the European champions at August's UEFA Super Cup Final in Istanbul, a daunting prospect in theory but one Chelsea rose to in practice, only falling short following a penalty shoot-out.

Five-and-a-half weeks later, the teams faced off again at Stamford Bridge and although Jurgen Klopp's side emerged 2-1 winners, Lampard and his players were applauded off the pitch by the home supporters in such a heartwarming manner that he still occasionally references it now.

These two long-time adversaries were separated by 10 points then, a gap that has grown since to 34, although that is as much an expression of Liverpool's remarkable domestic campaign as it is Chelsea's own vulnerabilities.

Lampard laughed at any suggestion Liverpool were suddenly fallible after losing their first Premier League game of the season at Watford last weekend, but there is some basis for hoping tonight is third time lucky for Chelsea having pushed the Reds more than most twice already.

"We have to try to replicate the work particularly in the second half at Stamford Bridge and most of the Super Cup game where we went toe to toe," he said.

6

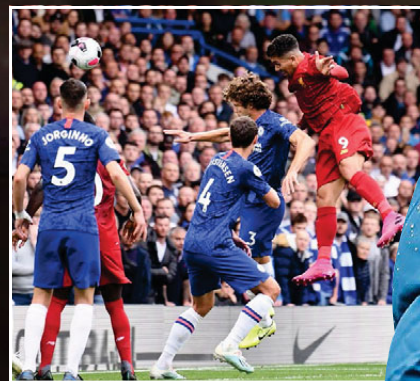
wins for Chelsea in 10 FA Cup matches against Liverpool, with the Blues successful in five of their past seven clashes.

"It should give us some comfort that if we are at our best, we can go against them. They have shown they are the benchmark and the best this year, we all pretty much agree with that in terms of what they have done this season.

"But we should take confidence that when we are at our best we can match them. And I hope we are a better team [now]. Things have changed, we do have injury problems — have been watching both those games and our team looked different from the individuals [we have available now].

We've gone toe to toe with Liverpool, now it's time to land knockout blow

Lampard is confident Chelsea can cause cup upset having pushed Reds hard twice this season



Head boy: Firmino scores in Liverpool's 2-1 win in September, but home fans still applauded off Chelsea

MORE WAYS TO BET MORE WAYS TO WIN

SET YOUR OWN ODDS, SPORTS
TRADE AND EVEN LAY A BET
WITH THE BETFAIR EXCHANGE

Exchange customers pay up to 5% commission, other charges may apply. Based on Betfair Exchange or traditional bookmakers. T&Cs apply.

betfair

declaring that the 28-year-old is "always fit for Liverpool" when the midfielder scored in that September defeat despite pre-match fitness fears.

He won't make it tonight, however, and the team selection from both sides is difficult to predict given Klopp's general attitude towards the FA Cup and Lampard's need to rotate players to halt an ever-diminishing grip on a top-four spot.

There was a strong indication yesterday that Kepa Arrizabalaga will return in goal following six matches dropped to the bench, while Michy Batshuayi has played in the previous two rounds and Pedro may continue his recent return to prominence. Collective con-

Klopp will still chop and change after shock end to glory run

David Lynch

A FIRST defeat in 44 Premier League games is unlikely to result in a shift in Jurgen Klopp's stance on FA Cup team selections.

After Liverpool's hopes of an unbeaten season were dashed by a 3-0 defeat to Watford on Saturday, it was thought that their manager might opt for a change of approach ahead of tonight's visit to Chelsea.

Klopp has largely relied on fringe players in the domestic cups this season, even going as far as to send an Under-23s team to contest a fourth-round replay against Shrewsbury that



The glums: Jurgen Klopp walks off with Andy Robertson (left) and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain after the 3-0 defeat at Watford

SPORT LIVE MATCH BLOG

For all the action as it happens at tonight's game: standard.co.uk/football

fell during last month's winter break. However, while his selection won't be quite as extreme as that at Stamford Bridge, the German is expected to ring the changes again.

