



ALL CHANGE: How cashless society harms millions

SEE PAGE 28



SHERIDAN'S BABY NAME DILEMMA

SEE PAGE 9



CORONAVIRUS: THE BORIS BATTLE PLAN

As UK cases rise to 51...One fifth of workers could be off sick • Elderly care a priority • Army on standby • Police to focus on serious crime • New powers to control borders

BRITAIN READY FOR THE WORST

BRITAIN was on full alert last night after the number of recorded coronavirus cases soared to 51.

Boris Johnson unveiled a national epidemic battle plan

By **Macer Hall**
Political Editor

as 12 more victims were found to have the deadly infection.

Acknowledging a looming "national challenge", the Prime

Minister promised he would prioritise care for the elderly and vulnerable.

The NHS has declared the outbreak a level four emergency

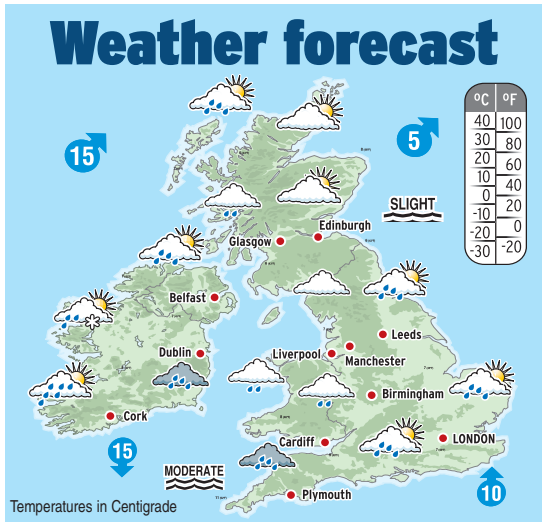
TURN TO PAGE 4



Gloves are on... Her Majesty covers hands as she honours actress Wendy Craig yesterday

...And the Queen takes no chances

SEE PAGES 6&7



North West: Dry and cold to start, with cloud building ahead of some patchy rain during the afternoon. High 8C (46F).

Northern Ireland: Bright with some sunshine, but also showers, heavy later. Fresh north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

Wales: Cloudy and cold to start, with outbreaks of rain through the day. High 8C (46F).

Midlands: Sleet during the morning. A mostly dry afternoon. Moderate westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

North East/Yorks: Bright with sunny spells, but also heavy showers. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Scotland: Cloudy with a few showers in the north and west, but drier and brighter to the east. High 7C (45F).

East Anglia: Unsettled with the chance of showers, mainly later. Gentle westerly winds. High 8C (46F).

London/South East: Bright with some sunshine, but also heavy showers. Moderate westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South: Bright with sunshine and showers, heavy for a time. Moderate westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South West: Bright with hazy sunshine, but also scattered light showers. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: Bright with spells of sunshine, but also light showers. Brisk north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Rain will clear eastern areas to give a largely dry and partly cloudy day with sunny spells and occasional scattered showers. A moderate breeze.

SIX-DAY FORECAST									
Temperatures in Centigrade									
	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	THU	FRI	SAT
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min
London	3	9	4	9	8	12	7	11	6
Belfast	2	7	4	7	5	10	4	8	3
Birmingham	2	8	4	8	6	11	5	10	4
Cardiff	2	8	5	10	6	11	5	10	4
Glasgow	2	7	4	7	6	11	5	10	4
Manchester	2	8	4	7	7	11	6	10	5
Newcastle	-2	7	1	7	5	10	2	9	3
Norwich	1	7	3	8	5	10	4	11	4
Plymouth	5	8	7	10	8	11	6	10	7

Britain yesterday									
Temperatures in Centigrade									
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min
Aberdeen	6.8	0.12	1	9	5.9	0.09	2	8	5.8
Aberporth	7.9	0.02	5	8	5.2	0.01	0	8	5.1
Alnwick	3.3	0.03	0	10	1.0	0.02	0	7	0.9
Belfast	7.0	0.02	2	8	4.8	0.08	1	8	4.7
Birmingham	4.1	0.04	1	8	4.2	0.01	1	8	4.1
Bristol	7.2	0.01	1	10	3.2	0.01	1	10	3.1
Bristol	6.3	0.01	4	10	1.7	0.09	2	8	1.6
Cardiff	7.3	0.02	5	9	2.8	0.00	2	10	2.7
Durham	5.5	0.01	0	10	7.4	0.00	3	10	7.3
Edinburgh	6.5	0.04	3	10	8.6	0.01	2	10	8.5

Moon, sun and tides									
MOON rises: 11.16am, sets: 3.15pm									
SUN rises London: 6.38am, sets: 5.47pm									
Manchester rises: 6.48am, sets: 5.53pm									
Full Moon 09 March									
HIGH TIDE									
London Bge (7.43am), (8.31pm)									
Liverpool (5.22am), (6.10pm)									
Greenock (6.28am), (7.22pm)									
Dover (5.05am), (6.31pm)									

Europe forecast									
Today									
Amsterdam	Cloudy	9C/48F	Amsterdam	Rain	8C/46F	Brussels	Rain	7C/45F	Brussels
Brussels	Rain	9C/48F	Dublin	Fair	7C/45F	Dublin	Fair	7C/45F	Dublin
Dublin	Rain	6C/43F	Frankfurt	Rain	8C/46F	Frankfurt	Rain	8C/46F	Frankfurt
Frankfurt	Cloudy	10C/50F	Geneva	Showers	11C/52F	Geneva	Showers	11C/52F	Geneva
Geneva	Cloudy	10C/50F	Lisbon	Rain	16C/61F	Lisbon	Rain	16C/61F	Lisbon
Lisbon	Cloudy	18C/64F	Madrid	Rain	15C/59F	Madrid	Rain	15C/59F	Madrid
Madrid	Fair	19C/66F	Paris	Rain	9C/48F	Paris	Rain	9C/48F	Paris
Paris	Rain	7C/45F	Rome	Drizzle	14C/57F	Rome	Drizzle	14C/57F	Rome
Rome	Sunny	16C/61F							

LIVE

WEATHER SERVICE

0906 156 0206

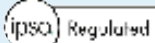
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Long-term sick 'to suffer' after prescription charges hit £9.15

THE cost of an NHS prescription will rise to £9.15 from April 1.

The 15p increase is in line with inflation, according to the Department of Health and Social Care.

Charges for prescription wigs, bras, spinal and fabric supports will also increase.

As prescriptions are free in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the prices only affect those in England.

The cost of prescription pre-payment certificates

By News Reporter

long-term conditions are being penalised by an outdated prescription charges system.

"The Government must urgently review the exemption list, so people with long-term conditions like Parkinson's, asthma and MS are no longer penalised for having the 'wrong condition'."

In a statement, a departmental spokesperson said: "Patients with long-term conditions or on a

low income can apply for a range of prescription charge exemptions or additional support."

Simon Dukes, chief executive of Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, said: "Raising the prescription tax once again runs the risk of those most in need not getting their medicines – ultimately adding to the NHS bill elsewhere."

Prescriptions rose 20p last year, the third year running.

OAPs 'will need £35k a year to stay afloat' as pension crisis bites

By Sarah O'Grady
Social Affairs Correspondent



Picture: GETTY

MORE people will be forced to raid their pensions early as generous final salary deals become extinct by 2050, a report out today predicts.

Rising bills mean older homeowners will need an annual retirement income of £35,196 – more than double today's average of £17,212 – to stay afloat, it argues.

But they are facing an average £17,984 pension shortfall, according to the research.

Savings are being stifled by increased living costs, ongoing mortgage commitments, paying for dependents and earning less money.

One in six homeowners aged 55 or over plans to draw on their pension savings early.

Property equity is worth an average of £88,290 – equal to 12 years of state pension payments, the report points out.

Yet just one-in-five older homeowners who have sought information, guidance or advice on later life finances considers putting their home into hock with a finance company to

access their property wealth as an option.

Now experts are calling on the Government and the pensions industry to work together to include property wealth in pension planning.

Former MP David Burrowes, now chairman of the Equity Release Council, said: "With the UK's population ageing rapidly, the scale of this

issue is only set to become greater. An increasing number of consumers must make their pensions savings last over longer retirements.

"Our report calls for property wealth to be better considered and integrated into the advice process."

The report, jointly published with equity release specialists Key, found pension income growth has stalled, increasing by just £7 a week over the past decade.

Will Hale, chief executive at Key, said: "The report suggests that we should be asking how can we use all our assets to help us achieve our wants and needs in later life."

"While even the boost provided by using residential property, investment and savings as well as pensions might not help everyone achieve a retirement income of over £35,000 – which is higher than the average UK salary – it will certainly help."

Yorkshire and the Humber is home to the greatest shortfall at £27,723 between what older homeowners anticipate needing and the retirement income they are likely to achieve. That is followed by London (£19,856) and the South-west (£19,531).

The Equity Release Council and Key want a cross-party commission set up to address retirement challenges.

£35,196

a year needed for retirement, says report

Bank workers halt £100m scams on elderly

MORE than £100million of fraud has been prevented by a scheme which allows bank staff to halt scams as they are happening.

The Banking Protocol Scheme was set up to help combat criminals who were taking elderly and vulnerable people into branches and ordering

them to withdraw large sums of cash.

Since its launch in 2016, staff have made 16,462 emergency calls, with an average £6,077-worth of fraud prevented per call, and there have been 664 arrests, UK Finance said.

The trade association's chief executive Katy

Worobec said: "By working closely with law enforcement, we are striking a blow against the unscrupulous criminals who prey on elderly and vulnerable customers."

The scheme enables staff to request an immediate response from police if they suspect a

customer is about to be scammed.

The oldest person helped through the scheme was aged 101.

City of London Police Det Chief Supt Clinton Blackburn said: "Success is possible when the police and the private sector work together to protect victims."

Kate reveals her Emerald style

**Blarney throne...
Kate looks cool in green**

Posh-up at the brewery...Kate has a Guinness

By **Richard Palmer**

Royal Correspondent, in Dublin

WILLIAM and Kate may have fancied a break from family strife on their trip to Ireland but were soon reminded about it.

They were welcomed by President Michael D Higgins, 78, and wife Sabina who quipped: "You've had lots of exciting things happening in your family."

In recent months Harry and Meghan have quit The Firm, Prince Andrew has retreated from official duties amid outrage over his friendship with a paedophile, and Peter and Autumn Phillips and the Earl and Countess of Snowdon have all announced divorces.

Yet the Cambridges smiled through and got an otherwise warm welcome at the start of a three-day visit.

Respect

The visitors wore green as a mark of respect for their Emerald Isle hosts – Kate picked a £1,567 Alessandra Rich silk print dress for day. In the evening William changed into a smart blue suit.

In the grounds of the presidential couple's grand 18th century residence they rang a peace bell, made in 2008 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Northern Irish peace process.

And they enjoyed afternoon tea including shamrock shortbread.

Later they met Ireland's caretaker PM Leo Varadkar and enjoyed refreshments at the Guinness Storehouse.

Sipping a pint, William reminded the crowd his gran had been there first.

He joked: "Ladies and gentlemen let me tell you, it is not often that I find myself following the Queen to a pub."



Roped in...the Royal couple ring the peace bell made to mark the 1998 settlement



Very important people...Kate and William last night



Turn it on again...Genesis stars set for reunion

ROCK band Genesis are reforming with the classic lineup of Phil Collins, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks.

The group will announce their reunion today after sparking rumours in January when the trio were photographed together at a basketball game in New York.

Fans have been desperate for the band, whose hits include Turn It On Again and I Can't Dance, to reform since they reunited for a 2007 tour to mark their 40th anniversary.

Last June Phil, 69, and Mike, 69, performed together at a concert in

By **Ashleigh Rainbird**

Berlin. It came during six live dates where Mike's other project, Mike And The Mechanics, toured with Phil during his Still Not Dead Yet tour.

At the end of last year, Phil teased the possibility of a reunion, hinting: "We remain close friends, so you never know..." while Mike said: "Never say never".

Phil was originally the group's drummer before becoming lead singer following the departure of Peter Gabriel. But he can no longer play after

suffering nerve damage to his hands and his 18-year-old son Nicholas has filled in for him on his solo tour.

Rolling Stone magazine previously asked Nicholas whether he would like to stand in for his dad in a Genesis reunion and the teenager said he would be ecstatic to take on the role.

He said: "That Genesis stuff, drumwise, is something else – absolutely unbelievable."

The group will be on Zoe Ball's BBC Radio 2 Breakfast Show this morning where they will reveal details of their comeback.



Mike Rutherford, left, Phil Collins and Tony Banks are back

'National challenge'

FROM PAGE ONE

which is the highest warning that can be issued, while Government medics warned the chances of dying from the flu-like disease "ramps up" for the over-80s.

At the height of an epidemic, up to one in five workers could be off sick, Mr Johnson's plan says.

Intensive care units have been ordered to make urgent checks for Covid-19 cases among patients amid fears the virus could be already present and spreading among the most vulnerable.

NHS trusts warned that if the outbreak grows they may have to use all wards to treat victims, who are currently in isolation.

The 28-page battle plan also puts the Armed Forces on standby "to provide support to civil authorities if requested".

Police could be forced to focus only on serious crimes and maintaining public order if force numbers are squeezed by illness.

Sweeping new powers will also allow border guards at UK ports and airports to force arriving travellers to test for Covid-19 and

HOW THE BUG IS SPREADING

TOTAL UK CASES
51

TAYSIDE 1

BELFAST 1

YORK 2

1 HUMBERSIDE

BRADFORD 1 2 LEEDS

GREATER MANCHESTER 2 3 BURY

WIRRAL 5 1 BUXTON

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2

1 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

SWANSEA 1

HERTFORDSHIRE 3

ESSEX 1

BERKSHIRE 1 7 LONDON

SURREY 3 KENT 2

WEST SUSSEX 2 6 BRIGHTON

1 HAMPSHIRE

DEVON 2



HOSPITALS

WORLDWIDE LATEST
CASES **92,871**
DEATHS **3,168**

detain and isolate any who refuse.

A TV and social media blitz urging people to wash hands regularly will be launched today.

Flanked by his scientific and medical advisers, the Prime Minister said at Downing Street: "I do think this is a national challenge.

"The potential is there for this to be something that our country has to get through. But I've got absolutely no doubt that we have the resources or the health service - we've got the expertise to do it.

"I'm very confident that the British public can see exactly what the balance of risk is. I think they are getting a very clear picture of how we need to behave and I think we will get through it."

Mr Johnson said the Government would be "prioritising the needs of the vulnerable and the elderly" because data shows they are most at risk of dying from the virus.

England's chief medical officer Professor Chris Whitty said: "There is a significant ramp up in the risk of people dying of this infection once they get over 80.

"The exact percentages will depend on a lot of factors including the health care system you have in



THE rise in cases this week and the release of the Government Action Plan will undoubtedly concern many people.

But there is no need to panic. Like most scientists I have been expecting this steady rise.

This is a virus that spreads by causing coughs and splutters. In many people the symptoms are mild. They may have passed the virus on before they feel too

place." But, Prof Whitty stressed, the Covid-19 mortality rate was still low, even in high-risk groups.

He said: "If you look at the Chinese data, if you take the very oldest people, the great majority survive."

Government medics are confident a UK worst-case scenario prediction of 500,000 dying from coronavirus is far too high and an

ANALYSIS

PROF TIM SOLOMON

Emerging infections expert

unwell. This is why it is proving hard to contain. It is only an unlucky few, about five per cent, who have severe symptoms.

"unhelpful" estimate. Five hundred more NHS 111 helpline handlers have been recruited to deal with questions.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock told MPs yesterday: "As of 9am

Matt Hancock briefed MPs

And sadly about one per cent die. In reality the death rate is probably lower, if we include the many people with such mild infections they are not even diagnosed. Every year somewhere between 600 and 1,700 people in the UK die from flu, mostly the elderly or those with other illnesses.

We are some way off that.

If the outbreak continues to

today there were 51 confirmed cases in the UK and it is becoming more likely that we will see widespread transmission in this country.

"Our approach is to plan for the worst and work for the best."

The new cases include those

grow social distancing measures may ultimately be needed. These include closing schools and workplaces, cancelling large events, and closing public transport.

The idea is to stop people mixing so the virus cannot spread so easily.

However such measures have a massive impact on society and the economy and so they are not

from London, Hampshire, Northants, Bury, Wirral, Greater Manchester, Humberside and Kent. Prof Whitty said eight of those patients had recently travelled from Italy, one from Germany, one from Singapore, one from Japan and one from Iran.

Mr Hancock said the Government was "currently engaged with more than a dozen



Pictures: STEVE REIGATE, EPA, ALAMY

THE BATTLE PLAN

looms for Britain



Big guns...Boris Johnson, flanked by chief medical officer Chris Whitty, left, and chief scientific adviser Patrick Vallance

4-part strategy to tackle crisis

A FOUR-PART strategy was outlined in a 27-page action plan issued yesterday. The first step was to try to contain the disease to prevent it taking hold in Britain. Second, a research phase will see experts seeking new drugs and vaccines to combat it. Third, a delay stage would try to slow down its spread until the arrival of warmer weather. Finally, a mitigate operation if it becomes widespread would try to minimise its impact.

KEY MEASURES INCLUDE:

- Central control will be stepped up with frequent meetings of Whitehall's Cobra emergency planning committee to co-ordinate public services.
- Attempts to slow its spread could include school closures, encouraging employees to work from home, reducing large-scale gatherings, while ensuring the country is run as normally as possible.
- Plans have been drawn up for NHS, social care staff and local councils to ensure people struck by the illness "receive the essential care and support they need". Other services could be reduced temporarily.
- Troops could be deployed to cover for police in guarding nuclear plants and other sensitive sites. Plans have been prepared to ensure military operations overseas and in the UK continue.
- A massive publicity blitz will provide advice to individuals about protecting themselves and others.
- Health and social care services will combine to support early discharge of patients from hospital and to care for people in their homes.
- Emergency services will trigger special contingency plans to maintain a level of service that fulfils their critical functions. Police, for example, will concentrate on dealing with serious crime and maintaining public order.
- As NHS and social care staff become affected and growing numbers need hospital treatment, non-urgent treatment may be delayed.
- Plans have been drawn up to support local authorities in coping with a possible increase in deaths, particularly among vulnerable and elderly groups.



THE ARMY



CRIME



WORKERS

Pictures: PA, GETTY

introduced lightly. Currently, with just over 50 patients in a population of 65 million, these measures are not justified. Although we cannot stop the outbreak, the aim of Public Health England is to contain it for a few months. Once spring and summer arrive, it will likely reduce. This is the case for similar viruses that cause colds and flu. We can

all do our bit to help. Washing your hands often, and especially after sneezing, is key. Don't dial NHS 111 with every minor concern, but check the NHS 111 coronavirus website. It answers many common queries. ● Professor Solomon is director of the UK's Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging Infections at the University of Liverpool

companies to try to come up with a bedside test" for Covid-19. A Whitehall source said the military would be deployed only to cover security at nuclear plants and other key sites. An insider said possible strategies included school closures, greater home working and fewer large-scale gatherings. Meanwhile Mr Johnson insisted

he had not given up shaking hands with visitors. He said: "I visited a hospital the other night where there were a few coronavirus patients. I shook hands with everybody."

With at least 10 schools closed, a Department for Education helpline has been set up on 0800 046 8687.

OPINION: PAGE 12



Roadside test...a bedside version could follow

OLYMPICS FACE DELAY

THE Tokyo Olympics could be postponed until the end of this year in a bid to halt the spread of coronavirus.

Japan's Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto said Tokyo's contract with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) called for the Games to be held in 2020.

She told Japan's parliament yesterday that "could be interpreted as allowing a postponement". The IOC insisted that they were "fully committed" to the Games being held from July 24 to August 9 as planned.

Meanwhile Hugh Brasher, events director at the London Marathon, said they were "monitoring the situation" before the run on April 26.

UK woman 'positive' in hotel hit by disease

By Mark Reynolds

A BRITISH woman in a coronavirus-hit Tenerife hotel has tested positive for the virus, it was revealed yesterday.

Health officials confirmed that the woman, whose name has not been released, arrived at the H10 Costa Adeje Palace on February 23. She has now been isolated in hospital.

A total of seven people have now been diagnosed with Covid-19 in Tenerife.

It was also revealed yesterday that the virus has hit Gibraltar after a person arrived from northern Italy.

Meanwhile China announced its lowest number of new cases since late January – 125 in the past 24 hours – and 31 deaths, bringing its totals to 80,151 infections and 2,943 deaths.

Italy also reported a dip in new cases following a spike on Sunday.

In France, authorities shut more than 120 schools in areas that have reported the largest numbers of infections. So far, there have been 191 cases in the country and yesterday a fourth person died.

Spain last night confirmed its first death from coronavirus. Health officials in Valencia said it was to blame for the death of a man on February 13.

Elsewhere, Iran announced 77 people have now died in its outbreak.

Yesterday the United States reported its six death as Donald Trump was ridiculed after suggesting coronavirus will die out before the summer – implying warmer months would help.

Despite a wave of protest on Twitter, the President stressed the danger "remains very low" and predicted that the number of cases could fall to zero in a few days.

Picture: GETTY



Disinfectant is sprayed on streets in China

Take care Ma'am... Queen in gloves to hand out honours

By Giles Sheldrick
Chief Reporter

THE coronavirus scare came to Buckingham Palace yesterday as the Queen wore long white gloves to give out awards.

The investiture – at which she honoured actress Wendy Craig and D-Day hero Harry Billinge – was the first time in 66 years she had her hands covered up for such an event.

Royal officials refused to confirm whether the 93-year-old monarch took the precaution because of the outbreak that has struck 51 in the UK.

But while she frequently wears gloves for outside engagements, the Queen does not normally don them for ceremonies inside the Palace.

The last time she performed a knighting ceremony wearing them is thought to be in 1954 when she made Air Marshal Claude Pelly a Sir in Yemen.

Buckingham Palace said: "It is not unusual for the Queen to wear gloves on a public engagement."

Yet at a similar ceremony just a fortnight ago she was seen



without them. Experts said the move was a "sensible precaution" as fears of a global pandemic spread.

The World Health Organisation has advised people over the age of 60 to avoid crowded areas while the UK's chief medical officer has raised the risk from low to moderate.

There are mounting concerns coronavirus can be spread by handshakes, although health

Queen meets hero Harry in gloves... and without any for Sir Paul honour



chiefs have rubbished this. Joe Little, of Majesty magazine, said: "The Queen doesn't wear gloves at investitures, but it's a sensible precaution."

"She's six or so weeks away from her 94th birthday and she's at an age when she's susceptible to such a virus."

"The other alternative would have been to have cancelled the investiture but the Queen is a 'business-as-usual' monarch."

A royal source said the Queen

would always follow official Government advice. The head of state usually hands out honours without gloves, such as when she gave Sir Paul McCartney a gong in 1988.

Yesterday the oversized gloves, which stretched past her wrists, appeared much longer than the ones she usually wears to meet the public.

Dressed in a cream outfit she honoured Butterfly star Wendy Craig, 85, with a CBE and made

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FEEL ILL?

If you have a dry cough, fever and shortness of breath call the NHS non-emergency number 111. Do not go to your GP or A&E because the virus could be passed to vulnerable people. If you have no history of travel, try to think if you have met anyone who may have been infected or come from an area with a high infection rate which makes coronavirus more likely.

Q&A

NHS 111 will give advice about self-isolation and testing and a treatment plan will be agreed.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

The main symptoms are feeling

unwell, fever, cough and shortness of breath. In some cases you may also have upper respiratory symptoms such as a runny nose but this is not true for all cases. Public health chiefs have raised the coronavirus risk from low to moderate but told the public to take a common-sense approach to helping limit the spread of the disease by washing hands regularly and, if you are unwell with cough or flu-like symptoms, stay at home.

SHOULD I BE PANIC-BUYING?

No. Britain is currently in the containment phase of the disease, so there is no need to stockpile food or medicine. Panic-buying items like masks and hand sanitisers could also lead to a shortage for those who need them.

IF I GET IT, WHAT ARE CHANCES OF DYING?

Negligible. At present estimates are around one per cent but this

is an average based on experience in Wuhan and it is worth remembering the rate there is significantly higher than in the rest of China – probably because the health service was overwhelmed. Eighty per cent of people will have mild symptoms and recover. A minority will develop severe pneumonia and may go on to renal failure, septic shock and organ failure which will lead to death. To date 3,116 have died.

Pictures: PA



DAILY EXPRESS VOTE Do you think the scale of the virus crisis has been exaggerated?



YES: 0901 133 4440 **NO: 0901 133 4441**
Yes text DXYES to 84988 No text DXNO to 84988

Texts cost 50p plus standard charges. Calls cost 50p plus your telephone company's network access charge. Vote closes at midnight tonight. The Daily Express may contact you by post, SMS and/or email with offers, goods or services that may be of interest to you. To stop receiving SMS messages please text 'NSNOINFO' to the originating number. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

Harry Billinge, 94, who was 18 when he landed on Gold Beach on June 6, 1944, an MBE.

The apparent precaution came after Health Secretary Matt Hancock said shaking hands would not spread the deadly virus.

Meanwhile Prince Charles and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge went without gloves as they carried out royal engagements.

The 71-year-old heir to the throne shook hands with those being recognised at the Royal College of

Music awards in London while William and Kate similarly greeted people on their tour of Ireland.

The Queen is a fan of gloves, usually opting for a black or white pair, but they are normally tucked into the sleeve of her coat or jacket.

Each investiture, held in the grand Palace ballroom, is attended by more than 60 people receiving a range of accolades, from MBEs to knighthoods and damehoods.

Outbreak

The Queen's gloves speculation came as people around the world refused to shake hands or kiss in an bid to halt the spread of the disease.

In China people have started to tap their feet against one another in an alternative greeting called the "Wuhan Shake".

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he will continue to shake hands with people despite the outbreak.

It is not yet known whether the coronavirus will end up affecting key events in the royal calendar such as Royal Ascot or the Queen's garden parties.

ROYAL LATEST: PAGE 15

By **Mark Reynolds**

INTEREST rates could be slashed to counter a huge "economic shock" from the coronavirus outbreak, the Governor of the Bank of England said yesterday.

Following a rate cut in the US yesterday, Mark Carney hinted at similar measures in Britain to lessen the impact if the number of virus continues to spread.

Mr Carney, who hands over to Andrew Bailey on March 16, warned of a large but "ultimately temporary" economic shock created by the infection.

Addressing the Commons Treasury Committee, Mr Carney admitted that the economic effects of the virus may last up to six months.

But he insisted the Bank was ready to help businesses and households adjust to the impact of coronavirus.

Impact

Such help was likely to be a cut in interest rates – currently at 0.75 per cent – and other measures which are yet to be decided.

Mr Carney told MPs: "The MPC [rate setting committee] is assessing the economic impacts and considering the policy implications of various scenarios."

He said that the Bank would monitor any supply disruptions and the effects on cashflow and economic confidence.

It will also check the contingency plans of banks, insurers and other financial institutions.

The Reserve Bank of Australia has cut rates to a record low of 0.5 per cent in response to the coronavirus outbreak, while Malaysia's central bank reduced its rates to 2.5 per cent. The US

Interest rates could be cut to protect against financial shock

Picture: REUTERS



Mark Carney wants a rate cut

Federal Reserve lowered its key federal fund rates yesterday by half a percentage point to a range of 1 per cent to 1.25 per cent.

A statement from G7 finance ministers, acknowledging the economic impact of coronavirus and the willingness to work together, was also made yesterday following a conference call involving central bankers and finance ministers from

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US.

It said: "Given the potential impacts of Covid-19 on global growth, we reaffirm our commitment to use all appropriate policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable growth and safeguard against downside risks."

Markets expect a coordinated global response later this month with rate cuts by all major central banks to shore up global economic growth.

But growing fears over the financial impact of the virus outbreak have already hit world stockmarkets.

Last week was the worst since the financial crash of 2008.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development think tank this week forecast that world economic growth would be just 2.4 per cent this year, down from 2.9 per cent in November.

But it also warned that a longer "more intensive" virus outbreak could tip many countries into recession.

Shelves stripped bare by panic buyers

Stocks down... empty shelves were spotted around the country



PANIC buyers yesterday began to strip supermarket shelves amid growing fears over the coronavirus outbreak.

Despite government reassurances, supermarkets reported shoppers seemingly starting to stockpile items such as toilet roll, pet food, pasta, rice, nappies – as well as booze.

Sales of hand sanitiser in supermarkets have tripled in a month. Some stores have started to run out of the sanitiser – which costs 50p in

By **Mark Reynolds**

Lidl but was yesterday spotted for sale on eBay for £40 – as well as face masks.

Some Boots stores have limited hand gels to two per customer. Ocado sold out of it amid bulk buying.

The online supermarket warned that people were putting in large orders meaning there could be delivery delays.

But the Government's chief scientific adviser Sir Patrick

Vallance said: "There is absolutely no reason to be panic buying or keeping large supplies of things."

However City analyst, Bruno Monteyne, from the investment firm AllianceBernstein, warned a major outbreak of the virus could result in food riots.

He wrote to investors: "Yes, it will be chaotic (and expect pictures of empty shelves) but the industry will reduce complexity to keep the country fed."

Coronavirus

Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds

Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

- Get home or into work
- Blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- Eat or handle food

For more information and the Government's
Action Plan go to nhs.uk/coronavirus

CORONAVIRUS

**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**

Hips hips hooray for new mum Gemma

LOOKING stunning in swimwear, glowing Gemma Atkinson proudly shows off her post-baby curves as she tells new mums: "My body is not better or worse, just different."

The Hollyoaks and Strictly Come Dancing star, 35, who was once so toned she was compared to singer Jennifer Lopez, is now a full-time mother to seven-month-old daughter Mia.

She told Women's Health magazine: "My body doesn't look like it did before. It's changed after having a baby, but that made me more determined to do [the photoshoot]. Maybe it's important to show that to other women."

"I was always straight up and down like a surfboard but now I've got a bit of a waist. When I put on high-waisted jeans you can see I've got hips."

Gemma's partner and Mia's father is Strictly dance pro Gorka Marquez, 29, with who she reached the BBC show's 2017 final.

She also reveals the crippling pain she endured after Mia was born by caesarean

By **Giles Sheldrick** Chief Reporter

section. Gemma says: "The C-section completely floored me; I couldn't brush my hair I was in so much pain."

"A caesarean goes through seven layers of fat, tissue and muscle so it takes a long time to get better. It wasn't sensible to start exercising until around 15 weeks after Mia was born."

"Before, I would strength train twice a week but I've only actually made it to see him [her trainer] three times in the past six months. Now I'm a mum I can't really plan anything – I just go hour by hour."

And she jokes: "I reckon I'm about three per cent J Lo now."

● You can read Gemma's interview in the April issue of Women's Health which is on sale today.



Gemma, partner Gorka and Mia



Gemma shows off her new shapely figure in photoshoot for the latest edition of Women's Health



Who says mums can't have a beach body? Gemma sports a striking swimsuit



Picture: GETTY

I might name my baby son Colin after late dad, says star Sheridan

SHERIDAN Smith said she may call her unborn son Colin – in honour of her much-missed father who passed away.

The actress is pregnant with her first child with fiancé Jamie Horn.

The 38-year-old lost her dad in December 2016 following his battle with cancer, which later triggered her mental breakdown.

She says: "I think all the names we've got so far have been pretty traditional."

"We thought about naming him after my dad, but my

By **Tom Bryant**

dad's called Colin, which is a bit...As much as we miss him and love him. Storm, River, Colin...you never know."

The Funny Girl stage star, met the City worker, 28, on Tinder in February last year and the pair got engaged just three months later.

She said: "Honestly Jamie has been looking after me – he's the best. He does everything while I'm just sat at home with the dogs and baking a baby – I've got an

easy life. I'm due in May – he's a big baby."

Sheridan, who starred as Cilla Black in the TV series Cilla, plans to go straight back to work after the birth.

She said: "I'm jumping at that bit already. (My fiancé) will be on set with the baby all the time. I went to the theatre the other night and he did not stop kicking – he loves musicals."

"I'm assuming he's going to be a dancer or else Jamie wants him to be a footballer." Sheridan announced she was

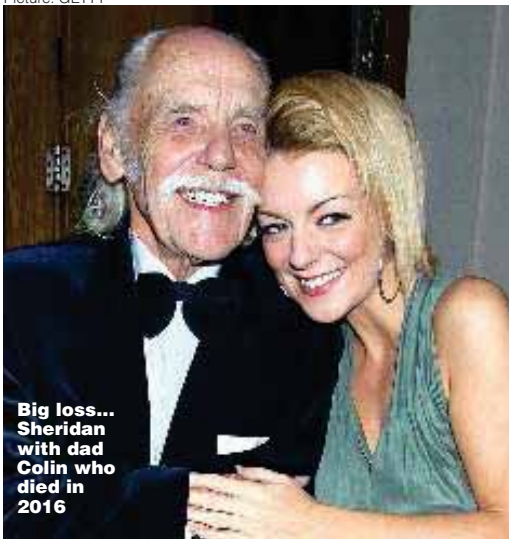
expecting a baby with Jamie last October on board a cruise ship where she was performing.

Talking previously about her breakdown, Sheridan said she lost it a bit after her father died. She said: "I've come out the other side now and I need to get it all out through my music."

"In public it looks like I've moaned about everything with my dad dying, but that's not the case. I just had a massive meltdown."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Big loss... Sheridan with dad Colin who died in 2016



By John Twomey

A CITY worker accused of murdering her four-week old daughter told police she was "a bad mother", a court heard.

Financial consultant Clare Sanders, 43, and her partner Tomas Vaitkevicius, 45, allegedly shook her baby Eva on three separate occasions during her tragically short life, the Old Bailey has heard.

The infant died on September 2, 2017, and a post-mortem found the cause of death to be traumatic brain and spinal cord injury.

The court was told how on August 27, six days before Eva's death, her mother's mobile phone had been used to search "shaken baby syndrome NHS", "shaking babies" and "baby is shaking".

Liquor

Prosecuting, Claire Harden-Frost read out Sanders's police interview from the evening of September 1, just hours before Eva died.

Sanders, from Mitcham, south London, said: "It's all my fault for not keeping an eye on her.

"Tom [Vaitkevicius] had already had a couple of beers. We had some of that, like, liquor thing."

When an interviewing officer asked if she had opened the bottle before a feed, Sanders replied: "No, I don't think so. Oh my god, are we negligent?"

The officer then asked: "So, you wrote down that Tom had done the feed but you can't remember whether you saw him?"

To this, Sanders replied: "Oh

Baby death accused told police: 'I'm a bad mother'



Tomas Vaitkevicius denies murder

my god, oh God it's all my fault." Jurors heard how London Ambulance Service was called to the flat after neighbour Karen Brewell phoned 999 before 2.40am on September 1, after Sanders had asked for help. Eva

was then rushed to a hospital in south London, but was pronounced dead shortly before 7am the next day.

In the interview, Sanders continued: "I went to the neighbours and I called them.

"I just said she wasn't breathing. What have I done to my child?"

She was then asked where Vaitkevicius, who is from Lithuania, was while she was in the ambulance with Eva.

She responded: "At the house. Why was he at the house? Why didn't he come in the ambulance?"

"Oh my God, was it my fault what happened to her? My God, I'm such a bad mother."

Sanders and Vaitkevicius both deny murder and an alternative count of causing or allowing the death of a vulnerable child.

The trial continues.

Picture: CENTRAL NEWS



Mother Clare Sanders arriving at the Old Bailey

22 left dead as tornado devastates Tennessee

AT least 22 people died after a tornado ripped through Tennessee yesterday.

More than 40 buildings collapsed in the US state's biggest city Nashville which was hit just before 12.40am.

Mayor John Cooper said the city, known as the centre of country music, was "devastated".

He urged people to "lend a helping hand" to their neighbours.

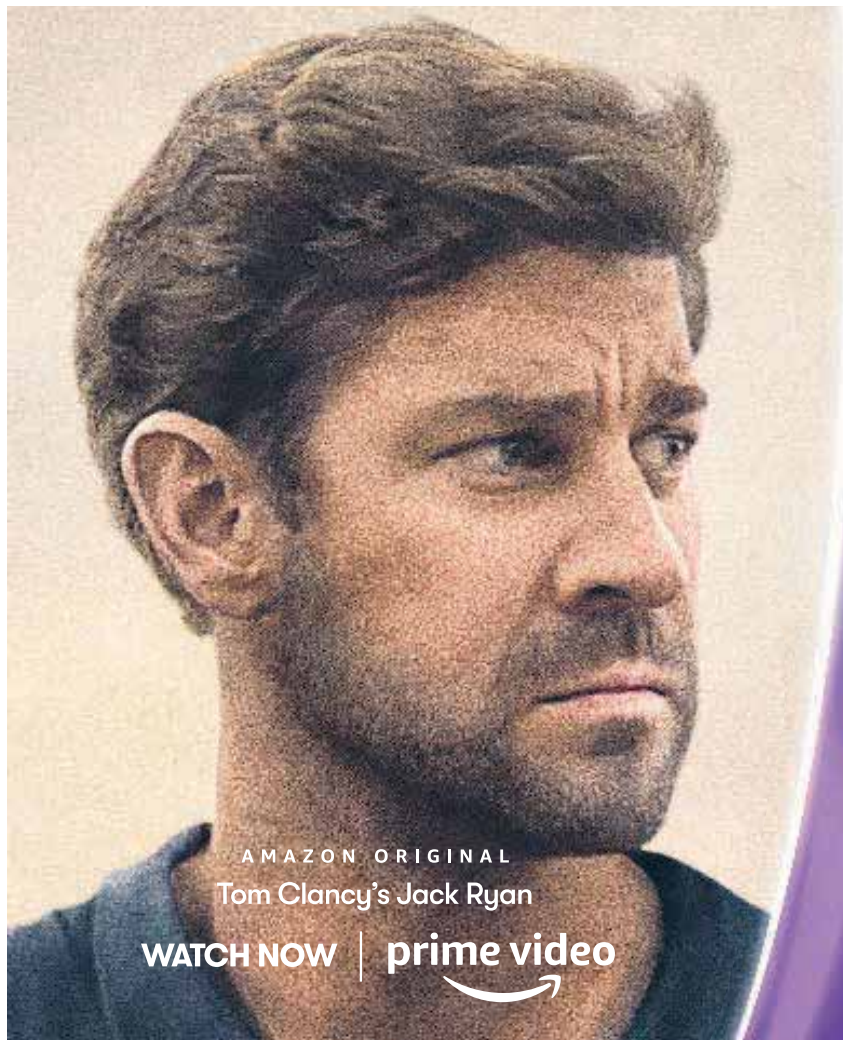
About 44,000 people have been left without power, after the tornado damaged power lines.

However, police warned that the danger was far from over.

A statement read: "There are gas lines that are leaking, power lines that are on the ground, and multiple emergency responders are responding to those who are injured."

Some left homeless were being housed in a farmers' market.

Many schools, courts and transport systems were forced to close.



AMAZON ORIGINAL

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Favourite Sir Keir Starmer

Labour braced for more misery in council polls

LABOUR'S new leader is likely to preside over one of the party's worst local election results just weeks after taking over.

Councils in Labour's traditional heartlands are expected to fall in a repeat of the dire general election, according to

By **Sam Lister**

an internal party report yesterday. Plymouth, Amber Valley in Derbyshire, Harlow in Essex and West Lancashire are anticipated to be some of the losses.

It is thought Labour could even struggle in stronghold

cities like Sheffield. Elections are being held in 118 English local authorities on May 7.

Labour frontrunner Sir Keir Starmer is widely expected to win the contest to succeed Jeremy Corbyn on April 4.

But with just a month to turn around the party's

fortunes, he appears doomed to lead the party to a huge defeat, with 315 seats wiped out in the worst case.

