# The Guardian

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## Kathleen Turner
### 'I'm intrigued by political stupidity'
*Interview* → *G2*

## FA Cup Stevenage stun Villa as City thump Chelsea
→ *Sport*

# PM looks at one-off cash offer to end nurses' strike

**Pippa Crerar**
*Political editor*

Rishi Sunak opened the door yesterday to a pay deal for striking nurses when ministers meet health unions for talks today, with the prime minister signalling for the first time a willingness to address demands for help with the cost of living.

The Guardian understands ministers are now prepared to look at a one-off payment, possibly in the form of a hardship payment to get health workers through this winter. No 10 and the Treasury were accused of blocking such an offer last month.

The government has ruled out reopening the 2022-23 pay settlement, amid concerns the cost would be carried over to future years and other sectors would demand the same, but Sunak has raised expectations he is willing to look at alternative help for struggling nurses in England.

Asked in a BBC television interview yesterday whether pay rises this year were still possible, he repeatedly hinted the government was willing to have "those conversations" with union leaders, despite ministers previously refusing to discuss pay.

Pat Cullen, the general secretary of the Royal College of Nurses, said Sunak's openness to pay talks offered a "chink of optimism" that more strikes could be averted, with his comment representing a "little shift".

The health secretary, Steve Barclay, has also suggested health workers could get a bigger pay rise in April – as part of the 2023-24 settlement – if they agree to NHS "efficiencies". Sources said opening this year's deal was "not in play".

However, both a one-off offer and a higher pay deal for next year would be contingent on nurses dropping their demands for a rise this year and cancelling industrial action, with the next strikes due on 18 and 19 January.

In an interview with the Guardian, Keir Starmer increased pressure on Sunak to reach a compromise with the health unions. "His refusal to simply discuss this year's pay deals is the only remaining 6 →

## Capitol-style raid in Brazil
## Bolsonaro mob storms congress
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▲ *Backers of Brazil's ex-leader Jair Bolsonaro on the roof of Congress in Brasília yesterday* PHOTOGRAPH: ERALDO PERES/AP

# Care homes double fees to take on NHS patients

**Robert Booth**
*Social affairs correspondent*

Care providers are demanding double the usual fees to look after thousands of people who need to be discharged from hospitals to ease the NHS crisis.

Care England, which represents the largest private care home providers, said yesterday that it wanted the government to provide £1,500 a week per person, citing the need to pay care workers more and hire rehabilitation specialists so people languishing in hospital can eventually be sent home.

The sum is around double the rate most local authorities pay for care home beds, an amount Martin Green, the chief executive of Care England, described as "inadequate".

The demand came as the health secretary, Steve Barclay, promised "urgent action" 2 →

# Harry vents his fury at Camilla in TV interview

**Caroline Davies**

Prince Harry launched a broadside at the king, the queen consort, Prince William and other royals in a furious ITV interview broadcast last night in which he defended his revelatory memoir, claiming that remaining silent "only allows the abuser to abuse".

The Duke of Sussex denied being "scathing" about Camilla after accusing her in his tell-all memoir of playing the "long game; a campaign aimed at marriage, and eventually the crown, with Pa's blessing we presumed".

In excerpts from his book Spare, read aloud during an interview with ITV's Tom Bradby, Harry wrote that his interests had been "sacrificed" to Camilla's "PR altar". Stories began to appear of her private conversations with William that "could only have been leaked by one other person present", Harry wrote.

Asked by Bradby if he was "pretty consistently scathing" about his stepmother and the press, Harry replied: "Scathing?

"There's no part of any of the things that I've said are scathing towards any member of my family, especially not 4 →

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# 'Terrorist attack': Bolsonaro horde storms Brazil's presidential palace

**Tom Phillips**
*Rio de Janeiro*

Hundreds of hardcore supporters of Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro stormed the country's congress, presidential palace and supreme court last night in a stunning security breach that was immediately compared to the 6 January invasion of the US Capitol by followers of Donald Trump in 2021.

"What we are witnessing is a terrorist attack," the news anchor Erick Bang announced on the GloboNews television network as word of the upheaval spread. "The three buildings have been invaded by coup-mongering terrorists." Shocking footage showed the pro-Bolsonaro militants sprinting up the ramp into the Palácio do Planalto, the presidential offices, roaming the building's corridors and vandalising the nearby supreme court, whose windows had been smashed.

"They are throwing chairs out of the windows," said another bewildered GloboNews commentator, Eliane Cantanhêde. "They are destroying public buildings."

Regional leaders were quick to condemn what Chile's president, Gabriel Boric, denounced as a "cowardly and vile attack on democracy" and a "disgraceful attack".

The veteran leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was sworn in as Brazil's new president last Sunday in celebrations attended by thousands of Brazilians. But pro-Bolsonaro extremists have refused to accept Lula's narrow victory in October's election, spending recent weeks camping outside army bases across the country and calling for a military coup.

Yesterday, one pro-Bolsonaro mob marched from the army headquarters in Brasília towards the heart of Brazilian politics, the Three Powers Plaza, which houses the supreme court, the presidential palace and congress.

The militants broke through police lines and surged on to the ramp leading into the congress building.

"Brasília has its Capitol day," tweeted the political commentator Rodrigo Rangel. Leftist politicians voiced shock and anger as the horde advanced. "The National Congress is being attacked by TERRORISTS!" tweeted Randolfe Rodrigues, a senator.

Soon after, another prominent Lula ally, André Janones, shared footage that showed scores of radicals inside the grounds of the Palácio do Planalto, the presidential offices where last week's inauguration ceremony was held. "Terrorists have invaded the Planalto," Janones tweeted.

Spain's prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, condemned the stormings in a tweet. "I offer my full support to president Lula and to the institutions that were freely and democratically chosen by the Brazilian people," he wrote. "We categorically condemn the assault on the congress of Brazil and call for an immediate return to democratic normality."

Observers have spent months warning that Bolsonaro hardliners might stage a South American version of the US's Capitol invasion in the hope of overturning Lula's win. During his tumultuous four-year administration, Bolsonaro repeatedly hinted that a military takeover might be in the works and battled to undermine Brazil's internationally respected electronic voting system.

Bolsonaro, a far-right former army captain whose main international ally was Trump, flew out of Brazil on the eve of Lula's inauguration and is in Florida. He fell almost completely silent after Lula's victory, with many interpreting his silence as a tacit approval of the anti-democratic protesters who have been calling on Brazil's military to intervene.

◀ *Bolsonaro's supporters protest against President Lula at the National Congress in Brasília*
PHOTOGRAPH: ADRIANO MACHADO/REUTERS

# Care providers double fees to take on discharged patients

**Continued** *from page 1*

with up to £200m in new funding for the NHS to buy care beds to clear wards of medically fit patients.

The money will buy beds in care homes, hospices and hotels where people are looked after by homecare providers as well as pay for hospital upgrades. Stays will be no longer than four weeks until the end of March.

There will be an additional £50m to upgrade and expand hospitals, including new ambulance hubs.

The use of hotels as care homes began during the pandemic and there have been reports of problems with hygiene and supplies of specialist equipment. Age UK criticised their renewed use as "not an appropriate place to provide high-quality care".

Barclay will also announce longer term trials of ways to rehabilitate more people in the community. These include "dementia hubs" in Greater Manchester and an "active recovery service" based in the Leeds community.

The money would be on top of the £500m allocated to social care in the autumn statement, although asked on BBC One's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg how much of that had so far been distributed, the prime minister, Rishi Sunak, could not answer.

▲ *Steve Barclay promised up to £200m for the NHS to buy care beds*

Green said if the funding for discharge beds was left to councils paying their usual rates "it will not work", but said higher rates (of at least £1,500) would still be cheaper than keeping people in hospital.

The lack of availability in social care has been blamed for many of the estimated 13,000 people stuck on wards. The backlog is viewed as a cause of A&E blockages. However other care operators are reporting vacancies and puzzlement that their beds are not being used.

Nadra Ahmed, chair of the National Care Association, which represents smaller independent operators, said: "I have message after message from people saying they have capacity but are not being contacted. One provider said they don't know what is happening because they normally run at 100% [capacity at this time of year] but they are 80%."

She said there appeared to be a "communication breakdown". Extra funding would help deliver more places and "be used to properly recruit staff at the level we are not going to lose them to Sainsbury's".

There are 165,000 vacancies in the social care sector in England. Average care worker pay is £9.50 an hour – below that of a novice NHS healthcare assistant, a McDonald's worker or an Amazon warehouse picker.

Asked by Kuenssberg whether he would work as a care worker for £18,000 a year, Sunak declined to answer.

Asked if he could ever fix the problems in social care when care workers earned well below the average wage the prime minister replied: "There's a range of different things to make sure people in social care do feel valued and part of that actually is giving them a sense of qualifications, professional training and development and a sense of career progression ... it's not just about how much people are paid."

▲ *The LauncherOne rocket will carry nine satellites*

# Cornwall set to launch 'new era' for British space industry

▲ *Melissa Thorpe, the head of Spaceport Cornwall, with the Virgin Orbit 747 that will carry the rocket*
PHOTOGRAPH: JONNY WEEKS/THE GUARDIAN

**Steven Morris**

Thousands of people are expected to descend on Cornwall to witness the first orbital rocket launch from UK soil in what is being heralded as the start of a "new era" for the British space industry.

As long as there are no last-minute technical hitches - and the weather does not spoil the party - the historic Start Me Up mission will take off tonight from Spaceport Cornwall, blasting nine satellites into orbit.

It will be a triumph for the spaceport, which has faced scepticism that such an adventure could be launched from an area more associated with surfing than high-tech projects, and boosts the UK's position as an up-and-coming space nation. Melissa Thorpe, the head of Spaceport Cornwall, which is based in a corner of Newquay airport, said she thought she would feel nervous but was "confident and really focused".

She said it was a good "underdog story" that had started off eight years ago with "not many people" believing it would happen.

"I hope people will feel some inspiration, some aspiration and feel proud of how we are representing Cornwall going to the stars," Thorpe said. "There's a lot of doom and gloom out there. It's exciting, different, it's also a bit of an underdog story."

During a press conference at Spaceport Cornwall, Thorpe was asked if it could lead to humans travelling to space from Cornwall.

"We're focused 100% on satellite launch at the moment," she said. "That's challenging enough before you add humans to that. As a spaceport we're really interested in human space flight - the opportunities for researchers going up for micro-gravity experiments, for instance - but also there's a lot going on in the tourism side of it. We'll start to look at the opportunities."

Thorpe described how she had been inspired by gazing at the northern lights in her native Canada.

"The spark was the night sky. What is out there? What are humans going to do out there? What are we going to find there?"

Two and half thousand people snapped up tickets within two hours for the launch and a silent disco has been laid on to keep the blood pumping on what could be a cold night.

At the centre of the mission is a repurposed Boeing 747 called Cosmic Girl fitted with Virgin Orbit's LauncherOne rocket carrying the nine satellites. The 747 will take off from Spaceport Cornwall before releasing the rocket at 35,000ft over the Atlantic Ocean south of Ireland.

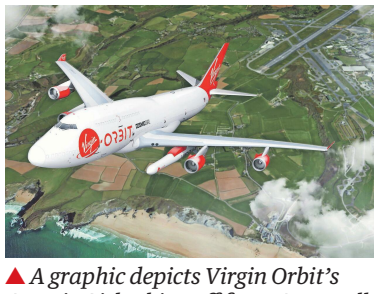
The plane will return to the spaceport while the rocket will take the small satellites, with a variety of civil and defence applications, into orbit. They will be the first satellites launched into space from Europe.

Ian Annett, the deputy CEO of the UK Space Agency, hailed it as a "new era for space". He said the UK industry generated £16.5bn a year and employed 47,000 people.

"This will lead to new careers, improved productivity and inspire the next generation of space professionals, and this is just the beginning," he said.

Dan Hart, the CEO of Virgin Orbit, said tonight was looking good, but if they saw "anything interesting" they would delay the launch. "If winds or precipitation or lightning is in the area we will look very closely. The team right now is smiling, but their eyes are laser sharp."

Hart agreed the project was a boost for the UK and Cornwall. "Having spent time in Cape Canaveral, there's something about knowing someone down the block is working on a space flight mission that breaks the barriers down - and makes it go from being something that is far away to something that is around the corner, and something that a child would say: 'I could do that.'"