Asked about his cup stance, Klopp said: "If you invest 100 per cent, how can you invest more? How can I take a risk with a player who played on Saturday, with all the little bits of information from everywhere? I can't."

"So, if I think a player played now X, Y and Z and we need another option, I will do it. I want to win this game. It's not because I don't take this game seriously and think, 'Yeah, send the reserves out against Chelsea and what-

ever!' We are not like this. We just try to do the best all the time."

January signing Takumi Minamino and academy talents Curtis Jones and Neco Williams are among those in line for rare starts, while former West Ham goalkeeper Adrian will continue in his role as cup No.1.

Harvey Elliott will not make the trip to London, however, with the 16-year-old having been selected to play in Liverpool's UEFA Youth League tie with Benfica today.

Klopp added: "We had a decision with Harvey and we had to make it a bit earlier because he had a little problem with his back on Friday, but it is good again."



Frank's not fazed by pressure...

WITH a Champions League mountain to climb against Bayern Munich, the FA Cup is Frank Lampard's last realistic chance of silverware this season. The prospect does not faze the Blues boss despite only one manager — Jose Mourinho (2013-14) in his second spell at the club — surviving a trophyless season under owner Roman Abramovich. The others who failed to win a trophy were:

Claudio Ranieri — 2003-04
Sacked after Chelsea finished second to Arsenal's 'Invincibles' in Abramovich's first year as Chelsea owner to make way for the appointment of Jose Mourinho.

Avram Grant — 2007-08
A penalty kick away from winning the Champions League, he was dismissed after Chelsea lost to Manchester United having guided the Blues to second place after replacing Mourinho midway through the season.

Carlo Ancelotti — 2010-11
After winning the Double in his first season, the Italian was sacked less than two hours after the end of the season after finishing second.

Jose Mourinho — 2015-16
Departed his second spell in charge with Chelsea languishing a point above the bottom three in 16th place after losing nine of their 16 Premier League games.

Jack Rosser

fidence remains fragile after being humbled by Bayern Munich and held by Bournemouth.

Their home form is also an ongoing concern as although the recent win over Tottenham was one of their best displays under Lampard, eight defeats in west London is their highest in a season since 1986.

And after Manchester United knocked them out of the EFL Cup, another loss here would see them exit both domestic cup competitions at home, in addition to Bayern leaving

the Bridge all but certain to advance to the Champions League quarter-finals. Tonight also marks Chelsea's last realistic chance of silverware, a prospect that does not faze Lampard despite only one manager — Jose Mourinho in 2013-14 — surviving a trophyless season, chiefly because of the transitional state the club are presently in.

"We have to understand that we are not quite there," he said. "We have to understand that there is a fight for us because we are in and around fourth

and people did not expect us to be there. I am not concerned... I want to win every trophy I get involved in. But that question 'oh this trophy is your last chance' does not strike fear.

"As I know where we are at and I know it will be very tough for us and I want us to keep building long term so we close the gap because the gap at the moment is pretty big."

And so, just as at the start of the campaign, a positive showing against Liverpool here would create further hope that gap could soon close.

Mourinho unlikely to take a risk on Lloris

Dan Kilpatrick

TOTTENHAM are expected to be without captain Hugo Lloris for tomorrow's FA Cup fifth-round clash at home to Norwich but Jose Mourinho hopes Erik Lamela and Ryan Sessegnon will return to boost his ailing attack.

Lloris (right) missed Sunday's 3-2 defeat to Wolves with a groin strain and, although it is not considered serious, Spurs are reluctant to risk the Frenchman against the Canaries, with Paulo Gazzaniga expected to deputise again.

Lloris should return for Saturday's trip to Burnley or next week's Champions League last-16 second leg at RB Leipzig.