The internal party document warns the party to brace for "substantial losses that may constitute one of our worst local election performances".

By **Martyn Brown**

Senior Political Correspondent

EMBATTLED Priti Patel says she regrets the resignation of her former top civil servant Sir Philip Rutnam amid bullying allegations against her.

In an email to Home Office staff, she thanked him for his service but said it was time for the Government department to come together as "one team".

The Home Secretary said she "deeply cared" about the "wellbeing" of all of her civil servants and valued their professionalism.

Courtesy

Sir Philip alleged he had been forced out of his job after a "vicious" campaign against him.

The Prime Minister has given Ms Patel his support but the Cabinet Office is investigating whether she broke the ministerial code.

Ms Patel has not commented publicly on the

Priti's 'regret' at bitter departure of her top official

allegations but Government sources have said she denies them.

In the internal email to Home Office staff, she thanked Sir Philip for his "long and dedicated career of public service" and praised the civil service for the support they gave to ministers.

The email, co-written by Sir Philip's acting successor Shona Dunn, adds: "We both regret Sir Philip's decision to

resign. We both deeply value the work that every person in this department does and care about the wellbeing of all our staff.

"It is therefore a time for us all to come together as one team. We also recognise the importance of candour, confidentiality and courtesy in building trust and confidence between ministers and civil servants.

"Both of us are fully committed to making sure

the professionalism you would expect to support this is upheld."

The Cabinet Office is leading an internal inquiry regarding Sir Philip's claims and whether they represented a breach of the ministerial code.

Labour has called for the Home Secretary to resign while civil servants' union the First Division Association wants an independent inquiry.



Bullying investigation... Priti Patel

UK will be global force for good, says Truss

BRITAIN is back as a global leader ready to help deliver the benefits of the digital revolution, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss insisted yesterday.

A newly independent UK would lead a crackdown on unfair trade practices and protectionism, she pledged in a speech to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva.

She said: "The more we allow people to shape their own lives, remove barriers to enterprise within and between nations, and allow human ingenuity to flourish, the more rewards we will all reap.

"So, we will work with all nations that share this multilateral vision, to lead the defence of free, fair, rules-based international trade, pioneering a route to prosperity that lies through working together."

She said Britain would also help set standards in the service industries.



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No need for panic in this battle with coronavirus

BORIS Johnson has risen to the challenge of coronavirus and leads a team in which the country can have confidence. His Government is fully aware of the threat it poses but health experts, ministers and officials are preparing with the cool-headed clarity for which this nation is famed.

Clear medical advice is in place which all of us should heed, and in the coming days a major advertising campaign will remind you of the best ways to stay safe and avoid passing on infections.

It is imperative that we follow this guidance and do not panic. We should not fixate on worst-case scenarios.

Instead, we should play our part in guarding public safety by washing our hands and catching coughs and sneezes in tissues that we promptly bin.

It is sobering to think of a crisis in which a fifth of people are off work, but such a possibility should redouble national resolve to ensure coronavirus is contained.

The Government has responded with urgency and alacrity that should encourage us all. Its battle plan demonstrates that complacency has no room in this administration.

Rightly, care for the elderly and vulnerable will be prioritised because these groups are most at risk.

It is also appropriate that the Bank of England prepares for the turbulence that could hit the economy.

The Chief Medical Officer emphasised that the experience in China suggests that 99 per cent of people who get the virus will not die.

We should not look to the future with dread and fear. Nor should we react to emergency preparations with alarm. We would have reason to be worried if the Government, public bodies and businesses were not taking every step to ensure life continues as close to normal as possible.

Instead, we should be reassured that those in positions of authority understand what is at stake and are using their powers to protect the nation they serve.

Funny Girl tribute to dad

SHERIDAN Smith is considering naming her unborn son Colin in a tribute to her late dad. The Funny Girl stage star speaks movingly of her deep grief at his passing. As she puts it, she had a "massive meltdown".

Millions of people across this country who have also lost a parent to cancer can understand her sorrow. In talking with such candour about her bereavement, she will bring comfort to those who may feel that they are suffering alone.

Her dad would doubtless take delight in his daughter's accomplishments and how she is now a national treasure.

And if he knew that her son bore his name, this would make him brim with loving pride.

We have a duty to support our veterans traumatised by war

Picture: GETTY



HIGH RISKS: A high proportion of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan need help on their return

IT IS shocking and tragic that 14 former and current servicemen have killed themselves in the first two months of this year. Many are veterans of Afghanistan, serving in some of the bloodiest fighting there, but one was on deployment in Kabul, training local troops.

It is only right that Johnny Mercer MP, minister for veterans and himself a former British Army officer, is reacting to this by bringing forward Government plans for a new mental health service for veterans that will give them an intense programme to help them at their most vulnerable.

Mercer, who did three tours of duty in Afghanistan, knows only too well the toll of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Among veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, the rate of PTSD is thought to be 9.4 per cent.

The sad fact though is that the British and their Government have not always given soldiers the support they need.

Other countries – like France and the United States – celebrate their armed forces with annual parades and very public statements of gratitude.

We take a more sombre approach, focusing our attention on loss at Remembrance Day ceremonies.

But sometimes it is no bad thing to wave flags and cheer our uniformed men and women as they come home at the end of a tour of duty.

WORSE still has been the hounding of ex-servicemen for supposed crimes in previous conflicts, most notably the investigation of some 200 former members of the British security forces in Northern Ireland. It is a national disgrace and no soldier should have to face alleged crimes brought up decades later, especially when their terrorist enemies have been given immunity.

Equally disgusting was the feeding frenzy of lawyers seeking compensation for falsified claims of military abuse in Iraq. No one who has not



Tim Newark
Political commentator

been there can fully appreciate the intense stress of coming under enemy fire, close-quarter fighting, seeing comrades killed and wounded. It is the most vivid moment of anyone's life and such memories stay with you for ever. To then return to civil life and be expected to bottle that up is a big ask.

Those who struggle with the return to normality should have prompt and persistent help.

It is noticeable that at least 13,000 ex-servicemen are homeless, believing themselves detached from the normal world. Some three per cent of offenders in prison are said to be former soldiers but some research claims this might be as high as one in 10.

Halfway homes for these veterans might be helpful.

Finding them useful work that makes the most of their unique skills should be a priority too. It seems crazy not to employ ex-servicemen and

women more widely in positive roles, as teachers and community workers, where their team-building talents and discipline could provide invaluable life lessons for troubled teenagers.

At least we have a political party in power that understands the value of our military services. It is no surprise that working people rejected Jeremy Corbyn's suspicion of our military past and willingness to investigate any perceived crime.

It is imperative that Boris Johnson and his Government enforce the military covenant that such duty and sacrifice should be given special attention and not cease when a serviceman leaves his regiment.

Help for Heroes and Prince Harry's Invictus Games have been good at drawing attention to the physical cost of war but the mental price needs more attention.

If necessary, the recent spike in military suicides should trig-

ger an independent inquiry that can investigate thoroughly the circumstances of these lost lives. It cannot be right that the US, Canada and Australia gather data on their veterans but we do not. Only last year did the Ministry of Defence agree to expand a study into suicides among Army personnel to cover more recent deaths.

AT LEAST 50 such suicides were reported in 2019 and more than 70 in 2018. It is a savage toll that can occur at any time in an ex-soldier's life.

Lance Corporal Dave Jukes had served in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan when he took his own life at the age of 49.

"His service killed him in the end," said his widow.

Mr Mercer is overseeing a state-funded investigation into the final year of veterans who take their own lives.

Hopefully it will give us more precise information on how we can support our servicemen.

It is the least we can do for those who risk their physical and mental health to protect our security and freedom.

BETRAYED BY THE COUNTRY I FOUGHT FOR: PAGES 18&19

'No one who has not been there can understand the intense stress'

Law should guarantee free speech

TOBY Young's Free Speech Union is attracting a lot of publicity, which probably reflects rapidly growing unease at the tyranny of political correctness and the helplessness of those penalised by the cancel or no-platform culture.

I have offered Toby (below) my services but what is really needed is action by government.



We need the law to make explicit the right to free speech and to enforce that through means of severe financial penalty. We also need to ensure that no citizen has a police record for non-crime hate incidents and that all current records are destroyed.

That is because such incidents are judged subjectively and rely on another's perception of offence rather than on any proof of intent or any objective criteria.

Another twist in tragic saga

THE latest twist in the Harry Dunn saga is that his distraught mother has accused the Foreign Office of threatening her with bankruptcy because it warned her that if she lost her proposed lawsuit against it, it would pursue costs. That is not a threat: it is a fair warning.

Nevertheless, I am surprised because Ministers have admitted there is an anomaly in the law on this instance of diplomatic immunity and in such circumstances might have welcomed a test case.

However, whether the family wins or loses, the Americans still have no obligation to return Anne Sacoolas and are unlikely to do so, given their view that our motoring law is disproportionately applied.

So what is there to be achieved here except more heartache and disappointment?

The dark days of civil disobedience

O TEMPORA! O mores! One of the most senior figures in the Civil Service, Sir Philip Rutnam, calls a press conference to denounce his Minister, in this case the Home Secretary herself. How times have changed from when civil servants were anonymous and Ministers took the flak when things went wrong.

I have no doubt that Priti Patel is demanding but that does not make her a bully. Shouting and irascibility never help but they are signs of exasperation and, believe me who knows it, the Home Office would exasperate the Angel Gabriel.

What is unacceptable is deliberate briefing against civil servants and if she or any of her political advisers have done this, then she or they must be called to account, for what is at stake is more than just the feelings of one man. It is the integrity of the Civil Service and its role in helping Ministers to run the country.

On the two occasions when civil servants were named between the Fifties and the Seventies (the Crichton Down case and the collapse of Vehicle and General Insurance) it sent shockwaves through the media and generated acres of press commentary. Nay, I had to write essays about it at Oxford.

THEN in the Eighties and Nineties leaks seemed to multiply and the creation of agencies with their own directors and accountability, such as the Benefits Agency and the Prison Service, put senior civil servants in front of the television cameras to be challenged on failures within their departments.

They were no longer protected by Ministers and so no longer felt obliged to protect them in return. The rot had set in.

MUCH fuss is being made because Boris has not visited flooded areas. But what other than PR would such a visit achieve? The person they need is the chap whose responsibility it is to do something about it: the Secretary of State for the Environment. And George Eustice has been there. The Prime Minister cannot be everywhere and cannot meet everyone.

Sir Humphrey of Yes, Minister and Yes, Prime Minister was an accurate portrayal of a civil service which generally believed it knew better than Ministers but dealt with disagreements in a subtle manner.

Now everybody briefs against everybody else. The PM and the Head of the Civil Service should use their combined efforts to stop it right now.



Pictures: GETTY; PA

Pay your own way, Harry

THE CANADIANS are rightly refusing to fund Harry and Meghan's security and this country should certainly not pick up the bill in consequence.

The couple had a choice between being royal and being celebrities and have chosen the latter, so let them do what other celebrities do and pay for their own security.

THERE was a time when if a Minister so much as had an extramarital affair, he would have to resign.

These days, though, a man can serially cheat on two wives, have children by mistresses and even get a woman pregnant before his divorce comes through and still get into Number Ten and install his latest extramarital lover there.

I am trying to decide whether the age of public prudishness towards politicians is over or whether he gets away with it only because he is Boris.

IT'S RIGHT TO BE CAUTIOUS BUT VIRUS IS NOT THE PLAGUE

I'M ALL for sensible precautions but I cannot help feeling that we are going mad over coronavirus, with talk of locking down whole cities.

The medical information is that four out of five people infected will have only mild symptoms

and that most will recover.

That is not to minimise the tragedy of individual deaths. Of course not, but we need a sense of proportion in the face of the financial markets going into meltdown, aeroplanes being

grounded and shops shutting their doors.

We have had the scares of SARS, bird flu, Ebola and of course Aids.

None proved as devastating as feared and more people die of

flu than have died of coronavirus.

It is nasty but, given the recovery rate, it is not the Black Death.

It is wise to be alert and to isolate the affected but the current hysteria could prove a greater enemy than the disease itself.



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NNIEAG Reporter

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Issued by the Newsprint & Newspaper Industry Environmental Action Group



Kelly's Eye



BY FERGUS KELLY

I WONDER if the cross-party group of 72 women MPs whose letter to the Duchess of Sussex last year claimed to be able to detect “outdated, colonial undertones” in press coverage of her are presently compiling a similar missive to Priti Patel? For if Meghan Markle required evidence of what it's really like to be on the receiving end of racism in this country, she need look no further than recent treatment of the Home Secretary.

Patel is currently under siege following the resignation of her department's permanent secretary, who is bringing a case of constructive dismissal against the Government. Among his claims is that the Home Secretary orchestrated briefing against him.

What is actually going on is a much more insidious effort to bring down Patel. MI5, for example, was forced to take the unusual step for that organisation of having to deny anonymous claims it did not trust

the Home Secretary and so limited its intelligence sharing with her.

However, what leaves the most nasty taste in what has been a concerted campaign against Patel ever since she was appointed by Boris Johnson, are published descriptions of her as a “racial gatekeeper” who provides cover for “a group of white people with racially regressive views”, or “a product of internalised whiteness” as another writer called her.

This baiting comes courtesy from the “kinder, gentler politics” of the left because Patel has the temerity to be a Tory, like countless Britons from ethnic minority backgrounds who defy Labour's patronising assumption they own their votes.

For that reason – and because Patel's Home Office battle is at heart about the political establishment's desperation to prevent more power being wrested from it post-Brexit – Boris Johnson must not equivocate in his support for her.

The right kind of people

FOR more than a week now, the town of Snaith in East Yorkshire where I live, and its surrounding villages, has fallen victim to flooding. Like the majority of its residents, we are very fortunate that our home has not been inundated. But we all know friends who have suffered that fate.

Only three months ago, I wrote in this column about the similar devastation suffered by the nearby village of Fishlake and how the area was rallying round to offer help.

Now it's us undergoing the surreal experience of watching our familiar lanes and fields on national TV under waters nearly as wide as Lake Windermere.

Some have seen their homes – and dreams for the immediate future – ruined, and understandably directed their anger and impotence at a perceived lack of official support. There have been dark claims that we have been sacrificed to prevent more heavily populated areas further up the River Aire from flooding.

Rather than swallow fashionable assumptions that it is the consequence of climate change, those who have lived longest in this historically flood-prone region know it is the rather less virtue-signalling principles of effective river management, like regular dredging and sluice-gate maintenance, that have real practical value.

Most of all though, it is the quiet, unshowy kindness of people filling sandbags, making meals, and offering shelter and financial support, that has characterised the town's response to its awful ordeal. And make it a place we are proud to call home.



Picture: GETTY

Plagued by doom-mongers

I'VE just finished a book by the historian Tom Holland called *Dominion*, about how Christianity has shaped the Western mind, atheists as much as believers. One of its recurring themes is the end of days sense of doom which periodically seizes society.

The truth of it could not be better portrayed by our own age. The month before last we were on the brink of catastrophic war between the US and Iran. This month you could be forgiven for believing that the flu otherwise known as coronavirus is the equivalent of medieval bubonic plague. And hardly a day goes by without some apocalyptic warning, including from royalty, that we only have a few years left to save the planet from climate “emergency”.

God help us...

Rules & Procedures apply. Players must be 16+.

Pictures: PA, SWNS, GETTY

D-Day hero, 94, dedicates his MBE to fallen friends

By **Luke Powell**

A D-DAY veteran who was one of the first British soldiers to land on Gold Beach received his MBE from the Queen yesterday and dedicated it to his fallen comrades.

Former Royal Engineer Horace "Harry" Billinge was just 18 when he stormed the beaches of Normandy during the landings on June 6, 1944.

The horrifying scenes he witnessed stayed with him and inspired him to raise funds to commemorate those who died.

Now aged 94, the sapper from St Austell, Cornwall, has been awarded the MBE for his services to charitable fundraising.

He was driven to Buckingham Palace in a Bentley to collect the honour.

Harry said he wanted his MBE dedicated to the 22,442 service personnel killed on D-Day and during the Battle for Normandy. Describing the scenes he faced on



Wendy Craig shows off award

Gold Beach, Harry said: "It was hell on earth. Murder. The sea was red with blood, human blood. Some men were baptised in their own blood. It was a terrible, terrible time.

"I have been unable to forget D-Day. I could never forget."

Harry, who holds France's highest award the Legion d'honneur, has raised more than £50,000 for veterans.

As well as collecting for the

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for 64 years, he has also raised funds for the British Normandy Memorial.

Speaking after the ceremony, Harry, who has been married to wife Sheila for 65 years, said it was wonderful to meet the Queen.

He said: "She said, 'I hear you were on D-Day', and I said, 'I was'. She was very kind. There are no words to describe it."

Meanwhile, star Wendy Craig said that at 85 she had no plans to stop working in entertainment.

She received a CBE for services to drama and charity from the Queen yesterday.

The great-grandmother is best known for her role as Ria Parkinson in the British sitcom *Butterflies*, which aired on BBC Two from 1978 to 1983.

She also starred in the drama series *Nanny* from 1981 to 83.

Speaking after the ceremony at Buckingham Palace, she said that while she is working less she wanted to "keep on working for as long as I can".

Wendy said: "I am very good at playing grandmas lately.

"I'd like to play a nice cuddly grandma next."



Harry, inset as an 18-year-old soldier, with his MBE yesterday

By **Giles Sheldrick**
Chief Reporter

AWARD-WINNING author Dame Hilary Mantel sparked controversy last night after suggesting the Duchess of Sussex had been on the receiving end of "abominable racism".

Prince Harry, 35, and Meghan, 38, announced last month that they were quitting royal life and splitting their time between the UK and North America.

Booker Prize-winner Dame Hilary, 67, told April's issue of Harper's Bazaar: "I'm pleased that it's the marriage that's surviving and the connection with the monarchy that has to go, because I think almost all of us would have bet that if she [Meghan] left, she'd have to leave alone. Though, none of us know the details of how this is going to work out.

"But I think that Meghan was too good to be true.

Scrutiny

"She was a smiling face in a dull institution, she cheered the nation up no end, or at least men and women of good will.

"I do think abominable racism has been involved. People who say that's got nothing to do with it – well, they need to check their privilege!"

The novelist's comments come as *The Mirror* and *The Light*, the final part of her trilogy about the life of Henry VIII's adviser Thomas Cromwell goes on sale tomorrow. And Dame Hilary says the scrutiny Meghan has faced since becoming a royal wife goes back centuries.

She said: "There's an intense concentration on the bodies of royal women.

"If anyone doubts that, we only have to look at

Meghan livened up dull royals and her critics are racist, says Hilary Mantel

what happens when our royal ladies are pregnant and when they give birth.

"They are perceived as public property in the same way that Tudor women were perceived."

In a blistering attack in 2016, months after their relationship became public, Prince Harry said media coverage of his future wife had "racial undertones".

Novelist Sir Philip Pullman claimed Meghan had become a target "because she's black".

It is not the first time Dame Hilary has courted controversy with comments about the Royal Family.

In 2013 she said the Duchess of Cambridge was forced to present herself publicly as a personality-free "shop window mannequin" whose sole purpose is to deliver an heir to the throne.

She said: "It may be that the whole phenomenon of monarchy is irrational, but that doesn't mean that when we look at it we should behave like spectators at Bedlam.

"Cheerful curiosity can easily become cruelty." Dame

Hilary's remarks were condemned by then prime minister David Cameron.

Opinion remains divided on whether the media's coverage of Meghan is racially motivated.

Last year former US first lady Hillary Clinton said race was "clearly an element" of the backlash Meghan had faced since her relationship with Harry began.

But others including Home Secretary Priti Patel, TV presenter Piers Morgan and Meghan's estranged father Thomas Markle have disagreed.

Mr Markle has said: "I'm having trouble buying that – there's never been a problem in terms of race with Meghan at her school or any place.

"I don't think she's being bullied in any way by racism."

● The April issue of Harper's Bazaar is on sale from today.

Pictures: RICHARD PHIBBS, GETTY



Royal rumpus...Dame Hilary poses for Harper's Bazaar issue

Meghan was 'smiling face'



Lung cancer care fears

By **Giles Sheldrick**
Chief Reporter

OVERWHELMED lung cancer nurses are now caring for more than 200 patients each at any one time, claims a report.

The survey of those working on the NHS frontline also revealed that a third of nurses feel they do not have enough resources or adequate time to tell patients about their options for treatment.

As Lung Cancer Nursing UK presents its findings today in Parliament it will demand better recognition for carers.

It is backed by former England cricket captain Sir Andrew Strauss who founded the Ruth Strauss Foundation in memory of his wife, who died in 2018, aged 46, a year after she was diagnosed with a rare lung cancer.

Sir Andrew told the Daily Express: "I am really worried about cancer sufferers coming to the end of their

Report claims specialist nurses lacking resources

life feeling they don't have the support they need. A lung cancer diagnosis is an incredible shock. People need to understand the fact from the fiction.

"The nurses are able to give reassurance, explain what the doctor said and support the family at a time when you really need it.

Workloads

"If Ruth had an issue around medication or pain, the nurse she had was always available. It was incredibly reassuring."

Britain has among the highest prevalence of lung cancer in the world, with more than 47,000 new cases diagnosed every year. Two thirds of specialist nurses have seen the number of patients they care for increase by a fifth in the past four

years, which the LCNUK forum said risks denying patients necessary support.

Its study also revealed that 79 per cent of nurses felt confident providing psychological support to their patients, but workloads meant they did not have sufficient time.

The group's chair Jackie Fenimore said: "It is vital the work of lung cancer nurse specialists is valued and appropriate training and resources are in place.

"This isn't always the case and we're trying to provide the best possible care to patients and protect our profession.

"Specialist nurses play a critical role in caring."

The Department of Health and Social Care said: "People with cancer deserve the best possible care. We are working to detect more cancers at an earlier stage to save 55,000 lives every year as part of the NHS Long Term Plan."

Picture: PA



Loss...Sir Andrew Strauss with wife Ruth who died in 2018

Children driving us round the bend

PARENTS find car journeys one of the most stressful experiences with children squabbling, unpredictable bladders and forgotten comfort blankets.

A study of 2,000 mums and dads with small children found a quarter get annoyed by kids kicking the backseat and more than a third are stressed by "are we there yet?", as they become bored.

Three in 10 find toilet breaks an annoying aspect of driving anywhere with the kids.

Psychologist Emma Kenny suggested adults could sit "side by side" children in the back seats to solve many of the issues in the poll, paid for by Cinch. She said: "The car can provide a great opportunity for families to connect."

Vital...Jackie Fenimore



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EXCLUSIVE REPORT

Police and CPS face probe over rape convictions fall

By **Michael Knowles**
Home Affairs Correspondent

POLICE and prosecutors face scrutiny over their handling of rape cases amid a fall in the conviction rate, it emerged last night.

The number of offences reported to police rose to record highs last year, but the prosecution rate – one in 50 – plunged to its lowest ever level.

Policing Minister Kit Malthouse has revealed watchdogs are now planning to launch a joint inspection into the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to identify potential failings.

Campaigners said victims must receive better legal support and called for an end to disproportionate requests for officers to search through victims' phones – dubbed digital strip searches.

Several high-profile trials have



Kit Malthouse welcomed move

collapsed after the CPS failed to disclose crucial evidence to defence teams.

Liam Allan spent two years on bail and endured three days of trial before the case collapsed as it emerged his supposed victim had been pestering him for casual sex.

And Oxford University student Oliver Mears spent two years on bail accused of raping and assaulting a woman when he was 17.

Surrey Police admitted there were flaws in the investigation after the force failed to examine the woman's digital history. Judge Jonathan Black demanded the head of the CPS rape and sexual offences unit write to him within 28 days with a full explanation of what went wrong.

Mr Malthouse said in an answer to a written parliamentary question: "The decline in the number of rape and serious sexual



Caroline after an earlier court appearance. She had been granted bail

'Show trial' of tragic star Caroline will be reviewed

THE Crown Prosecution Service is launching a review of its handling of Caroline Flack's case.

A request under Freedom of Information rules has confirmed that a "post-case review panel" is to be held.

It comes after the CPS was accused of pursuing a show trial against the Love Island star, who took her own life at her east London flat last month.

Caroline, who was 40, had been prosecuted over an alleged assault on her boyfriend Lewis Burton, 27, in December.

The day before her death she was told by her lawyers the CPS was continuing with the case and she would have to go to court.

Caroline had stepped down from the ITV2 dating show after being arrested.

She had been granted bail but was under orders not to contact Lewis.

Caroline's management said the prosecution had caused her significant distress and Lewis said he had never supported it.

Last night the CPS said: "Post-case debriefings are not uncommon."

By **Tom Bryant**

They are held to identify good practice and learning points."

Asked if the CPS would re-examine the decision to charge, a spokesman later added: "The review will look at the general CPS handling of the case and obviously the decisions behind charging is part of that. It will look at the case in the round."

The Metropolitan Police has already referred itself to the police watchdog over its contact with Caroline before her death.

It is standard practice for a referral to be made when a person who has had recent contact with police dies, the force said.

The FoI request also confirmed that Caroline's case was deemed a "complex or sensitive" one and the review would be conducted by a Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor.

However the CPS said there was no record of how much it spent on prosecuting the case as all who worked on it were in-house lawyers. No external solicitors or barristers were involved.

offences being charged and prosecuted in England and Wales is a cause for concern.

"We are determined to do everything we can to ensure these appalling crimes are tackled effectively and victims are supported."

"A joint inspection into the handling of rape cases by the police and CPS is being planned."

Andrea Simon, of the End Violence Against Women Coalition, said: "Rape allegations have risen to a scale never before

seen, with more than 50,000 reports to the police last year.

"But prosecutions are at their lowest recorded levels, meaning justice is overwhelmingly being denied to the women, and some men, who come forward to report they have been raped."

"We are encouraged by the commitment to a joint inspection into the handling of rape cases by the CPS and Police Inspectorates."

Katie Russell, national spokeswoman for Rape Crisis England

& Wales, said: "We have been calling for a complete review and overhaul of the criminal justice system in relation to rape and all sexual offences for many years, and with prosecution rates still at unacceptably low levels, this is more urgent than ever."

Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said he is considering using artificial intelligence to screen out irrelevant data on victims' phones in order to increase the number of prosecu-

tions. A source explained: "Victims feel that having someone going through all their private data is like being attacked all over again."

The CPS said: "Sexual violence is a devastating crime and we share concerns about the gap between recorded rapes and the number of cases going to court."

"Where our legal test is met, we will seek to bring the most serious charges possible."

"However, it is right the CPS is open to independent scrutiny."

Sharp rise in 'suicidal' children calling charity

By **Sarah O'Grady**

NEARLY 70 children are calling Childline every day with suicidal thoughts – a 25 per cent surge in calls in just three years.

The charity delivered 24,447 counselling sessions to young people in despair last year.

There has also been a sharp rise in under-11s receiving help – from 349 in 2015/16 to 653 last year – an increase of 87 per cent. Girls are

more likely to talk about such feelings, with nearly five times as many receiving counselling sessions than boys.

Dame Esther Rantzen, founder and president of the Childline charity, said: "It's deeply disturbing that we have reached a point where, on average, 67 children a day

are receiving help for suicidal thoughts and feelings."

Britain's biggest children's charity, the NSPCC, is today launching a nationwide campaign – Kids In Real Life – aimed at raising funds for services such as Childline.

Using the hashtag #KIDS_IRL, the initiative highlights how children are hiding their true feelings behind digital filters and feeds. One of them,

Hollie, now 22, who lives in Kent, suffered from chronic anxiety as a teenager which led her to try to take her own life. She contacted Childline for the first time in 2013.

She said: "It was that conversation that stopped me from trying to take my life again. The service was my lifeline during my darkest hours."

● Childline is available 24 hours-a-day on 0800 1111 or childline.org.uk



Happy now... Hollie called charity

MPs get a £20m rise to pay for their staff

MPs will get an extra £20million a year from the taxpayer to cover staffing costs for constituency work, it was revealed last night.

Parliament's expenses watchdog agreed the rise to cope with an "increasingly complex and challenging" workload.

The move is designed to bring the salaries of MPs' office staff in line with equivalent employees in other sectors as well as providing extra resources for training, welfare and security.

Each MP will receive a budget

By **Macer Hall**

increase of 13 per cent (£21,900) for staff in London and 14 per cent (£21,600) for those outside the capital.

Duncan Simpson, from the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "Taxpayers will be unimpressed at forking out millions more for the cost of the Commons. With staff costs going up and an expensive refurbishment programme, parliamentary authorities need to manage these budgets better."



Unimpressed...Duncan Simpson



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EXCLUSIVE By Jane Warren

AS HIS brutal cross-examination got underway in 2012, Lance-Corporal Brian Wood watched from the dock in abject despair as a citation was flashed onto a large screen at the front of the courtroom. There for all to see were the details of his heroic conduct in Iraq that led to him being awarded the Military Cross in 2005 for bravery at the Battle of Danny Boy.

"Standing in the dock, looking at it, I felt utterly betrayed," he recalls in a calm tone that masks years of barely suppressed fury.

"They put my citation up on screen only so my highest honour could be picked away, word by word."

It was in 2009, four years after he received the Military Cross and five years after the terrifying ambush by 100 Iraqi insurgents when his bravery under fire was proven, that the ex-colour sergeant in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was smeared as a war criminal.

The allegations were made by the now-disgraced British human rights solicitor, Phil Shiner, who falsely claimed British soldiers – including Wood – captured, tortured and murdered innocent Iraqi farmers after the bloody battle.

In 2014, the £25million five-year public Al-Sweady inquiry concluded the allegations of torture and murder were "the product of deliberate lies" and all the dead had been members of the Mahdi army militia.

Shiner subsequently admitted paying an Iraqi middleman to find claimants, a practice that is in breach of professional standards, and was struck off in 2017 for making claims that were "wholly untrue".

But the damage was done, and continues to affect the lives and careers of those he falsely accused. The emotional impact of the case forced Wood, now 39, to leave the military in 2015.

"Winston Churchill said that a medal glitters, but that it also casts a shadow," he tells the Daily Express. "And to be awarded the MC by Her Majesty the Queen for bravery, gallantry and leadership under fire, and then to have that called into question – I was absolutely gutted and devastated."

"I still find getting the right words for what I feel difficult because it's so hard, and I can't shake it."

"We are not trained for this. We are trained as soldiers. But I had to fight a harder battle on my own soil."

"When I was in the dock, they stripped me of everything but the truth. It was hard enough dealing with the aftermath of war, so hard."

"When you are seeing fellow soldiers getting hurt and leading out their burial parties. When you have watched someone you really admire being hit with a petrol bomb and becoming a human fireball. And when you've been the third person on the scene of a suicide in Iraq when a colleague puts an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) in his mouth... These are huge trauma events. And there was one after another."

The disbelief that Wood initially felt grew into a sense of deep despair



COMING HOME: With his wife and children after his final tour. Right, Phil Shiner and, below, receiving his Military Cross from the Queen



and anger that nearly destroyed his marriage and his mental health. "You can really slip into some dark places," he says. "I've experienced several."

HE IS not surprised by the tragic recent statistics revealing 14 former and serving British personnel in Afghanistan have taken their lives in the past two months. "When you leave the military, an institution that has looked after you, it can be years before you begin to analyse what you have done on operations. By then you are isolated which can bring on depression and loneliness."

But he says veterans' minister Johnny Mercer is making inroads.

"He has put his head above the parapet and is being very vocal. When you have been exposed to a lot of trauma, it can be difficult enough to open up about certain events."

"And to then receive a letter stating there is going to be a public enquiry due to allegations

Pictures: MARK HARRISON/CAMERA PRESS

Betrayed by the country I fought for

CLEARED:
Brian today
and
background
picture,
serving in
Helmand,
Afghanistan,
in 2012

Falsely accused of war crimes and hauled into a public inquiry, Military Cross hero Brian Wood finally emerged vindicated. But the witch-hunt, suffered by many veterans, nearly broke him...

being made against you of murder, mutilation and mistreatment is..."

Wood cannot complete the sentence as he tries to compose himself. "In situations where there is no fresh evidence, we cannot allow these witch-hunts led by lawyers to continue," he says quietly of the persecution of soldiers who are hauled through the courts, often decades down the line, for decisions taken in the unimaginable stress arena of active conflict.

"The system is broken," asserts Wood. "I still wouldn't trust it now; it's not fully lock-tight. I'm a living example of how much hurt and pain can be caused.

"Shiner never apologised, and I can't ask him what his motivation was. I can only guess it was for the money he got to pursue the case on behalf of the MoD."

Tomorrow sees the paperback publication of Wood's best-selling memoir *Double Crossed*, which is being used as a new blueprint for the treatment of serving and former troops. "My book is being discussed in Whitehall," he says.

Double Crossed is a powerful – and disgraceful – account of the persecution of troops. It also brings to life the chaos of war and the pressure of being held to account for making life-or-death decisions.

"My integrity was called into question so many times so, first and foremost, I needed to let people know the truth," says Wood. "But I also wanted people to read about the pressures; about what it is really like to be a young soldier facing really big decisions on the front line with minimal training.

"Hopefully key points can be taken away from my book and put in legislation, or used in the statute of limitations," he says, referring to the ongoing investigation into the killings in Northern Ireland by British soldiers, many of whom are now ex-servicemen in their 60s and 70s. "I never

served in Northern Ireland, but if there is no new credible evidence then why are we dragging vulnerable veterans through hell? One of them has already taken his life and I understand that – there is so much pressure on you as an individual."

Wood was based in Germany in 2009 with wife Lucy and son Bailey, now 16 – they have a younger son Charlie, 10 – when a letter arrived from the MoD.

"I was on a Commando course in the UK at the time and got a load of missed calls on my phone from Lucy. I knew something was seriously wrong.

"She was very upset and said there was a letter stating there was going to be a public inquiry. I just assumed it would be quashed because I knew there was no evidence to support these crazy allegations. But during the

case I had to keep reliving everything," Wood and his men had been involved in one of the fiercest engagements fought in Iraq while waiting for reinforcements, following an ambush by militia which involved close-quarter rifle fire and bayonets.

THE battle lasted for about three hours, during which 28 Mahdi Army insurgents were killed. Incredibly, there were no British fatalities.

"Reading the statements I was back closing with and killing the enemy, and was collecting the dead bodies. These are hard situations to manage and cope with, and to have to go through it time and time again... It put me through some dark days.

"I don't know where I would have been without Lucy.

"My only release was to vent my anger on my loved ones. And it could all have been avoided if more

due diligence had been done on Shiner's methods."

Earlier this year, Wood sold the rights to his story and a film about his experiences is in pre-production. "My family is now in the best position we've been in," he says.

While Wood now makes a living giving after-dinner speeches, his son Bailey is determined to follow in his father's footsteps.

"He has an absolute desire to become a Royal Marine Commando," says Wood.

"I can't deprive my son of the military that 100 per cent made me who I am today, so we are currently on this new journey together."

● *Double Crossed: A Fighting Man Under Fire* by Brian Wood (Virgin Books, £7.99) is out tomorrow. Call Express Bookshop on 01872 562310 or order via expressbookshop.co.uk. UK delivery £2.95. Orders over £12.99 are free

'My integrity was called into question so many times – I needed to let people know the truth'



By Jane Warren

WHEN BETH Reekles was 15, The Hollywood Reporter trade paper described her as "the teenage publishing sensation", while Time Magazine placed her at number 13 on a list of the world's 16 most influential teenagers between actress Chloë Grace Moretz (no 14) and Justin Bieber (no 12). The Welsh schoolgirl had not even taken her GCSEs when she wrote *The Kissing Booth*, a novel made into a Netflix film that became a runaway teen phenomenon.

Publisher Random House offered her a three-book deal, and the movie version of her first young adult book was so successful Netflix made a sequel – the first it had ever commissioned.

"It was the dream," says Beth, now 24. "People were coming up to me and saying 'I really want to be the next Beth Reekles'."

So it would be easy to imagine she is now a full-time author, conjuring up her next blockbuster.

But while she worked on no less than eight book projects last year – including a novella for World Book Day, *The Kissing Booth: Road Trip*, based on her original characters – these were all accomplished alongside her full-time job.

For by day, the physics graduate is an IT service manager for an energy company in Solihull, in the West Midlands.

"I work for an energy company and it's very satisfying, although it's very funny when I meet people on

the writing side of my life. I went to Cape Town to be on the set of the second movie and people assumed I was a full-time writer.

"They couldn't believe it when I told them that I work for an energy company. But I really enjoy working in tech – writing is something I do for fun."

Many of her IT colleagues are equally mystified by her other life. She laughs: "I introduce myself to new people as a service manager, not a writer. I would worry that I would sound like I was bragging if I introduced

**WORLD BOOK DAY
SEQUEL: Road Trip**



myself that way. But they are all very supportive and if I get ideas when I'm at work, I'll jot them down for later."

Beth, who digested Harry Potter before becoming fascinated with the Tudors, was looking for something to read other than stories about vampires and werewolves when she decided to write her own young adult novel.

She used story-sharing website Wattpad to release it and was amazed when it racked up more than 19 million views. "I'd ended up reading a few too many vampire, fallen-angel, paranormal romances and I felt like it was the

only thing out there for me. I wanted a regular high school romance," she recalls.

"I had a clear idea: the bad boy, the best friend, the naive but feisty main character. It didn't seem crazy to think, 'I can't find that book so I'll sit down and write it'."

Her mother Claire, who worked in HR for the local council, had an English degree and counselled her daughter with the advice: write what you know.

But Beth, who is proud to be single, was too savvy for that. "I was the outsider in my friendship group, the nerd at school, and a massive introvert. No one would want to read about that and I certainly didn't want to write about it." Instead, she distilled the countless hours she had spent with

her nose stuck inside a book instead. "It was a culmination of all the books and TV shows that had consumed me, including 90210, Twilight, Teen Wolf."

Having digested these influences, her straight A-grade brain was able to work out what would be popular with girls her age.

"I know that everyone understands the American high school system – Harry Potter is not very representative of the British system – so I set it there instead."

Initially, she didn't tell her parents (her dad is an IT manager) – they assumed she was on Facebook.

"When I was 15, I started posting on Wattpad. They

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ON SCREEN: Netflix's version of *The Kissing Booth* by Beth, main picture

asked me what I was doing and I said 'I'm loading a chapter of my book on to this website'."

Soon she had started to grow a community of readers. Quite a large one, in fact. "I remember updating my parents on my story stats. I told them I was getting half a million reads; then I started getting into the millions. They said, 'Is this quite good for the site or just a little story?' I was able to tell them I had just been nominated for the most popular book on Wattpad."

A huge achievement given that the story-sharing site has 65 million users. The summer she turned 16, Beth signed a multi-book deal with Random

House, which led to something of a crisis point in the Reekles' household in Newport. "My parents were worried that I would get swept away with my success. Luckily I'm more productive when I have lots to juggle and always knew I wanted to do something techy."

Her literary oeuvre of secret crushes, high school bullying and teen romance, has sometimes attracted criticism for being non-feminist and stereotypical. Beth is unconcerned. "Oh, the story was only ever intended to be a light-hearted piece of easy reading."

● *Beth Reekles' £1 World Book Day title is a Kissing Booth sequel entitled The Kissing Booth: Road Trip. Available at all High Street bookshops*

IT'D BE A CRIME TO MISS FESTIVAL'S KILLER LINE-UP

MICHAEL Connelly has been unveiled as one of the headliners at the world's biggest celebration of crime-writing. The US writer, whose Harry Bosch and Lincoln Lawyer novels have sold more than 74 million copies, joins British stars Martina Cole, Mark Billingham and Mick Herron at the 2020 Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate, Yorkshire, in July.

The festival, now in its 18th year and held at The Old Swan Hotel, the retreat of crime queen Agatha Christie, will feature more than 100 authors. The Daily and Sunday Express are official media partners for the festival's prestigious Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year award.