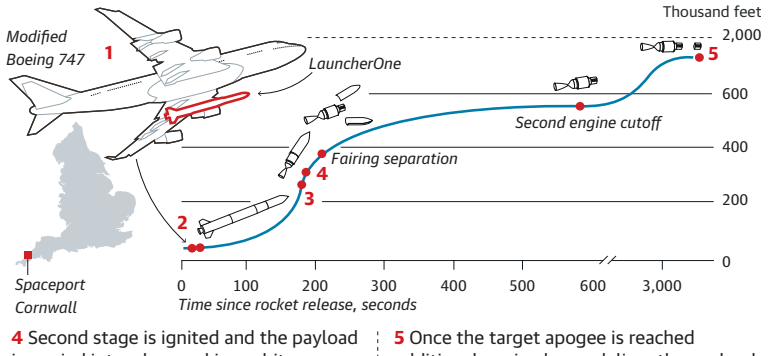
▲ *A graphic depicts Virgin Orbit's Cosmic Girl taking off from Cornwall*

## Virgin Orbit flight path

**1** Modified Boeing 747 takes off from Spaceport Cornwall with the LauncherOne rocket and payload beneath its wing

**2** South of Ireland at 35,000 feet the aircraft releases the LauncherOne rocket. The rocket engine ignites five seconds later

**3** The vehicle ascends several hundred thousand feet before first stage separation occurs




**4** Second stage is ignited and the payload is carried into a low parking orbit

**5** Once the target apogee is reached additional engine burns deliver the payload into its target orbit

Source: Virgin Orbit

# Company behind Mama Mia! back on song after pandemic

**Alex Lawson**

The production company behind the Mamma Mia! musical and film adaptations has bounced back into the black since theatres reopened after the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Littlestar Services, the company co-founded by the Abba stars Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, has recorded a profit in a swift recovery from pandemic lockdowns that threw the theatre industry into crisis.

Accounts recently filed at Companies House show the firm notched up pretax profits of £316,405 in the year to March 2022 on sales of £7.68m - a significant improvement on the £752,614 pretax loss and £5.5m of sales registered a year earlier.

Andersson and Ulvaeus are directors of the company alongside Judy Craymer, the show's producer. It did not pay out a dividend last year.

After forming Abba in 1972 with Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Andersson and Ulvaeus went on to amass a fortune through hits including Dancing Queen and Waterloo.

Littlestar was co-founded in 1996 by Andersson, Ulvaeus, Craymer and the producer Richard East to create the London stage musical of the Swedish pop group's hits. The company now produces and licenses theatre, film, television and music related to the smash-hit band.

Littlestar hit the headlines in 2021 when HMRC documents showed it and a sister company had received £50,000 each to furlough staff despite the wealth of its founders. Andersson, 76, is estimated to have a personal wealth of more than $200m and Ulvaeus, 77, $300m. Littlestar said at the time that employees of its UK theatrical productions had been furloughed to "keep them employed as long as possible".

*Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus*

**£316,405**

*The pretax profits recorded by Littlestar Services in the year to March 2022 on sales of £7.68m*

# Harry vents his fury at Camilla in ITV interview

▲ *Prince Harry with ITV's Tom Bradby, one of four interviews being broadcast this week. Below, the king at a church service yesterday*
PHOTOGRAPH: ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK

Continued *from page 1*

my stepmother. There are things that have happened that have been incredibly hurtful, some in the past, some current."

In the first of several interviews to be broadcast ahead of publication day tomorrow, Harry was asked if his interests had been sacrificed for the interests of his father, the king, when it came to the press.

Explaining the royals' relationship with the press, Harry said: "I love my father, I love my brother, I love my family." He had no intention of hurting or harming them, he said. But regarding the tabloid press, he said "certain members have decided to get in bed with the devil" to rehabilitate their own images.

That was their choice, he said, adding: "But the moment that rehabilitation comes at the detriment to others, me, other members of my family, that's where I draw the line."

He spoke of royals competing for the limelight. William and Kate, he said, had suffered from it "from my father and stepmother, or their office". He said he thought, as he was the "spare" to the heir, and not in competition with William or his father, that everything would be fine with him and Meghan.

"How wrong I was. The very thing that William and Kate had experienced from Pa and Camilla happened to us, and happened from William and Kate's office as well," he said.

Excerpts from the book read aloud reveal that, as the relationship between Harry and William deteriorated they together met Charles to discuss the situation following the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral. William swore "on Mummy's life" that he just wanted Harry to be happy.

"For nearly 25 years we'd reserved that soul crushing vow for times when one of us needed to be heard, to be believed quickly," Harry wrote. But, he told Bradby: "It stopped me cold, as it was meant to. Not because he'd used it. But because it didn't work. I simply didn't believe him."

Harry said he wanted reconciliation, but with "accountability". He did not think his father or brother would read his book. "I really hope they do, but I don't think they will."

Asked to justify writing the book, and disclosing private conversations with his family, Harry said that "the level of planting and leakings from other members of the family means that, in my mind, they have written countless books, certainly millions of words have been dedicated to trying to trash my wife and myself to the point where I had to leave my country".

Asked if had burned his bridges, he said other family members had shown "absolutely no willingness to reconcile up until the point. And I'm not sure how honesty is burning bridges. You know, silence only allows the abuser to abuse. So I don't know how staying silent is ever going to make things better."

Earlier, a smiling king seemed in good spirits as he was seen for the first time since revelations from the memoir emerged. Charles smiled and stopped to chat to well-wishers as he arrived for a service at Castle Rising Church in Norfolk yesterday morning.

In the interview Harry admitted to feeling "some guilt" when walking among the gathered crowds outside Kensington Palace after his mother's death in 1997 and feeling the mourners' tears on his hands when he shook them, saying the only time he had cried was at her burial.

The interview is the first of four broadcast appearances over the coming days, with Harry also speaking to Anderson Cooper for 60 Minutes on CBS News last night, Michael Strahan of Good Morning America today and Stephen Colbert on the Late Show on CBS on Wednesday morning UK time.

A string of revelations have already been leaked from the memoir, Spare, which is due to be published tomorrow. The book has been the subject of headlines for days as excerpts were leaked detailing personal details of Harry's love life, drug-taking and rifts within his family.

Harry has come under fire for some of the claims in the memoir, including that the Prince of Wales physically attacked him and called Meghan "rude", "difficult" and "abrasive".

Friends told the Sunday Times that William was keeping quiet about the book "for the good of his family and the country". One said: "William is a sitting duck because Harry knows he isn't going to retaliate. How many shots can you take at a sitting duck? The friend added that William was "burning" on the inside.

The Sun has reported that as well as the first alleged physical attack by his brother in 2019, Harry also claims that a "steaming" and "shouting" William grabbed his shirt as the pair held peace talks with their father in the gardens of Frogmore Cottage in 2021. Other controversial claims include that William and Kate encouraged him to wear the Nazi uniform that sparked outrage in 2005, and that he killed 25 Taliban while serving in Afghanistan.

## TV review

# Sadder and sadder as the Spare flays an institution

**Harry: The Interview**
*ITV*

**Lucy Mangan**

If she had lived to see this, it wouldn't have killed the queen. But it might have made her a republican. Harry: The Interview lasted an hour and forty minutes (including ad breaks) and left no royal turn unstoned. Via excerpts from his memoir, Spare, and answers to questions from the ITV journalist Tom Bradby, the king's second son laid waste to the monarchy – or at least to the myths upon which it so greatly depends.

We were softened up first by the memory of his childhood and the shattering death of his mother when he was twelve – a psychological wound that rarely fully heals even for children brought up in the most functioning families, which few (possibly even among the Windsors) would claim the Windsors to be. A very moving segment of the audiobook is played – read, and beautifully, by Harry himself – about how he demanded and got to see the secret government file about Diana's death. His press secretary removed the most awful photos but let him see as much as he thought he could bear because he knew he needed to.

As we go on, however, he becomes sadder and sadder in more various and complicated ways. He tells us he has written his memoir because the accumulated "briefings, leakings and plantings" by the palace over the years, against him and Meghan amount to the equivalent of "countless" volumes against them and make a mockery of the royal family's motto "Never complain, never explain."

The institution's accommodation with the tabloid press and the hypocrisy of it clearly – to use a phrase, sorry sir, we lower echelons find handy in times of strife – boils his piss, and probably rightly so.

There are tales of William and Kate taking against Meghan from the start because, he says, they allowed stereotypes ("American, actress, divorced, biracial") to put a barrier between them; there's a depiction of Camilla as a calculating woman who began "to play the long game – a campaign aimed at marriage and eventually the crown" after William and Harry asked Charles not to marry her; of Charles and Camilla using Kate and William's relationship to bolster their own PR.

***He is charming, articulate – and clearly telling us the truth as he sees it***

Harry and Bradby talk about the three phone-hacking claims he has outstanding against News Group, the Mirror and the Daily Mail, and the possibility that the opprobrium and harassment he and Meghan attract from the press is partly an effort to intimidate him into settling

In response to questions about how all that he has done and is now doing squares with his wish for privacy, Harry said he had tried all other available, private avenues to get his family and/or the institution to protect and support him, but they have declined – or rather, denied the need to do so.

Harry is charming, articulate, and – unless the Windsor clan has managed to birth a world-class actor – clearly telling us the truth as he sees it.

In PR terms, the interview will surely have served its purpose. The book will sell in its millions, his story will appeal to the younger demographic, and bolster his celebrity and maybe allow him a more ordinary and manageable kind of fame for the future.

Speaking as a member of the older demographic, it left me only with a great sorrowful weariness, for all that has been done wrong, all that has been lost and how, in the end, how sad and ordinary every little life, however gilded, can be.

**Transport poverty**
**Lack of options fuels car dependence – study**
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**Towering profit**
**Barbican's 3,000 sq ft basement goes on sale**
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# National

**Mind the stares** People take part in the 12th 'No Trousers on the Tube Day' in central London yesterday. The idea behind the annual event now marked in 60 cities around the world is that random passengers board a train carriage at separate stops in the middle of winter without trousers.

PHOTOGRAPH: JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP

## Single-use plastic items to be banned in England in bid to cut pollution

**Nicola Davis**
*Science correspondent*

Single-use items such as plastic cutlery, plates and trays are to be banned in England in a bid to reduce pollution, the government has confirmed.

Figures suggest that every year England uses about 1.1bn single-use plates and 4.25bn pieces of such cutlery, only 10% of which are recycled after being used.

Plastic items relating to takeaway food and drink, including food containers and cutlery, make up the largest share of litter in the world's oceans, according to research.

Now the environment secretary, Thérèse Coffey, is set to ban a suite of single-use plastic items, confirming reports made last month.

The move follows a consultation on the issue by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) that ran from November 2021 to February 2022.

"A plastic fork can take 200 years to decompose, that is two centuries in landfill or polluting our oceans," said Coffey. "I am determined to drive forward action to tackle this issue head on. This new ban will have a huge impact to stop the pollution of billions of pieces of plastic and help to protect the natural environment for future generations."

The response to the consultation on proposals to ban commonly littered single-use plastic items in England is set to be released on Saturday. The Guardian understands plastic cutlery, plates and trays will be included in the ban.

Similar bans have already been made in Scotland and Wales, while the UK government banned single-use plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds in England in 2020.

However it appears the new move is not comprehensive. According to the Daily Mail, the ban will cover plastic plates, bowls and trays used for food and drink eaten at a restaurant, cafe or takeaway but not in settings such as supermarkets and shops.

This is because in the latter case the items would be classed as "primary packaging", which the government says it is addressing by other means.

The move to ban single-use plastics has previously been hailed as a welcome step by campaigners, although some have criticised the slow pace of progress and the limited scope of such a ban. Megan Randles, political campaigner for Greenpeace UK, welcomed the move but warned: "This is like reaching for a mop instead of turning off the tap."

# Nearly a third of teachers who qualified last decade have quit

**Peter Walker**
*Political correspondent*

Nearly a third of teachers who qualified in the last decade have since left the profession, according to a Labour analysis ahead of a week in which the party hopes to shift the political focus on to education.

With the results of strike ballots by teaching unions due in the coming days, Labour hopes to use a Commons vote to push to impose VAT on private school fees, which they say would help pay for new teachers in the state sector.

The party wants to use an opposition day motion on Wednesday to pass a motion – intended to be binding – that would set up a new Commons select committee to look specifically at the issue of VAT on private school fees.

According to a Labour analysis of Department for Education statistics, of just under 270,000 teachers who qualified in England between 2011 and 2020 more than 81,000 have since left the profession, or three in 10 of the total.

More recently, 13% of teachers in England who have qualified since the last general election in December 2019 quit in the subsequent two years, about 3,000 in total.

Three teaching unions representing staff across England and Wales are either balloting members on strike action, while a fourth is considering this. While the disputes are mostly about pay, there is also considerable disquiet about staff shortages, overwork and stress, seen as a key reason for those leaving the profession.

Labour is planning its opposition day motion this week as part of a wider attempt to focus the political spotlight on investment in schools, especially with staffing, and the pledge over VAT, which the party says would raise £1.7bn a year.

The Conservatives argue the policy would simply cause some private schools to close, accusing Keir Starmer of waging a "class war". But Labour believe the policy will be popular, with Starmer using a recent prime minister's questions to say it would raise £10m just from Rishi Sunak's former school, Winchester.

Labour says it has estimated that there are 350,000 qualified teachers not currently teaching in the state sector, and that money from the VAT policy could pay for 6,500 extra teachers, as well as training for existing staff. Bridget Phillipson, the shadow education secretary, said: "This dangerous exodus of new teaching recruits could result in even greater teacher vacancies in years to come and ultimately to lower standards in our schools.

> *'A decade of neglect is already forcing experienced teachers from the classroom'*
>
> **Bridget Phillipson**
> *Labour party*

"A decade of Conservative neglect of our schools is already forcing experienced teachers from the classroom – for more recently qualified teachers to be leaving the profession is a worrying double whammy.

"Labour believes excellence is for everyone: that is why we will end tax breaks for private schools and use the money to recruit 6,500 new teachers." The tactic of trying to make an opposition day motion binding is a common recent tactic used by Labour to force the government to make its MPs vote down an issue, rather than ignoring the process.