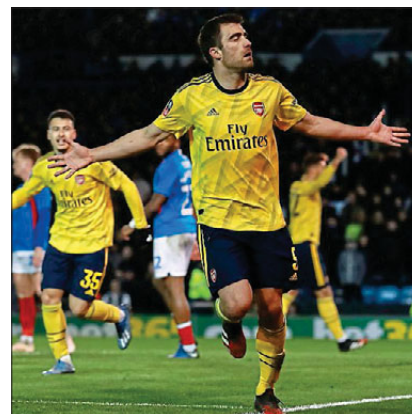
Lamela was a late withdrawal from the squad to face Wolves due to pain in his troublesome thigh, having only trained with the squad for the first time that week on Saturday. The Argentine will have a late fitness test after more individual work in the last two days.

Sessegnon was replaced on bench for the defeat at Chelsea two weekends ago after feeling discomfort in his hip in the dressing room but he has been training outside this week and hopes to be available for tomorrow or Saturday.

The pair's return would be a boost to

Mourinho, who had just one forward on the bench against Wolves in 18-year-old Troy Parrott. The Spurs manager is wary of overworking Lucas Moura and Steven Bergwijn while Harry Kane and Heung-min Son remain sidelined.

Parrott could be among the subs again tomorrow, although Mourinho has insisted repeatedly that he is not ready for first-team football. Son returned to London from South Korea at the weekend after surgery on his fractured arm will now follow guidelines over self-isolation against coronavirus.



SOKRATIS WILL NOT STAY IF HE IS FROZEN OUT

ARSENAL'S Sokratis Papastathopoulos insists he will not "sit on a contract" if Mikel Arteta deems him surplus to requirements at the end of the season.

The 31-year-old defender (left), who has one year left on his deal, said: "It is important I feel good, I feel happy and the team is happy with me. 'If not, I take the road and I finish.'"

Young stars give Arteta hope a Cup run could be start of something big

Portsmouth 0
Arsenal 2

Papastathopoulos 45, Nketiah 51

James Olley at Fratton Park

MIKEL ARTETA'S team selection here said more about his view of the FA Cup than any words could have but a run in this competition may yet have a galvanising effect for the months ahead.

It is already helping to heal recent wounds. Arteta's stark admission that several players were still struggling with the mental and physical damage inflicted by last Thursday's Europa League defeat underlined the job he has to restore self-belief for the final three months of the campaign.

There is little time to lose. The Gunners are five points adrift of fifth place — currently enough to reach the Champions League with Manchester City's appeal against their UEFA ban pending — with a game in hand, albeit against last season's champions.

Last month's financial figures reinforced the importance of European football in some form to the club's immediate future, preferably Champions League, which increases the pressure on their League form as a result of Olympiacos's shock victory.

An FA Cup run can at least help with the insurance policy of Europa League football but, arguably of equal significance, it would validate Arteta's first steps into management and help convince players that silverware is within reach.

Of course, the Gunners have been here before, to some extent. The 2014 FA Cup win was framed as a stepping stone to challenging for the game's bigger prizes but it only led to retaining the trophy a year later and a 2017 success against Chelsea which served to mask deficiencies that Arsene Wenger never resolved.

But the depth of the fall under Unai Emery leaves Arteta in a pre-2014 place. The FA Cup once again offers the possibility of progress, even if by itself it would not offset another season outside the Champions League.

It was, therefore, a risk to make nine changes as Arteta did against Portsmouth, and one that threatened to backfire early on, right up until Sokratis Papastathopoulos fired home a

superb volley in first-half stoppage-time.

For a team often criticised over their game management, it is worth highlighting how well they saw this out. Reiss Nelson already had one assist to his name but he punctuated a fine evening's work with a 51st-minute cross which Eddie Nketiah converted with a combination of luck and clever improvisation.

Lucas Torreira left Fratton Park on crutches after being carried off 16 minutes in with an ankle injury but his replacement, Dani Ceballos, helped Matteo Guendouzi squeeze the life out of the home side after the interval as Arsenal recovered from a slow start to assert their superiority.