Best-selling Inspector Rebus author Ian Rankin, 59, this year's programming chair, said: "It is for good reason Harrogate is so well loved by authors and audiences alike, and the pressure has been on to make sure this year lives up to its stellar reputation."

"But we're incredibly proud of the celebration of crime writing we have in store."

With the full line-up announced next month, other authors joining Connelly, below, include Lisa Gardner, Kathy Reichs and Elly Griffiths.

Sharon Canavar, CE of Harrogate International Festivals, said: "Year on year Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival continues to surpass all expectations."

MATT NIXSON

● *Rover Tickets - including Weekend, Friday and Saturday passes - are now on sale, along with Weekend Break Packages. To book tickets, call +44(0)1423 562 303 or email crime@harrogate-festival.org.uk*



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16+ BeGambleAware.org Players must be 16 or over. Game rules and procedures apply. Excludes NI. Every £1 line for the £25,000 main lottery draw on Wednesday 04.03.2020 will also automatically be entered into the free prize draw to win £100,000. The free prize draw also takes place on 04.03.2020. For full T&Cs visit healthlottery.co.uk/terms/. The Health Lottery scheme manages 12 society lotteries that operate in rotation and each represents a different geographical region of Great Britain. This month's society lottery is Health Lottery North East & Cumbria. The Health Lottery™ logo is a registered trademark of The Health Lottery Ltd. For more details on which society lottery is running each month please visit www.healthlottery.co.uk or ask your Health Lottery retailer.

Pixie and pals take Paris Flashin' Week

Hot Right Now... singer Rita Ora impresses on the catwalk in Paris. Right, model Pixie



PIXIE Geldof legs it to Paris Fashion Week with pal Rita Ora during a British takeover of the top catwalk shows.

Pixie – the 29-year-old daughter of Boomtown Rats rocker Bob – wore a puff sleeve puffball mini with red sash belt at Miu Miu.

Hot Right Now singer Rita ruled the runway in a navy maxi military-inspired coat

By **Paul Jeeves**

and retro waves. It also proved to be a big day for actor Jude Law and Sadie Frost's daughter Iris Law, 19, who made her Parisian catwalk debut.

She will now be looking to follow in the footsteps of the supermodel stars of the show – Cindy Crawford's daughter

Kaia, 18, and sisters Bella and Gigi Hadid.

The event, which is the climax of Fashion Month, is held at the Palais d'Ena in the French capital.

Guests included Emma star Anya Taylor-Joy, Pretty Little Liars actress and singer Lucy Hale and British fashion designer Alexa Chung.



Fashion icon... Emma Corrin in Paris, top, and above in her role as Princess Diana, left



CROWN STAR EMMA WILL BE DI ANOTHER DAY...

THE Crown actress Emma Corrin was a guest at the Miu Miu show in her civilian clothes as more pictures emerged of her playing fashion queen Princess Diana.

Emma, 24, wore her brown hair in a bob in Paris, top – in stark contrast to images of her during filming of Peter Morgan's epic Netflix drama.

She transformed into a 1980s Princess Diana in a strapless purple gown as she arrived at The Royal Opera House for series four of the show.

Emma has been seen on set several times in recent weeks with Josh O'Connor, 29, who has been cast as Prince Charles.

Be a gym buddy for over-70s

By **Sarah O'Grady**

FIT young people are being asked to befriend pensioners to help them work out.

Up to 300,000 over-70s fail to stay active. But three-quarters who do go to an exercise class say they enjoy the camaraderie, according to the Royal Voluntary Service.

Almost two-thirds say classes lift their spirits, over half think their health has improved and nearly four in 10 say they are motivated by others there.

Former ballet dancer and RVS ambassador Wayne Sleep is spearheading a MakeADifference campaign sponsored by yogurt maker Yakult.

Activities could include helping to run a dance class, chair-based exercises at an older person's home or forming a walking group.

Rebecca Kennelly, of the RVS, said: "Volunteers make a tangible difference to those they support and enable them to lead happier and healthier lives."

To find out about local volunteering opportunities, visit royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/volunteer

Rolex gang singled out motorists

THREE gangsters who robbed victims of Rolex watches worth up to £25,000 each – after following them for long distances – are facing lengthy jail sentences.

The muggers picked out motorists wearing the desirable watches after pulling up alongside them in traffic.

Norwich Crown Court heard one woman was trailed all the way from London and robbed of her watch, jewellery and Mercedes car when she finally stopped for some chips in her home town of Hingham in Norfolk.

Freddie Aguis, 28, of Hackney, east London, and Shane Johnson, 29, of no fixed address, eventually pleaded guilty to robbing three victims.

John Weaver, 33, of Hackney had pleaded guilty earlier to the robbery at Hingham.

Judge Katharine Moore warned them to expect lengthy jail sentences. All three were due to be sentenced today.

Just 7 years for car maniac who fractured PC's skull

By **John Twomey**

A POLICE officer who suffered catastrophic injuries saw his hit-and-run driver jailed for just seven years and four months yesterday.

But PC Chris Burnham could not bear to watch dashcam footage of the sickening impact which left him with a fractured skull, a bleed on the brain and a shattered knee.

It captured the moment when Tekle Lennox's Mini ploughed into him.

The officer hit the windscreen and was carried unconscious for almost three seconds before being thrown off. Lennox, 37, who was serving



Impact...PC Chris Burnham was knocked into the windscreen of Mini driven by Tekle Lennox

a three-year ban for drug-driving, left his victim lying in the road 138ft from the point of impact, Warwick Crown Court heard. He was arrested soon after. PC Burnham, 48,

was in an induced coma for a week and may never fully recover, the court was told.

His injuries were so bad that at first he could not recognise his wife. In a statement

read in court, PC Burnham said: "I am struggling to get back to the person I was."

Wife Claire said: "Our 10-year-old son was fearful. He did not know how he



Pictures: SWNS, PA

would cope if his dad did not recognise him." Lennox showed no emotion as he watched footage of the crash in Coventry last September.

The serial criminal admitted causing GBH with intent to resist arrest on Monday.

Lennox, of no fixed address, also admitted driving while disqualified, driving without insurance and possessing cocaine, heroin and cannabis.

Jon Nott, of the West Midlands Police Federation, said: "This sentencing is shocking in its leniency, but sadly not surprising."

He will ask prosecutors to launch an appeal to have the sentence increased.

HICKEY

ENJOYING mainly positive reviews for the West End version of his BBC comedy *The Upstart Crow*, Ben Elton hits out at petty minded Lefties who still won't forgive him for a long ago collaboration with Tory supporter Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The 60-year-old, who worked with the celebrated composer on musical *The Beautiful Game* – it premiered back in 2000 – complains: "This is what staggers me. The fact because he voted Tory, that meant me, as a vocal Labour supporter, shouldn't work with him. How insane! That's not my idea of democracy. I'm not a communist."

The Young Ones and Blackadder writer, pictured, adds of Lord Lloyd-Webber: "We talk and we chat. He's a good friend. For what it's worth, actually he's a very good bloke in many, many ways."



MEANWHILE, having endured his fair share of unflattering reviews for stage and screen offerings in recent years, Elton suggests the generous critical response to *The Upstart Crow* – currently on at London's Gielgud Theatre – is proving a welcome novelty. Ben cheerfully concludes: "For once, the critics decided I was OK this time."

LONG bitter about his breakfast show being overshadowed by fellow ITV favourite *This Morning*, Piers Morgan triumphantly announces: "Good Morning Britain nominated for Best Daytime Programme at the Royal Television Society awards... and *This Morning* isn't!"

The presenter less than sincerely adds: "Thoughts with our 'one big happy ITV family' colleagues Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby at this difficult time."

RESPONDING to the coronavirus crisis, professional battleaxe Christine Hamilton, pictured, advises: "All this fuss about hand sanitisers – it's only overpriced alcohol. Get a cheap bottle of vodka instead... it might come in handy for other things too." Chin-chin!



A RECENT sartorial insult continues to be felt by immaculately attired Tory toff Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Highlighting an unjustified claim in *GQ* magazine, the Leader of the Commons, known for his trademark double-breasted suits, now notes: "I was on a list of the worst-dressed men in England."

SHORTLY to be seen in the celebrity version of *The Great British Bake Off*, Hollywood star Richard Dreyfuss recalls his ill-fated casting in a London production of Mel Brooks's musical *The Producers* in 2004.

The *Jaws* actor claims: "When Mel Brooks called and asked me to do it, I said, 'Mel, I don't dance and I don't sing.' He said, 'Who cares? You're funny.'" While Dreyfuss's subsequent and sudden departure was officially blamed on health reasons at the time, the 72-year-old now laughs: "Six days before the first preview audience, I was fired... because I didn't dance and I didn't sing!"

Incidentally, having won the best actor Oscar in 1978 for *The Goodbye Girl*, eccentric Dreyfuss continues to insist on keeping his statuette... in the fridge.

Brought to colourful life,

By Alex Jones

FASCINATING photographs of women working in factories, pits and railways during the First World War have been updated with colour.

Among the remarkable images are ones of a welder in a Midlands aircraft works; munitions workers carefully guiding shells onto the factory floor; and a woman cleaning the inside of a 15in gun.

These amazing colourisations were created by Royston Leonard, an electrician from Cardiff who brings historic photos into the modern age.

Royston, 57, said: "For the girls working in the armaments factory, it was a very hard job and a lot got ill from the chemicals used in the making of the shells."

"Women played a critical role in the UK's war effort; without them supplying the front line then no war could have been fought."

"I think colourising helps people, especially the younger generation, relate to a photo more."

Still without the vote when Britain went to war in 1914, women were drafted into the workforce to fill the vacancies left by thousands of men who joined the Armed Forces.

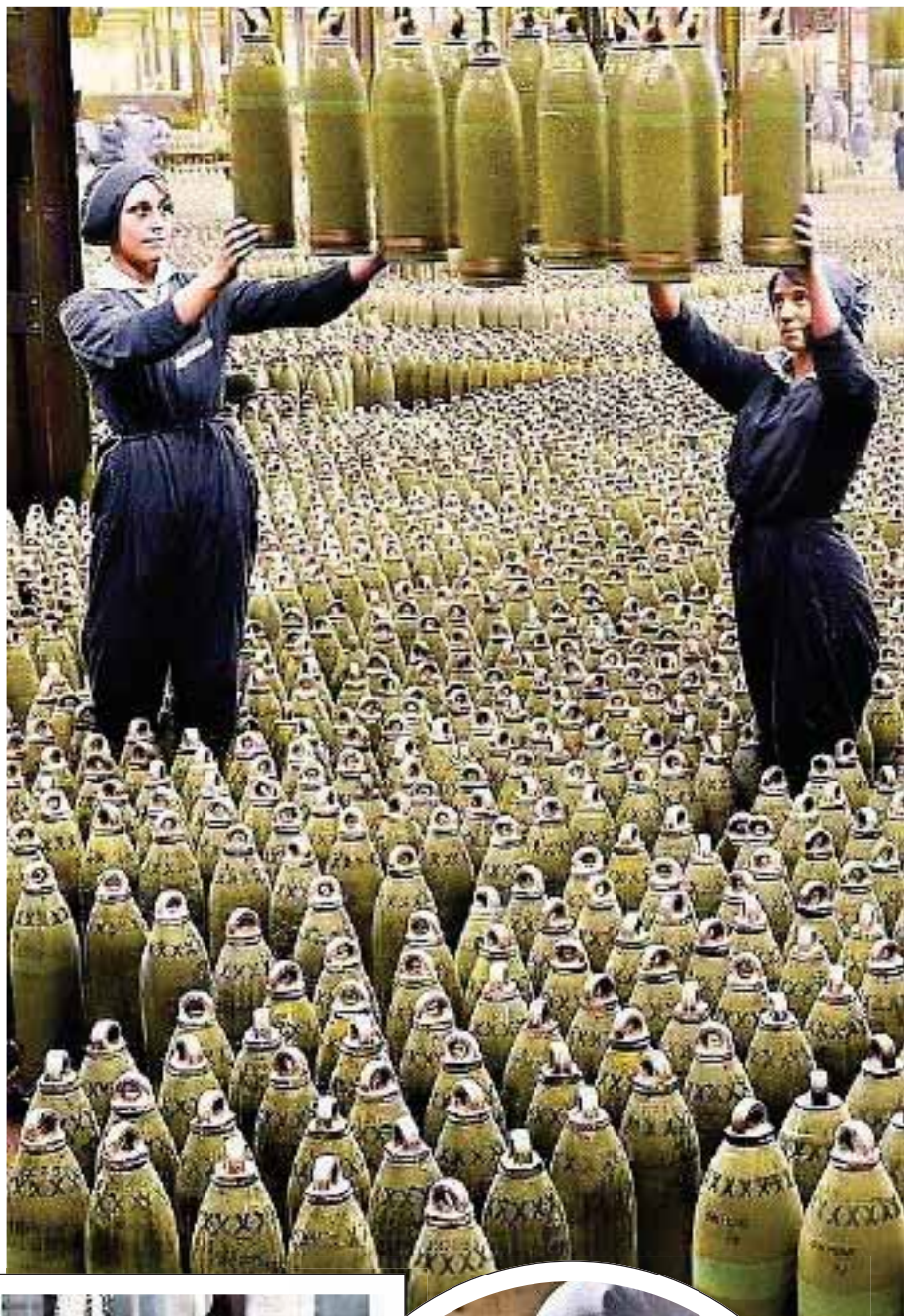
Fighting

Suddenly, women were building planes, assembling hand grenades, casting bricks, signalling trains, smelting iron, blasting granite, digging holes, fighting fires, delivering mail and constructing houses.

Those who worked in munitions factories were known as "canaries" because they had to handle TNT which caused their skin to turn yellow. Without adequate protection, around 400 died from over exposure to the chemical during the war.

According to education website Striking Women, female employment rates increased during the war, from 23.6 per cent of the working age population in 1914 to between 37.7 and 46.7 per cent in 1918.

However, when men came home at the war's end in 1918, many women were laid off. Those who stayed on were often expected to work for less money than their male counterparts despite doing the same job.



fading pictures of women at war

Pictures: MEDIADRUIMAGES



Clockwise from top: munitions workers lower shells at a Nottingham factory; a woman planes a propeller, inset: painting a roundel on a plane in Birmingham; checking hand grenades; female brick workers in South Wales; cleaning a 15in gun in Coventry; a welder at a Midlands aircraft factory; a rubber factory in Lancashire

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge.

For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you

have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task. For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	77	-38	2/3 OF THIS	+38	÷4	REVERSE THE DIGITS	+17	÷6	+53	
Intermediate	145	4/5 OF THIS	+256	÷6	REVERSE THE DIGITS	INCREASE BY 50%	+375	÷3	-49	
Advanced	185	INCREASE BY 80%	+156	2/3 OF THIS	-81	9/35 OF THIS	x6	-186	÷4	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

EURO LOTTERY

4 14 27 44 45 110

THUNDERBALL

5 8 20 35 38 5

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

LOTTERY

25 32 34 52 55 58 9

THUNDERBALL

1 3 6 10 37 10

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

7 22 29 32 45 30

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

2 4 12 38 49 33

The society benefiting from all draws in the month ending March 31, 2020, is Health Lottery North East & Cumbria.

"Real laughs & characters we'll enjoy cringing at"

Radio Times

SANDYLANDS

FAKE DEATH LIVING LEGEND

STARTS TONIGHT 10PM **GOLD**

NEW ORIGINAL COMEDY

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Monday:

Is Britain doing enough to prevent a pandemic?

YES: 40%

NO: 60%

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A PHOTO?

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or email:

expressnews@reachplc.com

If you have a photo:

020 8612 7171

or email:

expresspix@express.co.uk

For general inquiries:

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FOR GREAT READER OFFERS

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

		7		5	6		8	9
9	5			7			3	
8		6				5		
7	2			1	4	8		6
			8		5		4	
	8	9					5	1
			6			4		3
	3			4				5
6	7		5	2		9		

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurry.

For today's solution call:

09071 812 571

(Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge)

For extra clues call:

09013 225 602

(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)

MORE PUZZLES IN PULLOUT

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

5	1	7	8	6	2	4	9	3
8	4	2	9	3	7	5	1	6
3	6	9	4	1	5	8	2	7
6	2	5	3	9	1	7	8	4
9	7	3	2	8	4	6	5	1
1	8	4	5	7	6	9	3	2
7	9	8	6	2	3	1	4	5
2	5	6	1	4	9	3	7	8
4	3	1	7	5	8	2	6	9

£150m lotto winner threatened ex who aided battered men

By James Moncur

A LOTTERY jackpot winner was given a court conviction yesterday over rows with her ex-lover – a domestic abuse charity worker.

Gillian Bayford, who scooped nearly £150million on EuroMillions, admitted shouting at Gavin Innes, pushing him and struggling with him on two separate occasions.

Bayford, 47, sat quietly in court as a charge of breach of the peace was read out.

Two female friends looked on in support of the mother of two during her appearance.

And her lawyer said she had been subjected to a horrific vendetta of online abuse with anonymous, false allegations made to her golf club, the NSPCC and social workers.

Vendetta

Bayford scooped £148million in 2012 with her then husband Adrian when they lived in Haverhill, Suffolk.

The couple later split up and Bayford moved back to her native Scotland with her children.

She invested millions in property to rent out in the area round Carnoustie, Angus, and bought a cafe which shut after reporting £129,000 losses.

Her relationship with Innes started after he asked her to help with a charity he was starting for male victims of domestic abuse.

Innes campaigns to raise awareness of men who suffer violence at home and the plight of their children.

Bayford admitted behaving in a threatening way towards him twice in October 2017, once in Dundee and once in a nearby village. But her QC



Bayford during relationship with Mr Innes and big 2012 win with Adrian



Picture: SWNS

Murdo MacLeod told Dundee Sheriff Court: "A vendetta was carried out against her. Her name was plastered over social media. There were 90 messages, made anonymously."

Sheriff Lorna Drummond gave Bayford, who has since remarried, an admonition – a punishment under Scots law in which a conviction is recorded but no penalty is imposed.

As Mr Innes left court he denied being behind the online abuse.

Digger smashes £320m drugs haul hidden in marble

Pictures: SOLARPIX

By Natalia Penza

POLICE use a digger to smash two blocks of marble which hid an estimated £320million of crystal meth.

Officers say the method used to smuggle the drugs into Europe had never been seen before.

Footage released showed the moment the 25-ton marble blocks were broken up in a quarry near Alicante, Spain, using JCBs, drills and other machinery to reveal the illegal stash hidden inside tubes.

The seizure of 750kg of the highly addictive drug, which can cause psychosis, organ damage, strokes and brain damage, was described as the biggest haul in Spain so far.

A police spokesman said: "Officers have arrested five people and seized 752 kilos of pure methamphetamine, which is the largest haul recorded."

"The organisation disguised their illegal activity using fake mining and marble import-export firms."

"The drugs were hidden in marble blocks using a novel and undetectable system consisting of the creation of tubes in which the PVC containers with the drugs were stored."

"The investigation began last August when police learnt a firm had begun to import marble blocks weighing 25 tons each from Mexico through the port of Valencia."

"The drugs were going to be sold around Europe."

Police found 352kg of the drug in a block smuggled into Spain in a first consignment and 400 in another.

Another 26 blocks contained no drugs. More than £125,000 in cash and five firearms were also seized.

Officials have not attached a value to the massive drug haul. But a record-breaking seizure in Australia last December – double the amount confiscated in Spain – was put at £640million.



Police also discovered £125,000 cash and guns in raid



Well drilled ...crystal meth was hidden in tubes in the marble

A word to the wise... ask granddad for help

By News Reporter

WISDOM really does come with age. Advice dispensed by granny or grandad sticks with young people more than the things their parents say.

Almost three in four youngsters regularly skip a generation when it comes to seeking wiser heads.

They see grandparents as having lived long enough to learn from their own mistakes when it comes to offering their pearls of wisdom, a survey reveals.

And research shows tried and tested old adages such as "Save for a rainy day", "Life is what you make it" and "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger" still strike a chord.

Other sayings that make it into a top 30 of life tips from older generations include "Time is a great healer", "Everything in moderation" and "Don't burn your bridges."

The survey commissioned by mobile phone network giffgaff found 74 per cent of younger people frequently seek invaluable

30 TOP TIPS FOR LIFE FROM OLDER GENERATIONS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Family comes first | 11 Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger | 22 Don't get too big for your boots |
| 2 Treat others as you would wish to be treated | 12 Never start smoking | 23 Don't waste time in a job you hate |
| 3 Practice makes perfect | 13 Life isn't fair | 24 A leopard never changes its spots |
| 4 Save for a rainy day | 14 Don't compare your life to others | 25 Don't burn your bridges |
| 5 Never judge a book by its cover | 15 Time is a great healer | 26 Don't marry for money |
| 6 Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves | 16 Don't run before you can walk | 27 Get eight hours sleep every night |
| 7 Life is what you make it | 17 Follow your gut instinct, it's usually right | 28 You don't have to win every argument |
| 8 Stay in touch with loved ones | 18 Put a jumper on rather than the heating | 29 No one likes a show off |
| 9 If it looks too good to be true, it probably is | 19 Winning isn't everything | 30 Never be late for anything |
| 10 Forgive and forget | 20 Everything in moderation | |
| | 21 No one is in charge of your | |

counsel from their elders. Four in five agreed that wisdom really does come with age.

Among the subjects they most often seek advice about are about becoming a parent – 31 per cent – and how to handle their money (28 per cent). The poll found that

three-quarters of adults said they wished they had someone in their life who could give them great advice whenever they needed it.

However, some said while helpful some of their grandparents' advice might be a touch "old

fashioned". But the study revealed that young people believe they are good at handing out advice too – 83 per cent described themselves in the survey as a "wise head on young shoulders".



STRAPPED FOR CASH

By Kat Hopps

ADAILY Express probe reveals today that the quality of life for tens of thousands of the most deprived people in Britain is being damaged by our drive towards a cashless society.

As Tesco opens its second cashless store, more than 9,500 free ATMs have been taken out of circulation in the past two years – equivalent to 17 per cent of the country's entire network – and 1,200 bank branches have closed.

An independent review says Britain has reached a tipping point, warning that cash could become almost obsolete within a decade – rather than 2035, as had been initially predicted.

Those worst affected are the poor and elderly, who often rely on small amounts of cash to pay a cleaner or neighbour who fetches a pint of milk.

They are also having to take out larger quantities of cash to offset the costs of using the ATM.

One such pensioner is Mae Purcell who has had to dip into her savings account.

The diabetes sufferer said the sole cash machine local to her home in Barton, Oxford, began introducing withdrawal charges.

So far she has taken out £150 from her savings' account because she could not afford to keep paying the 99p charge on smaller cash withdrawals.

"This has hit the poorest in our community and that's wrong. I don't want to take big amounts out, but if you can only afford to take out £10 then you are being penalised," says Mae, 70.

"I've had to take out extra money because I'm not always well enough to make the bus journey into town to a free ATM."

The country's biggest retailer, Tesco, opened a new cashless store in central London last week, meaning that only customers with debit, credit cards or Apple Pay can shop there.

The independent Access to Cash review panel has been established to consider consumer requirements for cash over the next five to 15 years.

Chair of the panel, Natalie Ceeney, warns: "A growing number of retailers are going cashless as they find the costs of banking cash rise, particularly as branches close. It makes it more challenging to deposit their cash takings. This is already starting to exclude people."

Stephen Crabb, MP for Preseli Pembrokeshire, says the march

CHANGING TIMES:
Tesco's second cashless store in High Holborn, London

For a quicker checkout.

We're a cashless store

We welcome:

• Contactless • Credit Card • Debit Card • Tesco

'It hits the poorest. If you can only afford to take out £10 then you're being penalised'

towards a cashless society will hit those who can afford it least.

"A lack of cash is an attack on the most vulnerable people in our society," he claims. "There is a danger of cash deserts emerging in areas where there are no ATMs or bank branches."

"Many small businesses have yet to make the move to contactless or digital payments because mobile and internet coverage is so weak in rural areas."

"I worry that no one in Government is thinking hard about what this means for society."

Fewer than one in 10 payments are expected to be made in hard currency within a decade and Access to Cash has urged the Government to ensure in the next

Budget that cash remains available for some sectors of society.

Shoppers at the cashless Tesco in High Holborn, London, agree that areas outside metropolitan areas will be hit the hardest.

"In places like this it doesn't matter but in communities I think it's a bad idea," says builder Tim Walker, 52.

"My father is 82 and he would never be able to manage without cash – he can't even remember his pin number – and you will find there is a good cohort of people, certainly for the next 20 years, that'll need it."

Tesco, which introduced its first cashless store at its Welwyn Garden City HQ in Hertfordshire in 2018, revealed that cash now makes up just 20 per cent of consumer purchases.

"There are individuals who are solely reliant on cash and they are perhaps already the most isolated and invisible to society," says Jane Vass, director of policy and research at Age UK.

"This can be the sort of thing that tips a person over the threshold into needing formal care. "There is also the question of

dignity. People want to manage their own affairs.

"For individuals with dementia, having that little bit of cash in their pocket without having to use a card is tangible.

"People of all ages use cash because then they can budget.

"It's not so easy to find out how much you've spent on a Chip and Pin system."

CONTACTLESS buses are already becoming commonplace – Newport in Wales joined the cashless scheme at the weekend.

Meanwhile, Age UK has found that two fifths of local councils now only accept claims for rent and council tax support via their websites.

Mae and her neighbours in Barton live in one of the most deprived communities in England and Wales.

A quarter of the 5,500 residents is over 65 and they were encouraged to withdraw small amounts of cash

Stephen Crabb MP fears "cash deserts" in UK

As Tesco opens another card-only supermarket, charges on ATM withdrawals and bank closures are putting the most vulnerable in society at risk

as a way of budgeting by Barton Community Association.

Sandra Holden, the association's company secretary, says the community went into panic when the ATM fee was introduced in December 2019.

"One man told me, 'I'm going to be facing charges of almost £30 a month if I follow your advice'," she says.

"It hit us in the face that our guidance to them was now the wrong thing to do."

Since the UK's biggest cash machine operator Link set up a £1million community fund for so-called cash deserts last October – with the aim of providing between 100 and 200 new cash machines – it has received 3,400 requests.

Barton has been provisionally granted a free machine, with a final decision expected within the next fortnight.

Nick Quinn, head of final inclusion at Link, says private operators of their machines levy charges to cover running costs.

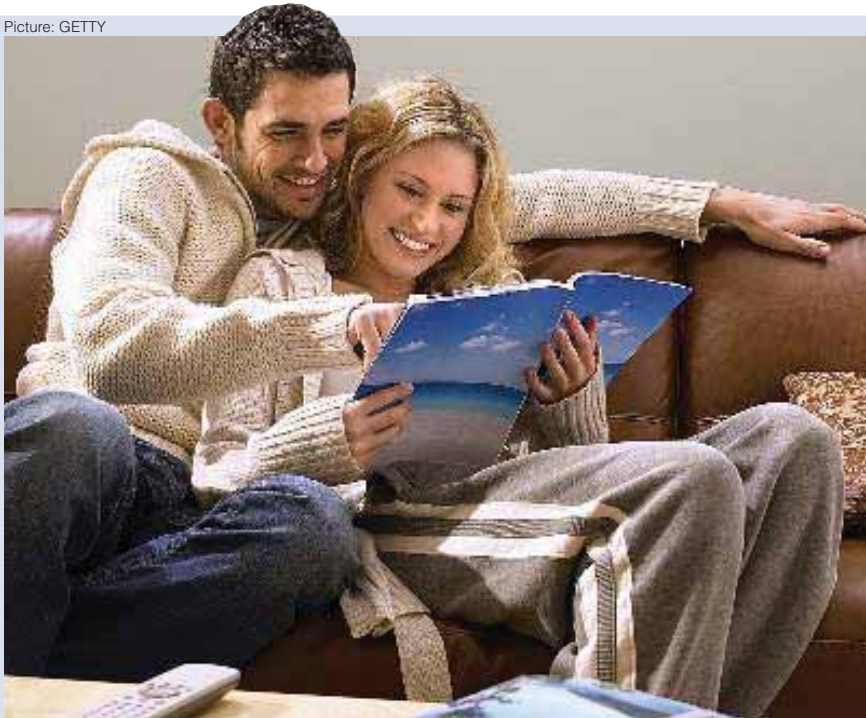
Link wants consumers to be able to access free cash-back in stores – a scheme that Visa is also already trialling.

Picture: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER/REUTERS

Your Money

Edited by Harvey Jones
email: harvey.jones@reachplc.com

Picture: GETTY



GREAT ESCAPE: Holidaymakers are pressing on with their plans, but are opting for pricier cover

Travel insurance flying off shelves as virus fears grow

SALES of travel insurance have surged as holidaymakers press on with their Easter travel plans despite coronavirus worries, as they want maximum protection in case something goes wrong.

Sales leapt by 300 per cent last week according to TopCashback, while GoCompare Travel Insurance reported a similar spike.

TopCashback's UK director Adam Bullock pinned the upsurge on growing coronavirus concerns, as airlines cancel flights to countries deemed high risk.

Rather than buying the cheapest policies, holidaymakers are investing more money on pricier policies, to boost their chances of a payout, spending 45 per cent more than usual. "Always check what your policy actually covers, before making a decision to buy," Bullock said.

Sally Jaques, head of business

development at GoCompare, said with the deadly infection's spread showing no sign of easing ahead of the Easter break, travellers must buy cover now: "The key message is to put your travel insurance in place as soon as you have booked."

If you have insurance and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against travel to your destination, your policy should pay out: "If you buy cover after the FCO has listed your destination as no travel, your insurer will not pay."

Similarly, travellers already in restricted zones and trying to leave will be covered, but anyone who attempts to travel to a restricted area risks invalidating their policy.

If you are worried about the virus and want to cancel your trip, your insurer may only refund your cancellation where a warning has been issued for your destination.

Draw pensions down carefully as shares crash

THE stock market crash could prove the first major test for retired people who have taken advantage of pension freedom reforms to keep their money invested in the market through income drawdown.

Reforms introduced in April 2015 waived the obligation to buy an annuity with your pension at retirement, freeing the over 55s to cash in their pensions, or leave them in the stock market to grow further.

The coronavirus has triggered the first major crash since the financial crisis and investors may find they have 10 to 15 per cent less money to withdraw than just a week ago, despite yesterday's tentative recovery.

Andrew Tully, technical director at Canada Life, said those who draw money from their pension funds will be "crystallising" their paper losses and turning them into real ones.

That money will not benefit when markets recover, further depleting the value of your pot.

Tully urged savers to delay withdrawals by topping up their income from assets that have

By **Harvey Jones**

escaped the crash: "Many people hold a cash buffer, often around two years' worth of income, and this could insulate you from recent falls."

Alternatively, only withdraw the natural yield from your investments, rather than selling the underlying capital.

Tully said history shows that after significant falls, markets often bounce back quickly: "You may be in drawdown for 20 or 25 years, and should expect market volatility over such a length of time, but the risks are real and you need to plan for them."

Romi Savova, chief executive of PensionBee, said making pension withdrawals now could inflict long-term damage to your wealth: "However, if your drawdown plan is properly diversified, with money in cash, property, gold and bonds, you will have automatic protection."

Some pension plans automatically de-risk your portfolio as you approach retirement, moving steadily out of equities: "Those nearing retirement or already in

drawdown may be surprised to find that their savings are already invested in lower-risk funds."

Although annuities have fallen out of favour, buying one with part of your pension can offer peace of mind as they give you a guaranteed income regardless of what happens to stock markets.

This is not the time to make the shift, though. "Annuity rates are still low by historical standards, while cashing in your pension to buy an annuity after recent falls will buy you an even lower income," Savova added.

Aviva head of savings and retirement Alistair McQueen said that while share prices are down roughly 10 per cent since the start of the year, they actually rose a similar amount in the final six months of 2019.

Also, the news headlines may not reflect your own situation, as they only report on major indices, such as the FTSE 100.

If you have other sources of income, such as final salary pension or rent from a property, McQueen suggested relying on them for a while, and pausing drawdown withdrawals.

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Cash in on savings reward

By **Harvey Jones**

PEOPLE need to get back into the savings habit and there are some exciting incentives out there for those willing to put money away regularly.

Building society Nationwide has launched a new savings account and cash Isa, which aim to keep savers motivated with draws offering prizes from £100 to £20,000.

The Government already offers cash bonuses for low earners through the Help to Save scheme, and for younger savers through the Lifetime

Isa. Given today's low interest rates, savers will want to consider every incentive that is open to them.

PRIZE CASH ISA

Nationwide reckons it has found an antidote to low interest rates, by offering prize draws to savers.

Its Start to Save account pays 1 per cent a year with quarterly prizes of £100, while its Triple Access Online Isa rate pays 1.21 per cent with a one-off draw on May 21.

On that day, savers will be eligible for 60 prizes worth £500,000 in total,

Picture: GETTY



NEST EGG: Make it a habit

including 10 worth £20,000. Personal finance expert Andrew Hagger from MoneyComms said: "This is likely to prove popular, particularly as you only need to deposit a maximum of £100 to qualify."

Other easy access accounts pay slightly more than Nationwide, with Al Rayan bank paying 1.35 per cent, Virgin Money 1.31 per cent and Leeds Building Society 1.30 per cent.

HELP TO SAVE

The Government-backed Help to Save scheme is designed to help those on low incomes. It gives them a bonus of 50p for every £1 saved, up to a maximum £50 a month. Savers could pay in a maximum £2,400 over the four-year term, which would net them a £1,200 bonus.

Ministers claimed 3.5 million could benefit but latest figures show just 162,000 accounts opened in total.

AJ Bell senior analyst Tom Selby said: "If you are on benefits and struggling to make ends meet, even a significant savings carrot like this will make little difference."

Hargreaves Lansdown personal

finance analyst Sarah Coles said the bonus is worth claiming if you are eligible: "Help to Save is available to anyone entitled to working tax credit or universal credit."

LIFETIME ISA

The Lifetime Isa was designed to help younger people save towards a property deposit or retirement by giving them £1 for each £4 they put away, worth £1,000 on the maximum £4,000 a year investment.

You must be between 18 and 39 to set one up, but can keep claiming the bonus on money you pay in to age 50.

The £4,000 annual limit forms part of your overall £20,000 Isa allowance, rather than going on top, with all income and gains free of tax.

Savers can use it to buy a first home worth up to £450,000. Alternatively, they can save towards retirement, but if they touch it before age 60 they face a 25 per cent penalty. Coles said: "It's a valuable tax break."

AJ Bell, Hargreaves Lansdown, Nutmeg, OneFamily, Scottish Friendly, Skipton Building Society and others offer Lifetime Isas.



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JUDITH Wade and Laurie Barnett, the owners of wedding business Epernay Bridal, know all about perfect matches.

Brides-to-be are saying a big "Yes" to their dresses and their own dream of becoming entrepreneurs has come true, while partnerships with other small suppliers, so they can offer a full wedding service, have blossomed.

A local fanbase is gathering momentum too thanks to Epernay's boutique and dazzling window displays in Gosforth, north Newcastle, where the business is boosting "shop local" retail.

After 18 months trading in a market dominated by established players, the women forecast a £50,000 turn-over in 2022.

Targeting wedding fairs and events to gain maximum exposure, they are now the exclusive stockist in the North East for Hayley Paige, the delicately sophisticated designer label and US TV wedding show darling, and Epernay's gown range (from £1,000 to £5,000) offers glamour and individuality for first and second-time brides.

It is all social media gold, explains Barnett. "They find us after following Hayley Paige, it's our most successful line.



Maisha Frost

Mostly our brides have local connections but one was an American, part of the Disney On Ice show cast that was on tour.

"The bridal industry is perfect for Instagram and Pinterest. We look for gaps in ranges and then try to include them – for example boat necks."

Findings from the British Business Bank announced today, based on the number of start-up loans issued last year, suggest the North East is the most entrepreneurial region in the UK for women.

So far Wade and Barnett have funded their appointment-only business from family support, but getting more backing, so they can scale up, is on the to-do list. For them however, the motiva-



BRIGHT BUSINESS IDEAS:
Judith and Laurie

tion to "give it a go" was the collapse in physical retail they witnessed first-hand while working for major beauty brands and their shared ambitions.

"As online kicked in, customers fell away," says Wade. "Our eyes were opened to the commitment required, but our skills made us confident we could give customers the special all-round service they wanted."

"We saw Epernay was for sale, the location had huge potential so we went for it. We refurbished, added new designers and make every day a special event for customers."

"Our decision to stay open late,

even on Saturday, has been very popular," adds Barnett.

"But we are still small and every no-show appointment hits us. A big challenge is choosing our sample gowns, to maintain a designer collection you must update with minimum orders. It is a big expense but the only way to be competitive."

Curvy and plus-size brides will be the focus of Wade and Barnett's next style adventure. "There is definitely an opportunity for a designer in this ignored field," they say. "We want to hear from them."