A Labour source said: Conservative MPs voting against our motion are voting against higher standards in state schools for the majority of children in our country." A government spokesperson said the number of teachers "remains high", with 24,000 more working in state schools than in 2010.

They said: "We are also making the highest pay awards in a generation – 5% for experienced teachers and more for those early in their careers, including an up to 8.9% increase to starting salary."

# Sunak opens door to pay deal for striking nurses as ministers meet unions

Continued from page 1

reason strikes are going ahead," the Labour leader said. "He doesn't even need to legislate – just get in the room and negotiate. Nurses have shown they are willing to compromise, the government must now do the same."

Government sources said if the talks today were successful it could "unlock" conversations about what "one-off changes" there could be this year. However, no figures had yet been agreed with the Treasury.

A flat-rate payment for all nurses, which could be described as a "hardship payment" to help them with the cost of living crisis this winter, is one option that could be on the table.

Sunak, who is grappling with the biggest wave of industrial action in decades, is hoping the talks with ministers could curtail further strikes by public sector workers including nurses, postal staff and train drivers.

Until now, the health unions have said they would call off strikes only if ministers looked again at this year's pay settlement. However, union sources told the Guardian that while they would prefer a permanent uplift in pay, they were keen to reach a resolution so would be prepared to discuss a one-off offer.

In an interview with BBC One's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme, Sunak said: "The door has always been open to talk about the things that nurses want to talk about, and the unions want to talk about more generally, which is why we actually just wrote to all the unions from across the public sector in for talks and those talks are happening on Monday.

"The government has always been clear that it's happy to talk about pay for this year that's responsible, that's affordable … It wouldn't be right for me to sit here and start having negotiations in public with you, or with anybody else."

Sunak declined to "categorically" rule out a pay rise for nurses up until April, and, pressed by Kuenssberg whether talks could include pay "right here, right now", meaning a settlement for 2022-23 rather than for 2023-24, he replied: "We want to have these conversations."

The prime minister said the government was about to start a new pay settlement round for 2023-24 and, before the process began, wanted to sit down with the unions and "make sure they understand where we're coming from" on future pay.

▲ *Pat Cullen, of the RCN, said the PM had offered a 'chink of optimism'*

After the interview, Cullen told the BBC: "The prime minister talked about coming to the table. That's a move for me because I've said 'let's meet halfway'. I can't negotiate on my own and on the airwaves. If that table is now available I will be there. But it must be about addressing pay from 2022-23.

"We will put our case, but what the government wants to talk about tomorrow is pay moving forward and in the broadest terms. That is not going to avert the strike action that's planned for 10 days' time."

In the same interview, the prime minister refused to acknowledge that the NHS was in crisis, although he admitted the health service was "undeniably under enormous pressure" but suggested much of it was a result of the Covid pandemic.

Adrian Boyle, the president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said it was wrong to blame the current crisis on the pandemic, describing a deteriorating situation spanning back nearly a decade which now sees ambulances waiting outside hospitals and a lack of beds.

Rail unions will also meet ministers today after another week of disruption to services, with only one in five trains running between tomorrow and Saturday after six months of industrial action. Ministers are understood to be discussing dropping a demand for drivers rather than guards to operate train doors, a move that could help pave the way to a deal.

## 'A distraction' PM refuses to be drawn on private care

**Pippa Crerar**
*Political editor*

Rishi Sunak has refused to say whether he uses private healthcare amid suggestions he is out of touch with millions of ordinary people who face long waiting times to receive treatment on the NHS.

The prime minister said his own healthcare was "not really relevant" and was a "distraction" from his focus on making sure people in England receive high-quality NHS provision.

However, he faced criticism from Labour for giving the impression of being a leader who "not only doesn't use the NHS but doesn't understand the scale of the challenges" it faces. Health workers' unions urged him to "come clean" over his provision.

The Guardian revealed in November that Sunak was registered with a private GP practice that guarantees that all patients with urgent concerns about their health will be seen "on the day". NHS England figures show most patients have to wait longer for an appointment.

The west London clinic used by Sunak charges £250 for a half-hour consultation and, unlike most NHS GPs across the country, offers appointments in the evenings and at weekends, as well as consultations by email or phone that cost up to £150.

Sunak has made reducing NHS waiting lists one of his key priorities over the next two years and has held emergency talks with health leaders to alleviate the crisis. But under sustained questioning from the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg, he refused to say whether he had used private healthcare to avoid queues.

"As a general policy I wouldn't ever talk about me or my family's healthcare situation," he said. "But it's not really relevant, what's relevant is the difference I can make to the country." He said healthcare was a "private" matter, adding that discussing his own situation was "a distraction from what the real issue is, and the real issue is, Are we making sure there's high-quality healthcare for the country?"

*Sunak: Own arrangements 'not relevant'*

He added: "When it comes to the private sector in general, we should be making use of the independent sector. I don't have any problem with that whatsoever."

The Royal College of Nursing's general secretary, Pat Cullen, who has been leading strikes in an attempt to secure a better pay deal for nurses, told the BBC: "I think as a public servant you ought to be clear with the public whether or not you are using private health cover. That's about being open, it's about being transparent, and it's about honesty. I think he needed to come clean."

The shadow health secretary, Wes Streeting, who said he does not use private healthcare, told the BBC: "I thought the prime minister … gave the impression of someone who not only doesn't use the NHS but doesn't understand the scale of the challenges or have a plan to deal with the fundamental problems."

## Spina bifida Foetal surgery transforms infants' hopes

**Hannah Devlin**
*Science correspondent*

Emily Ellis flicks through photos of her four-day-old baby, Austin, on her phone. "He is perfect," she says with the certainty of any new parent. But the journey to his arrival has been more complicated than most. Austin has spina bifida and is one of a growing number of babies in the UK to have undergone a pioneering foetal surgery that is transforming outcomes for infants with the condition.

Before his birth, surgeons at King's College hospital operated on Austin's spinal defect while he was inside the womb, and the Guardian was given unique access to observe the same procedure on another mother and baby from inside the operating theatre. The procedure is not a cure, but it could be the difference between Austin's walking or not.

"It's a landmark step in managing patients with spina bifida and improving outcomes and quality of life," says Bassel Zebian, a consultant neurosurgeon at King's, who led the surgical team.

In spina bifida, the spine does not close fully during development, leaving a hole in the back and the spinal cord exposed. Until recently, parents had to wait until a baby was born for corrective surgery. But changes in the amniotic fluid later in pregnancy can exacerbate nerve damage, and there is compelling evidence that operating during the second trimester can improve outcomes, doubling the numbers of babies who go on to walk, and reducing the risk of hydrocephalus, where too much fluid builds up in the brain.

Emily and her husband, Simon, were given the spina bifida diagnosis after the 20-week scan showed their baby's spinal cord was not forming correctly. "The hardest

▼ *Emily Ellis with her baby son, Austin, who had surgery in utero to repair evidence of spina bifida*

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEVENE/THE GUARDIAN

thing was finding out," says Emily. "You feel like you're grieving."

The news was a shock, but the couple decided to proceed with the pregnancy and that foetal surgery would give their baby the best chance possible. Emily had the operation at 27 weeks of pregnancy at King's, one of two centres in the UK that offers the procedure.

Two floors down from the neonatal intensive care unit (Nicu), the Guardian observed another mother and baby undergo the procedure. Zebian will operate alongside two foetal medicine consultants, Marta Santorum-Perez and Matthew Brown. At least a dozen other specialists crowd into the theatre. The pregnant patient lies anaesthetised and entirely hidden – besides her bump – beneath surgical sheets.

An incision is made across the abdomen, and the uterus, a glossy sphere, lifted outside the body. The surgeons make three small incisions that will be used as surgical ports. First, though, the amniotic fluid is drained and the uterus is inflated with carbon dioxide gas to stop the baby floating around during surgery.

Relaxed chatting makes way for hushed concentration as the laparoscopic camera enters the port, illuminating the uterus from within like a red globe marbled with vessels. The baby's world comes into focus on three large screens, which will be used to guide the surgery. A large blister-like bubble, the sign of spina bifida, is visible on the baby's back.

A pair of surgical tools are threaded through the two ports and Zebian begins by cutting away the blister to reveal skin and tissue that is tethered to the spinal cord. He cuts it away with incredible precision via the two keyhole pivot-points. Once the spinal cord has been freed, it settles back into the spinal canal and Santorum-Perez stitches a protective biocellulose patch over it and a second silicon patch to encourage skin to regrow.

The mother is the 22nd patient to receive the surgery at King's and, since the first procedure four years ago, their technique has evolved. Initially the operation was done entirely laparoscopically, but a hybrid approach (with the uterus exposed) appears to reduce the chance of premature delivery.

Back in Nicu, Austin is doing well: he is breathing by himself, taking feeds from a bottle, and kicking his legs – a crucial early sign of mobility. "He's here and he's safe and we're just taking every day as it comes," Emily says.

◀ *Neurosurgeon Bassel Zebian and consultant Marta Santorum-Perez (centre-right) carry out the surgery at King's College hospital in London*

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEVENE/ THE GUARDIAN

# The secret consultant

## It takes more to shock us. We are numb

I did my first on-call shift of the new year this week, in an NHS that is apparently not in crisis and is getting all the funding it needs.

For the first time I came on in the morning to find patients on our medical admission list from overnight still waiting in ambulances. These patients, one of whom had arrived more than eight hours earlier, would have been seen by an A&E nurse, had bloods and observations taken, and been assessed by a doctor and the medical team to confirm that admission was really needed – all in the back of an ambulance, the paramedic crew unable to go back out on the road. I have never seen a patient get that far into the hospital system without physically entering the building.

We have had to define new locations on our electronic system so we can keep track of patients we are admitting but who are still in the car park.

Even when through the door, things may not improve. I saw another woman I had to take into a procedure room for some privacy to examine her. I was mortified as she started to clean up the dirty trolley herself. She had been sat on a chair in a corridor for more than 14 hours. I could only offer apologies as we took her blood and I put her back into the corridor to wait for her results so that I could free up the procedure room again.

Being severely unwell does not guarantee you a berth these days. I reviewed an older man with severe pneumonia who had been on a chair overnight in a busy assessment area opening on to the waiting room. He needed admission for the intravenous antibiotics that were being given to him every eight hours as he sat in his chair. I examined him in the corridor, apologising again.

Emergency departments were not set up or staffed to look after sick medical patients for days on end. Their purpose is to see patients as they come in, initiate care, organise admission, and move patients into the hospital for others to deliver definitive treatment. And yet at one stage we had more than 50 patients in the department – two whole wards' worth, some for more than two days – having their care delivered by the A&E team that also needs to see the incoming patients. This is hardly a safe situation.

Across the board we have all had to increase our tolerance for taking and minimising risks. For example: the senior nurse who took twice the number of usual patients under his care in the triage area, as he felt that was safer than leaving them in the ambulance. Or the ward teams looking after patients who should really be in intensive care if there were only enough beds there. Or the nurse monitoring the man with pneumonia in her peripheral vision as she continued assessing new patients.

I have had to adjust my own risk threshold consciously, and it has not been easy. I now often send home patients whom in days gone by I would have admitted or kept in hospital for another day or two. Some of them will come back in; I keep my fingers crossed that I do not cause any lasting harm. Yet I worry about the example this sets to our trainee doctors, and I try to justify the decisions I make to reassure them – and myself – that I'm not practising dangerously. Maybe I am. My insecurity makes me doubt my judgment.

The pressure affects how we interact with each other. I had a colleague yesterday who apologised for being snappy while she was looking after 12 sick medical patients on her own – in an area usually used for stable patients waiting for transport home – despite not even being trained to give them their intravenous medications.

Pressure has always been a feature of what we do, but not at this level for so long.

A colleague described coming to work at the moment as like being punched in the arm repeatedly so that eventually it goes numb. We are ourselves becoming numb; it takes progressively more to shock us these days. On my shift I saw several patients who had been in A&E for 30 or 40 hours – that would have been shocking in days gone by, but as things are now, that's OK because at least they're on a trolley in a cubicle.

Yet just as your arm may go numb after being punched, it still hurts when you think about it. I hate the fact that this is the best we can offer.

Declaring that this is not a crisis is the first step towards acknowledging that the standard of care we are delivering at the moment is acceptable. Surely it is not. We must acknowledge that we all deserve better than this.

***I keep my fingers crossed I do not cause harm. I try to justify decisions to reassure myself that I'm not practising dangerously***

*'People are fed up with being asked to suck it up. They want hope and reassurance that change is possible and change is coming'*

**Keir Starmer**
*Labour leader*

◀ *Keir Starmer in Walthamstow, north-east London. The Labour leader says the party is looking to growth for extra money to rescue the UK's cash-starved public services*

PHOTOGRAPH: LINDA NYLIND/ THE GUARDIAN

# 'Labour will inherit a really bad situation'

# Starmer treads fine line on fiscal pledges

**Pippa Crerar**
*Political editor*

Keir Starmer leans over an open newspaper and points out a picture of him and the shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, holding hi-tech rivet guns while touring a design lab.

"I've had a few shadow cabinet ministers ask me if this is how we're going to get them to stick to fiscal discipline," he jokes, ahead of an interview with the Guardian in his constituency office in Camden, north London.