Arteta said: "I assessed the team and physically some of them were knackered, some of them had issues, some of them mentally were hanging on what happened [last Thursday] so I tried to pick the right team knowing how they were and I made the most of it. If you win, it is okay but if we had lost obviously it would have been the wrong decision. To win any competi-

 *I assessed the team after last week and some of them had issues. I selected knowing how they were*

Mikel Arteta

tion you need to be lucky with the draw, you need to have luck in certain moments and after you have to look after every detail if you want to win.

"Let's see what the next draw is, but we have another game in the Premier League on Saturday, so let's focus on that."

Pablo Mari's performance on debut was another positive for Arteta having given him an extended period to build up his fitness following a January arrival from Flamengo.

There is no doubt the end of the campaign will bring about a significant overhaul with Arteta wanting to mould the squad in his own image. Other players need to be convinced they can achieve their aims in the red half of north London. An FA Cup success would make those tasks a little easier.

World sporting chiefs call for

Continued from Back Page

Games this summer in Tokyo and to reassure the athletes and to encourage them to go full steam ahead with regard to their preparations for what we expect to be a very successful Games."

The coronavirus is high on the agenda of the two-day meeting in Switzerland with IOC member Anita DeFranz refusing to speculate either whether the Games could take place behind closed doors or else be postponed or cancelled.

She said: "I am not a scientist nor do I set the agenda but it affects sports so it will be something we talk about a lot during the time we're here. But I will not speculate at all on these great Games, which will be held in Tokyo in five-and-a-half months."

Former Olympic cycling gold medalist Callum Skinner had previously told Standard Sport the implications of a shift in the date of the Games would have a massive impact on Team GB athletes.

He said: "If the Games were postponed or cancelled that would be an absolute disaster for the athletes competing. Sportsmen and women time their peak very diligently and to have that upset by the coronavirus would be devastating."

This morning, a wheelchair test rugby event ahead of the Paralympic Games — scheduled for March 12-15 — was called off by the Japan Para Sports Association but the body said plans were still in place to "carry out the wheelchair rugby test event in some form in April after ensuring a safe and secure environment".

Health Secretary Matt Hancock told the BBC that the Government was not pushing for largescale gatherings to be cancelled until advised otherwise by Public Health England. But he warned there could be tighter restrictions in future, especially for the upcoming London Marathon on April 26, because of the risk posed by the coronavirus.

He said: "There may be things that we have to do down the line that we may not want to but we will need the powers to do that, hence proposing emergency legislation."

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister admitted the Government "haven't taken decisions on specific events".

English football's governing bodies — the Premier League, FA and English Football League — have held initial discussions over what steps to take if measures are introduced to limit mass gatherings, as has already happened in Italy and Switzerland. Insiders say the authorities are in the hands of the government and will follow the advice of health and safety officials.



The hope, however, is that matches would still be able to go ahead in empty stadiums and be broadcast on TV.

At this stage, it is seen as difficult to draw up detailed contingency plans



It is important to consider all the information, but it is also important not to panic.

We need to fight altogether

FIFA president Gianni Infantino



Don't panic: a worker in Tokyo today, where Games minister Seiko Hashimoto (right, below) warned the Olympics could be postponed. However UEFA and FIFA chiefs Aleksander Ceferin (left top) and Gianni Infantino (bottom) called for calm as Health Secretary Matt Hancock (right, top) said the London Marathon may face tighter restrictions

given the ever-changing nature of the situation but the FA will seek early guidance on England's friendly against Italy at Wembley, scheduled for March 27, to avoid making any last-minute decisions.

In the event that stadium closures are only ordered for a limited time, such as a week, then matches would be more likely to be postponed, amid concerns that large numbers of supporters would gather outside grounds for behind-closed-doors games anyway. If fixtures

go ahead in empty stadiums, thought would be given to solidarity payments, particularly to smaller clubs which rely on gate receipts.