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CURRENT ACCOUNTS

IN-CREDIT INTEREST

Provider	Account	% AER	📍 🏠 📞 ✉️
Nationwide	Flex Direct Account (Standard)	5.0% variable	• • • •
Bank of Scotland	Classic Account with Vantage (Standard)	1.5% variable	• • • •
Santander	123 Account*	1.5% variable	• • • •
Tesco Bank	Current Account (Standard)	1.0% variable	• •
Lloyds Bank	Club Lloyds (Standard)*	0.99% variable	• • • •

*annual fee applies

SWITCHING INCENTIVE

Provider	Account	Incentive	📍 🏠 📞 ✉️
HSBC	Advance Bank Account (Standard)	£175	• • • •
First Direct	1st Account (Standard)*	£100	• • • •
HSBC	Bank Account (Standard)	£75	• • • •
M&S Bank	Current Account (Standard)	Vouchers	• • • •

*annual fee applies

CREDIT CARDS

BALANCE TRANSFER

Provider	Card	0% Period	Fee	Rep APR
Sainsbury's Bank	29 Month BT Credit Card	29 months	2.74%	19.9% variable
Virgin Money	29 Month BT Credit Card	29 months	3.00%	21.9% variable
M&S Bank	Transfer Plus Offer Credit Card	28 months	2.85%	19.9% variable
Virgin Money	27 Month BT Credit Card	27 months	1.45%	21.9% variable
Sainsbury's Bank	Dual Offer Credit Card	27 months	3.00%	20.9% variable

PURCHASE

Provider	Card	0% Period	Rep APR
Sainsbury's Bank	Dual Offer Credit Card	27 months	20.9% variable
Barclaycard	Platinum 27 Month Credit Card	27 months	21.9% variable
Virgin Money	23 Month All Round Credit Card	20 months	21.9% variable
M&S Bank	Shopping Plus Offer Credit Card	20 months	19.9% variable
HSBC	Purchase Plus Credit Card	18 months	22.9% variable

LOANS

BASED ON £10,000 OVER FIVE YEARS

Provider	Product	Rep APR	Total amount payable	Monthly repayment
Cahoot	Personal Loan	2.8%	£10,718.40	£178.64
M&S Bank	Personal Loan	2.9%	£10,744.20	£179.07
Sainsbury's Bank	Personal Loan	2.9%	£10,744.20	£179.07
Tesco	Personal Loan	3.0%	£10,770.60	£179.51
Santander	Personal Loan	3.0%	£10,770.60	£179.51

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SAVINGS

EASY ACCESS

Provider	Product	AER	Interest freq.	📍 🏠 📞 ✉️
Monmouthshire Building Society	First Home Bonus Saver Issue 2	5.00% variable	Yrly	• • •
Hanley Economic BS	Home Deposit Saver	3.10% variable	Yrly	• • •
Kent Reliance	2 Year Tracker Bond Issue 7	1.50% variable	Mthly	• • •
Newbury BS	Welcome to Newbury	1.50% variable	Yrly	• • •
Cynergy Bank	Online Easy Access Account	1.31% variable	Anniv	•

FIXED RATE

Provider	Product	AER	Interest freq.	📍 🏠 📞 ✉️
PCF Bank	7 Year Term Deposit (Issue 11)	2.15% fixed	Yrly	• • •
Gatehouse Bank	5 Year Fixed Term Deposit	2.10% fixed	Maturity	•
Aldermore	5 Year Fixed Rate Account	2.00% fixed	Mthly	•
Bank of London & The Middle East	5 Year Premier Deposit Account	2.00% fixed	Yrly	•
Bank of London & The Middle East	7 Year Premier Deposit Account	2.00% fixed	Yrly	•

CASH ISA

Provider	Product	AER	Interest freq.	📍 🏠 📞 ✉️
Teachers Building Society	Education ISA (Issue 1)	1.40% variable	Yrly	• • •
Al Rayan Bank	Instant Access Cash ISA	1.35% variable	Mthly	• • • •
Swansea BS	Cash ISA	1.35% variable	Yrly	• • •
Virgin Money	Double Take E-ISA (Issue 14)	1.31% variable	Mthly	•
Teachers Building Society	Cash ISA Notice 90 (Issue 10)	1.30% variable	Yrly	• • •

MORTGAGES

FIRST TIME BUYER

Provider	Product	Interest rate	Initial term	APRC	Fees	Max LTV
Furness BS	2 yr Discount Variable	2.69% variable THEN 5.79% variable	2 Years	5.4%	£265	95%
Chorley BS	5 yr Discount Variable	2.80% variable THEN 5.74% variable	5 Years	4.7%	£1,188	90%
Yorkshire BS	Fixed - repayment	2.14% fixed THEN 4.99% variable	2 yr Fixed	4.3%	£35	95%
Coventry	Fixed - repayment	2.15% fixed THEN 4.99% variable	31/03/25	4.0%	£1007	90%

REMORTGAGE

Provider	Product	Interest rate	Initial term	APRC	Fees	Max LTV
Furness BS	Variable - repayment	1.69% variable THEN 5.79% variable	2 Years	5.2%	£1,019	80%
Leeds BS	Variable - repayment	1.39% variable THEN 5.69% variable	2 Years	5.0%	£1,034	60%
Santander	Fixed - repayment	1.19% fixed THEN 4.00% variable	2 Years	3.7%	£1,034	60%
HSBC	Fixed - repayment	1.41% fixed THEN 4.19% variable	5 Years	3.2%	£1,516	60%

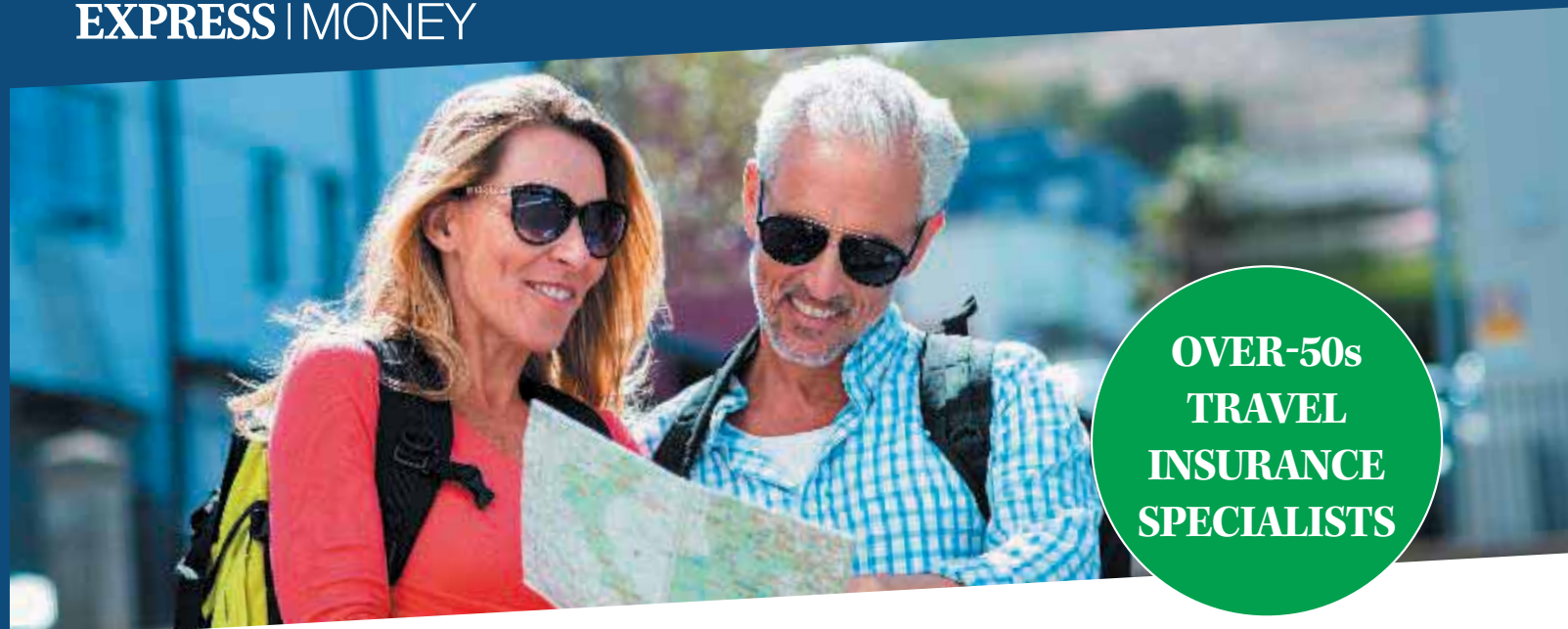
ENERGY

Provider	Product	Payment Type	Price*
Yorkshire Energy	Yorkshire Energy Variable	Monthly Fixed Direct Debit	£782.36
Orbit Energy	Vari-Save Extra	Monthly Fixed Direct Debit	£782.59
Utility Point	Just Up 20 Wk06 Direct v2	Monthly Fixed Direct Debit	£784.38
Outfox the Market	Fix'D 20 4.0 - Paperless	Monthly Fixed Direct Debit	£791.24
Avro Energy	Simple and Superfixed	Monthly Fixed Direct Debit	£808.64

*price based on a medium dual fuel user.

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Cole's mining for gossip

IT'S been a while, by which I mean a good few days, since ITV have brought us one of their Dramas Set In A Tightly Knit Coastal Community Whose Residents Are Harboured All Manner Of Dark Secrets.

But I'm delighted to report the wait is over. Starting tonight is a new six-parter, **THE TROUBLE WITH MAGGIE COLE** (9pm), with an excellent cast including Dawn French, Mark Heap, Vicki Pepperdine and the obligatory Couple Of People Who Used To Be In Corrie.

And is it any good? Well, at the risk of subjecting yet another



Mike Ward
previews
tonight's TV

drama to my kiss of death, I'm going to say yes, albeit with reservations.

The trouble with *The Trouble With Maggie Cole* is it takes a while to figure out what it's meant to be, where it's going or whether we'll want to go with it, even though it looks jolly pretty so the chances are we will. Dawn

French plays a gift shop owner who fancies herself as a local historian but who is essentially a nosy parker, busybody and all-round irritant.

And for rather too long we wonder what exactly her point is, at least in terms of the story.

It's only when Maggie is asked if she'd like to do an interview with a local radio reporter, ostensibly to talk about the village of Thurlbury's 500th anniversary – which, being Maggie, she obviously very much would – that we start to see catastrophe looming.

Meeting her in the pub, the radio rotter sneakily plies her with several oversized gin and tonics,

paid for on his expense account, then persuades the lubricated, loose-tongued Maggie to spill all manner of beans, gossip-wise.

When this goes out on air, and is heard by the entire neighbourhood... well, imagine.

The whole thing is, of course, entirely implausible. Local radio stations, odd as this may seem, tend not to be terribly keen on stirring up hatred among their listeners, nor indeed on broadcasting blatant libel.

On top of which, we're expected to believe this one has an audience reach of... well, absolutely everyone and they're all tuned in at exactly the same time. Oh, and an

expenses budget. Hilarious! Even so, as I say, *The Trouble With Maggie Cole* will almost certainly keep me hooked. After a bit of a plodding start, the fallout from Maggie's phenomenal faux-pas promises to be magnificent.

And even if it isn't, the scenery's lovely.

Elsewhere, BBC4 starts a new series called **THE VICTORIAN HOUSE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS** (8pm), reviving a remote 19th-century commune in the Welsh hills.

And Channel 5 asks: **HEALTH FOODS: ARE THEY A CON?** (8pm). To which I reply: "Oh, God knows. Probably. Happy now?"

PICKS OF THE DAY



Health: 100 Kilo Kids: Obesity SOS, C4, 9pm

This is an eye-opening watch that will leave the majority fearing the worst for the next generation. Cameras follow patients in the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, Britain's leading childhood obesity clinic, a last resort for young people living with extreme obesity. Fourteen-year-old Tommy (left) is one of the clinic's heaviest patients and, despite 18 months of treatment, his weight is spiralling out of control. Is there anything anyone can do to help him shed some of his excess weight? Elsewhere, five-year-old Liliana's extreme appetite is a cause for concern as fears grow about her development on physical and emotional levels.



Animals: Tigers: Hunting The Traffickers, BBC2, 9pm

If you are not familiar with Aldo Kane (left) then we suggest you do a quick internet search and learn a little bit more about this remarkable man. Here, he reports on the illegal tiger trade in South East Asia, with the endangered big cats trafficked for products including wine and glue – made from their bones. Kane works alongside wildlife crime investigators marshalling the key trafficking routes in Malaysia, China, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, and uncovers shocking footage.



Film: Beverly Hills Cop II, ITV4, 9pm

Acid-tongued cop Axel Foley returns to Los Angeles to investigate the shooting of an old friend, and uncovers a connection with a spate of violent robberies carried out by a criminal who leaves a mysterious calling card. Comedy thriller sequel, with Eddie Murphy (above) and Judge Reinhold. While Murphy does carry the BH Cop franchise, Reinhold's performance is key to allowing him to shine.



Soap: Coronation Street, ITV, 7.30pm & 8.30pm

Daniel (Rob Mallard, above left) vows to prove his devotion to Bethany but, coming straight from the Rovers, will his actions hit the right note? Given that we see her prepare to leave Weatherfield at the end of the second instalment, perhaps not. A furious Alya suspects Ray is behind some nasty reviews about Speed Daal and she resolves to do some digging and find out who wrote the harsh words.

Comedy: Home, C4, 10pm

The second series of this brilliant comedy series has just two episodes to run including tonight's, so make the most of it while it is still here. Peter tries to hold the family together and Katy is consumed with self-loathing as she prepares for her misconduct hearing at school. Meanwhile, Sami becomes desperate to find a way to leave the UK. Starring Youssef Kerkour, Rufus Jones and Rebekah Staton (right). Every credit to Jones for his work on this script; he admitted himself it was a "terrifying" challenge.



DID YOU KNOW? Scottish adventurer Aldo Kane is a former Royal Marines Commando sniper, who joined the service aged 16 and served in Northern Ireland, Iraq during the 2003 invasion, and Afghanistan.

EXPRESS | TRAVEL

André Rieu

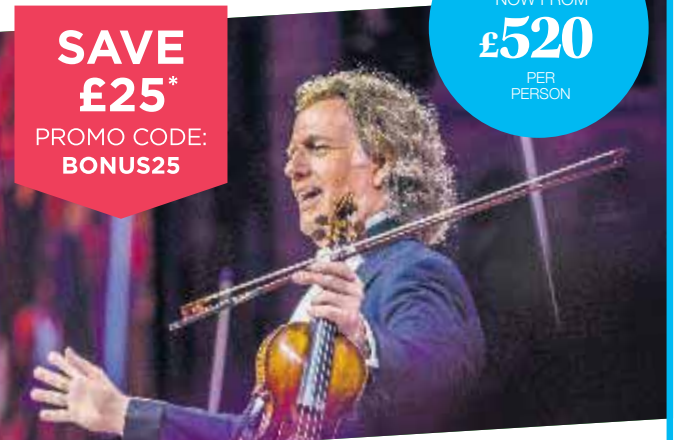
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BBC One	BBC Two	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.00 Breakfast Headlines. 9.15 Britain's Housing Scandal An empty eyecore which is transformed into homes. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer Property auctions. (R) 11.00 Wanted Down Under (R) 11.45 Saved on Camera Petrol station workers in Birmingham save a woman from car jackers. 12.15 Bargain Hunt In Newbury. (R) 1.00 BBC News at One; Weather 1.30 BBC Local News; Weather 1.45 Doctors Part two of two. Rob and Karen have to deal with new developments in relation to Abz, while Zara gets involved with a Student Radio phone in. 2.15 Jimmy McGovern's Moving On Five dramas linked by the central theme of moving on. Today, a former rugby league legend is blackmailed by his ex who threatens to reveal a secret. 3.00 Escape to the Country Nicki Chapman helps a Croydon-based couple find a Cornish home. (R) 3.45 Money for Nothing Sarah Moore salvages three items from Woking Recycling Centre in Surrey. 4.30 Ready Steady Cook 5.15 Pointless Quiz show. (R) 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather 6.30 BBC Local News; Weather 6.55 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party. (R)	6.30 Money for Nothing (R) 7.15 Ready Steady Cook (R) 8.00 Sign Zone: See Hear 8.30 Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo reaches Bodmin en route to Totnes. (R) 9.00 BBC News at 9 Headlines. 10.00 Victoria Derbyshire 11.00 BBC Newsroom Live 11.15 Politics Live Political updates. 1.00 Hardball Quiz show. (R) 1.45 Best House in Town (R) 2.30 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip From York. (R) 3.00 Red Rock Keith learns Alice has good reason to clean up her act. Tension between Angela and Ash escalates. (R) 3.45 The Great Interior Design Challenge Two designers vie for a place in the quarter final. (R) 4.45 Portillo's State Secrets (R) 5.15 Flog It! A special episode revisiting some of the historic venues visited during this series. (R) 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With former winners Chizzy Akudolu, Miles Jupp, Anol Rajan and Ellie Taylor. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo continues his journey from Northern Ireland across the water to Scotland. Leaving from the seaport of Larne, he reaches Stranraer and the Mull of Galloway. (R)	6.00 Good Morning Britain News, current affairs, lifestyle and entertainment features. 9.00 Lorraine Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news. 10.00 This Morning A mix of celebrity chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. 12.30 Loose Women Topical studio debate from a female perspective. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News 1.55 Local News; Weather 2.00 Judge Rinder Cameras follow criminal barrister Robert Rinder as he takes on real-life cases in a studio courtroom. 3.00 Tenable Quiz hosted by Warwick Davis in which five members of a ukulele band answer questions about top 10 lists from the realms of pop culture and general knowledge. (R) 4.00 Tipping Point Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot. 5.00 The Chase Bradley Walsh presents as contestants Richard, Kati, Lisa and Geoff work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. 6.00 Local News; Weather 6.25 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party. 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather	6.30 Cheers Double bill. (R) 7.20 The King of Queens (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond Double bill of the sitcom. (R) 9.10 Frasier Double bill. (R) 10.10 Undercover Boss Canada (R) 11.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary 12.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) 1.05 Posh Pawn Documentary. (R) 2.10 Countdown Word game. 3.00 A Place in the Sun Gary and Carol from Kent seek a home in Aquitaine, France, so house-hunting expert Laura Hamilton tries to find them the perfect property. (R) 4.00 A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? Catching up with owners of a boat charter company in Spain who struggled in their first season. 5.00 Come Dine with Me Four contestants in Leicestershire compete for the £1,000 prize – careers advisor Kate, careworker Mike, flight attendant Jessica and international businessman John. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons Bart betrays Milhouse during Springfield Elementary's sports day, and Homer tries to save the 4th of July fireworks when they are cancelled. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks Nancy is furious when Darren forgets to pick up Oscar from school. (R)	6.00 Milkshake! Children's shows. 9.15 Jeremy Vine Talk show. 11.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords A landlord who tried to evict a tenant for withholding rent payments. (R) 12.10 5 News at Lunchtime 12.15 Paddington Station 24/7 Engineers at Cowley Bridge insert 24 culverts to ease flooding. (R) 1.10 Access Showbiz news. 1.15 Home and Away See 6.00pm. 1.45 Neighbours See 5.30pm. 2.15 FILM Secrets in a Small Town (2019/PG) The daughter of a high-school vice-principal goes missing after attending a party for a basketball team. Fact-based thriller, starring Kate Drummond. ★★★ 4.00 Friends Double bill. Ross makes a sacrifice for Rachel; and Joey's play gets terrible reviews. (R) 5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines. 5.30 Neighbours Paul discovers that Jane's catfish is his old adversary Mannix Foster, but faces a counter-threat when he confronts him. Paige reveals a shocking truth after standing Mark up. (R) 6.00 Home and Away Tori goes home, and learns that Leah is missing. After asking Scott to arrange a meeting with Victor and Des, Robbo spends quality time with Jasmine. (R) 6.30 5 News Tonight Headlines.



There is a 1 in 9.7 chance of winning a prize and the top jackpot has **QUADRUPLED** to **£100,000!**



7 PM 7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, featuring the latest topical stories of interest from around the UK, plus celebrity interviews in the studio. Presented by Alex Jones and Matt Baker. 7.30 LIVE Match of the Day: The FA Cup Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester City (Kick-off 7.45pm). Gary Lineker presents all the action from tonight's fifth-round tie at Hillsborough, which is followed by the draw for the sixth round. Wednesday have already defeated one Premier League side in Brighton & Hove Albion away in the third round, but face a daunting task against the holders, who scored four against both Port Vale and Fulham in their previous games in this season's competition. With analysis from Alan Shearer and Micah Richards.	7.00 The Andrew Neil Show The presenter returns for another round of interviews, discussion and analysis from Westminster, including the latest on Brexit with a range of guests dropping in to give their opinions on events.	7.00 Emmerdale Marlon feels betrayed by the Dingles, Harriet is annoyed, and Kim finds herself in deep water. 7.30 Coronation Street Daniel resolves to prove his devotion to Bethany, and Tyrone's act of kindness misleads Jade.	7.00 Channel 4 News The latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of topical political developments and current affairs. Plus, a look at the day's leading sports stories as well as up-to-the-minute weather reports.	7.00 Secrets of the Royal Palaces Behind-the-scenes stories of the British monarchy's residences, with an interior designer to the stars revealing what he found in the drawers of Buckingham Palace. (R); 5 News Update.
8 PM 8.00 Saving Lives at Sea The Royal National Lifeboat Institution volunteers race to rescue two teenagers stuck in mud in Cleethorpes on the Humber estuary before the incoming tide overwhelms them. Last in series.	8.00 Harry Redknapp's Sandbanks Summer Harry Redknapp welcomes Nick Knowles and Rita Simons.	8.00 Harry Redknapp's Sandbanks Summer Harry Redknapp welcomes Nick Knowles and Rita Simons.	8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer meet Christine Attwood and Tony Congdon in Purley, Croydon, who need help deciding whether they should sell or upgrade their unusual bungalow. (R)	8.00 Health Foods: Are They a Con? Paul Connolly and Jean Johansson lift the lid on health foods and other products, meeting a family who may be falling for some of the supermarket branding tricks; 5 News Update.
9 PM 9.00 Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers Aldo Kane works with wildlife crime investigators to report on the illegal tiger trade in South East Asia, with the endangered cats trafficked for products including wine and glue made from their bones.	9.00 The Trouble with Maggie Cole Six-part drama following the lives of residents in the close-knit coastal resort of Thurlbury. Starring Dawn French, Mark Heap, Jamie Talbot and Julie Hesmondhalgh.	9.00 NEW The Trouble with Maggie Cole Six-part drama following the lives of residents in the close-knit coastal resort of Thurlbury. Starring Dawn French, Mark Heap, Jamie Talbot and Julie Hesmondhalgh.	9.00 100 Kilo Kids: Obesity SOS Documentary following patients in Britain's leading childhood obesity clinic, including fourteen-year-old Tommy, who despite 18 months of treatment, his weight is spiralling out of control	9.00 Sarah Payne: 5 Mistakes That Caught a Killer The murder of Sarah Payne, an eight-year-old girl who was killed by Roy Whiting in 2000, and the mistakes he made that led to him being arrested and locked up for life.
10 PM 10.00 BBC News at Ten 10.25 BBC Local News; National Lottery Update. 10.35 Eating with My Ex Daisha wants to know why Luchiano left in the middle of the night, and Andy wants to rekindle with ex-boyfriend Blair.	10.00 Live at the Apollo Sarah Millican introduces stand-up sets by comedians Tom Allen and Arj Barker at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather Analysis of the day's events, presented by Emily Maitlis.	10.00 ITV News at Ten A fresh perspective on the major news stories of the day. 10.30 Local News; Weather 10.45 Peston Political magazine show presented by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures.	10.00 Home Peter tries to hold the family together, and Katy prepares for her misconduct hearing at school. 10.30 Gogglebox Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from their own sofas. (R)	10.00 Millionaire Age Gap Love Documentary focusing on the popularity of age-gap relationships among the super-rich, meeting six millionaire couples who are decades apart, as well as two millionaires looking for love.
11 PM 11.05 Fight Dirty Two teams of housemates compete to clean each others' homes. 11.35 Killing Eve Villanelle lures Eve to Berlin by using the agent's name while carrying out the murder of a Chinese army colonel. (R)	11.15 Win the Wilderness: Alaska The two remaining couples pay a visit to the empty property without Duane and Rena, to get a sense of what their new life in the wilderness will really be like, and tensions are beginning to emerge. (R)	11.40 Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods A report from the communities that were hardest hit by the recent storms Ciara and Dennis. With behind the scenes access to the Environment Agency, as they work to stem flooding. (R)	11.35 First Dates Recruitment consultant Chloe sits down with 'geezer' Anthony, who believes his cheeky wink can charm any woman. Actor Josh seeks a leading lady and father Rob is paired with former Butlin's Redcoat Donna. (R)	11.05 The Chocolate Challenge with The Hairy Bikers Budding chocolatiers compete for the chance to make their own chocolate bar that will be manufactured and sold by one of the biggest chocolate companies in the world.
12 midnight 12.20am Killing Eve The MI5 officer undertakes her first surveillance operation, and Villanelle is sent to England to eliminate a member of British Intelligence – without knowing who the target is. Spy thriller, starring Jodie Comer. (R) 1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.10-6.00am BBC News	12.15am Sign Zone: See Hear Behind the scenes at a new deaf led storyline being made for the drama, Casualty. (R) 12.45 Universal Credit: Inside the Welfare State (R) 1.45 Hospital. Patients are transported across Liverpool as part of a NHS trust merger. (R) 2.45-6.30am This Is BBC Two	12.30am Home Shopping 3.00 Broadchurch. Ellie and Hardy start to investigate Trish's life and talk to her ex-husband, her best friend's partner and a taxi driver – all of whom were in the area when the attack took place. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen 5.05-6.00am Judge Rinder. Real-life cases. (R)	12.30am The Windsors (R) 1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) 1.50 My Family and the Galapagos (R) 2.45 Come Dine with Me. From Brighton (R) 3.40 Grand Designs (R) 4.35 Location, Location, Location (R) 5.35 Kirstie's Vintage Gems (R) 5.50-6.30am Countdown (R)	12.05am Chocolate Challenge: The Final with The Hairy Bikers 1.00 The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show 3.00 Access 3.10 The Hotel Inspector: Checking In, Checking Out (R) 4.00 Tattoo Disasters UK (R) 4.45 House Doctor (R) 5.10 Nick's Quest (R) 5.35-6.00am Wildlife SOS (R)

(R) REPEAT

Dave

- 6.00 **Teleshopping**
 7.10 **Cops UK: Bodycam Squad**
 8.00 **American Pickers**
 9.00 **Storage Hunters UK**
 9.30 **Storage Hunters UK**
 10.00 **American Pickers**
 11.00 **American Pickers**
 12.00 **Timber Kings**
 1.00 **Top Gear** With Billie Piper.
 2.00 **Cops UK: Bodycam Squad**
 3.00 **Sin City Motors**
 4.00 **Top Gear** Double bill.
 6.00 **Taskmaster** Gameshow.
 7.00 **Room 101** Double bill.
 8.20 **Have I Got A Bit More Old News For You** Extended edition.
 9.20 **QI** Comedy quiz show.
 10.00 **Hypothetical**
 11.00 **Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit**
 12.00 **Taskmaster** Gameshow.
 1.00 **Have I Got A Bit More Old News For You** 2.15 Jon Richardson: Ultimate Worrier 3.00 Zapped 3.35 The Indestructibles 4.00-6.00 Home Shopping

Drama

- 6.00 **Teleshopping**
 7.10 **Soldier, Soldier** Double bill.
 9.00 **The Bill** Police drama.
 10.00 **Classic Holby City**
 11.00 **Classic Casualty**
 12.00 **The Bill** Police drama.
 1.00 **Classic EastEnders**
 2.20 **London's Burning**
 3.20 **Monarch Of The Glen**
 4.20 **Bergerac** Detective drama.
 5.20 **Bread** Classic comedy.
 6.00 **Hi-de-Hi!** Classic comedy.
 6.40 **As Time Goes By**
 7.20 **Last Of The Summer Wine**
 8.00 **Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** A persecuted pensioner seeks his long-lost sister.
 9.00 **Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries** Peregrine investigates a murder at an cookery school.
 10.00 **New Tricks** Crime drama.
 11.15 **Waking The Dead**
 1.55 **The Bill** 2.45 London's Burning. Fire-fighting drama.
 4.00-6.00 Home Shopping

Gold

- 6.00 **Teleshopping**
 7.10 **The Piglet Files**
 8.00 **As Time Goes By**
 8.40 **The Good Life**
 9.20 **Porridge** Prison comedy.
 10.00 **Hi-de-Hi!** Classic sitcom.
 10.40 **Last Of The Summer Wine**
 12.40 **Keeping Up Appearances**
 1.20 **Porridge** Prison comedy.
 2.00 **Hi-de-Hi!** Classic sitcom.
 2.40 **Dad's Army** Triple bill.
 4.40 **Last Of The Summer Wine**
 6.40 **The Good Life** Comedy.
 7.20 **Porridge** Comedy.
 8.00 **Dad's Army** Double bill.
 9.20 **Mrs Brown's Boys**
 Rory and Dino have a bust-up.
 10.00 **Sandylands** Comedy drama.
 10.40 **Mrs Brown's Boys**
 11.20 **Peep Show** Double bill.
 12.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys** 1.10 Dad's Army 1.50 Peep Show 2.20 Peep Show 2.50 Marley's Ghosts 3.20 Marley's Ghosts 4.00-6.00 Home Shopping

Yesterday

- 6.00 **Ronnie Kray And The Pervert Peer** Documentary.
 7.10 **Secrets Of The Railways**
 8.00 **Forbidden History**
 9.00 **Secret Nazi Bases**
 10.00 **Nazi Victory: The Post-War Plan** Documentary.
 11.00 **Underground Worlds**
 12.00 **Impossible Railways**
 1.00 **Secrets Of Britain**
 2.00 **Walking Through History**
 3.00 **Underground Worlds**
 4.00 **Impossible Railways**
 5.00 **Secret Nazi Bases**
 6.00 **Nazi Victory: The Post-War Plan** Documentary.
 7.00 **Underground Worlds**
 8.00 **Impossible Engineering**
 9.00 **Porridge** Triple bill.
 10.55 **Impossible Railways**
 11.55 **Underground Worlds**
 12.55 **Nazi Victory: The Post-War Plan** 1.55 Ronnie Kray And The Pervert Peer 3.00-6.00 Home Shopping

RADIO 1

FM: 97.6-99.8 MHz

- 6.30 The Radio 1 Breakfast Show. 10.00 Clara Amfo. 12.45 Newsbeat. 1.00 Scott Mills. 4.00 Nick Grimshaw. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Nick Grimshaw. 7.00 Radio 1's Future Sounds. 9.00 9.00 Dev. 11.00 Radio 1's Indie Show with Easy. 1.00 Benji B. 3.00 Radio 1's RnB Anthems. 4.00-6.30 Early Breakfast With Adele Roberts.

RADIO 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz

- 5.00 Vanessa Feltz. 6.30 The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jeremy Vine. 2.00 Steve Wright In The Afternoon. 5.00 Sara Cox. 7.00 Jo Whiley. 9.00 The Folk Show With Mark Radcliffe. 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. 12.00 OJ Borg. 3.00-5.00 Pick Of The Pops.

RADIO 3

FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

- 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Essential Classics. 12.00 Composer Of The Week: Price. 1.00 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 Afternoon Concert. 3.30 Choral Evensong. 4.30 New Generation Artists. 5.00 In Tune. 7.00 In Tune Mixtape. 7.30 In Concert. 10.00 Free Thinking. 10.45 The Essay: Women Writers To Put Back On The Bookshelf. 11.00 Night Tracks. 12.30-6.30 Through The Night.

RADIO 4

FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198 kHz

- 5.30 News Briefing. 5.43 Prayer For The Day. 5.45 Farming Today. 5.58 Tweet Of The Day. 6.00 Today. 8.31 (LW) Yesterday In Parliament. 9.00 Only Artists. 9.30 The Curious Cases Of Rutherford & Fry. 9.45 (LW) Daily Service. 9.45 (FM) Book of the Week. 10.00 Woman's Hour. 10.55 The Listening Project. 11.00 Class Talk. 11.30 Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar. 12.01 (LW) Shipping Forecast. 12.04 Apeiron. 12.18 You And Yours. 1.00 The World At One. 1.45 The Californian Century. 2.00 The Archers. 2.15 Drama. 3.00 Money Box Live. 3.30 Inside Health. 4.00 Thinking Allowed. 4.30 The Media Show. 5.00 PM. 5.54 (LW) Shipping. 6.00 News. 6.30 Mark Watson Talks A Bit About Life. 7.00 The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 The Book Of Strange New Things. 8.00 The Moral Maze. 8.45 Lent Talks. 9.00 Costing The Earth. 9.30 Only Artists. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime. 11.00 Ken Cheng. 11.15 Cracking Up. 11.30 Today In Parliament. 12.00 News. 12.30 Book of the Week. 12.48 Shipping. 1.00 As BBC World Service. 5.20-5.30 Shipping.

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW: 909, 693 kHz

- 5.00 Morning Reports. 5.15 Wake Up To Money. 6.00 5 Live Breakfast. 9.00 Your Call. 10.00 The Emma Barnett Show. 1.00 Nihal Arthanayake. 4.00 5 Live Drive. 7.00 5 Live Sport. 7.45 5 Live Sport: FA Cup Football 2019-20. 10.30 Geoff Lloyd. 1.00-5.00 Up All Night.

talkSPORT

MW: 1053, 1089, 1071, 1107 kHz

- 5.00 Early Breakfast. 6.00 The Alan Brazil Sports Breakfast. 10.00 White And Sawyer. 1.00 Hawksbee And Jacobs. 4.00 Adrian Durham And Darren Gough. 7.00 Kick-off. 10.00 Sports Bar. 1.00-5.00 Extra Time With Paul Ross.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

on digital only

- 5.00 News. 5.06 The Newsroom. 5.30 Digital Planet. 6.00 Newsday. 8.30 Business Daily. 8.50

Variations

- BBC One Variations WALES: 6.55-7.00** Party Political Broadcast: By the Welsh Labour Party.
 10.30 BBC Wales Live: Weekly show. 11.00 Weather 11.05 Eating With My Ex 11.35 Fight Dirty 12.05 Killing Eve: Villanelle lures Eve to Berlin. 1.30-6.00 BBC News
BBC Two Variations WALES: 11.15 New Voices From Wales: A short film about the life and times of skateboarding photographer Skin Phillips.
 11.25-12.15 Snow Monkeys: Natural World: The lives of Japan's snow monkeys.
ITV Variations ITV WALES: 6.25-6.30 Party Political Broadcast: By the Welsh Labour Party.
S4C 6.00 Cyw 11.00 Dysgu Gyda Cyw 12.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 12.05 Ceffylau Cymru 12.30 Heno 1.00 Llwybrau'r Eirth 2.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 2.05 Prynhawn Da 3.00 Newyddion 3.05 Noson Lawen 4.00 Cyw Byw 5.00 Stwnsh: Y Brodyr Adrenalini 5.10 Stwnsh: Henri Helynt 5.20 Stwnsh: Bwystfil 5.30 Stwnsh: Coginio 5.50 Stwnsh: Ffeil 6.00 Adre 6.25 Darllediad Gwleidyddol Gan Llaifur Cymru 6.30 Heno 7.30 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 8.00 Pobol Y Cwm: Kelly leaves Cwmerdi as a result of the strain of the past year. 8.55 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 9.00 Ysgol Ni: Maesincla: Following a group of boys who meet every morning at the Breakfast Club. 10.00 Mwy O Sgorio: Reaction to the UEFA Nations League draw. 10.30-11.35 Priodas Pum Mil: Trystan Ellis-Morris and Emma Walford help a couple from Pwllheli.

Radio Choice

Mark Watson Talks a Bit About Life Radio 4, 6.30pm

The comedian and novelist returns with his series attempting to answer life's big questions. There will be a very high joke-per-minute rate, songs, improvised nonsense, and the

potential for mayhem. Mark is joined by the tuneful brilliance of Flo and Joan, and by other special guests as he examines the four seasons of the year, and in turn, the seasons of a human life. Today, he focuses on spring – a time of new beginnings, lambs and other clichés.

Witness History. 9.00 News. 9.06 The Documentary. 10.00 World Update. 11.00 The Newsroom. 11.30 The Documentary. 12.00 News. 12.06 Outlook. 1.00 The Newsroom. 1.30 The Compass. 2.00 Newshour. 3.00 News. 3.06 HARDtalk. 3.30 World Business Report. 4.00 BBC OS. 6.00 News. 6.06 Outlook. 7.00 News. 7.06 The Newsroom. 7.30 Sport Today. 8.00 News. 8.06 HARDtalk. 8.30

Healthcheck. 9.00 Newshour. 10.00 News. 10.06 The Newsroom. 10.20 Sports News. 10.30 World Business Report. 11.00 News. 11.06 The Compass. 11.30 The Documentary. 12.00 News. 12.06 The Documentary. 1.00 News. 1.06 Business Matters. 2.00 News. 2.06 The Newsroom. 2.30 The Documentary. 3.00 News. 3.06 Outlook. 4.00 News. 4.06 The Inquiry. 4.30-5.00 The Food Chain.

CLASSIC FM

FM: 100-102 MHz

- 6.00 More Music Breakfast. 9.00 John Suchet. 1.00 Anne-Marie Minhall. 5.00 Classic FM Drive. 7.00 Smooth Classics. 8.00 Full Works Concert. 10.00 Smooth Classics. 1.00-6.00 Sam Pittis.

ABSOLUTE RADIO

MW: 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz

- 6.00 Bush And Richie. 10.00 Leona Graham. 1.00 Sarah Champion. 4.00 Ben Burrell. 7.00 Danielle Perry. 10.00 Jay Lawrence. 1.00-6.00 Chris Martin.

RADIO WALES

MW: 882, 657 kHz FM: 93.9-95.9, 103.7-103.9 MHz

- 5.30 Science Cafe. 6.00 Radio Wales Breakfast With Claire Summers. 8.30 Jason Mohammad. 11.00 Wynne Evans. 2.00 Eleri Sion. 5.00 Gareth Lewis. 6.30 Eye On Wales. 7.00 Janice Long. 10.00 Chris Needs. 1.00-5.30 As BBC World Service.

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There are now **SEVEN** jackpots to be won each week with The Health Lottery!



16+ BeGambleAware.org Players must be 16 or over. Game rules and procedures apply. Excludes NI. Every £1 line for the £25,000 main lottery draw on Wednesday 04.03.2020 will also automatically be entered into the free prize draw to win £100,000. The free prize draw also takes place on 04.03.2020. For full T&Cs visit healthlottery.co.uk/terms/. The Health Lottery scheme manages 12 society lotteries that operate in rotation and each represents a different geographical region of Great Britain. This month's society lottery is Health Lottery North East & Cumbria. The Health Lottery™ logo is a registered trademark of The Health Lottery Ltd. For more details on which society lottery is running each month please visit www.healthlottery.co.uk or ask your Health Lottery retailer.

FILMS

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

Sky 301

6.00am The 2020 Top Ten Show 6.15 Tell It To The Bees (2018) (15) Drama, starring Holliday Grainger and Anna Paquin. **8.15 UFO (2018) (12)** Sci-fi action thriller, starring Gillian Anderson. **10.00 Straight Up (2019) (15)** Romantic comedy, starring Katie Findlay. **11.45 Godzilla: King Of The Monsters (2019) (12)** Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Vera Farmiga. **2.00pm The 2020 Top Ten Show 2.15 The Counterfeiter (2018) (15)** Premiere. Action thriller, starring Chow Yun-fat. **4.30 Killers Anonymous (2019) (15)** Crime mystery thriller, starring Gary Oldman. **6.15 Straight Up (2019) (15)** Romantic comedy, starring Katie Findlay. **8.00 Godzilla: King Of The Monsters (2019) (12)** Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Vera Farmiga. **10.15 The Counterfeiter (2018) (15)** Premiere. Following their failed attempts to apprehend a gang of counterfeiters in Hong Kong, the police turn to a gang member for help. Action thriller, starring Chow Yun-fat. **12.30am Mapplethorpe (2018) (18)** Biopic, starring Matt Smith. **2.20 Extracurricular (2018) (18)** Thriller, starring Keenan Tracey. **3.55 UFO (2018) (12)** Sci-fi thriller. **5.30 Final Score: Special.**

SKY CINEMA COMEDY

Sky 308

6.25am Twins (1988) (PG) With Arnold Schwarzenegger. **8.20 Happy Gilmore (1996) (12)** With Adam Sandler. **10.00 Sorry To Bother You (2018) (15)** With Lakeith Stanfield. **11.55 Blue Streak (1999) (12)** With Martin Lawrence. **1.35pm Head Full Of Honey (2018) (12)** With Nick Nolte. **4.05 Twins (1988) (PG)** With Arnold Schwarzenegger. **6.00 Little (2019) (12)** With Regina Hall. **8.00 Happy Gilmore (1996) (12)** With Adam Sandler. **9.45 Family (2019) (15)** With Taylor Schilling. **11.20 Crash Pad (2017) (15)** With Domhnall Gleeson. **1.00am Sorry To Bother You (2018) (15)** With Lakeith Stanfield. **3.00 Marriage Material (2017) (15)** With Jennifer Morrison. **5.00 Galaxy Quest (1999) (PG)**

SKY CINEMA ACTION

Sky 307

6.00am Final Score (2018) (15) With Dave Bautista. **8.00 Street Fighter (1994) (12)** With Jean-Claude Van Damme. **10.00 Speed (1994) (15)** With Keanu Reeves. **Noon Top Gun (1986) (PG)** With Tom Cruise. **2.00 Rampage (2018) (12)** With Dwayne Johnson. **4.00 Street Fighter (1994) (12)** With Jean-Claude Van Damme. **6.00 Speed (1994) (15)** With Keanu Reeves.

TODAY'S CHOICE

KILLERS ANONYMOUS ★★ ★★

Sky Cinema Premiere, 4.30pm

Director and co-writer Martin Owen was clearly trying to channel Quentin Tarantino while making this crime mystery. Unfortunately he missed the mark, but it's worth watching for the all-too-brief appearances of A-listers Gary Oldman and Jessica Alba.

The plot focuses on a support group for killers, whose members turn on each other while trying to figure out which of them is behind an assassination plot.

Tommy Flanagan, Rhon Nicole Brown, MyAnna

Buring, Tim McInnerny and Michael Socha co-star.