The Labour leader has spent much of the last few days promising how careful he would be with the public finances should he end up in No 10 after the next election. But while he aims to burnish Labour's reputation for economic competence, our cash-starved public services are at breaking point.

Some in his party are anxious that his vow not to brandish a "big government cheque-book" means that schools and hospitals wouldn't get the funding they need. But Starmer, despite his insistence on fiscal prudence, rules out a return to austerity under the next Labour government.

"I've always made the case against austerity," he says. "I'm against austerity. But I know we're going to have to be fiscally disciplined."

While he acknowledges that schools, the NHS, courts and the police will all need more funding, every spending commitment will be fully costed. He denies he is trying to have it both ways. "That's why we've made choices," he says, citing plans to scrap non-dom tax status to fund training for more nurses and doctors.

Starmer is looking to growth for extra money for public services. "It's very important that our message on fiscal discipline is heard," he insists. "We're going to inherit a really bad situation. The economy has been really badly damaged over 13 years of low growth.

"The question Rachel [Reeves] and I have focused on is how we grow the economy. If growth the last 13 years had been at the same rate as the last Labour government we'd have tens of billions for public services without raising a single penny more in tax."

He denies Labour is planning a wealth tax, saying there is "not much scope" for rises with overall tax so high – but admits dividends and rental income are the "sort of things" it could consider, rather than savings or property.

"We've said that we need a fair taxation system. It means looking at different forms of taxation that aren't heavily dependent on the wage people earn," he says.

"But – and it's a big 'but' in capital letters – we have got the highest taxation burden since the war, and the idea that there's much scope for tax increases is wrong, which is why we've put our focus on growing the economy."

▲ *Labour's Rachel Reeves has ruled out tax-raising powers for councils*

Starmer's plans for reform have also caused alarm in his party. Yet he is worried they haven't "come through strongly enough". He adds: "I know that if you put more money into public services they will improve, but I also know that reform will bring improvements. In the NHS, obviously, everybody always has the question: 'Does that mean the private sector?' I don't shy away when it comes to things like waiting lists, we'll use whatever we can to get those down. But the reform I'm talking about goes way beyond that. We're all living longer. We've got to move to a preventative model."

Another reform he wants is devolution, giving people more control over their lives, but he acknowledges that handing power to local communities needs to be accompanied by funding. Reeves, however, has ruled out giving tax-raising powers to councils.

Starmer defends Labour's decision to use Vote Leave's "take back control" slogan for devolution plans, insisting Brexiters can have faith he understands why they voted to leave the EU, despite being one of the biggest advocates of Remain and a second referendum.

"I've always understood that plea for change," he says. "Obviously I campaigned for Remain but I don't argue that we should have the sort of change the many people who voted Brexit are crying out for."

Despite the economic damage of Brexit, Starmer is sticking resolutely to his line that he would get a better deal from the EU, presumably in the belief that going further would be electoral suicide. "We've left the EU and there's no case for going back. But we will improve the deal we've got."

He is equally careful about small boats – reiterating there needs to be more cross-border work tackling criminal gangs trafficking people across the Channel. He criticises the broken asylum processing system, and underlines the need to make sure safe routes are working, particularly from Afghanistan.

Starmer is philosophical about his new year push being overshadowed by the royal psychodrama around Prince Harry's book, saying last week's speech was just the latest staging post in getting ready for government. "It's obvious that gets attention, of course it does. But

this was not a one-off speech, it was laying out what we're going to be doing in 2023. The impatience for change is palpable. The public is fed up with being asked to suck it up. They want the hope and reassurance that change is possible and change is coming."

Despite the media storm around Prince Harry, the Labour leader refuses to comment directly. "I still don't think wading into private matters of the royal family is where politicians should be."

Starmer, who is approaching three years as leader of the opposition, has big plans for this year. He feels, having transformed Labour since the days of Jeremy Corbyn and attacked government failings over the last year, he has earned his party a hearing.

"We've done hard work on changing the party, we've done hard work on exposing the Tories as not fit to govern … we don't rest on our laurels, we press on. We set out the case for a bold, reforming Labour government."

But what would that government look like? Starmer wants to "gently push back" at the idea Labour has not set out any policies - the biggest so far is a £28bn-a-year green investment commitment - but admits the party needs to "build on" what they have put forward. Starmer says Labour is doing a "huge amount of work" to prepare for government, and by this time next year everybody will know what it would do in power.

"There were plenty of people urging me from day one: 'Set out your plan for government.' I resisted because I knew we could only do it if we got to this stage." But he doesn't like complacency, and at every shadow cabinet meeting says they have to fight like they're five points behind in the polls, rather than 20 ahead.

Labour will have a 1997-style pledge card for the next election, he confirms. The manifesto will be "short, sharp" and "tell a story about the future of the country".

Is Labour ready for government? "Yes," he says immediately, adding that it has gone through a "shift in mindset" from opposition to government-in-waiting. Shadow ministers are receiving training from the Institute for Government and Starmer talks regularly to Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

He also gets tips from the leaders of sister parties abroad who have recently won elections, including the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, and Australia's prime minister, Anthony Albanese. Aides observed the US midterms. "By the time we hit that election we need the best campaigning team that the Labour party has ever seen."

Would he welcome back big Labour beasts of the past? Douglas Alexander is one former cabinet minister trying to become an MP. He says he would be "very relaxed" about David Miliband, once tipped as the next Labour inhabitant of No 10, returning to the fold.

"Of course I'm keen to use whatever experience there is," Starmer says. "There are good people of the past who want to run again. But there are really brilliant people of the future too."

# State of limbo

## Number of MPs without party whip now on par with Lib Dems

**Peter Walker**
*Political correspondent*

They are the joint fourth biggest contingent in the Commons, their total of 14 MPs the same as the Liberal Democrats' tally. And they are certainly the most eclectic bunch, sharing just one thing among them: the lack of a parliamentary party.

Losing the whip was once rare and usually brief for MPs, the result of serious rebellion or significant misdeed. But this parliament has seen a bumper crop of "independent" MPs, as they are officially known. Among the 14 returning to the Commons today - seven Labour, five Conservative, one SNP and one Plaid Cymru - are MPs who have been whipless for well over two years.

The longest-serving member of this unofficial club is Jonathan Edwards, who lost the Plaid Cymru whip in May 2020 after being arrested for assaulting his wife, for which he was later cautioned.

All but two of the 14 have been accused of personal wrongdoing. While several deny the claims pending investigations, some fellow MPs speculate whether the stresses of lockdown and seemingly endless political turmoil have played a part.

Losing the whip means no longer being in a formal parliamentary grouping, although MPs can sometimes remain a party member. The whip can be, and often is, restored, for example if an MP is exonerated.

Those without the whip live something of a parliamentary half-life, many voting with their party but banished from the club. They do, however, receive some support. Labour and the Conservatives allocate whips to suspended MPs to ensure they are coping.

The most politically serious repercussion comes if an MP is whipless when a general election arrives. Barring restoration, they will not be able to stand for their party, making re-election unlikely.

What is notable about the current crop is the variety of reasons for their banishment and the number for whom this has become a seemingly permanent state of affairs, at least until an election. Edwards briefly regained the Plaid whip but no longer sits for the party. There is similarly no apparent way back for the former Scottish National party MP Margaret Ferrier, who received a court penalty for travelling by train while infected with Covid in 2020.

Another long-term whipless MP, Claudia Webbe, received a suspended jail sentence a year ago for harassing a female friend of her partner, and will not be readmitted to Labour. MPs are only ejected from the Commons if they are jailed for a year or longer, meaning she remains in the job.

The former Tory MP Rob Roberts seems doomed to remain whipless after an independent panel found he made unwanted sexual advances towards a former staff member. He apologised but has stayed on as an independent MP.

Perhaps the least repentant of these serving-their-time independents is Matt Hancock. The former health secretary claimed it was his choice to remain solo after returning from ITV's I'm a Celebrity … Get Me Out of Here! and to stand down at the next election, a decision possibly helped by some local party activists wanting him to be deselected.

Of the 14 whipless MPs, only one, Jeremy Corbyn, lost the whip amid partly political differences. Even so, there was a disciplinary element, connected to the former Labour leader's comments about antisemitism in the party, which he refused to withdraw. Corbyn also stands out as being the one member of the group likely to stand as an independent, and the only one who could win, given his popularity in the Islington North constituency he has represented for nearly 40 years.

But for eight of the 14, being whipless is something of a state of limbo as they wait for investigations to be completed. The allegations being examined are varied. David Warburton lost the Tory whip after allegations of harassment and drug use, which he denies, and his former colleague Chris Pincher is being investigated over claims of drunken groping. Pincher said he had "embarrassed" himself and was seeking professional support.

Neil Coyle and Rupa Huq were suspended from Labour over comments made about race, for which they have both apologised, while Christina Rees is accused of bullying. Rees said she would cooperate with the inquiry and was seeking details of the claims.

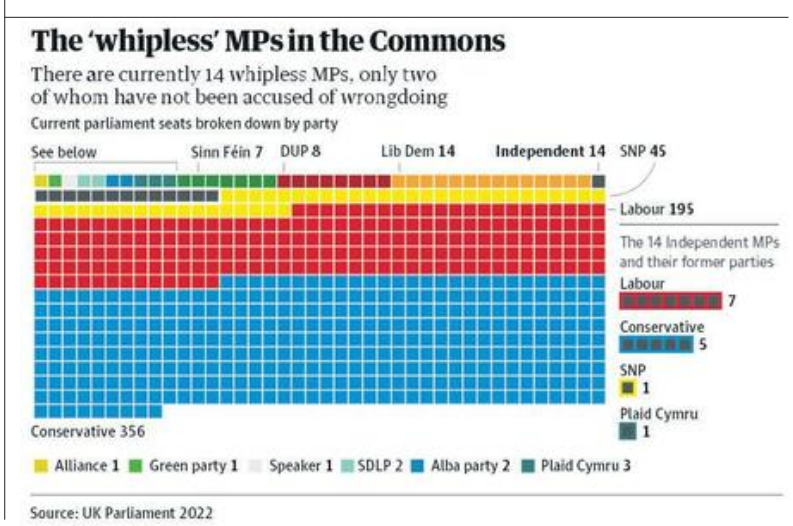
With three MPs - Nick Brown and Conor McGinn for Labour, and Julian Knight for the Conservatives - it remains unknown what they have been accused of. All have said they deny wrongdoing.

The investigations can be long. The Labour MP Chris Bryant, who chairs the Commons standards committee, has calculated that there are 12 separate bodies to which he and his colleagues are accountable. As well as his committee, these include the police, the independent commissioner for standards, parliament's independent complaints and grievance scheme, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, the Electoral Commission, and the parties.

Bryant said: "One of the things we have pointed to in the standards committee is that MPs are subject to so many different bodies. The wheels of justice grind slowly, but in politics that can be particularly unfair to both sides because you might have a general election and the person is not an MP any more."

▼ *Claudia Webbe has been excluded from the Labour party whip since being given a suspended jail sentence*

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON CHOWN/PA WIRE




# Second jobs

## Tory members have received £15.2m since last election

**Jim Waterson**

Tory MPs have received £15.2m from second jobs since the last general election, dwarfing the combined income of politicians who represent other parties.

The former prime minister Theresa May was the biggest recipient, taking home £2.5m on top of her parliamentary salary, mainly from giving speeches to organisations in the US, such as JP Morgan bank and the private equity firm Apax Partners. She draws a salary of £85,000 from this pot and says the rest of the money is used to fund her private office, promote her involvement in public life, and make charitable donations.

Other top recipients include Boris Johnson, who has hit the global speaking circuit after being deposed from Downing Street last summer. He has received more than £1m since October by giving four speeches, at a rate of more than £30,000 an hour. Despite this he also had his family's rent paid for by the owners of JCB and received gifts of flights and accommodation from Rupert Murdoch.

The analysis by Sky News and Tortoise found MPs collectively received £17.1m from outside income since the 2019 election. Labour MPs earned a comparatively small £1.2m from outside work, while Liberal Democrat MPs took an additional £171,000 and SNP MPs banked £149,000.

Conservatives account for 89% of external income over the past three years. That includes Geoffrey Cox, who has earned £2.2m from legal work in the last three years while serving as a Tory MP.

The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, said he supported tougher restrictions on MPs having outside jobs. But he said he did not want a complete ban on MPs receiving extra money on top of their jobs: "Broadly speaking, I think there's a million miles of difference between someone advising a company on strategy and someone who's writing a political book."

Starmer received about £26,000 from legal work conducted while a serving Labour MP but before he became leader of the opposition.

**£2.5m**

*Total of Theresa May's extra income since 2019, mainly from giving speeches to organisations in the US*

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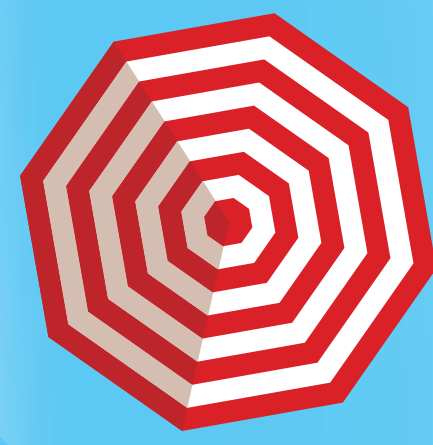

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# Great era of going out to the movies is dying, says Mendes

Jessica Murray

Sam Mendes has said the "great era" of going to the cinema is dying, and he thinks his most famous movies would go to streaming services if they were made now.