The domestic league in Switzerland has been put on hold on government orders, while the Italian league has already played matches behind closed doors and postponed last weekend's fixtures, including the Derby d'Italia between Juventus and Inter Milan.

UEFA have moved to play down the

DISTRUPTION ON A GLOBAL STAGE THE MAJOR EVENTS AT RISK... AND SOME THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN AFFECTED

SIX NATIONS ►

Go ahead as planned even though Italy v Ireland was postponed.

An official statement reads: "We intend to complete all 15 games across all three championships when time allows, but we will refrain from making any rescheduling announcements for the time being while we keep assessing the situation." France lead the table after three games played.



LONDON MARATHON ▲

Sunday, April 26
Health secretary Matt Hancock said it was too early to talk of postponement but the situation was being monitored.



TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES ▲

Wednesday, 22 July to Sunday, August 9
Japan's Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto said: "The contract could be interpreted as allowing a postponement."

EURO 2020 FINALS ◀

Friday, June 12 to Sunday, July 12
Gianni Infantino, FIFA president: "Someone said to me football can be an antidote to coronavirus. I wouldn't go that far...It is important to consider all the information, and not panic."

calm as virus worsens



threat to Euro 2020, which will kick off in Rome in 101 days' time. Speaking at UEFA's congress in Amsterdam yesterday, Aleksander Ceferin, the president, said: "Everybody stay calm. We must be guided by the authorities."

FA chairman Greg Clarke, who is in Amsterdam and will attend this evening's Nations League draw along with Gareth Southgate and FA CEO Mark Bullingham, said: "At the minute nobody is working on anything other than the Euros going

ahead. I expect them to go ahead but if the facts change, government policy could change, then we'll see."

UEFA also played down the risk to the Champions League and Europa League knockout matches and a spokesman said no thought had been given to moving the Champions League Final from its planned venue in Istanbul on May 30.

A spokesperson said: "We've played games behind closed doors before. We'll stay in contact with the authorities and



There may be things that we have to do down the line that we may not want to, but we will need the powers to do that

Health Secretary Matt Hancock

if the advice changes, we'll change ours. The authorities on the ground are in charge of the situation. It was the Italian authorities that decided that no public events could happen and then that Inter Milan v Ludogorets [in the Europa League round of 32] could be played behind closed doors."

Addressing UEFA's member associations, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said: "It is important to consider all the information from the authorities, but also important not to panic. Someone said to me football can be an antidote to coronavirus. I wouldn't go that far, but sometimes football is an antidote to many other illnesses like discrimination and racism, and this is a fight we need to fight altogether."

The Six Nations remains in a state of limbo, with matches scheduled over the next two weekends. Ireland's match against Italy, due to be played in Dublin on Saturday, was cancelled last week following advice from the Irish government. Following a meeting in Paris yesterday, organisers said that they will look to reschedule that game and that the other remaining five games are "currently scheduled to go ahead."

That includes England's game in Rome a week on Saturday. As many as 20,000 England fans are expected to make the trip to Italy for that game, although some seem likely to be affected by travel disruption with airlines cancelling flights.

The England Women's and U20s teams are due to face their Italian counterparts in northern Italy, the worst affected area in Europe, but could be moved further south to lessen the risk.

Any further government directives could see games cancelled at short notice. London Marathon bosses said they were still planning to celebrate 40 years of the event as planned on April 26 but that they would continue to remain in constant dialogue with the relevant authorities. Event director Hugh Brasher said: "We are monitoring closely the developments relating to the spread of coronavirus and noting the updates and advice given by the UK Government, the World Health Organisation and other UK public bodies."

The Cheltenham Festival, which begins a week today and is expected to see in excess of a quarter of a million people in attendance, is still scheduled to go ahead.