Sarah Morgan



8.00 Top Gun (1986) (PG) With Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer. **10.05 Rampage (2018) (12)** With Dwayne Johnson. **12.05am Desperado (1995) (18)** With Antonio Banderas. **2.05 Rise Of The Viking (2018) (15)** With Jonathan Banks. **5.00 Sky Cinema Preview**

SKY CINEMA KIDS BOOKS

Sky 306

5.15am Sinbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas (2003) (U) Animated adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. **7.55 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) (U)** Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **9.25 Gulliver's Travels (2010) (PG)** Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black. **10.55 Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban (2004) (PG)** Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **1.20pm Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief (2010) (PG)** Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **3.20 Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2018) (PG)** Animated family comedy, with the voice of Christian Clavier. **5.00 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) (U)** Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **6.30 Gulliver's Travels (2010) (PG)** Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black. **8.00 Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban (2004) (PG)** Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **10.25 Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief (2010) (PG)** Fantasy

adventure, starring Logan Lerman. **12.30am Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion (2018) (PG)** Animated family comedy, with the voice of Christian Clavier. **2.15 Zathura: A Space Adventure (2005) (PG)** Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **4.05 Mary Poppins (1964) (U)** Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke.

SKY CINEMA WOMEN IN FILM

Sky 310

6.30am Mean Girls (2004) (12) With Lindsay Lohan. **8.20 Venus (2017) (12)** With Debargo Sanyal. **10.10 The Princess And The Frog (2009) (U)** With Anika Noni Rose. **Noon Miss Congeniality (2000) (12)** With Sandra Bullock. **2.00 Miss Congeniality 2: Armed And Fabulous (2005) (12)** With Sandra Bullock. **4.00 Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (2018) (PG)** With Amanda Seyfried. **6.10 Mean Girls (2004) (12)** With Lindsay Lohan. **8.00 Mean Girls 2 (2011) (12)** With Meaghan Jette Martin. **9.50 Miss Congeniality (2000) (12)** With Sandra Bullock. **11.50 Miss Congeniality 2: Armed And Fabulous (2005) (12)** With Sandra Bullock. **1.55am Book Club (2018) (12)** With Diane Keaton and Jane Fonda. **3.50 Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (2018) (PG)** With Amanda Seyfried and Lily James.

Times quoted are GMT.

SKY CINEMA GREATS

Sky 304

6.15am Mary Poppins (1964) (U) Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. **8.45 Honey, I Shrunk The Kids (1989) (U)** Disney comedy, starring Rick Moranis. **10.25 Men In Black 3 (2012) (PG)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith. **12.15pm Fury (2014) (15)** Second World War drama, starring Brad Pitt. **2.35 Gladiator (2000) (15)** Oscar-winning Roman epic, starring Russell Crowe. **5.15 Sister Act (1992) (PG)** Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg. **7.00 Men In Black 3 (2012) (PG)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith. **9.00 Fury (2014) (15)** Second World War drama, starring Brad Pitt. **11.20 Cape Fear (1991) (18)** Thriller remake, starring Robert De Niro and Nick Nolte. **1.35am American Beauty (1999) (18)** Oscar-winning black comedy drama, starring Kevin Spacey. **3.45 A Nightmare On Elm Street (1984) (18)** Horror, with Robert Englund. **5.30 Spartacus (1960) (PG)** Roman epic, starring Kirk Douglas.

TCM MOVIES

Sky 315

7.05am TCM Shorts: Michael Caine Off Set 7.30 Gunsmoke (1953) (U) Western. **9.20 The Cowboys (1972) (PG)** Western. **11.55 Cattle Town (1952) (U)** Western. **1.30pm The Fastest Gun Alive (1956) (PG)** Western, starring Glenn Ford. **3.30 Arizona Raiders (1965) (U)** Western, starring Audie Murphy. **5.30 Fort Worth (1951) (PG)** Western drama, starring Randolph Scott. **7.15 Frenchie (1950) (PG)** Western, starring Shelley Winters. **9.00 Dirty Harry (1971) (15)** Police thriller, starring Clint Eastwood. **11.10 Charley Varrick (1973) (15)** Crime thriller, starring Walter Matthau. **1.30am Cheyenne Autumn (1964) (U)** Western, with Richard Widmark. **4.30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors.**

FILM4

Freeview 14 - Sky 313

11.00am Death Drums Along The River (1963) (PG) Murder mystery, starring Richard Todd. **12.45pm The Gentle Sex (1943) (U)** Second World War drama, starring Joan Greenwood. **2.35 The Tin Star (1957) (U)** Western, with Henry Fonda. **4.30 Kidnapped (1971) (U)** Period adventure, starring Michael Caine. **6.50 Behind Enemy Lines (2001) (12)** Bosnian War drama, starring Gene Hackman. **9.00 Taken (2008) (15)** Thriller, starring Liam Neeson. **10.50 American Assassin (2017) (18)** Thriller, starring Dylan O'Brien. **1.05am Buffalo Soldiers (2001) (15)** Black comedy drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix.

ENTERTAINMENT

ITV2

Freeview 6 - Sky 118

7.00am The Ellen DeGeneres Show **7.50** Emmerdale **8.20** You've Been Framed! Gold: Full Throttle **9.20** Superstore **10.15** Dinner Date **11.15** Dress To Impress **12.15pm** Emmerdale **12.45** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **1.50** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **2.45** Dinner Date **3.50** Dress To Impress **4.50** Take Me Out **6.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **8.00** Two And A Half Men **9.00** Family Guy **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **11.20** American Dad! **12.20am** Two And A Half Men **1.15** Timewasters **2.15** CelebAbility **3.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.25** Nightscreen

ITV3

Freeview 10 - Sky 119

6.00am Classic Coronation Street **6.55** Classic Emmerdale **7.55** Heartbeat **8.55** The Darling Buds Of May **10.00** That's My Boy **10.30** Inspector Morse **12.40pm** Heartbeat **1.45** Classic Emmerdale **2.50** Classic Coronation Street **3.55** Midsomer Murders **5.55** Heartbeat **7.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **10.00** Scott & Bailey **11.10** Inspector Morse **3.10am** Nightscreen **3.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

Freeview 24 - Sky 120

6.00am Quincy ME **7.00** Kojak **8.10** The Saint **9.15** Minder **10.20** The Professionals **11.20** The Sweeney **12.25pm** Quincy ME **1.35** Kojak **2.35** The Saint **3.40** Minder **4.50** The Professionals **5.50** The Sweeney **7.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **8.00** World Superbike Highlights **9.00** Film: Beverly Hills Cop II (1987) (15) **11.10** Film: Crank (2006) (18) **12.55am** Fishing Impossible **1.55** Lethal Weapon **2.50** Nightscreen

5STAR

Freeview 30 - Sky 128

8.00am 3rd Rock From The Sun **8.20** House **10.05** The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door **12.05pm** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! **3.00** Neighbours **3.30** Home And Away **4.00** House **6.00** Neighbours **6.30** Home And Away **7.00** Maternity Ward **8.00** 10 Years Younger **10** Days **9.00** Filthy House SOS. **10.00** Hoarders: Landfill In My Living Room **11.00** Film: Angels & Demons (2009) (12) **1.45am** Prison Life: Raw & Real **2.50** Riverdale **3.30** Two And A Half Men **3.55** Access **4.00** Teleshopping

SUSA

Freeview 21 - Sky 141

9.00am Access **9.10** Criminals: Caught On Camera **9.35** CSI: NY **11.10** The Mysteries Of Laura **12.10pm** Law & Order **8.00** NCIS: New Orleans **9.00** Rookie Blue **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Crime drama Unit **1.55am** Law & Order: Los Angeles **3.50** Access **4.00** Teleshopping

SKY ONE

Sky 106

6.00am Monkey Life **7.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue **8.00** The Dog Whisperer **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** Brit Cops: Law & Disorder **11.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** MacGyver **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** The Simpsons **5.30** Futurama **6.30** The Simpsons Animation **9.00** SEAL Team **10.00** Avenue 5 **10.35** Intelligence **11.35** The Russell Howard Hour **12.35am** The Heist **1.35** Caught On Dashcam **2.30** The Force: Manchester **3.30** Road Wars **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Futurama

E4

Freeview 13 - Sky 135

6.00am Hollyoaks **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Baby Daddy **9.00** Mike & Molly **10.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.00** The Goldberrys **Noon** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Baby Daddy **3.00** Mike & Molly **4.00** The Goldberrys **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Hollyoaks **7.30** Man With A Plan **8.00** The Goldberrys **8.30** Schooled **9.00** Celebs Go Dating Amy Childs goes on a date **10.00** Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **Midnight** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.00** Celebs Go Dating **2.05** First Dates Hotel **3.00** Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist **3.55** The Goldberrys **4.20** Schooled **4.45** The Big Bang Theory

MORE4

Freeview 18 - Sky 136

8.55am Kirstie's Handmade Treasures **9.15** A Place In The Sun: Winter Sun **10.05** A Place In The Sun: Summer Sun **11.05** Emergency Helicopter Medics **12.10pm** 999: On The Front Line **1.15** Escape To The Chateau: DIY **2.15** Four In A Bed **4.55** The Secret Life Of The Zoo **5.55** Car S.O.S **6.55** Escape To The Chateau: DIY **8.00** Jon Snow's Very Hard Questions **9.00** The Great Pottery Throw Down **10.00** Jon Snow's Very Hard Questions **11.05** 24 Hours In A&E **12.10am** 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** The Great Pottery Throw Down **2.15** 24 Hours In A&E **3.20** Food Unwrapped

SKY WITNESS

Sky 107

6.00am Nothing To Declare **8.00** Paramedics **9.00** Blue Bloods **10.00**

SPORT

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

Sky 401

6.00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Football Centre **11.00** Live One-Day International Cricket. **7.00pm** Sky Sports Tonight **8.00** Live PGA Tour On The Range: Arnold Palmer Invitational. **8.30** Sky Sports Tonight **10.00** The Debate **11.00** Live NBA: The Warm Up. **Midnight** Live NBA: Indiana @ Milwaukee. **2.30** Sky Sports News **3.30** Live Women's ICC World T20 Cricket.

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

Sky 402

6.00am PL Greatest Games **7.00** The Debate **8.00** Best PL Goals: Merseyside Derby **8.30** Best PL Goals: Manchester Derby **9.00** Premier League 100 Club **10.00** Premier League Years **Noon** The Debate **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Best Goals 92/93 **4.00** PL Greatest Games **5.00** PL 100 Club: England's Finest **5.30** Premier League 100 Club **6.00** PL Legends: Gianfranco Zola **6.30** PL Legends: Gary Neville **7.00** Premier League World **7.30** The Tyler Archives **8.00** Best PL Goals 17/18 **9.00** Premier League World **9.30** Premier League 100 Club **10.00** The Debate **11.00** Premier League World **11.30** The Tyler Archives **Midnight** The Debate **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** PL Greatest Games **4.00** PL Best Goals 01/02 **5.00** Best PL Goals **5.30** Premier League 100 Club

Criminal Minds **11.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **Noon** Elementary **1.00** Blue Bloods **2.00** Law & Order **3.00** The Real A&E **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Border Security: Australia's Front Line **8.00** Ghost Whisperer **9.00** Criminal Minds **10.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **Midnight** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Ghost Whisperer **3.00** Shades Of Blue **4.00** Road Wars **5.00** Brit Cops: Rapid Response

CBS JUSTICE

Freeview 39 - Sky 148

9.00am Diagnosis Murder **11.00** Matlock **Noon** Perry Mason **1.05** Walker, Texas Ranger **2.05** CSI: Miami **3.00** NCIS **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00** Matlock **6.00** Perry Mason **7.05** Scorpion **8.00** Walker, Texas Ranger **9.00** NCIS **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** Scorpion **Midnight** CSI: Miami **1.00** NCIS **2.00** Gunsmoke **3.05** The High Chaparral **4.50** Mission: Impossible

CBS REALITY

Freeview 66 - Sky 146

9.00am Judge Judy **7.00pm** Medical Detectives **8.00** 48 Hours: Mystery **9.00** Cold Blood **10.00** Murder Walk The case of Ronald Rudin **11.00** Killer Doctors On Death Row **Midnight** Wives With Knives **1.00** Cold Blood **2.00** Murder Wall **3.00** I Survived **3.45** Unsolved Mysteries **5.10** Bondi Rescue

BBC FOUR

Freeview 9 - Sky 116

7.00pm Beyond 100 Days **7.30** The Yorkshire Dales Paul Rose explores Swaledale **8.00** The Victorian House Of Arts And Crafts **9.00** A Very British History **10.00** The Stuarts **11.00** Blood And Gold:

The Making Of Spain With Simon Sebag Montefiore **Midnight** Treasures Of Ancient Greece **1.00** Rhythms Of India **2.00** The Victorian House Of Arts And Crafts **3.00** A Very British History

COMEDY CENTRAL

Sky 112

8.00am Will & Grace **10.00** The Office (US) **11.00** Friends **4.00pm** My Name Is Earl **5.00** Friends **9.00** Film: Notting Hill (1999) (15) Romantic drama **11.30** Film: Leap Year (2010) (PG) **1.35am** The Daily Show Special **2.05** South Park **3.25** Bad Robots **4.15** The Office (US) **5.00** Teleshopping

FOX

Sky 124

8.00am Republic Of Doyle **9.00** Bones **10.00** Bull **11.00** NCIS **Noon** Bones **2.00** The Mentalist **3.00** NCIS **4.00** Bull **5.00** Bones **6.00** The Mentalist **7.00** NCIS **11.00** American Dad! **Midnight** Family Guy **1.00** American Dad! **2.00** The Walking Dead **3.00** American Dad! **4.00** Republic Of Doyle **5.00** Teleshopping

DISCOVERY

Sky 125

6.00am Combat Dealers **7.00** Robson Green: Extreme Fisherman **8.00** Kindig Customs **9.00** Code Of The Wild **10.00** Nasa's Unexplained Files **11.00** Fast N' Loud **Noon** Gold Rush: White Water **1.00** Alaska: The Last Frontier **2.00** Combat Dealers **3.00** World War Two: The Complete History **4.00** Building Off The Grid **5.00** Wheeler Dealers **6.00** Fast N' Loud **7.00** Outback Truckers **8.00** Mighty Ships **9.00** Richard Hammond's Big **10.00** Disasters Engineered **11.00** Massive Engineering Mistakes **Midnight**

BT SPORT 1

Sky 413

6.00am QPR V Burnley 1979/80 **6.30** Norwich City V Liverpool 1979/80 **7.00** Gallagher Premiership Rugby Highlights **9.30** FA Cup: Portsmouth V Arsenal **11.00** Hibernian V Hearts **12.30pm** Coppa Italia Premier **1.00** V8 Supercars Highlights **3.00** Premier League Review **4.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **5.00** WWE Raw Highlights **6.00** BT Sport Reload **6.30** Premier League Reload **6.45** Live Scottish Football Extra. **7.15** Live: Livingston V Celtic. **10.00** WWE NXT Highlights **11.00** WWE NXT **UK Midnight** WWE **1.00** Live: WWE NXT **3.15** BT Sport Goals Reload **3.30** Hyundai A-League **4.30** Chelsea V Newcastle United 1980/81 **5.00** Swansea V Leeds 1981/82 **5.30** Man City V Liverpool 1981/82

EUROSPORT 1

Sky 410

6.00am Cycling: Tour Of UAE **7.00** Cycling: GP Le Samyn **8.30** Cycling: Women's GP Le Samyn **9.30** Alpine Skiing **10.30** Ski Jumping **11.30** Biathlon **12.35pm** Cross-Country Skiing **2.20** Live Cross-Country Skiing. **4.10** Alpine Skiing **6.10** Biathlon **6.40** Cross-Country Skiing **7.40** Cycling: Strade Bianche **8.00** Cycling: Tour Of Taiwan **9.00** Biathlon **10.00** Cross-Country Skiing **11.00** Biathlon **11.30** Cycling: Tour Of Taiwan **12.30am** Biathlon **1.00** Cycling: Tour Of Taiwan **2.00** Biathlon **2.40** Cycling

Richard Hammond's Big **1.00** Disasters Engineered **2.00** Deadliest Catch **3.00** Richard Hammond's Big **3.50** Kindig Customs **4.40** Kindig Customs **5.30** How It's Made

HISTORY

Sky 130

6.00am American Pickers: Best Of **7.00** American Pickers **8.00** Pawn Stars **9.00** Lost Worlds **10.00** Storage Wars **11.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges **Noon** River Hunters **1.00** Forged In Fire **2.00** American Pickers **3.00** Storage Wars **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** Forged In



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It doesn't take a nuclear weapon to threaten world

ALMOST immediately after coronavirus was first made public by China and the potential for the worldwide spread of the disease was announced, share prices across the globe plunged.

Now it seems almost the entire world, including Britain, is being forced to spend billions finding ways to combat this virus and prevent it spreading.

Does anyone else have the same thoughts as I do when I say that it doesn't take nuclear weapons or arms to bring the whole world to its knees?

China has the leaders of every country in a flat spin and has placed the world's economy on its shakiest footing for many years, with a virus.

Jean Norfolk,
Knottingley, WYorks

Police playing catch-up in fight to make streets safe

THE words of the chief constable of Northamptonshire are so true ("Time for police to listen to people we serve", March 3).

Equally true is that the former Prime Minister Theresa May ripped the heart out of the police service yet still sits in her "retirement" as a backbench MP.

She should be ashamed that a Conservative politician should undermine the morale of an entire police service, which may take some years to correct.

Nick Adderley, the Northants chief, is one of many now putting right years of police austerity.

Geoffrey Waddington,
Messingham, Lincs

Floundering NHS needs all the help that it can get

HOW patronising and arrogant to assume we wouldn't welcome the additional capacity and innovation offered by US health providers ("NHS a 'red line' in US negotiations, says Truss", March 3).

With thousands treated on trolleys in A&E, thousands more waiting for referral appointments and their first cancer treatment, plus the millions on waiting lists for operations, NHS access times are among the worst in the world.

If the EU and all other nations providing taxpayer-funded healthcare do it through a combination of state and private sector providers, why can't we?

Roy Daniels,
Luton, Beds

Priti needs support to rid Home Office of bad apples

I AM not often moved to put pen to paper but Leo McKinstry has hit the nail on the head again with his intelligent and common-sense approach to the problems clearly running through our Home Office ("With his record we are happy to be rid of 'Sir Calamity'", March 2).

Everyone should be made to read his missive.

In the meantime, Priti Patel has been given the unenviable task of sorting out major issues which have been hanging over us all for too many years, most being those we

Letter of the day

Picture: GETTY



OUTBREAK: Prime Minister should let it run its course

Virus doesn't warrant all the hysteria

GIVE a virus a fancy name, mention the word death a few times and add a sprinkle of global publicity and what do you get? Mass hysteria, that's what ("Boris warns: virus likely to spread within days", March 3).

The truth is the coronavirus is just another flu outbreak and the mortality rate isn't too different from any other flu epidemic.

The principle of survival of the fittest has worked well for the past billion years, so why change it now? Do we want to live in a world where everyone is dependant on vaccinations and carries around a sack of pills?

Why not just let each flu outbreak run its course? I'm in my 60s and if it gets the better of me, OK. When your time is up, it is up.

Alan Stanton,
Esher, Surrey

have all voted on with some conviction this time round.

Let's all encourage her to do just that, whatever it takes.

Geoff Hill,
Doncaster, S Yorks

Mandarins need a dose of reality and kick up pants

WE now have a new government which, please God, can make a real difference and if the old guard tries to stand in the way and can't adapt or move forward then they should be made to move over.

Priti is the boss. These mandarins need to accept that. It's about time they had a dose of reality and a sharp shock or a kick up the pants.

Priti has a job to do so they should help her to get on with it.

Jack Wild,
Oldham, Lancs

When manager says jump don't argue, just do it

I AM appalled at the attitude of the civil servants who are criticising Home Secretary Priti Patel.

These people are merely office staff with a job to do. Their manager usually changes every five years or so.

When I worked in an office and the manager said jump, I jumped. Priti Patel is now their manager

(and a very good one). Why these people should receive titles simply for doing their job has always baffled me.

Tom Brown,
Redcar, N Yorks

Just ignore Meghan and Harry and let them stew

AS this strop couple have behaved so badly towards the Queen and other members of the royal household, I can only think of one way to put them back in their boxes ("Harry and Meghan to join royals for last time", March 3).

Cut all publicity to do with them. No photos, no "messages" via their supposed friends and no publicity for whatever they do in their lives.

Of course, their charities will lose out but there is only one couple to blame for that.

I see no reason for anyone in the UK to pay a penny towards their security costs.

They clearly want to be a private family, so there is no reason for them to live in a swish mansion, hidden away from everyone, that they can't afford to keep secure.

If they want security let them go and get a job and pay for it themselves. Harry has made his bed, let him lie in it.

Sue Bailey,
St Albans

Real reason for couple's decision is now obvious

WELL why aren't we surprised that the Duchess of Sussex is seeking a starring role in the films once more ("Meghan seeks superhero role for comeback", March 2)?

Surely this is the reason Meghan and Harry left the UK to go and have a life in Canada, so that she could resume her Hollywood career.

What will poor Harry do then when his wife is away filming? I think it's all very sad.

Jacqueline Collins,
Consett, Co Durham

Another own goal from football presenter Lineker

IT HINK it's time the BBC had a word with Gary Lineker and reminded him that he is paid (overpaid most would say) to stick to footballing matters ("Spoiling the joy", March 2).

First we had his droning on about the "perils" of leaving the EU but thankfully people treated that with the contempt it deserved.

Now he has made a cheap and rude remark about Boris Johnson and his partner expecting a baby. Sarcasm is the lowest form of wit.

John Hearn,
Rainham, Kent

SHOULD WE SHOW OUR EMOTIONS LIKE THE AMERICANS DO?

Yes

SOMETIMES Fiona Bruce must wonder what she has to do to get an excited reaction from the people on Antiques Roadshow ("Show emotion like Americans, Fiona urges Roadshow crowds", March 3).

A man brings along a guitar that he got for

nothing and it turns out it used to belong to George Harrison, yet those looking on looked like they couldn't care one jot.

I know us Britons are reserved but a bit of enthusiasm and excitement wouldn't go amiss sometimes.

John Reynolds,
Leicester

No

WHO is Fiona Bruce to try and change our culture?

It was the stiff upper lip that won the war and concealed the suffering of millions, with dignity.

This same woman prances about in jeans when presenting programmes on the Royals etc and at places

which deserve a bit more decorum. Has she no sense of protocol?

Her parents may have given her a good education but in my book she needs advice on being an absolute lady, which includes a sense of reserve.

Barry Carroll,
Thamesmead,
Gtr London

**TODAY: Wednesday
March 4, 2020**

ON THIS DAY



35 years ago (1985)

We revealed the bitter end of the year-long miners' strike – one of the most significant chapters in Britain's trade union history – after NUM delegates voted to return to work by 98 votes 91 without an agreement on pit closures.

NUM president Arthur Scargill accused the TUC and the Labour Party of not giving the striking pitmen enough support, while Labour's deputy leader Roy Hattersley said the picket line violence harmed their chances of victory.

54 years ago (1966)

John Lennon's remark that The Beatles were "bigger than Jesus" was seized on by religious leaders in America's southern Bible Belt states.

Some radio stations banned Beatles records and protests were held outside concerts when the band toured the US that August.

45 years ago (1975)

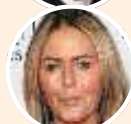
At the age of 85, silent film legend Charlie Chaplin was knighted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

In 2002 the release of confidential papers revealed the movie star had not been awarded the accolade previously because of his communist beliefs.

BIRTHDAYS



David and Victoria Beckham's son **Brooklyn** is 21. He is a model.



Actress **Patsy Kensit** is 52. She was married to ex-Oasis star Liam Gallagher.



Football icon **Sir Kenny Dalglish** is 69. He's still a regular visitor at Liverpool FC training sessions.



Singer **Chris Rea** is 69. He is of Irish and Irish descent.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

To the person who stole my copy of Microsoft Office: I'll find you. You have my Word.

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'The Dragon Attacks'

THE LEGEND CONTINUES

When you think about the iconic British Sovereign, almost all the designs depict the story of St George and the Dragon on the reverse. Of those, most show the knight either approaching the dragon or actually slaying it at the point of a lance or sword. This is all very good, but if we allow our imagination to run wild for just a few moments, surely there would have been some sort of struggle before the landing of the killing blow? Well, that's what we thought, and for the first time, this sovereign shows St George desperately using his shield to defend himself from the roaring flames as the fearsome beast goes on the attack.

HONOURING THE LEGACY

As we all know, the first ever depiction of St George and the Dragon on the Sovereign was designed by Benedetto Pistrucci, and to honour his legacy, we have engaged his great, great, great niece, Angela Pistrucci to design a wonderful, modern-day variation of the much loved legend.

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CALVIN AND HOBBS Bill Watterson**DILBERT** Scott Adams**FAITH, HOPE AND SUE** Lisa Wild**RUPERT AND THE OLD HAT** No 33

Greatly surprised at Rupert's latest request Mrs Bear gives him some safety pins and, thanking her, he stuffs them into his pocket as he starts away. "You shall come and see your old hat in its new home soon," he calls. And he runs out of the village. As he reaches the open ground there is a little voice above his head. "I watched you leaving and I followed you to see if I could help." It is the wooden cuckoo now more excited than ever. "Yes you certainly can help me," says Rupert, holding up the old hat.

© Express Newspapers 2020



Says Rupert, "I've planned to give The real cuckoo a place to live."

To order the Rupert annual for 2020 (no.84) at £9.99, please call 01872 562315, or order via www.classicrupertbearshop.com UK delivery is free.

Crab and gruyere tarts

What's the recipe for a great book?

Whether looking for a dinner party starter or a light snack for lunch, these tartlets are easy to make but give the impression of real luxury. They can be served warm or cold. Serves 6.

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon butter, melted

3 sheets filo pastry

50g grated Gruyere cheese

2 eggs

5 tablespoons mayonnaise

4 tablespoons single cream

1 spring onion, finely chopped

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon mustard powder

1 pinch of pepper

1 (170g) tin crabmeat, drained

METHOD

- 1) Preheat the oven to 190C/170C fan assisted, gas mark 5. Grease 6 non-stick muffin tins with some of the melted butter.
- 2) Lay the filo sheets on a work surface, one on top of the other. Cut the stack into 24 equal (12cm) squares.
- 3) Line each muffin tin with a filo square and brush with melted butter. Place another square on the top, with corners offset, and brush with butter. Layer four filo squares in each tin in the same manner.
- 4) Bake the filo cases for 6-7 minutes, or until golden. Cool completely before filling.
- 5) After cooling, sprinkle cheese into each shell. Combine the eggs, mayonnaise, cream, spring onions, salt, mustard powder, pepper and crabmeat in a separate bowl and mix.
- 6) Spoon a teaspoonful of crab mixture into each shell. Return to the preheated oven and bake for 18-20 minutes or until the pastry has browned.

**Russell Grant**

Britain's celebrity astrologer

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

You're tired of hearing a friend's excuses when they let you down. You've always been there for them and you're disappointed that they take your kind nature so much for granted. You had expected more from this friendship.

0905 789 3701**

Taurus Apr 21 - May 21

People have different tastes and that's why you're trying to gear an outing to everyone's interests. This won't be easy. In the end you will make a booking, set an itinerary and leave it to others to decide whether they want to join in.

0905 789 3702**

Gemini May 22 - June 21

A severe critic is making you question your knowledge or abilities. They don't seem to have a kind word to say about your efforts. It is possible that this tormentor is jealous of you. Don't let a pompous person destroy your confidence.

0905 789 3703**

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23

Routine tasks can be surprisingly therapeutic. A breakthrough could occur while you are washing dishes, putting away groceries or chopping vegetables. Anxiety has been blocking your creativity. Stop trying to be all things to all people.

0905 789 3707**

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

It can be exhausting having to take other people's feelings into account. You are sensitive to the atmosphere around you and you can't ignore this side of your personality. This is why spending some time alone can help ground you.

0905 789 3708**

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

Mechanical breakdowns cause you a lot of frustration. You might wish you had dealt with a problem earlier when a stitch in time would have saved nine. Treat this as a lesson for the future. If other repairs are needed, hire a professional.

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Cancer June 22 - July 23

You're working hard towards achieving a lofty goal. It might look as if you're finding it easy but people don't see all the work you are putting in. Someone is watching your progress and this could lead to you receiving an exciting job offer.

0905 789 3704**

Leo July 24 - Aug 23

A change of plans that work against your interests won't please you. It might feel as if your boss is overlooking your needs while steering their favourites to the best opportunities. Take control of your destiny and look for another job.

0905 789 3705**

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

There are people who rely on you for security. The problem is, in being a support system for others, you are missing out on opportunities that could be good for you. It is time to balance what you do for others with taking care of yourself.

0905 789 3706**

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

Your partner or best friend won't share all your views and interests. This can be annoying but it will also foster greater independence. Once you've discussed your differences, you will either agree to disagree or part ways.

0905 789 3710**

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

A group project will give you lots of mental stimulation. You're mixing with people who always have a lot to talk about. If you need to learn more about an offer, opportunity or event, a Virgo friend will help you get the information you need.

0905 789 3711**

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

You will feel inspired to launch a creative project after visiting a concert or museum. Teaming up with a writer, artist or musician will help keep you focused on your goal. Creating beautiful objects will be a welcome change from work.

0905 789 3712**

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ALAN'S TIP OF THE DAY: Pressure-wash or scrub patio slabs, removing moss and algae and weeds growing in cracks between paving, then cement loose slabs back in place and fill gaps with mortar to prevent weeds invading. Wash tubs and rearrange with fresh spring displays.

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- Day 1 **Fly from London to Barbados***
Upon arrival, transfer to the port in Bridgetown and embark *Azura* for your 14 night Caribbean cruise, beginning with an overnight stay on board
- Day 2 **Bridgetown, Barbados**
In Barbados' capital and cruise port, Bridgetown, there are intriguing signs of its British colonial past while, across the island, you are really spoilt for choice. You can enjoy every watersport under the sun; stunning nature walks and bike rides; or maybe a trip to the uniquely magnificent Harrison's Cave underground complex of caverns, waterfalls, stalactites and stalagmites
- Day 3 **Kingstown, St. Vincent**
Day 5 **Basseterre, St. Kitts**
Day 6 **Philipsburg, St. Maarten**
Day 8 **Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands**
Day 10 **Road Town, Tortola**
Day 11 **St. John's, Antigua**
Antigua played host to Admiral Horatio Nelson's fleet in the late 1700's. Nelson's Dockyard now bustles with crew and guests from yachts and cruise ships sailing these waters for pleasure rather than for King and Country. The main port, St John's, is also the capital and a vibrant hub for shopping as well as being within easy range of some of the best beaches – at Fort James, Deep Bay, Galley Bay and Hawksbill
- Day 12 **Castries, St. Lucia**
★Recommended Shore Excursion - Aerial Tram*★
Travel through lush hills and picturesque villages, ascending through St Lucia's verdant rainforest. At the Rainforest Sky Rides base, embark on a fabulous aerial tram ride through the forest canopy
- Day 13 **St. George's, Grenada**
Day 15 **Bridgetown, Barbados**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London*
- Day 16 **Arrive in London**
Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea
Itinerary is based on 11th December 2020 departure and ports of call may vary on other departure dates

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12TH FEBRUARY & 12TH MARCH 2021
OTHER DATES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

- Day 1 **Fly from London to Barbados***. Upon arrival, transfer to the port in Bridgetown and embark *Britannia* for your 14 night Caribbean cruise
- Day 3 **Willemstad, Curaçao**
Day 4 **Kralendijk, Bonaire**
Day 6 **St. George's, Grenada**
Sailors through the centuries have rated St. George's as having one of the world's prettiest harbours, and it is hard to disagree. Horseshoe-shaped and set in a volcanic crater, Grenada's capital is flanked by two forts, with colourful French colonial style buildings ranged along the front. It is the perfect entrance to one of the Caribbean's most scenic islands
- Day 7 **Kingstown, St. Vincent**
Day 8 **Castries, St. Lucia**
Day 10 **Basseterre, St. Kitts**
★Recommended Shore Excursion - St. Kitts Railway*★
Join the St. Kitts narrow gauge railway for a unique journey along the beautiful north-eastern coastline. Embark on a luxury journey across tall bridges, and through picturesque villages and farms and the light green fields of cane
- Day 11 **St. John's, Antigua**
Day 12 **Philipsburg, St. Maarten**
Dutch and French influences are aplenty in Philipsburg, capital of St. Maarten. Art lovers will cherish the galleries, history buffs will head to the forts, whilst others can simply wander the golden sands of Great Bay Beach
- Day 14 **Bridgetown, Barbados** (overnight)
Day 15 **Bridgetown, Barbados**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London*
- Day 16 **Arrive in London**
Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea
Itinerary is based on 5th December 2020 departure and ports of call may vary on other dates

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expressinside out

By Deborah Stone

HOW has cleaning your home and throwing things out become so fashionable? Yes decluttering is good and Instagram stars make cleaning look cool but, for most of us, it's all about new gadgets that appear to work magic. Something like Vax's new OnePwr system of floorcare products, for instance.

This new range includes two cordless vacuum cleaners, a handheld vacuum cleaner and carpet spot washer that all work from the same lithium-ion battery.

But its new cordless Vax Glide hard floor cleaner is particularly satisfying, sucking up crumbs and debris while simultaneously washing the floor, then cleaning itself ready for the next job. Lithium-ion batteries have been around a while but Vax's new version is both slim and powerful, with 30 minutes' run-time after just three hours' charging.

You can buy OnePwr cleaners direct from Vax's website, a sales model that Lakeland has perfected – although Lakeland takes the prize for run-of-the-mill items that are a revelation. Its Oven Mate cleaning gel, for instance, has had rave reviews for years and now there's an Oven Mate complete deep clean oven kit with wipes for microwaves and soaks for barbecue and oven racks as well as gel for ovens and grills.

But if you're taking spring cleaning really seriously, you need to organise your kitchen cupboards.

John Lewis has introduced a 19-piece collection of stackable containers, turntables and removable dividers from The Home Edit range, inspired by Californian declutterers Clea Shearer and Joanna Teplin.

Apparently, American celebrities can't get enough of them.

Making a clean break



POWER UP: Vax OnePwr Glide Hard Floor Cleaner, £249.99 (0330 026 8455; vax.co.uk)

Oven Mate Complete Deep Clean Kit, £19.99 (01539 488100; lake land.co.uk)



Wilko three-tier rectangular kitchen organiser, £4.50 (0800 032 9329; wilko.com)



The Home Edit Pantry Storage Canisters, from £8; storage baskets, from £16 (03456 049049; johnlewis.com)



Addis Spray Mop with refillable bottle, £26.99 (0800 515300; addis.co.uk)

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Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named Company are required, on or before 27 March 2020 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to Richard Rones of ThorntonRones Limited, 311 High Road, Loughdon, Essex, IG10 1AH the Liquidator of the Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator, by their solicitors or personally, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in any such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.

Further details contact: Richard Rones, Telephone: 0208 418 9333. Alternative contact: Jacky Volkman, Email: jacky@thorntonrones.co.uk
Richard Rones, Liquidator
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ENGLAND BEDS Bedford **BERKS** Crowthorne, Maidenhead, Twyford
BRISTOL Charlton Hayes, Hanham **BUCKS** Amersham, Chalfont St Peter, Farnham Common, Hazlemere **CAMBS** Peterborough
CORNWALL Bude, Carlyon Bay **DEVON** Exeter, Ottery St. Mary **DORSET** Poole, Poundbury **ESSEX** Chelmsford, Colchester, Upminster **GLOS** Bourton-on-the-Water, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold **GTR** **LONDON** Upper Norwood **HANTS** Alresford, Alton, Purbrook, Southampton **HEREFORDS** Hereford **HERTS** Borehamwood, Buntingford, Hertford, St Albans **KENT** Chislehurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Tenterden **LEICS** Market Harborough **MIDDLESEX** Harrow, Isleworth **NORFOLK** Hunstanton, North Walsham, Norwich **NORTHANTS** Wellingborough **OXON** Chipping Norton, Didcot, Henley-on-Thames **RUTLAND** Oakham **SHROPS** Shrewsbury **SOMERSET** Bath, Nailsea, Taunton **STAFFS** Codsall, Leek, Lichfield, Stafford **SUFFOLK** Hadleigh **SURREY** Cobham, Guildford, Sandhurst, Virginia Water, Walton-on-Thames, Wokingham **WARKS** Stratford-upon-Avon **W MIDS** Edgbaston, Solihull, Tettenhall **W. SUSSEX** Worthing **WILTS** Devizes, Marlborough, Melksham, Salisbury, Trowbridge **WORCS** Redditch **WALES** **CARDIFF** Llanishen **SWANSEA** Sketty

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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET		
FTSE 100	6718.2	▲ +63.3
FTSE 250	19682.7	▲ +381.0
FTSE ALL SHARE	3749.1	▲ +42.3
Shares Traded	5715.1 million	

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
AstraZeneca	7172	+162
Aviva	346	+23
BAE Systems	612	+11
BP	415	+33
Centrica	733	+12
Int Consolidated Airlines	464 1/2	+31 1/2
Marks & Spencer Group	163 1/2	+6 1/2
National Grid	1013 1/2	+7 1/2
Rolls-Royce Holdings	635 1/2	+20
Royal Dutch Shell 'B'	1721	+9
Sainsbury (J)	206 1/2	+2
Standard Life Aberdeen	280	+4 1/2
Tesco	235	+7
Unilever	4382 1/2	+62 1/2
Whitbread	3768	+9

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED		
BT Group	139	
Royal Mail	161	
Vodafone Group	133 1/2	

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Barclays	139 1/2	-3 1/2
GlaxoSmithKline	1608	-22
HSBC Holdings	509 1/2	-10 1/2
Lloyds Banking Group	48 1/2	-3 1/2
Royal Bank of Scotland	170 1/2	-2

WORLD MARKETS		
WALL STREET	25917.4	▼ -785.9
TOKYO	21082.7	▼ -261.3
HONG KONG	26284.8	▼ -6.9
GERMANY	11985.4	▲ +127.5
FRANCE	5393.2	▲ +59.6

STERLING VALUE		
Dollar	1.282	▲ +0.007
Yen	137.481	▼ -0.681
Euro	1.148	▲ +0.003

DOLLAR VALUE		
Dollar/Yen	107.263	▼ -1.0876
Dollar/Euro	0.896	▼ -0.0023

COMMODITIES		
GOLD(\$)	▲ 1645.30	
KRUGERAND(E)	▲ 1284.62	
SILVER(pence)	▼ 1324.47	
BRENT CRUDE(\$)	▲ 52.20	

OTHER INDICATORS		
Base rate	0.75%	
Halifax mortgage rate	3.99%	
Retail Price Index	+2.7% (CPI +1.8%)	
House price index	+2.2%	
Unemployment	1,290,000	

TOURIST'S POUND		
Australia	1.89 dollar	
Canada	1.64 dollar	
China	8.28 renminbi	
Czech Rep.	27.33 koruna	
Denmark	8.15 krone	
Eurozone	1.13 euro	
Hong Kong	9.35 dollar	
Hungary	359.93 forint	
Israel	4.13 shekel	
Japan	131.14 yen	
Kenya	120.67 shilling	
Mexico	23.46 peso	
New Zealand	1.96 dollar	
Norway	11.40 krone	
Poland	4.68 zloty	
Saudi Arabia	4.53 riyal	
South Africa	18.96 rand	
Sweden	11.61 krona	
Switzerland	1.18 franc	
Thailand	38.00 baht	
Turkey	7.31 lira	
United States	1.26 dollar	

Investors back Sirius rescue

A MULTI-billion pound mine under the North York Moors was given a new lease of life yesterday after investors backed a £405million takeover of its developer, Sirius Minerals.

Sirius, which plans to dig the UK's first deep mine in 40 years, had urged investors to accept a rescue deal from FTSE 100 mining heavyweight Anglo American.