The British film director, known for his James Bond movies and critically acclaimed hits such as American Beauty and 1917, said: "The 20th century, the great era of movies, the great entertainment form – which was going out to the movies – that is dying.

"I look back at my films and I think American Beauty, Revolutionary Road, Away We Go, these would all go to streaming now and that makes me sad."

Speaking on the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme, Mendes said "middle-budget movies" were no longer made for cinemas, and most often went straight to streaming services, such as Netflix or Amazon Prime, instead.

"You look at the multiplexes and people go 'there's six screens' and then you go to those six screens and it says 'screen one Avatar, screen two Avatar, screen three Avatar' – that's not a six-screen cinema; that's just six screens showing the same movie," he said. "That is a different understanding of why those buildings were created in the first place."

He said filmmakers now had to "accept and embrace the ambition of a big screen" or "accept that they're going to be seen by millions of people on streaming, which is no bad thing".

His latest film, Empire of Light, is a romantic drama set around an old cinema in an English seaside town in the early 1980s.

Mendes previously told the Guardian the film was a love letter to cinema: "If you are broken, movies can help put you back together again. I'm a romantic. I do believe that. Yet that could easily be tilted into being: it's about the magic of movies," he said.

It is the director's first film directed from his own screenplay, and was inspired by his childhood growing up around someone who suffered from mental illness.

The film stars the Oscar-winning actor Olivia Colman as a cinema manager with bipolar disorder, a character heavily based on Mendes's mother, Valerie.

"The stigma that is still attached to mental illness, there's still a cloak of darkness that's thrown over it," he said.

"If you come out of hospital and you've just recovered from cancer, I'm immediately saying to you 'how are you?'. If you come out of a mental health facility, I don't talk about it, I probably don't ask you the question."

He said his film "dramatises" the effect of what it is to live through bipolar and manic depression, "rather than to explain it".

Colman, 48, stars alongside the 25-year-old Jamaican-British actor Micheal Ward, who plays a ticket seller hired at the cinema and who begins an intimate relationship with the lead.

Talking about working with Colman on the film, Mendes said: "She was very embarrassed about performing the sex scenes, as is often the case. You're seeing people at their rawest, at their most emotionally vulnerable.

"It's like anything, you're trying to push a little further into the places that you're not normally allowed to go into, you're going behind the curtain as it were and I wanted to see their physical desire."

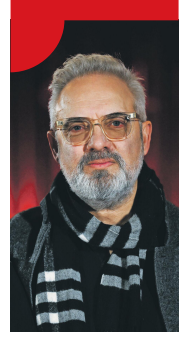
The film is in cinemas from today.

▼ *Olivia Colman meets fans at a gala screening of Empire of Light at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, yesterday*

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF SPICER/GETTY/DISNEY

*'I look back at my films and I think these would all go to streaming now and that makes me sad'*

**Sam Mendes**
*Film director*



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# Lack of non-car options lands Britons in transport poverty, campaigners say

**Peter Walker**

Millions of Britons are trapped in transport poverty because of a lack of alternatives to car ownership, with some spending nearly a fifth of their pre-tax income keeping a car on the road, a study has found.

Those who own a car spend on average 13% of their gross income on it, above the 10% generally seen as the indicator of transport poverty. For those paying for their car with a finance or loan deal this proportion rises to 19%.

The report by the cycle industry campaign group Bike Is Best found that about three-quarters of drivers think they will always own a car, while just under half, 47%, believe they have no alternative.

Previous studies have found that while significant numbers of people say they would happily cycle for shorter trips, a lack of safe local infrastructure for cycling puts them off.

In recent years electric-assist bikes, or e-bikes, have become increasingly popular. But these can be expensive, with some models costing about £4,000, and finance deals are harder to find than for cars.

The study found that while 34% of drivers said they would cycle if they could pick a mode that was not driving or public transport, almost half could not afford to buy a bike.

Scott Purchas from Bike Is Best said: "As the UK endures the cost of living crisis, there's no escaping the fact that our entrenched car culture is locking people in to spending significant portions of their income on transport."

Keir Gallagher of Cycling UK said the study showed a lack of options meant the chance for people to move away from car use "is being squandered". He said: "The solution is simple - building networks of safe, segregated cycle routes in towns and cities across the UK would turn cycling into a genuine option for millions of people."

▼ *Wind turbines near Leeds. Some homes located close to windfarms already get cheaper power*

PHOTOGRAPH: KELVINJAY/GETTY IMAGES

# Lower bills 'raise willingness' to live near turbines

**Alex Lawson**
*Energy correspondent*

Households in the Midlands, Yorkshire and the north-east of England are most willing to live near a windfarm in return for cheaper power, Octopus Energy has said.

The energy supplier says people are increasingly open to windfarms being built near them, as the government appears ready to lift a seven-year ban on new onshore wind developments in England.

Octopus Energy has been canvassing the public and landowners in an attempt to match up supply and demand and speed through the planning process if the ban is lifted. It received more than 16,500 submissions. David Cameron's government introduced the moratorium in 2015. A consultation runs until March.

Octopus has begun cutting bills of customers within 5km (3.1 miles) of three windfarms in Yorkshire and Wales. They are told when local power is cheaper owing to higher winds, saving up to £350 a year.

*Ahmad AS et al. British Journal of Cancer, 2015 22MSPAPRS10
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## LAND USE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS

William Blake famously wrote of England's green and pleasant land. However, according to the researchers at the Natural History Museum, the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, going so far as to say that due to the expansion of agriculture, 'the UK has led the world in degrading the natural environment'.[1]

Agriculture is the primary land user in the UK, covering 71% of total UK land area,[2] around 17.5 million hectares,[3] and animal agriculture accounts for up to 85% of this land, yet provides only 32% of our calories and less than half of our protein.[4] To feed the same number of people on a plant-based diet would require just one-sixth of the land, leaving 14.5 million hectares available for alternative uses,[5] such as nature restoration and rewilding of habitats as part of carbon sequestration initiatives.

## A PLANT-BASED UK SUPPORTS OUR FARMERS

The science is clear on the environmental impacts of animal agriculture, including its outsized climate impact, and the farming sector is also the most vulnerable to changes in weather systems resulting from climate breakdown. Raised public awareness of these impacts has led to a growing shift in consumer habits towards more plant-based diets. Many farmers are already moving away from rearing animals in favour of growing plants for human consumption to capitalise on this growing demand. A recent farmers' survey found that 64% of respondents would consider transitioning out of animal agriculture entirely provided financial support was in place.[6] As custodians of the countryside, farmers must be supported to adapt and diversify their production to meet these changing demands and better protect our planet.

## UK'S LEADING ROLE IN PROTECTING OUR PLANET

The World Health Organization has called climate change the 'greatest threat to global health in the 21st century'. The UK must deliver on its commitment to meet the world's most ambitious climate targets by addressing animal agriculture, which is responsible for at least 16.5% of all man-made GHG emissions,[7] and urge other developed economies to follow suit. By continuing with business as usual, this sector alone would account for 49% of the 1.5°C emissions budget by 2030.[8] Research indicates that if we all ate plant-based, our food-related GHG emissions would drop by 70%.[9] We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act decisively and comprehensively to halt climate breakdown now.

## SUPPORT BRITISH INNOVATION

The UK is well positioned to pioneer the innovation of sustainable alternative protein production. Moving away from the EU's regulatory framework provides an important opportunity to become a global leader in the development of plant-, cell- and fermentation-based proteins. A recent report by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI), estimates a £1bn UK market for plant-based alternatives, with predicted yearly growth for meat alternatives of 30%, dairy-free milk of 48%, and cheese alternatives of 38%, driven mainly by the expansion of start-ups.[10] The government-commissioned National Food Strategy recently called on the UK government to invest £125m in sustainable protein start-ups.[11]

## A THRIVING UK POPULATION

Noncommunicable diseases (NCD) are a significant burden to the NHS and the leading cause of premature mortality in the UK, accounting for around 89% of all deaths.[12] NCDs are also largely preventable. Research shows that adopting a plant-based diet is significantly associated with decreased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality and lower risk of CVD incidence,[13] which is the leading cause of death in the UK. Researchers have concluded that plant-based diets are also "especially potent" in preventing type 2 diabetes and have been associated with much lower rates of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and cancer.[14]

An EPIC-Oxford study of 65,411 men and women found that non-meat eaters were 37% less likely to develop diabetes compared with the regular meat eaters.[15] A new study by researchers from Oxford Population Health's Cancer Epidemiology Unit that analysed data from over 472,000 participants found that, when compared with regular meat-eaters, plant-based diets reduced the risk of postmenopausal breast cancer by 18%, prostate cancer by 31%, colorectal cancer in men by 43%, and of developing any type of cancer by 14%.[16]

## BE COMPASSIONATE

In the UK's meat, dairy and egg industries we needlessly kill around 1.2 billion land animals for food each year. For example, in the dairy industry, 2.6 million cows go through unimaginable cruelty all their lives and are eventually killed for meat.[17] EU research suggests that between 10% and 20% of dairy cows are pregnant when they are slaughtered.[18] Tens of thousands of male calves[19] and 29 million male chicks,[20] unwanted by the industries they're born into, are killed each year within days or hours of being born. Adopting a plant-based diet prioritises compassion and prevents this unnecessary suffering.

**We hope you'll consider our sincere offer and lead the UK towards a more sustainable and promising future. We look forward to hearing back from you with your response by January 31st.**

Yours sincerely,

**NAOMI HALLUM**
**UK CITIZEN AND CEO AT GENV.ORG**

**"To be British is to be compassionate"**

(1) UK has 'led the world' in destroying the natural environment – NHM.ac.uk 2020
(2) Agriculture in the United Kingdom / Structure of Industry – Gov.UK 2021
(3) Farming Statistics: provisional arable crop areas, yields and livestock populations – Gov.UK 2020
(4) Future of Feed report P6 – WWF UK 2022
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(6) Stockfree Farming qualitative survey report 2021-2022
(7) Emissions from Animal Agriculture: 16.5% New Minimum Figure – MDPI 2021
(8) Scientists call for renewed Paris pledges to transform agriculture – *The Lancet* 2020
(9) Health and climate change co-benefits of dietary change – PNAS.org 2016
(10) Alternative Proteins Roadmap: identifying UK priorities – UKRI.org 2022
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(13) Association of Plant-Based Diet With CVD and Mortality – NCBI 2021
(14) Plant-based diets for the prevention and treatment of type 2 diabetes – NCBI 2017
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(16) UK Biobank analysis – OPH Cancer Epidemiology Unit 2022
(17) UK and EU cow numbers – AHDB 2022
(18) Slaughter of pregnant cattle: current situation and prevalence – BMC Veterinary Research 2016
(19) Why Do Dairy Farmers Kill Male Calves? – Vet Help Direct 2021
(20) Britain continues to slaughter 29 million unwanted chicks every year – *The Guardian* 2022

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GEN V

PHOTOGRAPH: RICK FINDLER/ THE GUARDIAN

**Dressed to impress** Drag queens pose for a selfie at the start of RuPaul's DragCon at the ExCel centre in London this weekend. The extravagant three-day celebration of drag culture, based on the long-running and now worldwide US reality TV franchise RuPaul's Drag Race, featured more than 100 drag queens strutting the pink carpet. The event first took place in January 2020 but missed the next two years because of the pandemic.

# Net zero possible by 2040 'if governments learned from Covid'

**Fiona Harvey**
*Environment editor*

The world could reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the early 2040s, ahead of the mid-century climate target, if governments set more stretching goals and made bold policy decisions, the UK's outgoing climate business expert has said.

Nigel Topping served two years as the high-level champion for the UK's presidency of the UN Cop26 climate summit, passing the role to Egypt's Mahmoud Mohieldin last year at the Cop27 summit in Sharm El-Sheikh.

He forged alliances among businesses to lead a "race to zero", by which firms set targets and measures they would take to achieve them. More than 8,300 businesses around the world have joined the UN's Race to Zero initiative, alongside more than 3,000 other organisations including cities and local governments.

Topping said his experiences with businesses had shown him that governments could move much faster without harming competitiveness.

"Governments could be way bolder in setting targets, and back their scientists, engineers, businesses, banks, cities to come up with solutions," he said. "The moonshot analogy is not inappropriate."

The UK's Climate Change Committee produced a plausible scenario by which the UK could reach net zero by 2042, he pointed out. "Given that we've now got California and Germany saying 2045 is their target, I think you can argue quite strongly that the whole world could get to net zero in the early 2040s, and in many sectors in the late 2030s."

The Covid-19 pandemic had shown what governments could do when they tried, he added. "The lesson that I still don't think we've learnt enough is that governments can turn on a dime if they need do, and the government/private sector relationship can be transformed to deliver solutions way, way faster, if we really put ourselves on an emergency footing."

He said the need for such an urgent transformation was growing more apparent, in the form of extreme weather around the world.