NBA instructs stars they must shun high-fives

Matt Majendie

NBA players have been advised not to high-five in response to the spread of the coronavirus.

Players have also been told to restrict physical contact with fans in the wake of an outbreak of 102 cases in the United States.

In a league-wide memo, players and staff were advised to fist bump rather than high-five each other as a league reaction to the virus' spread.

It said: "The health and safety of NBA players, coaches, staff and fans is paramount."

"Working with infectious disease experts, the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association are providing the following information of players related to the coronavirus outbreak."

Players were also warned not to take items from fans to sign such as shirts or balls.

Ferrari insist they are still heading to Oz for opener

FERRARI have allayed fears they may not be able to travel to the season-opening Australian Grand Prix because of the number of cases of the coronavirus in Italy, writes Matt Majendie.

The two opening MotoGP races of 2020 were cancelled with Qatar having set out the criteria that those travelling from Italy faced a 14-day quarantine. But Ferrari insist they have been told of no such contingency by F1 bosses.

A spokesman for the team said: "Contrary to what has been reported and despite knowing that the situation is constantly evolving, our departure for Australia and Bahrain is confirmed."

Franz Tost, boss of the Italian-based team AlphaTauri, had said not all his staff would be allowed to travel to Melbourne.

Scotland boss Clarke misses Nations draw

Dan Kilpatrick

SCOTLAND manager Steve Clarke has pulled out of this evening's UEFA Nations League draw in Amsterdam, with the Scottish Football Association unwilling to take any unnecessary risks over the spread of coronavirus.

SFA president Rod Petrie and chief executive Ian Maxwell have both travelled to the Netherlands but it is understood there were genuine concerns that Clarke could be stuck on the continent if Europe-wide travel restrictions are tightened in the next 48 hours.

The English FA have decided against such stringent precautions with Gareth Southgate this morning en route to join FA chairman Greg Clarke and CEO Mark Bullingham at the draw.



POSTPONED WORLD INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS ▲

Nanjing, China, was due to host the finals from March 13-15, but Dina Asher-Smith and her team-mates learned on January 29 that the championships had been postponed by World Athletics until 2021.

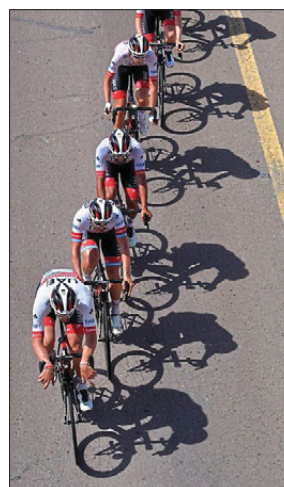


POSTPONED CHINESE GRAND PRIX ▲

Formula One's governing body, The FIA, accepted a request from Chinese organisers to postpone the Shanghai race that was due to take place on Sunday, April 19.

POSTPONED UAE TOUR ►

The final two stages were cancelled after two Italian cyclists were tested positive for the virus.



Standard Sport



LAMPARD BIDS FOR KLOPP KO
BLUES BOSS CONFIDENT OF FLOORING REDS AT BRIDGE
Pages 44 & 45

OLYMPICS 'COULD BE DELAYED OVER VIRUS'

» JAPAN'S GAMES MINISTER IN POSTPONEMENT WARNING | » LONDON MARATHON MAY BE RESTRICTED — GOVERNMENT | » ENGLISH FOOTBALL COULD BE PLAYED IN EMPTY STADIA

Matt Majendie, Dan Kilpatrick and Will Macpherson

TOKYO 2020 bosses today warned for the first time that the Olympics could be delayed until later in the year as the effect of the coronavirus widens.

Some 90,000 people have been infected worldwide with more than 3,000 having died as a result, and the World Health Organisation singled out Japan as one of the areas of "greatest concern" over containing the virus.

And today Japan's Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto told lawmakers in the Japanese parliament: "The contract calls for the Games to be held within 2020. That could be interpreted as allowing a postponement."