Shareholders who attended a tense meeting at the Honourable Artillery Company in the City of London were told that without support for the deal, the company would collapse.

They were being asked to vote in favour of the 5.5p per share offer, despite many small shareholders including about 25,000 based in Yorkshire and the North East having paid much more and now sitting on heavy losses after a collapse in the share price from about 24p last April.

Some had sunk their life savings into the project.

One frustrated shareholder in attend-

By David Shand

ance said he felt like "we're having a gun put to our head".

There was hope that rejecting the deal could flush out another bidder willing to offer a higher price.

But Sirius warned that failure to back the Anglo deal meant a "high probability" that the board would place the business in administration or liquidation.

Russell Scrimshaw, chairman of Sirius, said: "The positive outcome from today's meeting secures a return for shareholders, and provides greater certainty in terms of safeguarding the project, protecting jobs and allowing the community, region and the UK to continue to benefit from the project."

The project ran into trouble last autumn when it was forced to ditch a £400million fundraising that would have allowed it to borrow £1.9billion. It is due to open in 2021 and create 1,000 long-term jobs at full production.

Building on solid foundations

NEW orders across the construction industry rose at the fastest pace for more than four years in February as the brakes came off projects held up by Brexit and election uncertainty.

Business was also boosted by more infrastructure contract awards, including those related to the HS2 high speed railway.

The IHS Markit/CIPS purchasing managers' index jumped from 48.4 in January to 52.6. It was the

first reading above 50 denoting growth since last April.

IHS Markit economics director, Tim Moore, said: "Some construction firms suggested the recovery would have been stronger had there not been disruptions from severe weather."

"The fly in the ointment is the uncertain impact of the coronavirus outbreak on economic growth."

"A renewed slowdown could see investment spending put back on hold."



ON THE UP: Building

GREGGS RISING TO THE CHALLENGE



FEEL THE KNEAD: Greggs plans 100 more outlets this year

GREGGS insisted February storms would not blow it off course to make higher sales and profit this year after a bumper 2019.

The bakery chain suffered a "significant slowdown" in business last month but still managed same-store growth of 7.5 per cent in the nine weeks to 29 February.

This was slightly down on

the 9.2 per cent rise in the year to December 28 as it grew annual pre-tax profit excluding exceptional items by 27.2 per cent to £114.2million.

Total sales were up 13.5 per cent to £1.168billion.

The chain hopes to add about 100 more outlets to its existing 2,050 this year. Shares rose 76p to 2166p.

Direct Line flooded by claims

DIRECT Line expects a £35million hit from recent storms, but warned that coronavirus fallout could lead to settlement of insurance claims being delayed.

The Churchill and Green Flag owner, which has so far received £1million of coronavirus travel claims, said: "We are

subject to the consequences of disruption to financial markets and global supply chains."

Annual pre-tax profit fell 12.2 per cent to £509.7million as the number of policies in force dropped 1.9 per cent to 14.79million.

Shares rose 11 3/4p to 324p.

Discounters cashing in

BRITAIN'S top supermarkets lost more ground to discounters as Lidl became the country's fastest growing grocer.

Kantar figures for the 12 weeks to February 23 showed Sainsbury's was the only one of the "big four" to grow sales, up

0.3 per cent. Overall industry sales rose 0.7 per cent.

Store expansion helped Lidl bring in nearly 900,000 extra shoppers during the period as sales jumped 11.4 per cent, while Aldi's sales were up 5.7 per cent.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	±	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	1020	+32 1/2	1184 1/2	942 1/2
A.B. Foods	2279	+17	2700	2106
Admiral Group	2186	+46	2330	2014
Anglo American	1903	+58 1/2	2266	1666 1/2
Antofagasta	778 1/2	+3	1022 1/2	752
Ashted Group	2408	+1	2774	1805 1/2
AstraZeneca	7172	+162	7878	5644
Aviva Group	453	+128	519	308
Aviva	346	+23	438 1/2	343 1/2
BAE Systems	612	+11	669	444
Barclays	139 1/2	-3 1/2	192 1/2	136 1/2
Barrat Development	757 1/2	+7 1/2	878 1/2	552 1/2
Berkley Grp Hldgs	4815	+77	5474	3437
BHP Billiton	1462 1/2	+13 1/2	2049	1418 1/2
BP	415	+33	582 1/2	390 1/2
British American Tobacco	3099 1/2	+99	3507	2648
British Land	504 1/2	+10 1/2	638 1/2	468 1/2
BT Group	139 1/2		230 1/2	139 1/2
Bunzl	1960 1/2	+50 1/2	2551	1870
Burberry Group	1702 1/2	+41 1/2	2345	1649
Carnival	2329 1/2	-4	4246	2324
Centrica	733	+16	123 1/2	64 1/2
Coca-Cola HBC	2582	+67	3074	2299
Compass Group	1713	+12 1/2	2138	1682 1/2
CRH	2757	+39	3100	2279
Croda International	4744	+54	5375	4554
DCC	5644	+90	7496	5332
Diageo	2820 1/2	+9	3625 1/2	2765 1/2
DS Smith	322 1/2	+6 1/2	394 1/2	308
EasyJet	1070 1/2	+7 1/2	1552	854 1/2
Evraz	330 1/2	+13	709 1/2	317
Experian Group	2812	+105	2898	1999
Ferguson	7002	+222	7602	4800
GlaxoSmithKline	1608	-22	1846	1501 1/2
Glencore	191 1/2	-2	3404	1904
Halma	2054	+56 1/2	2444	1512
Hargreaves Lansdown	1519 1/2	-35 1/2	2433	1512
Hikma	1879 1/2	-19 1/2	2200	1556 1/2

COMPANY	CLOSE	±	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
HSBC Holdings	509 1/2	-10 1/2	680 1/2	507 1/2
Imperial Brands	1583 1/2	+20 1/2	2648 1/2	1554 1/2
Informa	655 1/2	-4 1/2	892	650 1/2
InterContinental Htl	4274	-13	5738	4247 1/2
Intertek Group	5412	+88	6170	4643
ITV	116 1/2	+31 1/2	671	413 1/2
John David Group	739	+17 1/2	881 1/2	464 1/2
Johnson Matthey	2501	+26	3454	2475
Kingfisher	188 1/2	+3 1/2	266 1/2	185
Land Securities	830 1/2	+9 1/2	1001 1/2	735 1/2
Legal & General	265	+10 1/2	318 1/2	216 1/2
Lloyds Banking Grp	48 1/2	-3 1/2	67 1/2	48 1/2
London Stock Ex	7864	-24	8542	4538
M&G	202 1/2	+9	190	252 1/2
Meggitt	550 1/2	+7 1/2	697 1/2	490
Melrose	206 1/2	+3	248 1/2	160 1/2
Moncler	161 1/2	+39	1846	1510 1/2
Morrison (Wm)	176	-4	230	170
National Grid	1013 1/2	+7 1/2	1067 1/2	778
Next	6162	+136	7340	5086



COMPANY	CLOSE	±	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Ocado	1126	+6 1/2	1435	1046
Paddy Power Betfair	8640	+138	9456	5525
Pearson	554	+4	927	546 1/2
Persimmon	2942	+101	3298	1836
Phoenix Group	708	+10 1/2	803	634 1/2
Polymetal Intl	1266 1/2	+44 1/2	1345	772 1/2
Prudential	1263	-7	1780	1257
Reckitt Benckiser	368	+38	668	521 1/2
Reed Elsevier	1920 1/2	+35	2099	1606
Rentokil Initial	525 1/2	+12 1/2	535 1/2	345 1/2
Rightmove	625 1/2	+6 1/2	701 1/2	495
Rio Tinto	3821 1/2	+101 1/2	4976 1/2	3608
Rolls-Royce Group	635 1/2	+20	941 1/2	600 1/2
Royal Bank of Scot	170 1/2	-2	270 1/2	169 1/2
RSA Insurance Grp	522	+4	597	501 1/2
Ryl Dutch Shell 'B'	1723 1/2	+7 1/2	2612	1661 1/2
Sage Group	701 1/2	+7 1/2	820 1/2	655
Sainsbury (J)	206 1/2	+2	240 1/2	177
Schroders	2926	+90	3443	2541
Scottish Mortgage	605 1/2	+22 1/2	659	472
SGRO	8616	+29	9215	653 1/2
Svenskt Tenn	2594	+47	2696	1905 1/2
Smith & Nephew	1794	+24	1990	1444 1/2
Smiths Group	1557 1/2	+25	1769 1/2	1378
Spirax-Sarco	8755	+210	9415	6825
SSE	1578 1/2	+32 1/2	1686 1/2	1008
St James's Place	1016	+14 1/2	1199 1/2	913 1/2
Standard Chartered	538 1/2	+12 1/2	738 1/2	535 1/2
Standard Life	280	+4 1/2	337	238
Taylor Wimpey	207 1/2	+5	236 1/2	143
Tesco	235	+7	259	212 1/2
TUI AG	608 1/2	+18 1/2	1081 1/2	590 1/2
Unilever	4382 1/2	+62 1/2	5324	3999 1/2
United Utilities	979 1/2	+20 1/2	1061	759
Vodafone Group	133 1/2	+13 1/2	165 1/2	123 1/2
Whitbread	3768	+9	5152	3717
WPP Group	755	+14 1/2	1077 1/2	740 1/2

MARKET REPORT

HEALTHCARE group **Huntsworth** soared 38p to 110p after a recommended cash offer worth 108p per share from US private equity group Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, valuing the company at £400million.

Temporary power supplier **Aggreko** was 34 1/2p brighter at 709 1/2p, as it grew annual pre-tax profit by 9 per cent to £199million, while a 4 per cent rise in nine-month profit to £885million lifted equipment rental company **Ashted Group** 1p to 2408p.

Builders' merchant **Travis Perkins** firmed 28p to 1472 1/2p after solid annual results, but recruiter **Robert Walters** fell 30p to 500p as it warned annual profit expectations would be dampened by coronavirus outbreak.

Delivery group **DX** added 0.38p to 11.63p as it flagged a return to pre-tax profit this year, while **Vast Resources** jumped 0.04p to 0.26p after a positive update on a diamond project in Zimbabwe.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsbury's + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	2675	+60	2780	1205
Babcock International	442	+116	669	416
BAE Systems	612	+11	649	444
Chemring Group	250	+91	286	137
Meggitt	550	+71	697	490
OneTel Group	342	-16	387	267
Rolls-Royce Group	635	+20	841	600
Senior	145	-2	235	141
Ultra Electronics	1963	+36	2292	1279

Alternative Energy				
Povair	678	-12	786	515
Banks				
Barclays	139	-31	192	136
Boc Santander	284	+1	402	280
Close Brothers	1279	+13	1663	1227
CYBG	147	+3	220	104
HSBC Holdings	509	+10	680	507
Lloyds Banking Grp	48	-3	67	48
Metro Bank	164	-1	196	161
Royal Bank Of Scot.	170	-2	270	163
Standard Chartered	538	-12	735	526

Beverages				
Barr (AG)	546	+12	975	526
Brwiv	882	+15	1088	850
Coa-Cola HBC	2582	+67	3074	2299
Diageo	2820	+19	3625	2765

Chemicals				
Carbo	94	+1	451	8
Croda International	4744	+54	5375	4554
Elementis	96	-1	184	96
Johnson Matthey	291	+26	3454	275
Synthomer	277	+14	392	276
Trealt	475	+11	546	388
Victrex	2128	+64	2540	1845

Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	243	+1	295	194
Boat (Henry)	318	+14	342	233
Clarke T.	113	+4	140	141
Costain Group	172	+81	397	144
CRH	2757	+39	3100	2279
Galliford Try	150	+3	886	131
Gleeson (MJ)	910	-4	990	698
Keller Group	775	+61	876	511
Kier Group	108	+11	632	61
Kingspan Grp	5153	+61	5571	3614
Marshall	726	+16	876	542
Morgan Sindici	1808	+20	1970	1090
Smart Art & Co.	123	-124	111	111
Tyman	249	+9	291	195

Electricity				
Drax Group	266	+6	386	251
SSC	1578	+32	1686	1008

Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acl	544	+34	586	384
Dewhurst	1040	-112	1150	825
Dialight	231	+17	570	213
Halma	2054	+56	2244	1835
Morgan Crucible	286	+10	324	232
Oxford Instruments	1410	+4	1654	963
Renishaw	3408	+8	4638	332
Spectris	2786	+91	3005	2234
TT Electronics	191	-9	265	191
Xaar	44	+4	154	35
XP Power	3250	+250	3820	1965

Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen All Asia	572	-	645	515
Aberdeen Asian Smi	998	+8	1150	966
Aberforth Smi Co.	1240	+22	1546	1114
Acom Income	347	+22	417	325
Advance Divdg Fund	571	+10	634	540
Albion Tech & Gen. VCT	71	-	81	73
Albion VCT	79	-	71	79
Alliance Trust	77	+12	876	730
Artemis Alpha	296	+2	350	267
Aurora Inv.Tst.	211	+5	242	177
AVI Global Tst.	715	+7	802	695
Baillie Gifford Japan	690	848	675	
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip.	1473	+5	1893	147
Bankers Inv.Tst.	946	+12	1032	851
Baronsmead VCT2	70	-	78	70
BH Global GBP	1495	-71	1667	1132
BH Global USD	1227	+11	1328	1118
BH Macro GBP	2585	-65	2830	2250
Biotech Growth Trust	960	+24	1100	670
BlackRock Mining	335	+13	395	319
Blue Planet Intl Tst.	36	-	43	33
Bluecrest AllBlue	194	-3	218	180
Blueone AIM VCT2	32	-	34	32
British Assets Tst.	109	+2	120	104
Brunner Inv.Tst.	850	+16	926	741
Caledonia Inv.	2975	+75	3180	2875
City National Res.Yld.	74	+9	93	72
City Of London	393	+4	448	382
Dunedin Ent.Lt.	323	+2	380	308
Dunedin Income	284	+5	307	249
Edin Widge Inv	193	+4	218	171
Edin.Drign.Tst.	402	+8	437	369
Edin.Inv.Tst.	540	+7	652	528
Edin.US Tracker	272	+6	312	263
Eldestreest VCT	52	-	55	50
Electric Private Eq.	325	-7	427	288
European Ass.Tst.	97	+2	115	92
F&C CapInc.	317	-5	358	299
F&C Inv.Tst.	695	+5	786	672
F&C Smaller Cos.	129	+1	150	126
F&C US Smaller Companies	1037	+7	1197	952
Fidelity Asian	365	+7	457	350
Fidelity European	250	+5	272	218

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Fidelity Japanese	149	+1	183	134
Fidelity Special	240	+5	280	230
Finsbury Gwth&M	829	+18	958	795
Forefront Tech.VCT	68	-	69	65
Gartmore Euro	1190	-20	1370	1120
Genesis E.M.F.	743	+11	818	686
Graphite Ent.	880	+20	1015	824
Hansa Tst 'A'	177	+1	205	175
Hansa Tst Plc	176	+2	222	173
Hansa Tst Euro.Tst.	1180	-5	1270	1040
Henderson Far Est.	326	+5	387	310
Henderson Inc.	171	+2	195	161
Henderson Opp.Tst.	916	+7	1110	856
Herold Inv.Tst.	1360	+28	1530	1205
HGCapital Tst.	245	+3	272	197
HSBC Infrastructure	175	+1	183	155
Impax Env.Mkt	338	+11	360	280
Intl Biotech.Tst.	586	+18	670	540
International Public	163	+14	171	146
Invesco Asia	272	+3	310	265
Invesco Inc GH Tst.	277	-3	305	258
Invesco Lev.	75	+2	78	71
Invesco Perp Uk	546	+20	638	471

JPM American	465	+3	524	421
JPM Asian	379	+8	419	343
JPM Clearhouse	712	+36	796	662
JPM Elect Man Gwth	827	+10	922	785
JPM Emerg Mkt.	982	+27	1088	878
JPM Euro Smi Co	363	+5	405	340
JPM Global Emerging	123	-5	143	120
JPM Indian	651	+11	790	628
JPM Japanese	394	+4	477	383
JPM Mid Cap	1240	+25	1425	1010
JPM Overseas IT	335	-6	368	302
JPM Sml Cos	271	+6	321	196
JPM US Sml Co	325	+12	371	294
Jupiter Euro	823	+17	926	708
Jupiter Primda	270	-5	305	254
JZ Capital Partners	256	-49	490	232

Keystone Inv.Tst.	310	+2	361	299
Law Debenture	590	+12	654	552
Lowland Invest Co	1267	+32	1480	1212
Majestic Inv.	214	+7	276	202
Manchester&Lon.	544	-8	610	471
Marlin Currie Prio Tst.	307	+12	329	253
Matrix Inc & Gwth 4	65	-	82	64
Maven Income And Growth VCT	43	-	45	43
Mercantile Inv.Tst.	242	+7	278	188
Merchants Tst.	484	+5	567	443
Mid Wynd Int.	580	+12	636	500
Midas Inc&Gwth Tst.	162	+3	181	160
Monks Inv.Tst.	935	+15	1026	809
Montanaro Euro Tst.	1032	+20	1200	870
Montanaro UK	122	+3	146	101
Murray Inc.Tst.	840	+4	938	764
Murray Int.Tst.	1078	+10	1286	1056
New India	443	+7	519	423
New Star Inv.Tst.	117	+1	121	105
North All Smi.Tst.	3345	+35	3560	2890
Northern 2 VCT	60	-	61	58
Northern Venture	64	-	67	63
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	22	-	40	22
Oxford Tech VCT	33	-	35	33
Pacific Assets	257	+9	311	240
Pacific Horizon	331	+9	364	302
Panthoan Int.	2200	+90	2620	2020
Perpetual In.Gwth	288	+14	342	282
Polar Cap.Tech	1590	+54	1746	1220
RCM Technology Trust	1754	+62	1974	1440
RIT Capital Partners	200	+76	2180	1886
Ruffer Investment	220	+6	230	206
Schroder Asia	441	+5	485	424
Schroder Inc.	274	+5	318	265
Schroder Japan	169	-2	203	169
Schroder UK	186	+5	206	169
Schroder UK M&S	562	+12	694	485
Scottish American	403	+6	440	368
Scottish Inv.	733	+9	843	715
Scottish Mortgage	605	+12	659	472
Shires Inc.	262	-15	298	251
Shires Smi.Co	315	+2	349	263
Small Comp Div.Tst.	179	+11	218	160
SPARK VCT	21	-	22	21
Standard Life Equity	354	+9	435	339
Standard Life UK Smi	550	+20	638	442
SVM Global	292	+1	308	253
SVM UK Emerging	88	+1	103	83
Temple Bar	1210	+6	1486	1162
Templeton Emrg.	792	+24	876	731
The European Inv.Tst.	850	+6	954	762
Thornmont Tst.	624	+30	724	496
TR Euro.Growth	865	+10	994	802
TR Prop.IT	462	+21	497	377
Troy Inc & Growth Tst.	79	+3	86	76
Value & Income	241	+1	288	238
Witan Inv Trust	201	+3	235	196
Witan Pacific	329	+4	356	312
Wwilde Healthcare	3100	+95	3330	2495

Financial Services				
3i Group	1020	+32	1184	942
3i Infrastructure	300	-5	317	270
Ashmore Group	476	+14	570	397
Brewhin Dolphin	309	+1	375	287
Charles Stanley	285	-34	345	235
City Of London Group	127	-	145	125
Guinness Peat Group	59	-14	87	59
Grangevales Lansdown	1519	+35	2433	1512
Hargreaves	719	+38	725	474
Intermediate Cap Grp	1667	+63	1877	999
International Pers Fm	161	+1	131	204
Investec	389	+3	518	385
IP Group	66	-10	100	55
Jupiter Fund Man	315	+4	432	300

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Liontrust Asset Man	1110	+40	1350	597
London Stock Ex.	7864	-24	8542	4538
Lonfin	40	-	41	36
Man Group	150	+6	175	130
Melrose	206	+3	248	160
Paragon Group	458	-3	553	388
Provident Financial	414	+13	599	356
Rothbone Brothers	1682	-2	2540	1660
S & U	2180	-20	2500	1767
Schroders	2926	+90	3443	2541
Schroders NV	2280	+55	2635	1962
Standard Life	280	+4	337	238
Tullett Prebon	380	+12	417	270
Walker Crisp Group	25	-	27	24

Fixed Line Telecommunications				
BT Group	139	-	230	139
TalkTalk	109	+1	126	99
Telecom Plus	1338	+12	1552	1130

Food & Drug Retailers				
Morrisons	2166	+76	2476	1730
Greggs (Wm)	176	-4	230	170
Ocado	1126	+6	1435	1046
Sainsbury (J)	206	+2	240	177
Tesco	235	+7	259	212

Food Producers				
A.B. Foods	2279	+17	2708	2106

Anglo-Eastern	520	+1	617	427
Carr's Milling	136	-1	168	130
Cranwick	3450	+76	3852	2488
Devro	147	-22	163	145
Glanbia	988	+57%	1652	851
Greencore Group	214	+45%	281	193
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs	1038	+4		
8134%				
Premier Foods	32		43	29
REA Holdings	117	+4%	210	9
Tate & Lyle	727	+16	801	663
Unilever	4382	+62%	5324	3999
Forestry & Paper				
Mondi	1611	+39	1846	1510

3x2m Polytunnel

ONLY £89.99 P&P £9.95

Grow a variety of flowers, plants and vegetables in this 3x2 metre polytunnel by Garden Grow. Consisting of powder-coated steel framing covered with a waterproof PE protector, this polytunnel is durable and easy to construct.

It features double-stitched seams for maximum durability and has a double-zip door that can be rolled up for easy access. There are also netted windows to ensure the temperature within the greenhouse can be controlled.

The windows can be covered by rolling down the PE covers. Perfect to keep young plants protected during harsher conditions, this polytunnel is supplied with high-quality, durable, metal pegs to ensure it's always secure to the ground. If you decide that your crops are ready to face the weather alone, simply move the lightweight tunnel to your next crop or deconstruct with ease for use again next season.

Measuring three metres in length and two metres in width with 1.9 metres of headroom, this tunnel has plenty of room to grow a variety of crops.

Please note, the ground sheet and the wire shelves pictured are not

included. To compliment your polytunnel we offer a spare cover and a set of four plastic seedling trays, each measuring L56.5 x W24.5 x H6cm.

Please note that due to the weight of this product, delivery will take between 5 and 7 days and is charged at £9.95. Due to courier limitations we are unable to deliver this product outside mainland UK, to Scottish Highlands, Isles or BFPO addresses.

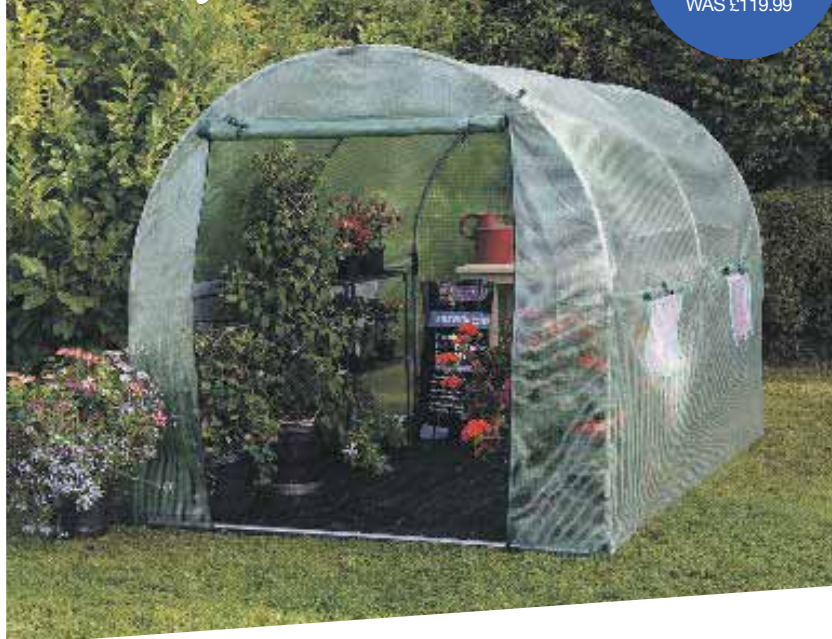


G3350 3x3 Polyntunnel

G3351 Spare Polyntunnel Cover £39.99

G2162 Four Seeding Trays £7.99

Garden Grow



SAVE
£ 30
WAS £119.99

Garden Kneeler and Seat

ONLY £18.99 P&P £3.95



Put an end to muddy knees with this two-in-one folding garden kneeler and seat, perfect for tending to flowerbeds or tidying lawn edges. It features a pouch with three pockets to keep tools at hand, and converts to a seat for resting or gardening at a comfortable height.

The durable frame is constructed from high-quality steel, while the kneeler is padded to ensure comfort.

Measures H49 x W59 x L27cm. Measures H12 x W59 x L27cm when folded.

G0999 Garden Kneeler and Seat

SAVE
£ 26
WAS £44.99

20V Cordless Tiller

ONLY £69.99 P&P £4.95

This powerful cordless tiller by Garden Gear is great for digging holes, levelling ground, clearing weeds, working in fertiliser and preparing furrows for sowing. It features two separate easy grip handles, which make manoeuvring the machine simple with minimal effort.

The extremely powerful motor drives a robust and sturdy blade through even the toughest ground with ease, ensuring your garden or allotment soil is at its peak, to encourage plant, crop and vegetable growth.

Whether you need to level an area, prepare new ground for planting or just generally break up the soil surface in your borders, this tiller will handle most soil types and will do the job in half the time of conventional tools.

The more passes you make, the finer and lighter the soil granules become. This cordless tiller comes with a battery and charger.

Measures L94.5-124 x W20 x H34cm. Blade diameter 155 x H2.7mm.

G2700 20V Cordless Tiller



SAVE
£ 30
WAS £99.99

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*Calls cost 12ppm plus your phone company's access charge. Lines open Mon-Sun 8am-8pm. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG group Ltd. Subject to availability. Postage quoted applies to mainland UK only. We will accept the return of faulty/unused goods in original packaging for refund or replacement within 30 days. Return of unwanted goods is at customer's expense. This does not affect your statutory rights. For customer service enquiries only please call 01874 612744 (local rate). To see how your data is processed please visit: www.shop.express.co.uk/privacy. The 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on cjooffers.co.uk, and in the retail store between 25th November 2019 and 23rd February 2020.

Wolves boss howls after stars snubbed

WANE CALL STUNS PRICE

WARRINGTON coach Steve Price says he is shocked by the omission of Gareth Widdop and Blake Austin from Shaun Wane's first England selection.

Wane has invited 31 domestically-based players to a meeting at Old Trafford later this month ahead of the Ashes series this autumn.

A further eight from Australia's NRL have been placed on a "watch list".

Wane has been keen to stress this is not a formal squad and the door remains open for all.

But Wolves coach Price – who has eight players in the group – did not expect to see Widdop or Austin overlooked.

"I was very surprised," he said. "Gareth has been really consistent when he has played for his country and represented his country with a lot of honour."

On Austin, Price said: "With the limited opportunities he got last year, I think he's another one who put the team and country first. He went out

By Gareth Walker

there and had to play out of position. I'm not quite sure what Shaun and his coaching staff feel, that's for them to answer. But I do feel for those two boys – although I'm ecstatic for the others who have been invited."

Wane said: "It's too early to be selecting Ashes squads but I've invited a group of players who are uppermost in my thoughts right now."

"I want to tell them that face to face and share my plans for the rest of the year."

"I realise there are some notable exceptions at this stage and I would say to those players that this isn't the squad, the door is never closed and outstanding form will be rewarded."

Meanwhile, Warrington's Matty Ashton faces up to five months on the sidelines with a hamstring tear.



CAST ASIDE

Warrington duo Austin, above, and Widdop have been overlooked by England

SHAUN'S ENGLAND INVITES

Charnley, Clark, Cooper, Currie (all Warrington), Evalds (Salford), Farrell (Wigan), Gale (Leeds), Gildart (Wigan), Griffin (Hull FC), Hardaker (Wigan), Hill, Hughes (both Warrington), Johnstone (Wakefield), Jones (Hull FC), Lomax (St Helens), Lyne (Wakefield), McGillivray (Huddersfield), McShane (Castleford), Makinson (St Helens), Manfread (Wigan), Newman (Leeds), Percival (St Helens), Philbin, Ratchford (both Warrington), Roby (St Helens), Sarginson (Salford), Taylor (Hull FC), Thompson (St Helens), Tomkins (Catalans), Walmsley (St Helens), Watts (Castleford).

CATTERICK RTV

THE SCOUT

2.20 The Herds Garden 4.50 Fresh New Dawn
2.50 DJANGO DJANGO (nb) 4.50 WISHING AND
3.20 ZOUTOISE HOPING (nap)
3.50 Niven 5.25 Frasnato Bello

2.20 SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE £3,509 (Class 5) 1m 7f 156yds (8 dec)

1 2F/L DAHILLS HILL (53) Laura Morgan 8 11 13... Ross Chapman
2 559 THE HERDS GARDEN (26) (C&D) F Mc Cain 11 11 12... B Hughes

3 180 TIM ROCCO (12) (D) Oliver Greenall 8 11 9... H Brooke
4 407 PEPPER STREET (F42) Sam England 5 11 7... J England
5 598 HIGHWAYMAN (38) D Thompson 7 11 5... Miss J Bedi(7)
6 P88 GLOBAL THRILL (19) (D) B J Llewellyn 11 10 5... Jordan Williams(7)

7 733 FLANAGANS FIELD (19) (D) B J Llewellyn 12 10 4... Charlie Price(5)
8 PPP SKA RIDGE (F22) Rebecca Menzies 8 10 0... C O'Farrell

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Flanagan's Field, 4 The Herds Garden, 5 Tim Rocco, 6 Dahills Hill, 10 Pepper Street, Global Thrill, 16 Highwayman, 50 Ska Ridge.

2.50 NOVICES' CHASE £5,133 (4) 3m 1f 54yds (5)

1 3P1 DJANGO DJANGO (49) (T) J O'Neill 7 11 4... Jonjo O'Neill Jr.
2 321 COOLE HALL (68) (F) Mrs R Dobbin 8 10 12... Craig Nichol
3 P-13 JAMMIN MASTERS (34) (T) W Greates 9 10 12... R Johnson
4 4-1 L STAY HUMBLE (50) Miss P Robson 7 10 12... B Hughes
5 LL-2 STRADIVARIUS DAVIS (60) A M Thompson 7 10 12... R Mania
SP FORECAST: 2-5 DJANGO DJANGO (50); Coole Hall (149); Jammin Masters (47).
P PICKING: 13-8 Django Django, 5-2 Coole Hall, 7-2 Jammin Masters, 8 Stay Humble, Stradivarius Davis.

3.20 MARIES' HURDLE £4,159 (4) 1m 7f 156yds (10)

1 141 ILAYA (36) (D) F M Hammond 6 11 10... Emma Smith-Chaston(7)
2 026 LADY BABS (30) A Crook 6 10 12... J Kingston
3 407 LIGHTENING DANCE (27) D McCain 6 10 12... B Hughes
4 797 MILATYRACE (33) P Kirby 5 10 12... T Dowson
5 606 MOVIN' ON UP (47) D Thompson 5 10 12... Craig Nichol
6 P7 PICKING PEACHES (52) R M Smith 5 10 12... R McLaren
7 06 VICKY CRISTINA (13) J Holt 5 10 12... L Stones(7)
8 OL VIVA JEZ VEGAS (14) Tade Collier 5 10 12... Sam Coltherd(3)
9 8-32 ZOUTOISE (11) (T) T R George 5 10 12... J J Burke
10 16 SIMUL AMICIS (29) Mrs S Dayer 4 10 4... C O'Farrell

W-Factor: Zoutoise (134); Ilaya (123); Lightning Dance (115).
SP FORECAST: 4-5 Zoutoise, 11-8 Ilaya, 10 Lightning Dance, 25 Picking Peaches, 50 Movin' on Up, Lady Babs, 66 Simul Amicis, Vicky Cristina, Miladyrace, Viva Jez Vegas.

3.50 MILLBRY HILL HANDICAP CHASE £5,458 (4) 1m 7f 145yds (7)

1 364 NIVEN (12) (D) P Kirby 7 10 12... T Dowson
2 146 DO LONG (46) (D) T Williams 10 10 12... A Wedge
3 77-3 PULL TOGETHER (106) Stuart Edmunds 8 11 6... C Gethings
4 564 LAS TUNAS (62) (D) R M Smith 8 11 6... R McLaren
5 34 RINGARINGAROSE (4) (D) M Toudhunter 7 10 10... D McMenamin(3)

6 16P KING GOLAN (15) Kenny Johnson 9 10 8... B Quinn
7 175 NY RENAISSANCE (114) (D) Sam England 10 10 3... J England

BLINKERS: K-9 NIVEN STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5.
W-Factor: Go Long (129); Niven (127); King Golan (126).
SP FORECAST: 8-4 Niven, 3 Pull Together, 9-2 Las Tunas, 7 Ringaringarose, 8-4 Go Long, King Golan, 14 My Renaissance.

4.20 HANDICAP HURDLE £4,159 (4) 3m 1f 11yds (10)

1 2-36 SKIPKISHALES (44) (D) S Corbett 8 11 12... J Corbett(5)
2 3-15 TRANSPENNINE STAR (54) Jonjo O'Neill 7 11 5... Jonjo O'Neill Jr.
3 7-40 KING OF FASHION (44) Duncan 10 11 3... B Hughes
4 173 FRESH NEW DAWN (29) (F) Oly Murphy 8 11 3... R Johnson
5 443 SCOTTISH ACCENT (16) Rebecca Menzies 7 11 0... C O'Farrell
6 121 MAMMO (8) (C&D) Sam England 7 11 0... J England
7 552 CRAIG STAR (20) D McCain 10 10 9... B Hughes
8 124 STRIKE WEST (29) M Hammond 8 10 7... Miss Becky Smith(5)
9 465 FINAL FLING (68) Mrs R Dobbin 9 10 2... L Murtagh(3)
10 143 BROTHERLY COMPANY (42) Miss S Foster 8 10 3... S Quinn

BLINKERS: K-9 NIVEN STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5.
W-Factor: Fresh New Dawn (124); Skipkishales (123); Final Fling (122).
SP FORECAST: 3-Fresh New Dawn, 9-2 Mammo, 6 Transpennine Star, 7 Skipkishales, Craig Star, 10 Strike West, Final Fling, 12 Others.

4.50 NOVICES' HUNTERS' CHASE £2,496 (5) 3m 1f 54yds (6)

1 112 WISHING AND HOPING (18) Philip Rowley 10 12 2... Mr A Edwards
2 P-5-3 CRAGGACKNOCK (32) S W Byrne 9 11 12... Mr J Teal(7)
3 0-13 JAMMIN MASTERS (34) (T) W Greates 9 10 12... R Johnson
4 2-1 LIGHT CLIKER (46) R Potter 8 11 2... Mr J Andrews(3)
5 P12 WATERLOO WARRIOR (20) J Slatter 8 11 12... Mr J King
6 331 ABSAINT (18) R Tate 8 11 5... Mr P Armon(7)

BLINKERS: K-9 NIVEN STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5.
W-Factor: Wishing And Hoping (137); Waterloo Warrior (122); Absaint (97).
SP FORECAST: 4-9 Wishing And Hoping, 4 Waterloo Warrior, 12 Light Flicker, Absaint, 14 Craggacknock, 50 Geordie.

5.25 STANDARD NH FLAT RACE £2,924 (5) 1m 7f 156yds (6)

1 619 PENNINE CROSS (32) (C&D) P Kirby 5 11 8... J Williamson(7)
2 1 ANYTHINGFORLOVE (64) (D) J Snowden 5 11 1... P Fuller(3)
3 31 BRING THE BACON (93) T R Grettton 5 11 1... D McMenamin(3)
4 336 TEESCRAPLO (46) (D) Hammonds 5 11 1... E Smith-Chaston(7)
5 4 PRAELATO BELLOTTI (40) Jonjo O'Neill 5 11 1... Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

BLINKERS: K-9 NIVEN STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5.
W-Factor: Anythingforlove (114); Pennine Cross (107); Foster's Island (106).
SP FORECAST: 9-11 Anythingforlove, 3 Tracato Bello, 10 Bring The Bacon, Pennine Cross, 12 Foster's Island, 25 Teescomponentsyess.

EXETER: Soft

2.00-GETAROUND (B Carver, 16-1); The Jitterbug (7-4 2nd fav); 2 Young Buck (7-2); 3 6 ran. 14l. 1/4l. Ella Pickard; 5-4 fav Eclair Surf). Total: £29.90; pl £5.20, £1.30, exalta: £50.40, trifecta: £170.80, CSF: £46.43.

2.30-FORTECUE (H Nugent, 7-2 (it fav); 1 Quick Wave (5-1); 2 Samburu Shuja (7-2 (it fav); 3 Hcap 6 ran. nk. 16l. (H Daly). Total: £34.40; pl £2.00, £3.40, exalta: £19.10, trifecta: £69.60, CSF: £20.54.

3.00-SUNNY LEGEND (R Patrick, 6-6); 1 Ballybreen (7-2 fav); 2 Kiwi Myth (7-1); 3 Hcap 14 ran. 1/4l. 3/4l. (Andrew Martin). Total: £19.90; pl £1.10, £1.70, £2.50, exalta: £9.08.10, trifecta: £19.07.81, trifecta: £19.08.80, CSF: £29.68.

3.30-JACK VALENTINE (C Deutsch, 7-4 fav); 1 Bonanza Sam (6-1); 2 Willie Sussuri (7-2 2nd fav); 3 12 ran. 2/4l. 1/4l. (Miss V Williams). Total: £2.80; pl £1.40, £1.00, £1.70, exalta: £110.70, trifecta: £314.00, CSF: £152.80.

4.00-TUDORS TREASURE (T J O'Brien, 3-1 2nd fav); 1 Ballybough Nora (4-1); 2 On The Road (15-8 fav); 3 Hcap 7 ran. shd. 1/4l. (Robert Stephens). Total: £3.20; pl £1.60, £2.50, exalta: £18.00, trifecta: £46.70, CSF: £16.27.

4.30-DAYTIME AHEAD (B Carver, 6-1); 1 Tom Gamble (14-1); 2 Stage Summit (20-1); 3 Hcap 10 ran. nk. 4/4l. (R Hodges; 6-5 fav Demopolis). Total: £8.90; pl £4.90, £1.90.

CATTERICK TRACK FACTS

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Left Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2015-): Brian Hughes 15% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2015-): R Mc Cain 16% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 220 Ska Ridge (cheek pieces, tongue strap). Tim Rocco (cheek pieces, tongue strap). Pepper Street (tongue strap). 250 Coole Hall (cheek pieces). 320 Movin' on Up (cheek pieces). 450 Geordie (tongue strap). 525 Tracato Bello (hood). BEATEN FAVOURITES: 420 Transpennine Star (lip hdl). 450 Wishing And Hoping. LONGEST TRAVELLER: Go Long (550) 275 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 220 Pepper Street from Miss Amy Murphy to Sam England. Ska Ridge from G Bewley to Rebecca Menzies. 320 Movin' on Up from K Dalglish to D Thompson.

HOPE'S of next week's Cheltenham Festival going ahead received a boost yesterday as Health Secretary Matt Hancock confirmed no current plans to cancel mass events, despite the ongoing threat of coronavirus. The Government has set out a 'battle plan' in response to Covid-19, amid widespread concerns about the impact the virus will have on people's well-being, the economy and public services. Hancock responded positively

CYCLING

TOUR de France winners Chris Froome and Geraint Thomas were in shock last night after their Team Ineos sporting director Nico Portal died suddenly aged 40.

Frenchman Portal was the architect of Froome's four Yellow Jerseys, Thomas riding to glory in 2018 and Egan Bernal winning last year.

Portal collapsed and died at home in Andorra from a suspected heart attack.