"I think that squeeze is coming, because it's a squeeze between the growing realisation of just how bad the damages are [from the climate crisis], and growing confidence – which is the real lesson I'd like us to take from Covid, which is that we're amazing. We should back ourselves more," he said.

He pointed to the slew of governments now aiming to phase out fossil fuel vehicles, and the extraordinary uptake of electric vehicles. "Once you've named an end date, it's a really powerful signal. Not all markets have agreed, but once you've reached [a large proportion], you can go much faster," he said. "Europe, and the US, and the rate that the Chinese and Indians are changing – it's all over."

However, some sectors were continuing to stand in the way of progress. Oil, gas and coal companies have made bumper profits on the back of fossil fuel prices sent soaring by the invasion of Ukraine.

*'Governments could be way bolder, and back their scientists, banks and businesses. The moonshot analogy is not inappropriate'*

Nigel Topping

"The US oil companies are living in a fantasy land," he said. "There's still some quite big heads in the sand. But they will die. They cannot survive. Their Kodak moment is nigh."

He said fossil fuel companies should redirect their engineering skills towards renewable energy. "We're maybe in the last huge bonanza of oil and gas profits … Shareholders will demand that those who can't invest in the transition will just have to give their money back."

Companies were transforming faster than many governments realised. Predictions of the growth of renewable energy and technologies such as electric vehicles and batteries had proved too conservative.

"A lot of this grows exponentially," he said. "If you look at where we're at now, it never looks good enough. But if you look at the trajectory it can be much more encouraging."

Rich countries should see rapidly growing developing countries as competitors in the clean technology race, rather than focusing on their high emissions, he added.

"China is quite happy for the west to label it as a coal problem while it develops a global competitive leadership in [clean] sector after sector. And India is on the same track now. But you show me how many times western commentators point at India or China as competitors rather than polluters?" he asked. "I think it's a huge strategic mistake to underestimate how clearly [countries such as China and India] see this as the future."

# Volunteer student tutors to boost pupil catch-up after lockdowns

**Sally Weale**
*Education correspondent*

University undergraduates are being trained to tutor disadvantaged pupils who have fallen behind as a result of the Covid pandemic, in a pilot set up to boost education recovery efforts in England's schools.

Student volunteers are given training and then assigned to a school where they teach groups of up to three children once a week to try to plug learning gaps.

The trial, currently focused on boosting literacy, was set up by the University of Exeter and is still in its early stages, but the team hopes it will be replicated at other universities and rolled out across the country.

The project is independent of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP), the government's key education recovery policy, which offers subsidised tutoring to children struggling to catch up after the disruption of Covid. The NTP delivered 2m tutoring courses last year, but fell short of its target to reach disadvantaged pupils more severely affected by the Covid disruption.

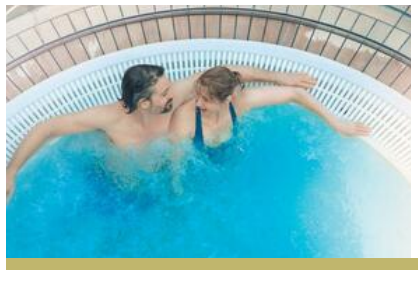
The attainment gap between wealthier pupils and their poorer classmates has widened since the pandemic and more needs to be done to help disadvantaged young people catch up, according to Lee Elliot Major, professor of social mobility at Exeter, who has helped develop the undergraduate tutoring programme with a local headteacher, Lindsay Skinner. "One of the issues the NTP has struggled with is supply of high-quality tutors. All these universities have lots of young, highly qualified people," Elliot Major said.

The scheme would also help universities fulfil government expectations that they work with local schools to raise attainment, particularly among disadvantaged pupils. For the undergraduates, the training and tutoring constitutes a credit towards their degree. Exeter hopes to test an alternative model, under which students are paid.

Currently the Exeter undergraduates are working with pupils aged 11 and 12 at the St James secondary school in the city, but the aim is to involve more pupils and undergraduates next year, focusing on different subjects and skills.

Sophie Errington, studying Spanish at Exeter, has just completed a term of tutoring, and enjoyed it so much she is considering training to be a teacher. "It's been a really, really rewarding experience. It's been so good to interact with these kids. Seeing them grow in confidence."

The minister for skills, apprenticeships and higher education, Robert Halfon, said: "This is a fantastic initiative, and I am hugely grateful to the University of Exeter."



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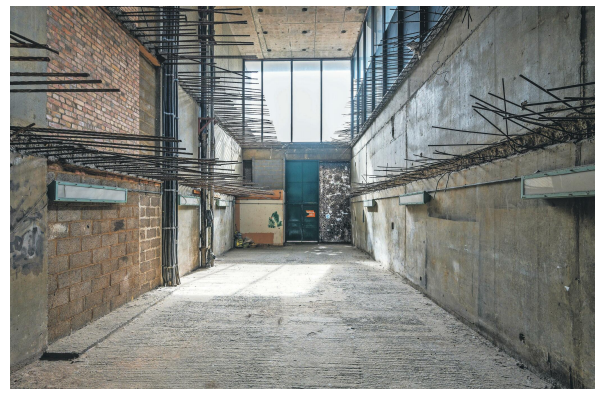
# Space at bottom of Barbican tower block on sale as £3.5m flat

**Rupert Neate**
*Wealth correspondent*

▲ *An architect's design for the long-empty, 3,097sq ft space at the bottom of the Barbican's Cromwell Tower* PHOTOGRAPHS: SANCHEZ BENTON ARCHITECTS



◀ *Reinforcing steel bars still protrude from the walls of the space at the foot of the 43-storey Cromwell Tower that has been empty for almost 50 years*

For years, every day on his way home from work Christian Keesing passed a vast empty unit within the foot of the Grade II-listed Barbican tower block he lived in.

"I'd probably gone past it at least a thousand times, until I had the idea," Keesing said. The idea was to buy the four-storey space - which had lain empty for almost 50 years - and transform it into a unique home at the bottom of the 43-storey Cromwell Tower in the 1970s brutalist complex.

After years of negotiations with the City of London Corporation, which owns and runs the Barbican estate, Keesing bought the leasehold to the space - which he has nicknamed "the Void Space" - for £200,000 in 2006.

It took several more years to win planning permission, but now he is selling the space with approval for a 3,097sq ft (288sq metre), two-bedroom apartment for £3.5m. "When I finally got the keys and walked in, I really couldn't quite believe it," he said. "It's a really huge space - four storeys high - it feels like walking into a cathedral. The first time people see it, they almost trip over themselves."

Keesing hired architects to reimagine the space - which still has reinforcing steel bars (rebars) sticking out of the walls - as a home. He said that it was actually a house within a 43-storey roof on it. "It doesn't have the proportion of an ordinary apartment - it is tall and thin, and I wanted a design that gently asserts itself but fits in with the surroundings.

> ***'It's a huge space. It feels like walking into a cathedral'***
>
> **Christian Keesing**
> *Leaseholder*

"The incredible volume of a disused space at the foot of Barbican's Cromwell Tower offers the rarest of opportunities to create one of London's finest architectural homes," the estate agent listing says. "The proposed design takes the form of three 'shelves' stacked vertically along the length of the Void to create long, elegant living spaces."

The spaces are to be connected by a modern steel staircase "simple in concept and form but spanning an extraordinary distance and scale".

The listing adds that the design "embodies a vertical hierarchy strongly akin to the formal arrangement of a London townhouse; the more public spaces of the home will be arranged on the lower levels, and the more intimate spaces will be set out across the upper floors".

The space has been empty since the tower was built in 1973. In the original plans it was set to be a creche, but the children never moved in.

"We have a stream of people come to look at it," Keesing said. "They have been from various walks of life, but the one thing that unites them is they recognise it is a unique opportunity to put their own stamp on a space within such a famous location as the Barbican."

Keesing, a retired solicitor, had planned to live in the space himself, but he quickly realised it would cost too much to do the conversion work. "But if it doesn't sell for near asking, I will fund it myself and then see what happens."

Nick Verdi of the estate agent Savills said: "The Void Space is truly one of the most exciting development opportunities in the capital. I haven't seen another space like it in nearly two decades as an estate agent in London, and the chance to build a home of this size and scale within the Barbican estate is a one-off opportunity."

# Children at out-of-school settings face significant potential for harm – study

**Sally Weale**
*Education correspondent*

A government report has identified multiple safeguarding risks at "out-of-school settings" (OOSS), which include sports clubs, tuition centres and uniformed youth groups attended by millions of children across England every week, prompting calls for better oversight.

Some children were judged to be in "immediate danger" due to unsafe premises, unchecked staff and inappropriate practices, including verbal abuse, physical chastisement, inappropriate sexual behaviour, grooming and reports of child sexual abuse.

The report raised concerns about the risk of convicted sex offenders working in out-of-school settings as well as a risk of radicalisation through the sharing of extremist material with children. It also highlighted inappropriate use of social media, with staff sending children private messages.

▲ *Councils want more powers to regulate groups such as sports clubs*

The findings follow an 18-month pilot study in 16 council areas, commissioned and funded by the Department for Education (DfE), to look into safeguarding risks in the sector and the effectiveness of powers available to local authorities. It concluded there was "significant potential for safeguarding harm". In some cases uncovered by the study either the police or the education watchdog, Ofsted, had been contacted. "The issues raised by the pilot suggest that the government should take more action to improve safeguarding in OOSS since the number of children who attend them and therefore who are at potential risk is high," the report said.

The DfE has acknowledged the seriousness of the findings and promised to improve safeguarding.

The sector includes provision from organisations such as cubs and scouts to sports, arts and leisure clubs, faith-based organisations, tuition centres and supplementary schools. The report says such settings have no obligation to notify anyone of their existence. There is no formal register and the sector is unregulated under education and childcare law.

The Local Government Association is calling for councils to be given greater powers to oversee and regulate these kinds of settings, including being able to shut illegal schools.

Louise Gittins, the chair of the LGA's children and young people board, said: "Current laws make it difficult for councils to act, and at present OOSS are flying under the radar."

The DfE said: "We recognise the seriousness of the research findings, which is why we are taking forward work to raise standards."

# Bosses warm to flexible working but progress on long hours slides

**Rachel Hall**

Managers no longer stigmatise flexible working, believing it results in improved productivity – though long hours are still seen as essential for career progress, research suggests.

Managers are more positive about flexible working than ever, with three-quarters believing it increases productivity and 62.5% saying it boosts motivation, according to a survey of 597 managers across the UK by the Equal Parenting Project at the University of Birmingham.

However, the authors noted that bosses were more positive about some forms of flexible work – especially flexitime and home working, which became more common during the pandemic – than others, including those that particularly benefited parents, such as job shares, part-time work and compressed hours.

**62.5%**
*The proportion of managers taking part in the survey who said flexible working boosted motivation*

The authors, Holly Birkett at Birmingham Business School and Sarah Forbes at the University of York, said employers could address this disparity by promoting all flexible working and altering performance evaluation to "break down the flexible working stigma" prevalent before Covid.

Angela Rayner, the deputy Labour leader and shadow secretary of state for the future of work, said the report showed that "the consensus is in, and flexible working is here to stay".

The research found that while there was less emphasis on presenteeism than before the pandemic, progress made on the long hours working culture during the pandemic – in which the number of managers who said employees needed to work long hours to progress fell from 43.3% in 2019 to 35.2% in 2021 – had reversed, rising back to 41.9%.

The research also showed the extent to which hybrid working has become widespread. Last year, 69.3% of managers said their organisation did not expect employees back in the office more than four days a week, up from 59% in 2021. The percentage expecting employees to be in the office just one day a week also rose from 10.5% in 2021 to 20.4% last year.

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**▼ Close up photographer of the year** *Nature's Pitfall, the winning image in the animals section, shows two young spotted salamanders trapped in a carnivorous northern pitcher plant in Algonquin park, Ontario, Canada. The park's population is the first to be found regularly consuming vertebrate prey*

PHOTOGRAPH: SAMANTHA STEPHENS

▼ *Verity Hope, an Animals at Home franchisee in Warwickshire, in her animal ambulance* PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/THE GUARDIAN

# Animal ambulances

## Call-out services answer rising demand for pet emergency care

**Nicola Davis**

The day did not begin as expected for Verity Hope. She had been due to spend a wet November morning making a trip to a vet with a reactive dog, but the client phoned in sick. Then another job cropped up: taking a dead rabbit to a pet crematorium.

It may seem an eclectic set of requests, but for Verity and her animal ambulance it is the norm.

Since the start of the pandemic, 4.7m households have acquired a new pet. Changes in work patterns and everyday pressures mean many need support. Into this melee has come an army of independent pet sitters and dog boarders, while Uber offers an option to travel with a dog. But fees vary, as does the skill and experience of those offering care. And few offer support for more unexpected events.

One of the companies that does is Animals at Home. As well as offering the typical range of pet care services, it steps in when animals get into a scrape. Hope, a former mental health nurse, and her husband, Jon, run the North Warwickshire franchise. Their kitted-out animal ambulance containing crates and stretchers has been put to good use.

One client called after his boxer cannoned into his rottweiler, injuring the latter. "The guy could drive but because of the pain she was in, he didn't want to be manhandling her," said Verity. The dog was rushed to a specialist veterinary practice where it had an MRI scan, revealing damage to the spine. It was fixed with a 3D-printed implant.