The Games are scheduled to get under way in July and Hashimoto said organisers were still "doing all we can to ensure that they go ahead as planned".

The IOC, meanwhile, were sticking to their stance that the Games would begin as planned, while Prime Minister Boris Johnson has put the country on a war footing despite stressing it was "business as usual".

Speaking prior to an IOC executive board meeting in Lausanne, president Thomas Bach said: "The preparations for the Games in Tokyo are continuing with a view to having a successful Olympic



Critical time: International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach at today's crucial board meeting in Lausanne



ONLINE SPORT FOLLOW OUR BLOG ON THE VIRUS

Keep up to date with all the breaking news: standard.co.uk/coronavirusreport

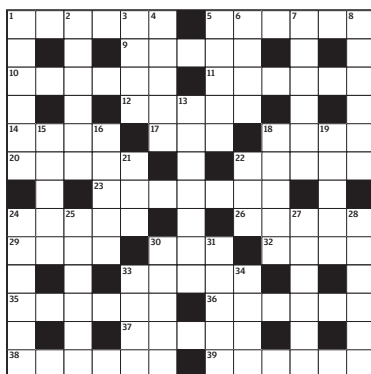
Continued on Page 46

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Restraint (6)
 - 5 Forgive (6)
 - 9 Garret (5)
 - 10 Frustrate (6)
 - 11 Alive (6)
 - 12 Relaxed (5)
 - 14 Island (4)
 - 17 Mire (3)
 - 18 Sense (4)
 - 20 Rate (5)
 - 22 Scope (5)
 - 23 Curl (7)
 - 24 Compact (5)
 - 26 Old-fashioned (5)
 - 29 Hint (4)
 - 30 Serpent (3)
 - 32 Tardy (4)
 - 33 Quoted (5)
 - 35 Eraser (6)
 - 36 Swing (6)
 - 37 Prevent (5)
 - 38 Dashed (6)
 - 39 Myth (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Wreckage (6)
 - 2 Lottery (6)
 - 3 Auction (4)
 - 4 Vapour (5)
 - 5 Heaped (5)
 - 6 Tart (4)
 - 7 Forced (6)
 - 8 Fuss (6)
 - 13 Imply (7)
 - 15 Reel (5)
 - 16 Weird (5)
 - 18 Deadly (5)
 - 19 Heron (5)
 - 21 Performed (3)
 - 22 Colour (3)
 - 24 Scratched (6)
 - 25 Rubbish (6)
 - 27 Twist (6)
 - 28 Rely (6)
 - 30 Ventilated (5)
 - 31 Foot-lever (5)
 - 33 Yield (4)
 - 34 Challenge (4)

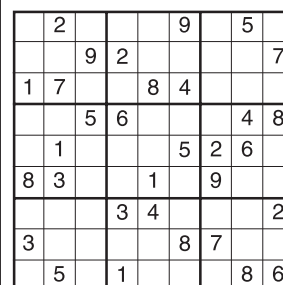
DOUBLE CROSSWORD — PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN AFTERNOON TEA FOR TWO WITH CODEWORD: PAGE 32
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS: PAGE 42

Play our interactive puzzles online:
standard.co.uk/games



SUDOKU

03/03/2020



Fill the grid with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains the numbers 1 to 9.

A daily news podcast from the **EveningStandard.**

The Leader

Listen and subscribe on your usual podcast platform or visit standard.co.uk/TheLeader



Evening Standard incorporating the Evening News, published by Evening Standard Ltd., Northcliffe House, London, W8 5TT (020 7567 7000). Printed by Newsprinters (Brosbourne) Ltd., Great Cambridge Road, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN8 8DY
© Evening Standard Ltd. 2020. 56,290 Newspapers Support Recycling.
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2018 was 69.2%. Copies of the paper returned to Evening Standard are recycled by RRS London Waste Papers Ltd.