TENNIS

HEATHER WATSON followed her Acapulco triumph with a horrible first-round defeat at the Monterrey Open.

The British No2 led 4-1 in the first and third sets but lost 7-6, 3-6, 7-5 to German Tatjana Maria, who is 91st in the rankings.

The Mexican stand-off featured 12 breaks of serve before the world No49 was defeated in two hours and 39 minutes.

WORLD OF SPORT



GOALMOUTH SCRAMBLE: Nizhny Novgorod (white) and CSKA Moscow (red) in action

Paul's not choking

GOLF

PAUL AZINGER has refused to back down after labelling Tommy Fleetwood and Lee Westwood as chokers.

The American infuriated European stars during his TV commentary at the Honda Classic on Sunday by demeaning wins outside of the USA. Dane Thomas Bjorn branded Azinger "at best ignorant, at worst

arrogant." Fleetwood, who led going into the final round at the PGA National, has still to win on the PGA Tour after 64 starts while only two

of Westwood's 44 worldwide wins have come on US soil.

And Azinger said: "I didn't mean to disrespect anyone. But professional golfers

choke for two things: cash and prestige. And the PGA Tour has the most of both."

NEIL McLEMAN

1. Who has become the oldest winner of snooker's Masters, beating fellow Englishman Ali Carter 10-8 in the final?
2. Who scored a goal and was sent off in Arsenal's 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace?
3. Which Ulster player produced a man-of-the-match performance against his brother Freddie's Bath as they progressed to the Champions Cup quarter-finals?
4. Which Portuguese international has joined Tottenham on loan as Jose Mourinho's first signing at the club?
5. In what year did the USA win all four Olympic athletics relays?
6. Which tennis player won the first all-American men's singles final at Wimbledon?
7. In cricket, is the third man on the on or the off side?
8. Which Spanish football team play at the Metastall Stadium?
9. Which US boxer beat Thomas Hearns to win the WBC middleweight championship in 1988?
10. Which French driver was Formula One world champion in 1985, 1986, 1989 and 1993?

ANSWERS: 1 Stuart Bingham; 2 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang; 3 Billy Burns; 4 Edison Fernandes; 5 1984; 6 Bill Johnston; 7 The off side; 8 Valencia; 9 Iran Barkley; 10 Alain Prost.

10 to tackle
RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seal

RESULTS

3.50-ORKAN (J Hamilton, 9-2 2nd fav); 1 Lostock Hall (13-2); 2 Ted Veale (8-1); 3 Hcap 8 ran. 2/4l. 1/4l. (M Walford; 5-4 fav Bingo D'Olivato). Total: £5.00; pl £1.50, £2.20, exalta: £35.70, trifecta: £234.54, trifecta: £291.20, CSF: £36.02. Non-runner: Elite Icon.

4.20-SHE'SASPERMAC (C O'Farrell, 15-8 fav); 1 Haul Us In (4-1); 2 Molly Carew (9-4 2nd fav); 3 Hcap 4 ran. 3/4l. 1/4l. (I Jardine). Total: £2.40; exalta: £9.40, trifecta: £21.50, CSF: £9.12.

4.50-WETLANDS (B Hughes, 7-4 fav); 1 Drenagh (2-1 2nd fav); 2 Fabuleux Du Clos (16-1); 3 8 ran. 3/4l. 1/4l. (N Richards). Total: £2.70; pl £1.40, £1.00, £1.70, exalta: £7.10, trifecta: £48.60, CSF: £5.59.

5.00-DARIUS DES SOURCES (S Quinn, 15-2); 1 Casimir Du Clos (10-1); 2 Donald Dug (10-1); 3 Hcap 12 ran. 2/4l. 1/4l. (C Grant; 4-1 fav Seapoint). Total: £9.40; pl £3.20, £3.80, £4.40, exalta: £198.60, trifecta: £1539.68, trifecta: £100.80, CSF: £151.64.

3.20-OSCAR CEREMONY (H Brooke, 4-1); 1 Kings Eclipse (8-1); 2 Skyhill (9-4 2nd fav); 3 Hcap 5 ran. 1/4l. 2/4l. (Stef Keniry; 2-1 fav Speak Of The Devil). Total: £4.30; pl £1.90, £2.90, exalta: £23.60, trifecta: £73.90, CSF: £29.23. Non-runner: P Dixon.

3.50-ORKAN (J Hamilton, 9-2 2nd fav); 1 Lostock Hall (13-2); 2 Ted Veale (8-1); 3 Hcap 8 ran. 2/4l. 1/4l. (M Walford; 5-4 fav Bingo D'Olivato). Total: £5.00; pl £1.50, £2.20, exalta: £35.70, trifecta: £234.54, trifecta: £291.20, CSF: £36.02. Non-runner: Elite Icon.

4.20-SHE'SASPERMAC (C O'Farrell, 15-8 fav); 1 Haul Us In (4-1); 2 Molly Carew (9-4 2nd fav); 3 Hcap 4 ran. 3/4l. 1/4l. (I Jardine). Total: £2.40; exalta: £9.40, trifecta: £21.50, CSF: £9.12.

4.50-WETLANDS (B Hughes, 7-4 fav); 1 Drenagh (2-1 2nd fav); 2 Fabuleux Du Clos (16-1); 3 8 ran. 3/4l. 1/4l. (N Richards). Total: £2.70; pl £1.40, £1.00, £1.70, exalta: £7.10, trifecta: £48.60, CSF: £5.59.

5.00-DARIUS DES SOURCES (S Quinn, 15-2); 1 Casimir Du Clos (10-1); 2 Donald Dug (10-1); 3 Hcap 12 ran. 2/4l. 1/4l. (C Grant; 4-1 fav Seapoint). Total: £9.40; pl £3.20, £3.80, £4.40, exalta: £198.60, trifecta: £1539.68, trifecta: £100.80, CSF: £151.64.

3.20-OSCAR CEREMONY (H Brooke, 4-1); 1 Kings Eclipse (8-1); 2 Skyhill (9-4 2nd fav); 3 Hcap 5 ran. 1/4l. 2/4l. (Stef Keniry; 2-1 fav Speak Of The Devil). Total: £4.30; pl £1.90, £2.90, exalta: £23.60, trifecta: £73.90, CSF: £29.23. Non-runner: P Dixon.

Quodpot: £78.90

SOUTHWELL: Standard

5.00-RED STRIPES (H Shaw, 9-2); 1 Movenuq (5-2 fav); 2 You're Cool (11-2); 3 Hcap 7 ran. 1/4l. 2/4l. (Mrs L Williamson). Total: £4.50; pl £2.80, £1.10, exalta: £16.50, trifecta: £59.68, trifecta: £52.20, CSF: £15.29. Non-runner: Six Strings.

Placepot: £13.20
(Race 1); 5; (2); 2, 4, 10; (3); 5, 4; (4); 8, 4, 1; (5); 2; (6); 7, 1, 2.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Cotswolds: ZOUTOISE (320 Catterick) Newmarket: CEMHAAH (6.45 Kempton) North: LION TOWER (4.30 Lingfield) Midlands: FRESH NEW DAWN (4.20 Catterick)

HOOF PRINTS

TODAY'S meeting at Fontwell has been abandoned due to a waterlogged course.

The track failed an inspection at lunchtime yesterday - put back from 8.00am after overnight frost prevented an accurate assessment. But following heavy rain over the past week Fontwell remained untraceable.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) Philip Rowley 71% (4 wins and 1 places from 7 runners), S Curran 60% (2/15), M Hammond 57% (1/3/7), Mrs R Dobbin 56% (1/4/9), A Carroll 50% (4/24), C Fellew 50% (2/16), G McPherson 50% (2/14), I Williams 50% (1/2/6), M Scudamore 50% (1/2/6), Oliver Greenall 50% (2/16), T R George 50% (1/4).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS Mr Alex Edwards 67% (3 wins and 3 places from 9 runners), George Rooke 60% (6/315), Mr J Teal 60% (3/10/5), Mr Jack Andrews 58% (6/11/2), Ben Curtis 50% (10/122), Conor O'Farrell 50% (3/2/10), Craig Nichol 50% (1/3/8), Oisin Murphy 50% (1/6/4).

BENBATL will aim to give Saeed bin Suoroor with a record 10th victory in the Dubai World Cup after his first place in Saudi Arabia at the weekend.

A Group One winner in Dubai, Germany and Australia, the six-year-old ran well behind Maximum Security in the Saudi Cup in Riyadh.

"We are very happy with him," said Bin Suoroor. "We'll give him an easy time and get him ready for the World Cup."



RACING LEGEND:
Clark celebrates British
Grand Prix win in 1963

1905: Hull KR's George West scored a record 11 tries in a rugby league match against Brookland Rovers in the Northern Cup (now Challenge Cup).

1936: Double world motor racing champion Jim Clark was born in Fife. Winner of the title in 1963 and 1965, he was killed while racing at Hockenheim in Germany in 1968.

1967: Third Division QPR pulled off a shock 3-2 victory over First Division West Brom in the first League Cup final to be played at Wembley.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

ON THIS DATE IN SPORTING HISTORY

1976: John Curry added to his Olympic gold medal by winning the men's title at the world figure-skating championships.

2002: Manchester City signed Preston striker Jon Macken for £5million.

2005: The FA announced plans to scrap fifth- and sixth-round replays in the FA Cup for teams still involved in Europe, ideas which were later shelved.

2010: An independent appeal committee dismissed Stade Francais prop David Attoub's appeal against a 70-week ban for gouging. The offence happened in a Heineken Cup match against Ulster.

2012: Andre Villas-Boas left Chelsea, after less than a season in charge, with Roberto Di Matteo appointed interim manager until the end of the season.

PAL MANU IS A PAWN STAR

By Alex Spink

MANU TUILAGI is preparing for Wales by rehearsing his wrecking-ball tactics – on the chess board.

England's plans for Saturday's Twickenham clash might have been disrupted by the shock of prop Mako Vunipola being told to self-isolate as a coronavirus precaution after he flew home from Tonga via Hong Kong.

But Tuilagi has focused on the task at hand by heading to the games room at England's five-star hotel and schooling his team-mates.

"He killed me at chess, he's unbelievable at it," said pal Henry Slade. "It lasted about 30 seconds."

England have been at their best on the pitch when they make a fast start on the back of a marauding Tuilagi forcing the opposition on to the back foot.

New Zealand could not cope with him in the World Cup, Ireland were equally

Slade is blown away by chess king Tuilagi

powerless 10 days ago. And now his team-mates, used to the luxury of playing alongside him, are getting a taste of the treatment he inflicts without even picking up a ball.

Tuilagi said: "I only started playing chess in Japan during the World Cup but I'm obsessed with it. The way I play is pretty much the same as my rugby. If I'm white I'll attack because you go first."

"And when you attack you have to go all in, because as soon as you let your foot off the gas you'll be losing."

"I try to get us over the gainline early on, get some momentum. If we get that, it's easier to play off it, whether to kick or carry on running. We got it last

weekend we had a good start. Hopefully we will look to do the same against Wales."

After England had beaten Ireland, forwards coach Matt Proudfoot turned to his family and asked them which player had caught their eye. All said Tuilagi.

"He offers so much," said Proudfoot, left. "He gives you direction. He's dependable, reliable. He offers that in the midfield."

Slade must wait to see whether Eddie Jones believes that the time is right to restore his centre partnership with Tuilagi, which worked so well in Japan. He would love nothing more.

"Manu gives the team a massive lift," said the Exeter man. "He gets us over the gainline but we can also use him as a decoy. And defensively, if you run into him he hits you hard."



CHECK MATES
Slade and Tuilagi go about their work hoping to reunite on the pitch on Saturday

'We fell out. We move on'



SALE boss Steve Diamond thinks his high-flying side can overcome the abrupt exit of Chris Ashton to maintain their Premiership push for a first title in 14 years. Second-placed Sharks washed their hands of the ex-England wing, left, this week after what Diamond yesterday described as a "disagreement on how we want to play the game".

Diamond said: "He wants to do it one way, I want to do it another and that's it."

"We had a disagreement about various things. These things happen. We have to put it to bed quickly and move on."

Diamond is confident that his side, who can go top if they beat London Irish on Friday night, have the depth to cope without Ashton.

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START ME UP
Rowlands charges at France and is eager to build on his Test debut this Saturday



Picture: GETTY IMAGES



Neil SQUIRES
REPORTS

AS A London-born and Oxford-educated Wasps second row, Will Rowlands is hardly a Valleys commando.

But Wales' newest recruit wants to be judged by his actions in a red shirt and not by his accent.

The 28-year-old lock has the chance against England on Saturday to show exactly where his allegiances lie after an encouraging debut off the bench against France last time out.

In the crowd that special day at the Principality Stadium was proud father Jeremy, who hails from Pontllanfraith in Monmouthshire, along with the rest of the Rowlands clan.

He said: "It meant a lot to the family to see me run out and pull on that red jersey for the first time."

"It was the first time that the whole Welsh side of my family had been back to Wales together so it was a very proud day for me. There were even a few red shirts on the English side of the family."

"I've always known I am Welsh-qualified and it has always been a bit of a focus for me."

"I was over the moon to be involved in the squad and it was capped off by getting onto the field. It was a pretty exciting day and I was just

London lad is so glad he's locked in with Dragons

ROOKIE ROWLANDS HAS HIS SIGHTS ON ENGLAND

ecstatic to be involved. When I started playing rugby I always said my goal was to find out where the ceiling was for me.

"France was a big step forward in being able to play Test match rugby and I am keen to get my teeth into as much as I can and get out there again."

Keeping the English half of his family as Wales supporters may be difficult inside the concrete cathedral that is Twickenham. A full house in the heartland of Red Rose territory exerts a pull which is hard to resist. Wales, after

successive defeats against Ireland and France, need to stop the slide and prevent this Six Nations turning into one to forget.

If they are to do that they will have to find a way to stop the march of the England second rows that is becoming their calling card.

Bringing two locks off the bench delivers tremendous power for England late on but in their 6ft 8in, 19st 5lb Wasp, Wales have a big hitter to counteract the play.

Rowlands has played at Twickenham for his club

against Harlequins and in the 2012 and 2013 Varsity Matches when he was at Pembroke College studying economics and management.

However, the Six Nations is a different kettle of fish and he cannot wait for Saturday.

Rowlands said: "It will be a big occasion. We need to go there and right some wrongs of the past couple of games and put in a full performance and get the result."

"There is a sense of frustration. Test matches hinge on big moments and there were a couple of momentum shifts against France, just like in Ireland."

"There is always plenty to work on, but we're not far away. Any day can be our day. So why not at Twickenham?"

Vunipola blow for England title hopes

FROM BACK PAGE

will know why they did not instruct Vunipola to take a different route, given Hong Kong is on the NHS list of 16 countries or areas posing a "higher risk" of coronavirus and the recommended period of self-isolation is up to 14 days.

He will surely also miss England's final match in Italy on Saturday week, a fixture itself under threat.

England were reluctant to elaborate on the absence of their Lions star, with forwards coach Matt Proudfoot saying: "I can

guarantee you it is not coronavirus." Vunipola's place is expected to be taken by Joe Marler, below.

It follows Ireland postponing their Six Nations game with Italy, scheduled for Saturday, to guard against any potential spread of the virus.

After a series of meetings today, the French government is expected to decide whether Ireland's game against France, which is due to be played in Paris on Saturday week, will go ahead.



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BIGGAR IS FIT TO FILL THE GAP AT No10

DAN BIGGAR is ready to give Wales a huge boost in their bid to win at Twickenham on Saturday for the first time in the Six Nations since 2012.

The fly-half suffered a knee injury playing for Northampton Saints on Saturday but is expected to be fit to face England. Biggar, left, has

By Alex Bywater

joined Liam Williams, George North and Josh Navidi back in full training.

Williams (ankle) and Navidi (hamstring) have not played in this season's Six Nations while North has recovered from the head knock he took against France. With Jarrod Evans the only other fit

No10, Wales drafted in Sam Davies as cover. But Wales' breakdown technical advisor Sam Warburton said: "Dan is looking good. I'd say we're confident at this stage."

North suffered his sixth head injury as a professional almost a fortnight ago but has passed the return-to-play protocols and been assessed by an independent

specialist. Warburton insists Wales would be ready to throw full-back Williams and back-row ace Navidi into action despite neither having played Test rugby since last autumn's World Cup.

"If you ask Liam, he felt he was ready to play against France," said Warburton. "It will be great to have some big-game players back."



HATS OFF:
Jennings
has found
criticism
tough

Jennings: I've been battered by my critics

KEATON JENNINGS has struggled to cope with the "absolute battering" he has endured from his critics.

The opener arrived in Colombo yesterday with the rest of his England team-mates, having been recalled to the Test squad thanks to Rory Burns' ankle injury and his previous fine form in Sri Lanka.

But after scoring a century in Mumbai on his debut in 2018 and sweeping his way to a career-best 146 not out in Galle, the Lancashire batsman admits that he has found it tough being in the spotlight. "I've had an absolute battering at times," he said.

"The sports section can be hard reading. But there are going to be times when you see things you don't want to see or hear things in the street – that's the life I've chosen.

"I've got to make sure I'm big and strong enough to know where my values are. I don't want to run away from my failures or my

By Rory Dollard

shortcomings. I have no issue being open and honest if it lets me put my head on the pillow at night.

"If a youngster reads this, sees that someone who plays for England struggles with this stuff, it might help them learn to cope."

Jennings hopes to put pressure on Dom Sibley, below, and Zak Crawley for the opening spots in the



two-match series, fresh from captaining England Lions to their first victory over Australia A in Melbourne last week.

"We've got a few guys competing for top-order places but that's healthy," he said.

"Whether I get the chance or not, I'm here to help England win the series. If I play, that's awesome, if I end up mixing electrolyte drinks then I'll do that."

England play their first warm-up game against a President's XI on Saturday, with the first Test in Galle starting on March 19.

ALL EYES ON THE SKY

Shrubsole stays focused despite fear of a washout

ANYA SHRUBSOLE says England's players will be glued to the weather forecast before tomorrow morning's T20 World Cup semi-final.

England are due to face India at the Sydney Cricket Ground at 4am UK time. But, with heavy rain predicted, England will be knocked out if there is a washout or both sides fail to get in at least 10 overs, after they failed to win their group.

"We are weather watching," said the fast bowler. "Everyone will be downloading around five weather apps between now and the game. It is very hard to predict. I was in the West Indies a couple of years ago and everything shut up shop because

From **Alex Smith** in Sydney

a hurricane was predicted, but the worst we got was a storm.

"Things can change pretty fast and there is nothing we can do about the weather. We just need to prepare as if the game will go ahead."

BBC weatherman Simon King said: "Rain is expected to fall for most of Thursday, with the chance of the odd thunderstorm mixed in.

"The first semi featuring England is definitely under threat of being called off without a ball being bowled."

If they do crash out without bowling a ball, it will be down to their opening-game defeat by South Africa.

Shrubsole says that England will have no

regrets. "If that is how you operate in life then you will always have things you wish could have gone a different way," she said. "We can't think like that.

"The loss to South Africa was disappointing. We weren't at our best and it was a wake-up call but since then we've played some really good cricket."

Defending champions Australia meet South Africa in the second semi-final tomorrow, with the hosts in the same boat as England if their game falls to the

weather after finishing runners-up in their group.

If England's hopes of reaching Sunday's final are not washed away, India have teenager Shafali Verma waiting to rain on their parade.

The 16-year-old is the third-highest scorer in the tournament and is top of the six-hitting charts.

England opener Danni Wyatt teamed up with Verma in last year's Women's T20 Challenge, the female version of the IPL, and said: "She can hit the ball very hard but we have our plans for her."

PAYMENT PARITY

MEN and women cricketers will play for exactly the same prize money in The Hundred.

Both tournaments will offer the same breakdown of a £300,000 prize pot, with the winning team taking home £150,000.

The runners-up will get £75,000 and the losing team in the 'eliminator' will complete the team prizes with £50,000.

There will also be the same individual cash prizes for the most valuable player in each tournament.

"This is a great announcement for women's sport," said England skipper Heather Knight.

DEAN WILSON



RAIN OF TERROR
But Anya Shrubsole says England are preparing to play tomorrow

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From **John Cross** in Amsterdam

GARETH SOUTHGATE has been given the chance to lay the ghosts to rest from England's Euro 2016 nightmare.

Southgate was drawn against Iceland in their Nations League Group – along with world No1 Belgium and Denmark – which will be the first time England have faced them since their humiliating 2-1 defeat in Nice four years ago under Roy Hodgson.

Three Lions boss Southgate said: "We've been trying to take steps towards doing that [laying ghosts] with our general performances since then anyway. Now there's a game that – I've just seen Gudni Bergsson [Iceland FA president] and they're looking forward to it – is a different sort of test.

"Iceland have had a difficult 12 months in terms of where their team are at, but it's a game we've obviously got to be extremely well prepared for because we know the risk involved."

Iceland boss Erik Hamren said: "I can see you want a better result this time. I was not the coach but saw the game, of course, and it was a fantastic moment for a small country like Iceland. You can

Revenge no longer on ice for England

imagine what it felt like to beat England."

It also pits England against Belgium, and their boss Roberto Martinez said: "It's a great group. The teams know each other very well. Going to Wembley is always a very special occasion for all the fans and us as a team and we've improved since we played in the

World Cup." Southgate admitted that he did not know whether England's friendlies with Italy and Denmark will definitely go ahead because of the coronavirus but insisted he is planning towards them.

He made it clear that he is backing Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford to be his No1 despite

watching him make another high-profile error at Goodison Park on Sunday.

But Southgate did cast doubt as to whether Manchester City's Phil Foden, 19, will get a call-up for the Euros because of his lack of game time this season.

Southgate said: "Jordan's performances for us have been outstanding, he has been a key part of some big, big results that we have had.

"That is clear to everybody but in goal you are always under the spotlight and if you are the England goalkeeper then that is the reality of the job. He won't be shying away from that and he has been, all the time I have known him, a resilient character.

"He has a very experienced manager in Carlo Ancelotti at his club to help with it, so I am expecting him to bounce back – the weekend goal is one he would want to do better with but then outstanding saves at the end of the game – that's the life of a goalkeeper."

Of Foden, he said: "It's clear he hasn't played a lot of first-team football so it's hard to gauge his level at times."

CHANCE TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT



Southgate spells it out to Kane and Rashford

FROM BACK PAGE

race to be fit for the summer having been sidelined since January with a double stress fracture in his back. But Southgate spelt out a clear

RASHFORD:
Stress fracture

message that he will not take any chances, is keen for them to play club matches before the end of the season and even left the door open for an SOS call to Jamie Vardy. England boss Southgate said: "They have to get back playing club football. We are hoping both come through with no issues. We've had

really good updates right the way through and Harry and Marcus are exactly where we were expecting them to be.

"Both players will give themselves the best possible chance of being available.

"That's the only bit we can guarantee. What we can't guarantee is how that rehab will develop as it's stepped

up. But they are both on track."

Spurs striker Kane is confident of playing again by next month, while Rashford hopes to be fit for the run-in ahead of the Euros.

Southgate refused to rule out a return for Vardy, who quit international football after the 2018 World Cup.



FRIENDLY RIVALRY Southgate and Martinez at the draw and a dejected Joe Hart, left, at Euro 2016

2020-21

THE winner of each group in League A will go into the finals tournament in June next year. Nations who finish bottom will be relegated to League B.

Whereas last time there were Euro 2020 play-offs slots up for grabs, this time only two World Cup play-off spots are on offer.

The best two group winners who do not qualify for the World Cup or play-offs through normal qualifying, will go into the 12-team World Cup play-offs in March 2022.

The first Nations League group games take place in the opening week of September.

LEAGUE A			
GROUP ONE		GROUP TWO	
NETHERLANDS		ENGLAND	
ITALY		BELGIUM	
BOSNIA /HERZ		DENMARK	
POLAND		ICELAND	
GROUP THREE		GROUP FOUR	
PORTUGAL		SWITZERLAND	
FRANCE		SPAIN	
SWEDEN		UKRAINE	
CROATIA		GERMANY	

LEAGUE B			
GROUP ONE		GROUP TWO	
ROMANIA		ISRAEL	
N IRELAND		SLOVAKIA	
NORWAY		SCOTLAND	
AUSTRIA		CZECH REP	
GROUP THREE		GROUP FOUR	
HUNGARY		BULGARIA	
TURKEY		REP IRELAND	
SERBIA		FINLAND	
RUSSIA		WALES	

LEAGUE C			
GROUP ONE		GROUP TWO	
AZERBAIJAN		ARMENIA	
LUXEMBOURG		ESTONIA	
CYPRUS		N MACEDONIA	
MONTENEGRO		GEORGIA	
GROUP THREE		GROUP FOUR	
MOLDOVA		KAZAKHSTAN	
SLOVENIA		LITHUANIA	
KOSOVO		BELARUS	
GREECE		ALBANIA	

LEAGUE D			
GROUP ONE		GROUP TWO	
MALTA		SAN MARINO	
ANDORRA		LIECHTENSTEIN	
LATVIA		GIBRALTAR	
FAROE ISLANDS			

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Rooney puts love on hold

By James Nursey

WAYNE Rooney admits he will always love Manchester United but is aiming to inflict an FA Cup shock on them with Derby tomorrow.

Manchester United's record scorer with 253 goals will captain Derby against his old club in the fifth-round clash.

"It is a big game playing against my former team," said Rooney, right.

"They will be favourites. I love the club and it is a team I want to do well and win, but for this 90 minutes I want us to win and to try to go through."

Rooney, who was at United from 2004-17, is now revelling in a midfield role for the Rams.



CARLO RULE

EVERTON boss Carlo Ancelotti is forcing his staff to learn English in a bid to help the Toffees progress under his management team.

The Italian brought six staff with him when he replaced Marco Silva in December, including his son and assistant Davide.

Ancelotti said: "We don't have problems, just a few of my staff are not speaking English properly but I force them to speak English, to learn and everything is OK."

Sok's off

SOKRATIS has threatened to leave Arsenal if he is not playing regularly in the first team.

The Gunners defender, below, said: "If I am not happy I will take the road and finish."

Team-mate Lucas Torreira believes he only suffered a leg strain in Monday's 2-0 win against Portsmouth. The Manchester City and Arsenal Premier League game could be rescheduled for next Wednesday.



When you win a trophy at a big club, you take a shower and think about the next one

PEP ORDERS CITY TO TARGET NEW PIECE OF SILVERWARE

SHEFF WEDNESDAY V MAN CITY 7:45PM

PEP GUARDIOLA says Manchester City's serial winners locked sights on their next prize the moment they stepped out of the showers at Wembley.

A 2-1 victory in the Carabao Cup gave them a second trophy following on from the Community Shield and a third straight League Cup final win.

But the City boss maintained that his experience has taught him the best in the business rarely dwell too long on their successes before refocusing on another target.

"I learnt at the big clubs I was at before that when they win a trophy they go and take a shower and they are thinking in that moment about the next one," he said.

Guardiola's side travel to Hillsborough tonight for an FA Cup fifth-round clash with Sheffield Wednesday, seeking to continue a phenomenal run of form where domestic trophies are concerned.

Victory at Wembley against Aston Villa on Sunday gave them their eighth piece of domestic silverware from the past nine opportunities with two Premier League titles, an FA Cup, three League Cup trophies and two Community Shields. Guardiola maintained the current side

By Gideon Brooks

were building on the work of others. "It started more than a decade ago," he said. "The most important thing was the league when Roberto Mancini was here. It changed the mentality of the club."

"The first one is always the most difficult one and Roberto and his people and players did it [winning the 2011 FA Cup], then other people came after them and continued the process."

"It is so nice what we have done in the League Cup in the past three years but in this game we have another final. Away in the FA Cup is difficult because of how important this competition is for the clubs in this country."

"But we can go through to the quarter-finals and that is what we have to do."

Claudio Bravo will retain the gloves after his late save secured the Carabao Cup, while Sergio Aguero is fit enough to play a part if needed.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): Dawson; Palmer, Lees, Borneo, Fox, Harris, Bannan, Lee, Murphy, Forestieri, Fletcher, **MANCHESTER CITY (4-3-3):** Bravo; Walker, Garcia, Otamendi, Zinchenko; Bernardo, Rodri, Foden; Mahrez, Aguero, Sterling.



the pools.com

MONK: IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE, THEN QUIT

GARRY MONK claims his Sheffield Wednesday players should pack in football if they do not believe they can upset Manchester City.

Wednesday are huge underdogs and City's League Cup triumph on Sunday was the 19th straight domestic cup tie they have won since February 2018.

By contrast, the Owls have won just one of their past nine Championship games yet Monk, above, insists they

must believe they can shock City at Hillsborough.

"I've got a feeling the lads will give their all," said the Wednesday manager. "We

want to try, even though it's a small chance, to make it to the next round."

"It can happen. Of course, it needs a lot for that to happen. But if you don't believe in that, you shouldn't be in professional sport, certainly football."

DAVID ANDERSON



TROY MUST SHOW WHY HE IS PRIVILEGED ONE

JOSE MOURINHO will resist the clamour to start teenage striker Troy Parrott because Tottenham fans have not seen him play - or even know what he looks like.

And the ex-Manchester United boss said the Irishman had to learn "to keep his feet on the ground" like Scott McTominay at the start of his career.

Injuries to Harry Kane and Son Heung-Min have led for calls for Parrott to ease their striker crisis. But Mourinho said Parrott, who has played

TOTTENHAM V NORWICH 7:45PM six minutes in two league outings, was not yet ready to be a first-team starter and would be back on the bench against Norwich tonight.

"He's a kid so of course we need to take care of him," said the Spurs boss. "He has potential but he is not the end product."

"Everything goes very well but this is a world where lots of people don't even know if Troy has long hair or short hair. Or is blond or is dark. There was a guy behind me on the

bench the other day: 'Play Troy, play Troy'. I don't think he knows Troy." Mourinho sent Parrott, 18, back to the Under-23s on Monday as part of his "educational process" after questioning his attitude.

The Portuguese said: "We need to help him to have his feet on the ground."

"Yesterday I was so happy with the way he performed, and I'm not speaking about the goal that he scored. I was worried about attitude."

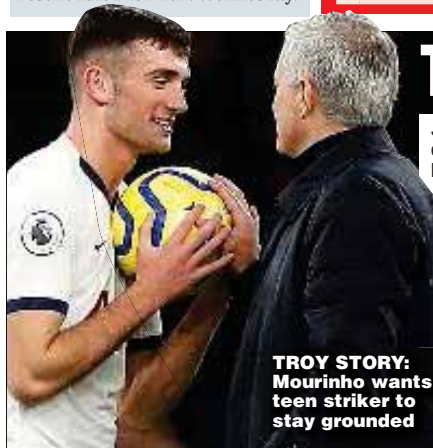
"I told him before the game, 'Every time you play with kids your

age, you've to show your colleagues why you are the privileged one. Why you are training in the first-team every day and some of them are not."

"Because it was something that he was not doing. He cannot go there with contempt. I had exactly the same words with McTominay."

TOTTENHAM (3-4-3): Gazzaniga; Alderweireld, Sanchez, Vertonghen; Aurier, Lo Celso, Winks, Davies; Moura, Alli, Bergwijn.

NORWICH (4-2-3-1): Krul; Aarons, Godfrey, Hanley, Lewis; Trybull, McLean; Rupp, Stiepermann, Cantwell; Drmic.



TROY STORY: Mourinho wants teen striker to stay grounded

Main picture: ANDREW BOYER

JOB DONE: Almiron scores his side's first and then puts the game to bed, right



WEST BROM v NEWCASTLE

48	POSSESSION %	52
6	SHOTS ON TARGET	7
7	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
5	BLOCKED SHOTS	3
6	CORNERS	2
7	FOULS	8
0	YELLOW CARDS	3
0	RED CARDS	0

Source: Opta

WEST BROM

2

NEWCASTLE

3

By Dave Armitage

NEWCASTLE have every right to think the FA Cup gods are smiling on them once again as Steve Bruce's side sealed a quarter-final spot.

The Geordies have not been able to buy a goal lately but suddenly their dismal Premier League form went out of the window.

If you believe in fate then there's an ominous ring about this result. This was the fifth FA Cup meeting between these two great clubs and all of them have been at The Hawthorns.

Newcastle had only won once – in 1974 – when they went all the way to Wembley.

And Miguel Almiron certainly seems to like the competition – his double making it four goals in the competition.

The £21million midfielder struck twice in the first half and, when Valentino Lazaro was gifted Newcastle's third straight after the break, it was all looking unusually comfortable.

Still, they couldn't help themselves from giving their fans the jitters as they survived an Albion onslaught in the last 20 minutes that threatened to make all their hard work count for

MIG FIGHTER DOWNS THE BAGGIES BID Almiron's brace lifts Newcastle

nothing. Late goals from Matt Phillips and Kenneth Zohore had Newcastle absolutely rocking, but they dug deep to hold on.

For Toon boss Bruce it proved welcome respite from an alarming slide in the league in which they have not even scored in four games and are now just five points clear of the relegation zone.

West Brom made 11 changes to their side – though it must be said that in Gareth Barry, Chris Brunt, Kieran Gibbs and Charlie Austin they drafted

in four players with just shy of 1,500 league appearances between them. Allan Saint-Maximin was causing all sorts of problems for the home side and eventually created the breakthrough in the 33rd minute with a superb piece of creative play.

Minutes after rattling the post, Saint-Maximin sent Almiron through and he drew the goalkeeper before curling a left-foot shot around him into the bottom corner of the net to give the visitors the lead. Then Almiron gave the 5,000 travelling fans real cause to

think the long journey was worthwhile when, on the stroke of half-time, he stuck a great finish on the end of a penetrating move.

Lazaro carved the Baggies open down the right flank, the ball dropped to Joelinton, who put the ball into Almiron's path with a clever back heel and the Paraguayan sent another left-foot shot into the roof of the net.

Next it was Lazaro's turn, though he was rather fortunate that back-up goalkeeper Jonathan Bond pushed the ball on to him while trying to deal with Saint-Maximin's 48th-minute centre.

West Brom staged a desperate attempt to get back into it in the final 20 minutes and caused a few moments of panic, especially when Phillips clawed one back in the 74th minute. His shot flew in off the underside of the bar.

Then Fabian Schar managed to intervene to scramble away a Phillips effort that was on its way into the net before substitute Zohore grabbed a late consolation when he tapped home with seconds left. For Newcastle supporters, the final whistle could not come fast enough.

WEST BROM (4-3-3): Bond 6; Furlong 5, O'Shea 5, Bartley 5, Gibbs 6, Brunt 6 (Tulloch 85), Barry 5 (Krovinovic 57, 5), Harper 6; Phillips 6, Austin 5 (Zohore 67, 5), Edwards 5. **Goals:** Phillips 74, Zohore 90.

NEWCASTLE (4-2-3-1): Darlow 7; Manquillo 7, Lascelles 7, Schar 7, Rose 7; Bentaleb 7, S Longstaff 7; Lazaro 7 (Lejeune 90), Almiron 8 (Shelvey 70, 6), Saint-Maximin 8 (Gayle 79); Joelinton 7. **Goals:** Almiron 33, 45, Lazaro 47.



BACKING: Gray needs to raise his game says his Leicester boss

Gray should do Sterling work says Rodgers

DEMARAI GRAY has been urged to follow the lead of Raheem Sterling to kick-start his Leicester career at old club Birmingham tonight.

Former England Under-21 winger Gray has not started a league game in 2020 and has been limited to just two top-flight starts and 412 minutes of action for the Foxes. But boss Brendan

LEICESTER v BIRMINGHAM 7:45PM

Rodgers wants more from the 23-year-old after comparing his stats of one goal and one assist to England's Manchester City ace Sterling, who has 11 goals and an assist in the Premier League.

Rodgers, who was Sterling's manager at Liverpool, said: "Attacking players are judged on what you can create and score. If you are comparing him and looking at that similar

type of player you are looking at a Raheem Sterling.

"Demarai has all the tools to play at the very highest level. If you look at speed, power, explosiveness and technique, those are attributes he has.

"It is how can you grow and be consistent when you get to that age of 22 or 23.

"I know it is something he is conscious of and is something I have spoken to him about. If you look at the games he

has played, he has to produce more. I have worked with a number of wingers who go from scoring three to four goals a season to 15-plus.

"There is obviously a tactical and technical element to it, but it is then repeating that on the field."

JAMES NURSEY

LEICESTER (4-2-3-1): Ward, Justin, Bennett, Morgan, Fuchs; Ndidi, Tielemans; Gray, Praet, Albrighton; Iheanacho.

BIRMINGHAM (4-4-2): Camp; Colin, Dean, Roberts, Pedersen; Crowley, Sunjic, Gardner, Montero; Hogan, Jutkiewicz.

SPORT IN BRIEF

CHELSEA (1).....	2 LIVERPOOL (0).....	0
Willian 13, Barkley 64	Att: 40,103	
READING (1).....	1 SHEFF UTD (1).....	2
Puscas 43 (pen)	McGoldrick 2	
	Sharp 105	
WEST BROM (0).....	2 NEWCASTLE (2)...	3
Phillips 74	Almiron 33, 45	
Zohore 90	Lazaro 47	

Sky Bet League One

IPSWICH (0).....	0 FLEETWOOD (1)...	1
Att: 15,678	Evans 40	
	P W D L F A Pts	
Coventry.....	33 17 13 3 47	30 64
Rotherham.....	34 18 8 8 60	35 62
Portsmouth.....	33 17 8 8 51	32 59
Wycombe.....	34 17 8 9 45	40 59
Sunderland.....	34 16 10 8 46	28 58
Fleetwood.....	33 16 10 7 49	38 58
Oxford Utd.....	34 16 9 9 58	35 57
Peterborough.....	34 16 8 10 66	40 56
Ipswich.....	35 14 10 11 46	35 52
Doncaster.....	33 14 9 10 50	33 51
Gillingham.....	34 12 14 8 40	32 50
Barton Albion.....	33 12 11 10 46	45 47
Blackpool.....	33 11 11 11 43	41 44
Bristol Rovers.....	33 11 9 13 35	46 42
Shrewsbury.....	33 10 11 12 29	39 41
Accrington.....	34 10 10 14 46	51 40
Lincoln City.....	34 11 6 17 41	44 39
MK Dons.....	34 10 7 17 36	46 37
AFC Wimbledon.....	34 8 10 16 39	52 34
Rehoboth.....	23 9 6 18 36	35 33
Tranmere.....	32 6 8 18 32	58 26
Southend.....	34 3 7 24 36	84 16
Bolton.....	32 5 9 18 25	64 12

Sky Bet League Two

EXETER (1).....	1 CREWE (0).....	1
Parkes 32; Att: 4,221	Nottingham 61	
PLYMOUTH (3).....	3 GRIMSBY (0).....	0
Bakinson 22	Att: 9,327	
Hardie 30, Jephcott 40		
SWINDON (1).....	2 SCUNTHORPE (0).....	0
Doyle 41, 77	Att: 7,583	

	P W D L F A Pts	
Swindon.....	35 21 6 8 62	37 69
Crewe.....	36 19 9 8 64	42 66
Plymouth.....	36 19 8 9 58	39 65
Exeter.....	36 18 11 7 52	40 65
Cheltenham.....	35 17 12 6 52	27 63
Northampton.....	36 17 7 12 53	38 58
Port Vale.....	36 14 14 8 50	44 56
Colchester.....	36 14 13 9 49	37 55
Bradford.....	36 14 12 10 44	38 54
Salford City.....	36 12 11 13 47	46 47
Forest Green.....	35 12 10 13 41	40 46
Crawley Town.....	36 10 15 11 45	47 45
Cambridge.....	36 12 9 15 39	46 45
Grimsbys.....	36 11 11 14 43	51 44
Walsall.....	35 12 11 13 37	48 44
Newport County.....	34 11 10 13 37	43 43
Oldham.....	36 10 14 13 44	54 41
Scunthorpe.....	36 10 10 16 44	54 40
Leyton Orient.....	35 9 12 14 45	54 39
Carlisle.....	35 9 12 14 37	53 39
Mansfield.....	35 8 11 16 46	35 35
Morecambe.....	36 7 11 35 59	32 32
Macclesfield.....	36 7 15 14 32	44 30
Stevenage.....	35 3 13 19 23	47 22

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Barnet 2 Boreham Wood 2	
Chesterfield 3 Harrogate Town 4	
Chorley 1 Eastleigh 2; FC Halifax 1	
Sutton Utd 0, Solihull Moors 0	
Hartlepool 1, AFC Fylde 1 Notts	
County 2. North: Brackley 0 Boston	
Utd 0, Leamington 0 King's Lynn	
Town 0, York 1 Hereford FC 4. South:	
Billericay 0 Havant and W 1.	