▲ *Polly, a westie in Tamworth, is transported to a vet appointment*

On another call, Jon dashed out in the small hours to collect a cat struggling in labour. The owner couldn't drive. As he rushed the cat to the vet, he saw on the ambulance's camera system that she was giving birth again. The next day there was another call: the cat and kittens needed a lift home.

Franchisees are trained to give first aid to animals and undergo a two-day course at a veterinary training hospital. The upshot is they can act as a second pair of ears for a diagnosis or prognosis while helping to handle a pet at the vet.

They are also there at the end of life: the team has connections with local vets to offer an at-home service when animals need to be put to sleep, and with local pet crematoriums.

> ***'You don't need to use us, but you really need to think about it'***
>
> **Iain Sherring**
> *Animals at Home service*

While some people may choose a cheaper option – routine pet transport with Animals at Home costs about £30 an hour – Ann Luffman, a co-managing director of the company, said standards mattered. "It's the turning up in uniform. It's having the animal ambulance available for any circumstance. Everything is fit for purpose, as opposed to an ad hoc standalone person that's doing a few jobs," she said.

The company has franchises nationwide, offering their services to 5m households within their licensed areas.

Not every call is an emergency. In a cosy living room in Tamworth, I met June*, 89, and her west highland terrier, Polly. "I've got no means of getting to the vets. She didn't like cars. My son-in-law used to take me, but it was a job to keep her up on my lap," said June as Polly twirled happily around the living room.

Animals at Home has not only taken Polly to appointments but also provided canine care while June was having an operation.

Some franchises offer dog training, or even "chaperoning" of pets at weddings, while Iain Sherring, a former Animals at Home franchisee and now co-managing director, said some would tend to horses, small holdings or exotic pets. "Sometimes you get an inquiry come through with 'I've got a so-and-so', and you think: my god, what's that? So it's a quick Google," he said.

Sherring said increasing awareness of the emergency service is a challenge, not least as is it involves owners confronting the possibility of their pets encountering emergencies.

"It's finding that little way of saying: 'Here we are. You don't need to use us, but you really need to think about it,'" he said.

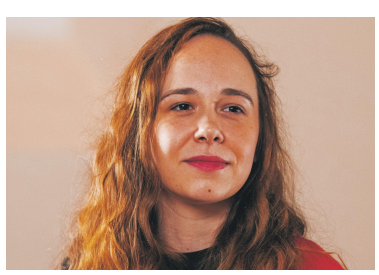
**Some names have been changed*

## From GP to Wearside boatman, BBC tunes in to 21st-century folk

**Mabel Banfield-Nwachi**

A series of contemporary folk songs and short films were released yesterday as part of the 21st Century Folk initiative to celebrate the lives of five people in north-east England.

The programmes, launched by BBC Radio 2 in partnership with BBC Local Radio, follow songwriters as they meet the people selected to take part and create folk music from their stories, telling relatable tales of life in the north-east, which were then performed by local musicians.



▲ *Katie Toner, 28: 'I'm a proud ADHD and autism advocate'*

The participants ranged from a doctor who administered thousands of Covid vaccines to a foyboatman who helps ships from around the world to moor on the Wearside docks.

This project is a modern take on the BBC's Radio Ballads, a series of documentaries made in the 1950s and 1960s, which wove the real voices of working communities with traditional folk songs.

Andrea Bell, who volunteers at the Sunderland Community Soup Kitchen, was partnered with the singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph.

Thea Gilmore captured the story of Delyth Raffell from Blyth, who lost her daughter Ellen to anaphylaxis at 16. The One Show on BBC One will feature Raffell hearing her song for the first time tonight at 7pm.

Katie Toner, 28, from Northumberland, who has autism and ADHD and now organises accessible parties for neurodiverse children, said she felt grateful to be given the opportunity. "When it's your life, it's just your life. It's not until you sit back and talk to people that you realise perhaps it's more unique than I realised it was.

"I'm a really proud ADHD and autism advocate so if I can tell my story and other people's stories too, that's even better," Toner said.

Her story was composed by Angeline Morrison, who said: "I've never been asked to write a song about a particular living person before. It's a great honour but there's a lot of weight that comes with that too.

"I really loved listening to Katie. She seems like a proud liver of life and somebody who is taking the uniqueness of who they are and pouring it into beautiful things for others."

*21st Century Folk is available on BBC Radio 2 this week and all the songs can be heard now on BBC Sounds*

**Slave trade**
**Shipwreck project honours lost lives**
*Page 23*

**Covid**
**Asian states target Chinese tourist boom**
*Page 25*

*Rohingya refugees rest after arriving by boat on a beach in Aceh province, Indonesia, yesterday*
PHOTOGRAPH: CHAIDEER MAHYUDDIN/AFP/GETTY

# More desperate Rohingya take risky sea crossing despite hundreds of drownings

**Shaikh Azizur Rahman**
**Rebecca Ratcliffe** *Bangkok*

Hatemon Nesa recalled hugging her young daughter tightly as the cramped, broken-down boat they were in drifted.

They had set off on 25 November from the squalid Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh, where they had lived since 2017, when a brutal crackdown by Myanmar's military forced more than 700,000 Rohingya people to flee.

The 27-year-old, like many other Rohingya refugees, was hoping for a better life in Malaysia. But about 10 days into the journey the boat's engine stopped working, and food and water supplies began to run out.

The roughly 30 children on board would cry out in pain from thirst and hunger. She feared her daughter would not survive. At least two children died during the doomed voyage.

"When it rained a few times we all got a few drops of water to moisten our throats. Some mothers, including me, made our children drink salty seawater," Nesa said as she described the trauma of the journey. She was in Indonesia, where she eventually went ashore on 26 December.

Close to 400 people, mostly Rohingya, are believed to have died making perilous boat journeys from Myanmar and Bangladesh across the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal in 2022, according to the UNHCR, making it one of the deadliest years at sea in almost a decade for the Rohingya. An estimated 180 people were feared dead from one boat alone that went missing on 24 December.

Despite this, activists say more people are intending to board boats in 2023, and that women and children are increasingly among those making the crossing.

"Many of them [on boats] seem to be the wives and children of men that have arrived much earlier in Malaysia," said Chris Lewa, the director of the Arakan Project, a rights group that tracks the boats. She has received reports of three boats currently at sea, including one that apparently left from Bangladesh last weekend, with between 130 and 150 people. A boat with 185 people landed in Indonesia's Aceh province yesterday – it was unclear whether it was one of those Lewa had heard of.

Nesa's boat was carrying about 200 people. Those on board waved frantically at passing vessels hoping to attract help, while activists – including Nesa's brother in Bangladesh – urged countries in the region to rescue them. At least 19 people jumped into the sea when they saw a boat, hoping to swim towards it, Nesa said. They are believed to have drowned.

Calls for boats to be rescued have been "ignored" by many in the region, said Babar Baloch, the UNHCR spokesperson for Asia and the Pacific, except by authorities in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The people on Nesa's boat were eventually rescued by an Indonesian fishing crew and brought ashore.

*'When it rained we all got a few drops of water to moisten our throats'*

*Hatemon Nesa and her daughter survived a boat crossing*

"It's like [tossing] a coin," Aung Kyaw Moe, a Rohingya activist, said of such journeys. "You bet your life, and if you make it, you survive."

Desperation caused by the dire conditions in Bangladesh and Myanmar was driving people to take the risk, he added. Rohingya still in Myanmar, where a brutal conflict has taken place since the military seized power in a coup in 2021, are stuck in the middle of fighting between the junta and a rival group, the Arakan Army. The fighting means humanitarian aid, which persecuted Rohingya rely upon, has been reduced.

Aung Kyaw Moe said that for those living as refugees in Bangladesh, the prospect of justice for violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military, or of returning home, felt very distant. "The camp in Bangladesh is overcrowded and unhygienic, [and] it's becoming significantly insecure, with a growing number of crimes," added Aung Kyaw Moe, who advises the human rights ministry of Myanmar's National Unity Government, which was formed in exile to oppose junta rule.

Unless action was taken to stop people from trying to leave, they would continue to do so, he said.

Noor Kamal, 18, is among those who believes leaving Bangladesh is his best option. He wants to take a boat before the end of this year, he said, so that he can financially support his four younger sisters and parents.

"I am already 18. This is the time I should start earning for my family," Kamal said. "But under the restrictions of the camp I am not allowed to go outside to earn my livelihood for my family. This is frustrating." Officially, refugees in Bangladesh are not allowed to work and they face various restrictions on their movement.

Kamal said reaching Malaysia was "like hitting the jackpot. For this, I am ready to take any amount of risk." His friends who had made it were earning well, he added.

Rights experts, however, say that others survive the journey only to end up in detention in countries such as Thailand or Malaysia, or exploited by traffickers.

"We know that agents of human traffickers are aggressively coaxing families who are likely to send their members to Malaysia," said Mohammed Rezuwan Khan, Nesa's brother, and a Rohingya activist. He added that he was aware of people preparing to leave.

Nesa said she had been told she would be moved to a camp-like facility in Indonesia. She hoped she will make it to Malaysia, and that her eldest daughter will also be able to join her and access education.

# Mayor says shooting of teacher by child must be 'red flag' for US

**Ed Helmore**
*New York*

The apparently deliberate shooting of a Virginia schoolteacher by a gun-carrying six-year-old pupil has prompted outrage and horror, even in a country used to school shootings.

Authorities have not described the exact circumstances of the shooting, nor how they believe the boy came to possess the weapon or to whom it belonged. They may struggle to define exactly what action can be taken against someone so young.

"We are ensuring he has all the services that he currently needs right now," said the Newport News mayor, Phillip Jones.

The mayor said he considered the incident, the first recorded US school shooting of 2023, "a red flag for our country". Jones added: "I do think that after this event there is going to be a nationwide discussion on how these sorts of things can be prevented."

The condition of the teacher, Abby Zwerner, 25, is now "trending in a positive direction", Jones said after she entered hospital in a critical condition on Friday.

Authorities have said it was "not an accidental shooting" and was part of an altercation. The unnamed first grader in a class at Richneck elementary took out a handgun and shot Zwerner in the abdomen, causing life-threatening injuries. Zwerner reportedly warned her students to flee as she lay bleeding on the floor.

The school's principal, Briana Foster Newton, said: "My heart is aching for our school community. The tragic event that occurred on Friday impacts all of us deeply."

▼ *Abby Zwerner, 25, a teacher at Richneck, is believed to have been shot deliberately by a six-year-old pupil in a classroom on Friday*

▲ *Richneck elementary school in Newport News, Virginia*

**145**
*Number of school shootings in the US since 2018 that reportedly caused injuries or deaths*

**3**
*Number of instances of gun violence on school property in Richneck, Virginia, in 17 months*

School shootings in the US by a student so young are rare, but not unprecedented. Gun violence experts say there have only been three other shootings caused by six-year-old students among 16 incidents involving shooters under the age of 10 since 1970. But those incidents have typically involved other students, not educators.

"It's very rare and it's not something the legal system is really designed or positioned to deal with," the researcher David Riedman, founder of the K-12 School Shooting Database, told the Associated Press.

> *'A six-year-old accessing a loaded gun and shooting him/herself or someone else, sadly, is not so rare'*
>
> **Prof Daniel Webster**

Virginia law does not allow six-year-olds to be tried as adults, nor, if found guilty in a juvenile court, are they old enough to be committed to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice. However, authorities would have the power to revoke parental custody rights.

Instances of children shooting themselves or others unintentionally in the home or other locations, are on the rise, said Daniel Webster, a gun violence expert professor at Johns Hopkins University.

"A six-year-old gaining access to a loaded gun and shooting him/herself or someone else, sadly, is not so rare," Webster told the AP.

According to Education Week, there have been 145 school shootings in the US since 2018 that recorded injuries or deaths. Last year there were 51, up from 35 in 2021 and 10 in 2020.

The Richneck school district has had three instances of gun violence on district property in 17 months, including an incident in September 2021 when a 16-year-old fired shots in a hallway during lunchbreak, injuring two 17-year-olds. Two months later an 18-year-old fatally shot a younger student after a football game.

# Weinstein to be sentenced after conviction in further rape case

**Lois Beckett**
*Los Angeles*

Harvey Weinstein faces up to 18 additional years in prison today when he is due to be sentenced in Los Angeles after a jury found him guilty of rape and sexual assault.

The 70-year-old is already serving a 23-year prison sentence after being convicted of rape and sexual assault charges in New York in 2020.

The disgraced film producer has been publicly accused of rape, sexual assault or sexual harassment by more than 90 women in incidents stretching back decades, a public reckoning that galvanised the #MeToo movement in 2018.

After nearly three years of incarceration in New York, the former film producer faced a second criminal trial in Los Angeles, the city where he was once a Hollywood kingmaker, last October. He was convicted in December on three counts of rape and sexual assault against a European model and actor who testified anonymously as "Jane Doe 1".

Four women testified in the Los Angeles case that Weinstein had raped or sexually assaulted them in California, but after a month-long trial, Weinstein was only convicted of charges based on the one woman's allegations. Jurors acquitted Weinstein of charges based on another woman's account and were unable to reach a verdict on two other women's allegations, including those of the film-maker Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the wife of California's governor and the most high-profile accuser yet to testify against Weinstein in court.