Scottish Premiership

HIBERNIAN (0).....	1 HEARTS (0).....	3
Hallberg 89	Clare 53 (pen)	
	Bozanic 65	
	Washington 80	

	P W D L F A Pts	
Celtic.....	28 25 1 2 82	17 76
Rangers.....	27 20 4 3 63	18 64
Motherwell.....	28 3 12 36	36 42
Aberdeen.....	28 11 8 9 35	33 41
Livingston.....	28 10 8 9 38	36 38
Hearts.....	29 10 10 14 30	59 22
Hamilton.....	28 4 9 15 28	50 21

LADBROKES SCOTTISH CH-ship

Ayr 0 Dundee Utd 0, Dundee 0 Alloa	
0, Inverness CT 3 Morton 2, Partick	
0 Queen of South 0. League 1:	
Clyde 2 Montrose 2, 0 FC Hibernian	
2 Forfar 0, Raith 1 Falkirk 1. League 2:	
Cowdenbeath 2 Albion 1, Stirling 0	
Stenhousemuir 0.	

ICC WOMEN T20 WORLD CUP

GRP B—Thailand v Pakistan (Sydney):	
Thailand 150-3 (N Chantam 56).	
Abandoned, no result (1pt each).	

West Indies v S Africa (Sydney): abandoned without a ball bowled, no result (1pt each). **Semi-final:**

Thailand v S Africa (Sydney): (4am), **S Africa v Australia** (Barn). **TOUR MATCH** (Day 2 of 4, midnight start, Wollongong): **NSW 2nd XI** 405 (129.5 overs; R Hackney 95, Sangha 85, Sams 80). **England Li-**

ons 126-5 (48 overs, Lawrence 52).

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Emirates FA Cup 5th Rnd Leicester v Birmingham.....

Sheffield Wednesday v Man City.....

Tottenham v Norwich.....

Scottish Premiership

Kilmarnock v Aberdeen.....

Livingston v Celtic (Live on BT Sport 1)

Motherwell v Ross County.....

Rangers v Hamilton.....

St Mirren v St Johnstone.....

Scottish Championship: Arbroath v

Dunfermline. **League Two:** Brechin v

Annan Athletic.

CRICKET

First T20 Inter'nal: Sri Lanka v

West Indies (Pailekele, 1.30pm).

Second ODI: South Africa v



BILLY'S THE BOY: United's Sharp settles the tie

Blades look Sharp as brave Reading run out of time

BILLY SHARP grabbed the extra-time winner for Sheffield United as battling Reading had to bow the knee to their Premier League opponents.

With the score at 1-1 after 90 minutes, the Blades had failed to put away the Championship side but lethal Sharp got the job done in the 15th minute of extra-time.

David McGoldrick has been running Newcastle's £40million luxury Joelinton close as king of the non-scoring strikers this season.

But McGoldrick's value to Sheffield United's admirable season has never been in doubt and he will remember this as the night he finally broke his duck.

The Blades have been such a revelation on their return to Premier League orbit that they can almost see Europe from their lofty perch.

And they have been ruthless in cup competitions.

Their 13 wins from 14 previous assignments against teams from lower divisions – last season's shock defeat by non-League Barnet being the only exception – was cause for optimism.

And the team who have spent all season

GOLDEN TOUCH: McGoldrick gave United an early lead

READING 1 SHEFF UTD 2

AET; SCORE AFTER 90 MINS 1-1 unfurling a tale of the unexpected took just two minutes to show their quality.

From Ben Osborn's left-wing cross, unmarked McGoldrick rose to head his first goal of the season – and his first in 23 club appearances stretching back to April 22 in a 3-0 win at Hull last season.

Reading were briefly stunned by their fate but the Royals summoned a decent response as United keeper Dean Henderson did well to parry Yakou Meite's swerving missile from distance.

And they were level two minutes before the break when George Puscas rammed his penalty beyond Henderson after George Baldock was penalised for pushing Andy Rinomhota.

Skipper John Egan's header from Luke Freeman's corner was too high, while McGoldrick extended Rafael Cabral.

Once they were level, however, Reading were excellent in taking the tie to extra-time.

But Sharp had the final word with his winning header.

READING (3-5-2): Cabral 6; Yiadom 7; Miazga 7, Morrison 7, Ejaria 6 (Gomes 98), Swift 8, Rinomhota 6 (Baldock 105), Meite 7 (McCleary 105), Obita 6, Olise 5 (Masika 98), Puscas 6. **Goal:** Puscas 43 pen.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-5-2): Henderson 6; O'Connell 7, Egan 7, Basham 7, Baldock 6, Lundstram 7, Borge 6 (Robinson 99), Freeman 6 (Retso 105), Osborn 7, McGoldrick 7 (Sharp 79, 8), Mouisset 5 (McBurnie 61, 6). **Goals:** McGoldrick 2, Sharp 105.

CAUGHT NAPPING

Willian's shot is straight at the keeper but he fails to deal with it and, below, in it squirms



CHELSEA v LIV	
42	POSSESSION
7	SHOTS ON TARGET
6	SHOTS OFF TARGET
4	BLOCKED SHOTS
4	CORNER KICKS
12	FOULS
0	YELLOW CARDS
0	RED CARDS



ADRIAN LEFT

Matthew DUNN
REPORTS

CHELSEA	2
LIVERPOOL	0

THE mood last night was perhaps summed up best by a Liverpool fan on the District Line on the way to the game.

"If we can't beat Watford, we can't be certain of winning anything," he rebuked when his mate said the cup did not matter, at least Liverpool were going to win the league.

Last night, at Stamford Bridge, Liverpool looked like a

His blunder proves costly but Liverpool looked flat

side whose confidence had gone down the tube. OK, so a halt.

Mo Salah did not make an appearance until late and Jurgen Klopp, right, also delayed Roberto Firmino's appearance.

But Virgil van Dijk was at the heart of defence, the central cog of Fabinho was in place and yet the Liverpool juggernaut

appeared to have shuddered to a halt. Contrary to a few Merseyside nerves, there is little doubt that Liverpool will prove themselves to be comfortably the best team over the season as a whole. But cup football is about individual moments, and on each of the key ones Frank Lampard's Chelsea side



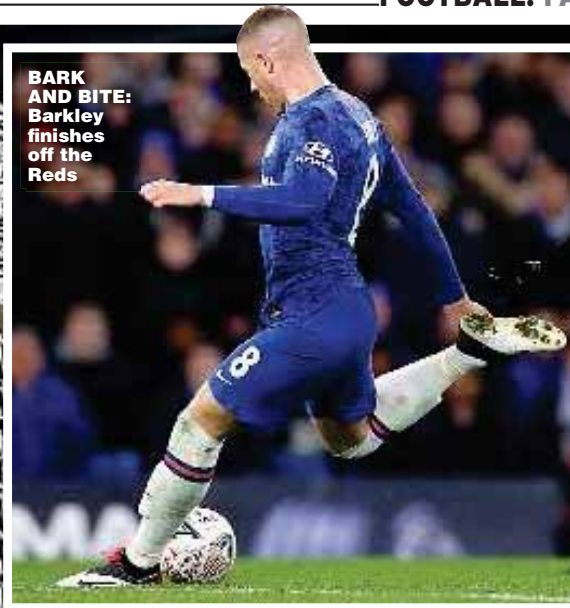
were simply irrepressible last night. When some intense pressing from Mateo Kovacic sent the ball spinning towards Willian, there was a sense of disbelief when the Chelsea winger hit a relatively tame shot that was easily saved.

How often have we all sat there and thought, 'Yes, that should have been the opening goal?'

Normally that could have been costly, but Liverpool seemed in determinedly obliging mood.

Moments later, a poor pass from Fabinho went straight back to Willian and this time an effort that in reality was only a little better slipped through the gloves of Adrian and into the

BARK AND BITE:
Barkley finishes off the Reds



LIVERPOOL
WIN % 58
GOALS 5
TARGET 8
SHOTS 1
S 10
13
ARDS 3
OS 0
Opta

Losing Hendo is a fatal blow

By Darren Lewis

FIRST Atletico, then that collapse at Watford, now this.

Glass half full? The FA Cup is not that high on Liverpool's list of priorities.

The Premier League is almost wrapped up - only a supreme optimist would bet against them landing the four wins they need to create history - and a side this good do not lose their class overnight.

That Champions League showdown at home to Atletico Madrid next Wednesday, however, does take on an entirely new complexion.

Jürgen Klopp will not panic. Nor will the assembled avengers in the Anfield dressing room. But given their recent form, Liverpool's rivals will be acutely aware of the seeds of doubt now planted in the minds of some of the younger players and the B-listers.



The recent run is also a stark reminder of the importance of Jordan Henderson. After Dejan Lovren labored at Watford last weekend, it was said that stability would return to the backline once Joe Gomez was fit again.

Yet without Henderson, above, and his leadership and industry in midfield the jigsaw still is not quite complete.

So that is three defeats in four and a Liverpool side for whom the winter break proved a hindrance rather than a help. Their momentum has gone. Their belief is clearly still there but they are no longer imposing their will on rival teams.

Chelsea would have had five had Mason Mount and Olivier Giroud not hit the bar and Pedro not been denied in a one-on-one with Adrian.

You could see why Klopp went stronger here with his side than he did against Everton. Chelsea have more guile, more quality and would have won even more handsomely against an even younger side of Anfield academy talents.

As it is, Klopp has some thinking to do. His rivals are smelling blood - and they are going in for the kill.

RED-FACED

back of the net. Chelsea were made of sterner stuff it turned out when a game of end-to-end chances became determined by the fine margins.

And Kepa Arrizabalaga - back in the Chelsea side for the FA Cup - seemed more determined to seize his opportunity.

First he kicked away Sadio Mané's scrambled shot from a set-piece, then he parried Divock Origi's follow-up and still managed to wrap up an effort from Curtis Jones.

His reflexes were equally sharp when Mané carved out a much more difficult chance after 31 minutes.

All the while Liverpool were just not their usual resilient

selves at the other end of the pitch.

Much as Chelsea have wished he was, Ross Barkley, for instance, has sadly not been the sort of man to take on an entire side on his own and thrash the ball into the back of the net.

Well, last night Liverpool let the former Everton man be precisely that, backing off him as he wrapped up the tie for the London club with an excellent shot.

It could have been worse. Eighteen-year-old Scotland Under-21 international Billy Gilmour was being allowed to dictate play against his more illustrious Liverpool peers. And when Olivier Giroud is

racing clear of your defence, you know you are in big trouble.

Then Pedro had a similar charge from the halfway line with all of the Liverpool defenders in his wake.

Thankfully Adrian belatedly stepped up to the mark.

The save from Giroud in particular was brilliant, tipping the ball on to the underside of the crossbar when even the former Arsenal striker thought he had scored.

But ultimately it did not matter.

Adrian may have spared Liverpool's blushes, but their place in the hat for the quarter-finals had slipped through his fingers a long time ago.



THEY ALL COUNT: Willian

CHELSEA

PLAYER ANALYSIS

(4-2-3-1)

By Matthew Dunn

KEPA

Back from the wilderness, he showed sharp focus and reliable shot-stopping.

KOVACIC

Usual energetic start but did not make it to the break, adding to Blues' injury woes.

AZPILICUETA

Wise and canny enough in this system to defend but get involved when he can.

WILLIAN

Fluffed one early chance but was sharp enough with the effort that did squirm in.

RUDIGER

His strong and powerful presence tended to pop up where it mattered.

BARKLEY

Goal was just what he needed. Could be making of him in a Chelsea shirt.

ZOUMA

Kept his composure, watched the ball and was generally a handy tidy-upper.

PEDRO

Pace always had defence backtracking but his final pass could have been better.

ALONSO

Sometimes looks a bit leaden-footed at the back but set-pieces a threat.

GIROUD

Not so much what he does as the shape he gives to those around him. Held line.

GILMOUR

Quite a performance from the surprise name on Blues' team-sheet. Remarkable.

SUBSTITUTES

Mount 6 (for Kovacic 42); Jorginho 6 (for Willian 51); James (for Giroud 90).



BILLY'S BOOTS! Teenager Gilmour, left, starred

LIVERPOOL

PLAYER ANALYSIS

(4-2-3-1)

By Matthew Dunn

ADRIAN

Costly early gaffe. Forget late saves, keeper has to make these moments count.

FABINHO

Oh dear. Giving the ball away for the first and losing Barkley for the second.

WILLIAMS

Performed the role he was asked - the holes all appeared down the middle.

JONES

Had one early sighter but struggled to get much chance to show his worth.

VAN DIJK

Surprising to see defender head the ball straight to Barkley for the second goal.

MINAMINO

With Reds' play so disjointed, you have to look at the playmaker. Ineffective.

GOMEZ

Again, just did not quite seem his usual sharp self against Giroud's challenge.

MANE

One of the few danger men for Liverpool but failed to get enough of the ball.

ROBERTSON

Not unduly pressed but failed to take much advantage going forward.

ORIGI

Largely anonymous as he was kept tightly shackled before being replaced.

LALLANA

Started brightly but quickly disappeared as Chelsea overran him in midfield.

SUBSTITUTES

Firmino 5 (for Origi 70); Milner 5 (for Jones 70); Salah (for Lallana 80).

BOOKED - LIVERPOOL: Fabinho, Milner, Mané.
GOALS - CHELSEA: Willian 13, Barkley 64.
REFEREE: C Kavanagh (Lancashire).

DAILY EXPRESS SPORT

express.co.uk/sport

SHOW ME EUR FIT

From **John Cross** in Amsterdam

GARETH SOUTHGATE last night made it clear to England strikers Harry Kane and Marcus Rashford they must prove their match fitness ahead of Euro 2020.

Three Lions captain Kane, right, has been out since December after undergoing surgery on a ruptured hamstring. Rashford also faces a

TURN TO P55, COL 2



FA CUP

5TH RD

1 **READING** V **SHEFF UTD** 2

2 **WEST BROM** V **NEWCASTLE** 3

SHARP STICKS KNIFE INTO ROYALS

Match report Page 58

ALMIRON AT DOUBLE TO KO BAGGIES

Match report Page 57

MAKO VIRUS SHOCK

England prop will miss Six Nations climax after being ordered into isolation

MAKO VUNIPOLA has been ruled out of England's Six Nations clash with Wales and told to self-isolate as a coronavirus precaution after returning from Tonga via Hong Kong.

The Lions prop, who had gone home for family reasons, was named on Monday in Eddie Jones' squad for Saturday's Twickenham showdown.

But once England were alerted that his journey back

By **Alex Spink**

passed through virus-hit Hong Kong, where there have been 100 confirmed cases, the 29-year-old, right, was instructed to remain at home.

An RFU spokesman confirmed Vunipola was not in camp but said that he was not sick and was only absent as a precaution. Only England will

TURN TO PAGE 53, COLUMN 5



2 **CHELSEA**



LIVERPOOL 0



**WILL
POWER**
Willian is
mobbed
after his
opener

KEEPER'S BLUNDER HANDS IT TO BLUES

By **Darren Lewis**

LIVERPOOL keeper Adrian gifted Chelsea their opener as Liverpool crashed out of the FA Cup.

He fumbled a first-half Willian shot before Ross Barkley lashed home a second at Stamford Bridge, continuing a worrying loss of form for Jurgen Klopp's side - this was their third defeat in four games.

It keeps Chelsea manager Frank Lampard on course for a trophy at the club where he was a playing legend.

Match report: Pages 58-59

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Published by Reach PLC, Daily Express, One Canada Square, London E14 4DG. Printed by West Ferry Printers Ltd, Unit 4 & 5, Kingston Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4JH. JP Media Printing Ltd, Outgoing Lane, Birmingham, B37 7YU. 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

	8	3		7			4	
7					5		2	
		2		9	8			1
2			4			1	6	
9	3			5	6			2
	1	6	8		7			4
3			9		4	6	1	
	4		7					
	6			1		4	9	

MEDIUM

	2			5		8	6	
6					7		1	
	7	9	2			3	5	
4					3			
		5		9		4		
9			1					8
5	8	1			2		9	
	9		8		5			6
		6		1			8	

DIFFICULT

				8	3			7	
	5	7							8
	3			5	4				
6		3							
2		5					4		3
							6		1
				5	9			4	
5							7	2	
	2			6	8				

Extra clues:
0901 322 5609

*Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

● The Express Bookshop stocks numerous books of Sudoku puzzles (from £5.99) and the Infinite Sudoku CD Rom (£9.99). To order, please call **01872 562310** or order online at www.expressbookshop.com. UK delivery is free.

QUICK CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4	5		6		7	
8												
					9							
10												
							11					
12					13							
										14		15
	16		17		18			19				
20												
						21						
22												
							23					
24												

ACROSS

4. Yearning (7)
8. Sensitive (5)
9. Red (7)
10. Whole (6)
11. Peril (6)
12. See (8)
18. Farthest (8)
20. Get back (6)
21. Collision (6)
22. Obsequies (7)
23. Inequitable (6)
24. Climate (7)

DOWN

1. Try (7)
2. Breach (7)
3. Accusation (6)
5. Happening (8)
6. Oppressor (6)
7. Rough (6)
13. Flood (8)
14. Remote (7)
15. Admonition (7)
16. Chide (6)
17. Obvious (6)
19. Exempt (6)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390**

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **18 mins**
Good: **14 mins** Excellent: **10 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

*Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. **Solution tomorrow**

A B B C E I K R R

□ □ □ □ □

SMALL CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6		7
			8					
9						10		
11							12	
13		14						
			15			16		
17					18			
19								
	20							

ACROSS

- 1 Hardly at all (8)
- 8 Spirit of optimism (6)
- 9 Worry (4)
- 10 So or thus (3)
- 11 Hypnotic state (6)
- 13 Underwater missiles (9)
- 15 Frequents as a ghost (6)
- 17 Unidentified flying object (abbr.) (3)
- 18 ___ Lynn, wartime singer (4)
- 19 Swindlers (3,3)
- 20 Inclination (8)

DOWN

- 1 One easily imposed upon (4,5)
- 2 Root vegetable (6)
- 3 Region (4)
- 4 Hidden (9)
- 5 Gaelic (4)

- 6 Round-up rope (5)
- 7 Required, needed (9)
- 12 System of measurement (6)
- 14 European river (5)
- 15 Religious song of praise (4)
- 16 Inert gas (4)

Solution tomorrow

● The Express Bookshop stocks a wide selection of puzzle books across all crossword puzzle genres. To obtain our up to date list please visit www.expressbookshop.com, call **01872 562310**.

For today's solution call:

0907 181 2582

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

KAKURO

	3	19			3	5	11	
9					7			21
11				15				
	6		4			14		
		11			26		8	
21	10					3		
9			14				20	
11				6				3
17		4	3				11	
	8						9	

Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

- 1 See 22.
 7 Forename adopted by the comedian Arthur Marx (5)
 8 Edwin, British architect noted for his planning of New Delhi, India (7)
 10 Port in the SW Netherlands noted for its gin distilleries (8)
 11 George W, 43rd President of the US (4)
 13 Garry, West Indies cricketer who hit 8,032 runs in 93 Tests from 1954-74 (6)
 15 Wine bottle holding the equivalent of two normal bottles (6)
 17 Unit of area equal to 4,840 square yards (4)
 18 1966 Roman Polanski film starring Donald Pleasence (3-2-3)
 21 City in SE Michigan noted for its car manufacturing industry (7)
 22 and 1 Across 1967 novel by Alistair MacLean (5,6,4)
 23 RM, 19th-century author of the adventure stories Red Rooney and Philosopher Jack (10)

DOWN

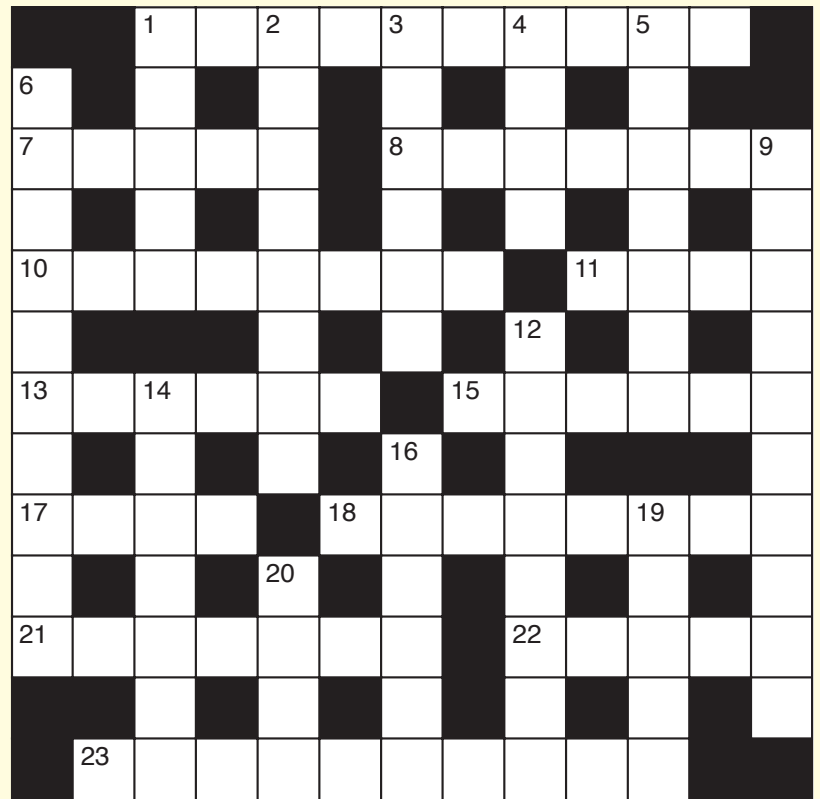
- 1 See 6.
 2 Branch of mathematics concerned with the measurement of points, curves, lines and surfaces (8)
 3 Mark, England cricketer who made his Test debut against India at Trent Bridge in 1996 (6)

- 4 Kimiko, women's singles player who won the Japan Open four times between 1992 and 1996 (4)
 5 Sir Henry, Scottish portrait painter whose works include Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch (7)
 6 and 1 Down 1955 Joseph M Newman film starring Jeff Morrow and Faith Domergue (4,6,5)
 9 Michael, 2004 world Formula 1 motor-racing champion (10)
 12 US deep-dish pie made from fruit with a cake topping (8)
 14 Stiff clerical cap in the Roman Catholic Church (7)
 16 Jensen, 2009 world Formula 1 motor-racing champion (6)
 19 John Hanning, English explorer who was the first European to reach Lake Victoria (5)
 20 David, actor who played 'Hutch' in the television series Starsky and Hutch (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
 to hear individual clues or
 the full solution

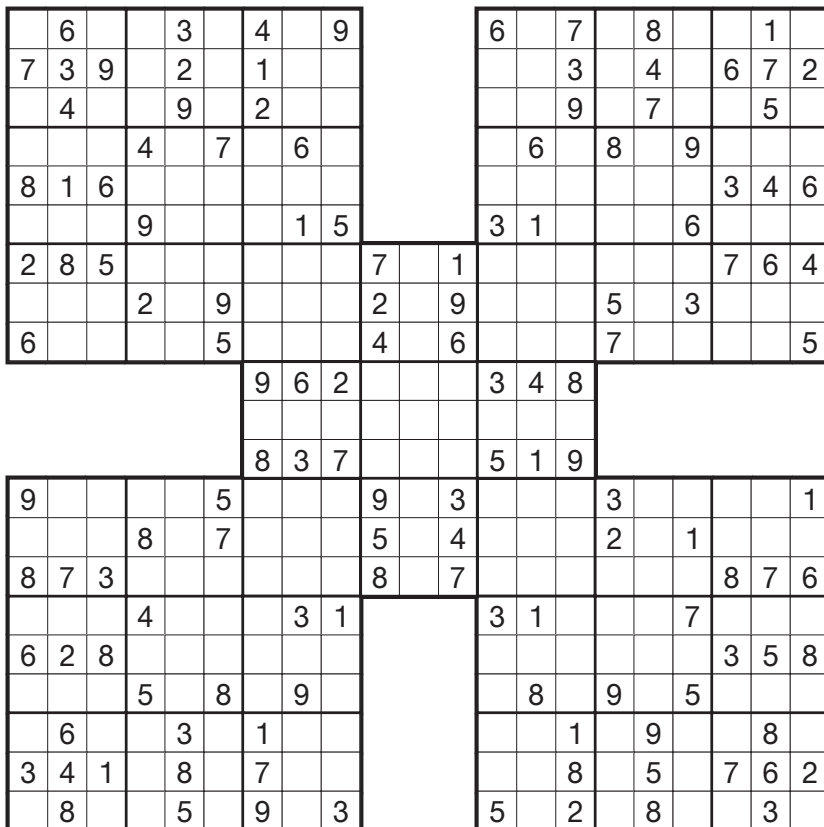
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SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow



WORD BUILDER

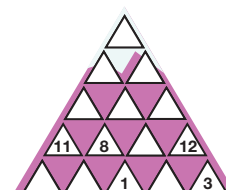
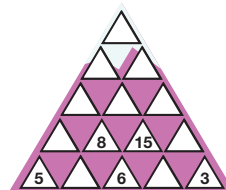
Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

Solution tomorrow

- 1 □ □ □ □
 2 □ □ □ □ □
 3 □ □ □ □ □ □
 4 □ □ □ □ □ □ □
 5 □ □ □ □ □ □
 6 □ □ □ □ □
 7 □ □ □ □
- 1 However
 2 Underground
 3 Beginning
 4 Broken
 5 Songs for two
 6 Hard fat
 7 Take to court

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



Solution tomorrow

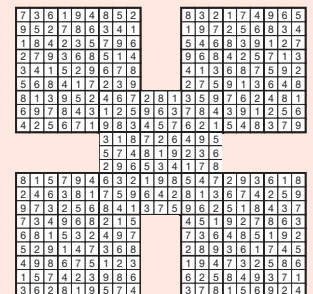
QUIZWORD SAMURAI SUDOKU

Across:

- 6 Lanolin;
 7 Polly;
 9 Mad;
 10 Notre Dame;
 12 Touch of Evil;
 15 Pulp Fiction;
 17 Wadsworth;
 19 Max;
 21 Bison;
 22 Peachum.

Down:

- 1 Sagan;
 2 Hoy;
 3 Tito;
 4 Wood Demon;
 5 Olympia;
 8 Arnott;
 11 Dos Passos;
 13 Chiron;
 14 Dukakis;
 16 Magus;
 18 Tees;
 20 Ace.



SMALL CROSSWORD

Across:

- 2 Luckless, 9 Annual, 10 Lace,
 11 Beer, 13 Poser, 14 Prejudice,
 16 Aspik, 19 Pill, 20 Tend, 21 People,
 22 Remnants.
 Down:
 1 Wallpaper, 3 Uncle, 4 Cues,
 5 Kampuchea, 6 Eyes, 7 Speech,
 8 Surrender, 12 Ursine, 15 Inept,
 17 Plum, 18 Eton.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow

WORDSEARCH



Find all the ancient civilisations listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

AXUM • AZTEC • CANAAN • EGYPTIAN
GREEK • INCA • KUSH • MAURYAN • MAYA
MING • MITANNI • MONGOL • OTTOMAN
ROMAN • SAXON • TUWANA • VIKING
XIONGNU • YUEZHI • ZAPOTEC

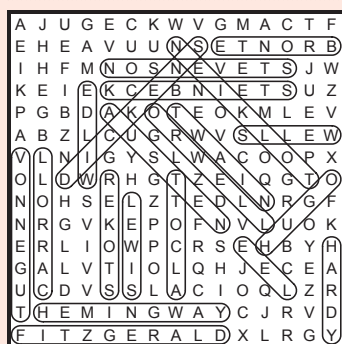


YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

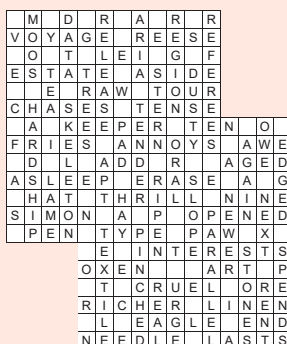
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Broadcasted; 9 Inn; 10 Knowledge; 11 Aimed; 13 Centaur; 14 Punish; 16 Recoup; 18 Overact; 19 Strut; 20 Abundance; 21 Fad; 22 Intercepted.
Down: 2 Ran; 3 Asked; 4 Crouch; 5 Silence; 6 Endeavour; 7 Disapproval; 8 Decrepitude; 12 Mannequin; 15 Swaddle; 17 Ethnic; 19 Sweep; 21 Fee.

WORDSEARCH



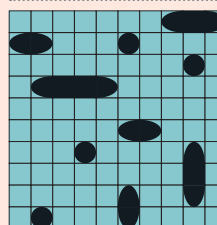
ARROW-WORD



SUDOKU EASY

3	7	1	6	9	8	4	5	2
6	9	8	4	5	2	7	3	1
2	4	5	3	7	1	8	6	9
1	3	6	5	8	7	2	9	4
4	5	2	9	1	3	6	8	7
9	8	7	2	6	4	3	1	5
8	2	9	1	4	6	5	7	3
5	6	4	7	3	9	1	2	8
7	1	3	8	2	5	9	4	6

BATTLESHIPS



CROSS DOUBT

Across: DRILL
Down: SLAMS

SUDOKU MEDIUM

7	8	3	1	4	5	2	6	9
5	6	1	2	3	9	4	8	7
4	9	2	6	7	8	3	1	5
2	7	6	4	8	1	5	9	3
8	5	4	7	9	3	6	2	1
1	3	9	5	6	2	7	4	8
3	4	5	8	1	6	9	7	2
6	2	8	9	5	7	1	3	4
9	1	7	3	2	4	8	5	6

KAKURO

1	2	5			2	1
3	1	6	7	8	5	4
	7	9	1	6	3	
	4	1	2	1		
7	1		8	1		
4	2	1	5	3		
6	8	3	2	9	4	1
8	9				7	2

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

4	2	5	6	3	7	9	8	1
3	7	9	8	1	4	2	5	6
8	6	1	5	2	9	3	7	4
6	1	4	9	7	2	5	3	8
7	5	2	3	6	8	4	1	9
9	3	8	4	5	1	6	2	7
5	8	7	2	9	6	1	4	3
2	4	6	1	8	3	7	9	5
1	9	3	7	4	5	8	6	2

KEIJO

1	4	3	2
4	3	2	1
3	2	1	4
2	1	4	3

TARGET

TRIATHLON
althorn anil anti halon hint horn
into intro iron lain lino lint lion
loan loin loran nail noria north
rain rani rant ration rhinal rhino
roan taint talon tanh tarn than
thin thorn tint titan tonal torn
train TRIATHLON triton

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Escapism, Origin, Zombie, Feather, Smock, Lynx, Due (clue), Did, Mace, Medic, Teatime, Unjust, Rueful, Thickset.
Down: Squatter, Storm, Dowager, Prickle, Malt, Fanfare, Move, Demonic, Egghead, Issue, Narcotic.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 3, 6, 8, 11, 18, 19, 21, 24, 27, 31, 32, 35, 37, 40.
Across: Wheelchair, Access, Opaque, Oneself, Fence, Psalm, Earth, Cloys, Jocular, Angora, Arrive, Unyielding.
Down: Bacon, Scrap, Wickets, Anybody, Ensue, Lump, Maze, Crow, Zero, Corgi, Amateur, Talking, Vexed, Pried.

SUMMIT UP

77 and 99

WORD BUILDER

Ram, Mare, Reams, Master, Mates, Sate, Eat

Puzzles

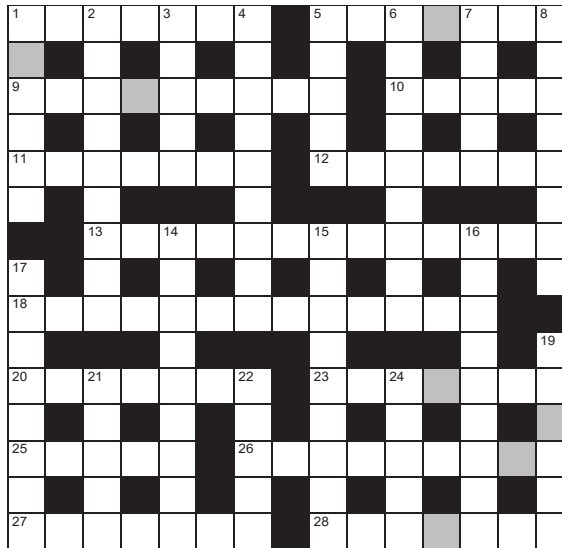
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 I would return, spreading magic as a taker of photographs (7)
- 5 Upset by tales, like an animal (7)
- 9 Quits demo, unfortunately taken out of context (9)
- 10 Become liberal, but sound angry (5)
- 11 A lyric about carbon and artificial fibre (7)
- 12 Excessively torn apart in city (7)
- 13 Regular counter that's full of elements (8,5)
- 18 Ship quietly confuses squad about to return (6,7)
- 20 Two vehicles surround a trailer (7)
- 23 Plaintiff has a small drink with employer (7)
- 25 Might join a new set of languages (5)
- 26 Drying up, being contemptuous (9)
- 27 Elderly relative eager to get some material (7)
- 28 A crate's sadly what most children travel in (3,4)

DOWN

- 1 Martial artist has space and energy to belittle (6)
- 2 Mollusc upsetting poor stag, on the day (9)
- 3 Vicious clue solved - about compiler's last (5)
- 4 Time to go over for bike racing (9)
- 5 Debit arranged for bathroom feature (5)
- 6 Calculating process shows different goal - mirth (9)
- 7 Moving north - that's sharp (5)
- 8 The old students, indebted, showed their age (8)
- 14 Terribly clever article included European pertinence (9)
- 15 Rigid and in charge, incorporating a silent composition (9)
- 16 Shrek controlled anger behind British county (9)
- 17 Distant traveller came running in bridge (8)
- 19 Appropriate report for a builder (6)
- 21 Material for artist over there (5)
- 22 Presently at home, very unlikely to succeed (2-3)
- 24 Obvious about Shakespearean character (5)



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **84915**. Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate. Lines close at midnight tonight. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, March 4, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Entries must be postmarked by March 5 at the latest. SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number.

● The winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of March 11. The Editor's decision is final.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

MONDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Gadfly, 4 Ecstatic, 10 Andorra, 11 Dogsled, 12 Dacha, 13 Existence, 14 Astonishment, 18 Twilight zone, 23 Esplanade, 24 Fatal, 25 Monsoon, 26 Sharpen, 27 Demerara, 28 Elated.
DOWN: 1 Guardian, 2 Dedicate, 3 Larva, 5 Cadmium, 6 Tightknit, 7 Talent, 8 Cudgel, 9 Caress, 15 New Labour, 16 Soft spot, 17 Declined, 19 Learner, 20 Grease, 21 Deemed, 22 Eponym, 24 Frail. **Prizeword:** Sardine

TARGET



● The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?

In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 23; very good 34; excellent 46 (or more). **Solution tomorrow**

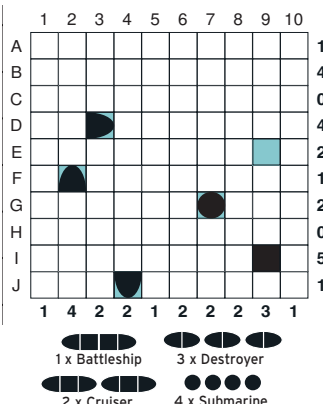
Call **0907 181 2585** for today's Target solution

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME:
30 minutes

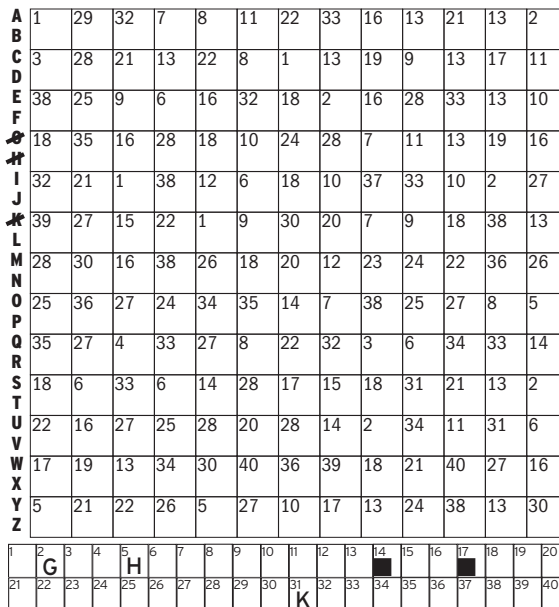
CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter - or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' - in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.

Solution tomorrow

Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)

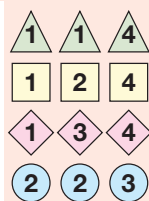
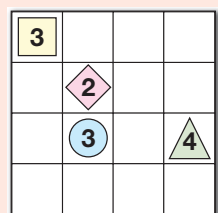
Full solution
0907 181 2558

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.



● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **84901**. Texts cost £1 plus your usual operator rate

KEIJO

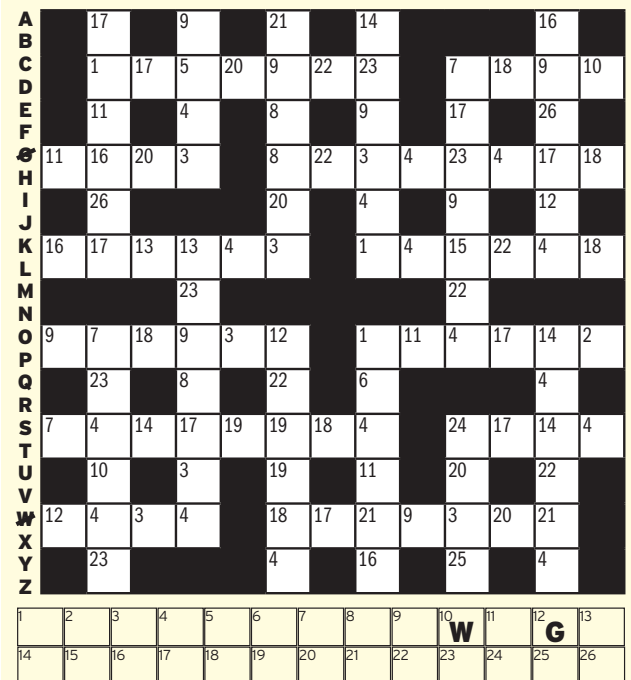


Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters - below the main grid - to start. **Solution tomorrow**

DIFFICULTY: 7/10; **TARGET:** 22 mins; **CLUE:** Respect shown by publication in tool.



EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568 (Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard) Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** to **84901**. Texts cost £1 plus normal network operator rate. **FULL SOLUTION: 0907 181 2565;**
ACROSS ONLY: 0907 181 2561; DOWN ONLY: 0907 181 2562.

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

● The Express Bookshop stocks a wide selection of puzzle books across all crossword puzzle genres. See our up to date list please visit www.expressbookshop.com, call **01872 562310**.

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 66; INTERMEDIATE = 89; ADVANCED = 48.

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