Only Jane Doe 1 is expected to give a victim impact statement ahead of Weinstein's sentencing.

He avoided a sentence of up to 24 years after the Los Angeles jury failed to reach a consensus on whether he qualified for additional prison time based on exacerbating factors.

*Additional reporting* **AP**

▲ *Harvey Weinstein is serving a 23-year sentence after his 2020 trial*

# Outcry after claim Harvard vetoed fellow over criticism of Israel

**Chris McGreal**
*New York*

Leading US civil rights organisations have condemned Harvard's denial of a position to the former head of Human Rights Watch over the organisation's criticism of Israel.

The Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy offered Kenneth Roth a position as a senior fellow shortly after he retired as director of HRW in April after 29 years. But the school's dean, Douglas Elmendorf, allegedly vetoed the move.

A professor of human rights policy at the Kennedy School, Kathryn Sikkink, told the Nation that Elmendorf said to her that Roth would not be permitted to take up the position because HRW had an "anti-Israel bias" and its former director had written tweets critical of Israel.

Roth told the Guardian that Harvard's move was a reflection of "how utterly afraid the Kennedy School has become of any criticism of Israel" under pressure from donors and influential supporters within the school of Israel's right-wing government.

The director of the American Civil Liberties Union, Anthony Romero, urged the Kennedy School "to reverse its decision".

"If Harvard's decision was based on HRW's advocacy under Ken's leadership, this is profoundly troubling – from both a human rights and an academic freedom standpoint, he said. "Scholars and fellows have to be judged on their merits, not whether they please powerful political interests."

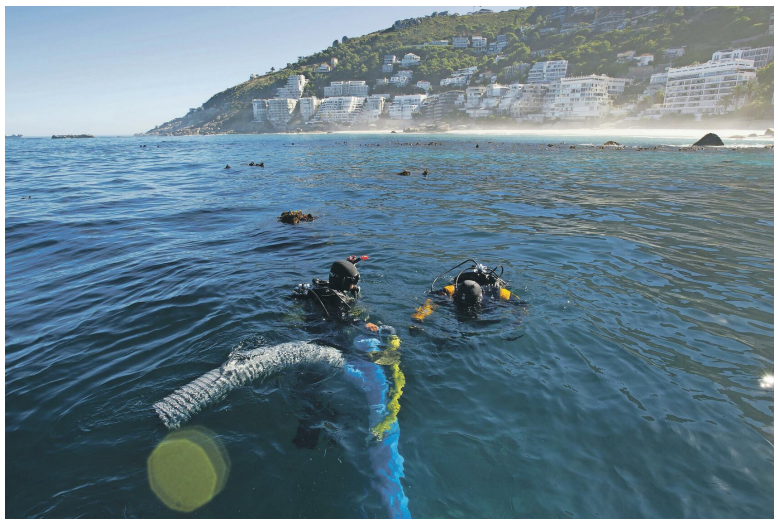
PEN America, which advocates for freedom of expression, also backed Roth. "There is no suggestion that Roth's criticisms of Israel are in any way based on racial or religious animus," it said. "Withholding Roth's participation in a human rights programme due to his own staunch critiques of human rights abuses by governments worldwide raises serious questions about the credibility of the Harvard programme itself."

Harvard found support from organisations that have been highly critical of Roth and HRW, particularly over the group's report two years ago that accused Israel of practising a form of race-based apartheid in the Palestinian occupied territories.

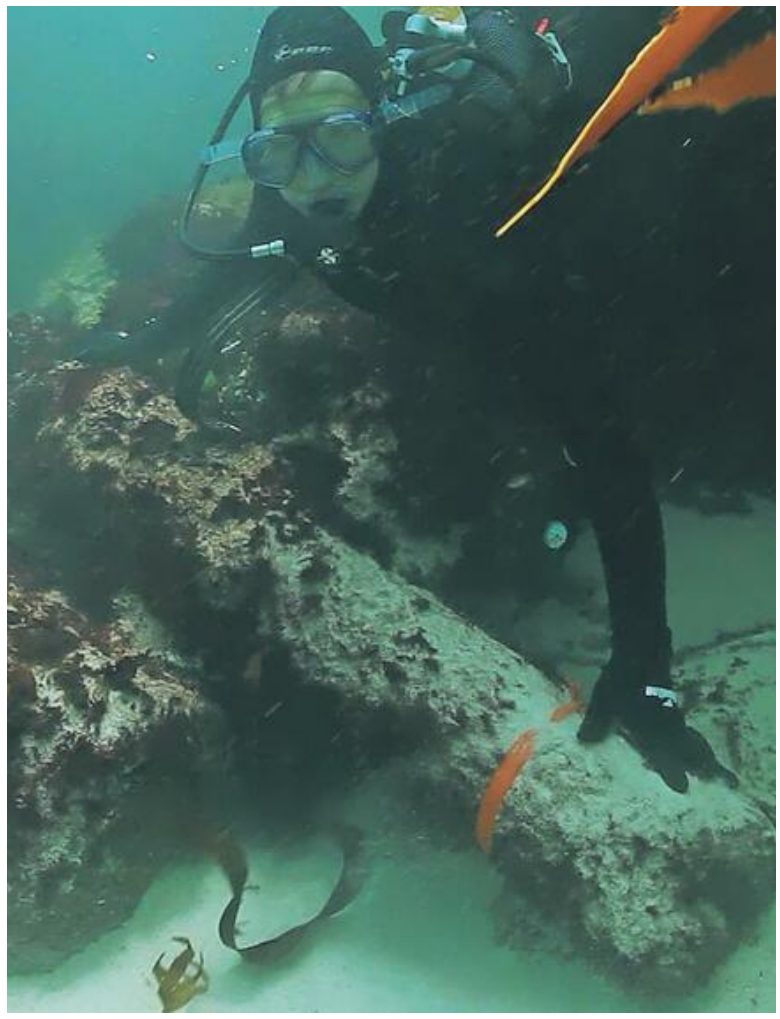
NGO Monitor, a Jerusalem-based organisation, accused HRW under Ross's leadership of seeking to "delegitimise Israel".

"The dean at Harvard was not fooled by the moral facade granted to Roth and HRW. He recognised Roth's central contributions to legitimising antisemitism," NGO Monitor's president, Gerald Steinberg, said.

The Kennedy School did not respond to requests for comment.



▲ *Divers at the wreck site off Cape Town* PHOTOGRAPH: SUSANNA PERSHERN



▼ *Part of the wreck of the São José Paquete D'Africa, which sank in 1794, killing 212 enslaved people*
PHOTOGRAPH: IZIKO MUSEUMS

# Marine archaeology

# Team who found wreck of slave ship target new sites

**Sam Jones**
*Madrid*

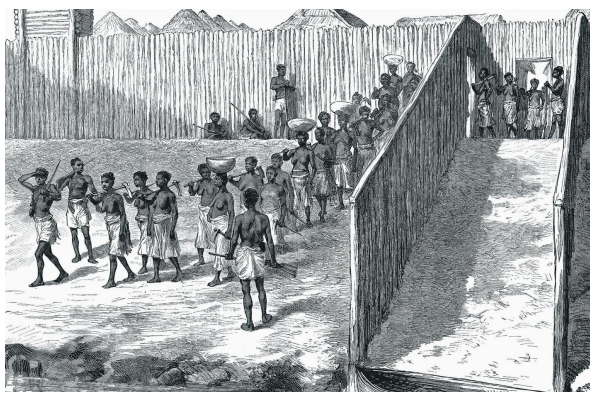
In 2015, a delegation from the Smithsonian Institution travelled to Mozambique to inform the Makua people of a singular and long-overdue discovery. Two hundred and twenty-one years after it sank off Cape Town, claiming the lives of 212 enslaved people, the wreck of the Portuguese ship São José Paquete D'Africa had been found. When told the news, a Makua leader responded with a gesture no one on the delegation will ever forget.

"One of the chiefs took a vessel we had, filled it with soil and asked us to bring that vessel back to the site of the slave ship so that, for the first time since the 18th century, his people could sleep in their own land," says Lonnie Bunch, now the secretary of the Smithsonian.

For Bunch and his colleagues, the importance of the find cannot be overstated. Although the São José – which was bound for Brazil – is the first ship to be recovered that is known to have sunk while transporting enslaved people, it was just one of the tens of thousands that plied their trade over the four centuries of the transatlantic slave trade, during which more than 12 million African men, women and children were enslaved.

And yet, as Bunch points out, maritime archaeology has tended to focus on the wrecks of rich and famous ships rather than those that traded in flesh and blood.

Redressing that archaeological, academic and sociocultural imbalance was the driving force behind the Slave Wrecks Project, a partnership begun in 2008 between the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and other institutions and organisations in Africa and the US.



◀ *An engraving showing enslaved people at a Portuguese fort in Mozambique being marched to work*

"People talk about the slave trade; they talk about the millions of people who were transported, but it's hard to really imagine that, so we wanted to reduce it to human scale by really focusing on a single ship, on the people on the ship, and the story around the ship," says Bunch. The basic idea, he adds, was to tell people that "discovering your enslaved past is as important a treasure as finding the Titanic".

As well as locating the wreck of the São José, the Slave Wrecks Project has developed programmes to broaden and diversify the field by training people in Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and the Caribbean in diving, archaeology and museum conservation and curation. Today, the project is investigating a handful of slave wrecks in Brazil, the Caribbean, west Africa and North America.

"We need to think about how these matters that seem submerged and lost are really waiting there for us all to find, and to change our scope of how we understand our world," says Paul Gardullo, a curator at the NMAAHC and director of the Slave Wrecks Project.

The Smithsonian's activities extend well beyond the seabed. Bunch and Gardullo have been in Lisbon for the past few days to take part in an international symposium on slavery, museums and racism.

The choice of host country is not accidental. Like other former slave-trading colonial powers, Portugal – the European country with the longest historical involvement in the slave trade – has struggled to confront its past. Last year, Europe's top human rights body, the Council of Europe, urged Lisbon to rethink its approach to teaching colonial history.

As Gardullo notes: "Portugal is very proud of its maritime heritage, but is very silent about that heritage's connection to slavery and colonisation." He and Bunch hope the conference will reinvigorate stalled efforts to get Portugal to reflect on its past.

When the day finally came to scatter the earth from the Makua elder, the conditions in Cape Town were all too reminiscent of those that must have accompanied the sinking of the São José in December 1794.

"We're there and we can't get the boats out because the water's so bad, the wind and the rain are so bad," says Bunch. "The divers swim out as far as they can and then they sprinkle the soil. And on all that's holy, the sun came out, the rain stopped, the wind stopped blowing. It was the most beautiful day you could imagine.

"I had never in my career really talked about ancestors or spirituality, but that moment made me realise that there is something so much greater than what we can be: literally the moment that soil was poured, the weather changed dramatically as a way to say that remembering is powerful."

# Lupin star's film shines light on African fighters in first world war

**Kim Willsher**
*Paris*

A new film featuring the Lupin star Omar Sy has highlighted the forgotten heroism of African riflemen from France's former colonies who fought in the frontline trenches of the first world war.

Tirailleurs was released last week shortly after a row sparked by an interview Sy had given to Le Parisien in which he contrasted attitudes to conflicts in Europe and Africa.

The film focuses on the overlooked contribution of fighters - both volunteer and conscripted - from France's west African colonies who fought in France during the 1914-18 Great War.

About 200,000 men from west Africa fought at the front, and an estimated 20,000 died. They were known as *tirailleurs Senegalais* as most came from Senegal but were also drawn from what was then known as French West Africa, made up of eight territories including Mauritania, French Sudan (now Mali), Niger and Guinea.

Sy, who stars in and co-produced Tirailleurs, plays a character in his 40s who joins the French army to find and protect his 17-year-old son, who has been conscripted and sent to the trenches of Verdun.

The actor, whose father is from Senegal and his mother from Mauritania, grew up in the low-income *banlieue* town of Trappes. He has been working with the director Mathieu Vadepied to make the film for the best part of the last decade.

His interview with Le Parisien to promote it, however, sparked a national row after he seemed to suggest that people were more concerned about conflicts in Europe than those in Africa.

"A war is the sinking of humanity even when it is at the other end of the world," he told the newspaper. "It reminds us that man is capable of invading, of attacking civilians, children. We have the impression that it was only when Ukraine happened that we realised this ... but guys, I've seen this since I was a kid. When it's far away, you say to yourself, well over there, they're savages, we don't do things like that."

Some people took exception to his comments, pointing out that 108,000 French soldiers had served in several operations in Africa since former president François Hollande set up Operation Serval in 2013 at the request of the Mali authorities to combat the threat of terrorism in the region.

▲ *Omar Sy: 'We have the same history, but not the same memory'*

Sy dismissed the polemic, telling French television: "I said what I said ... take whatever meaning from it you want." The historian Anthony Guyon agreed, telling journalists the row was stoked by "people who know nothing about the *tirailleurs*".

Sy has insisted the film did not challenge French history but focused on an often overlooked aspect.

"We have the same history but not the same memory," the actor told AlloCiné. "To recall a part of history with a different memory doesn't mean we are denying the history we know or have been told completes the story."

# Russia and Belarus expand joint military exercises, raising fear of new push for Kyiv

**Emma Graham-Harrison**
*Kyiv*

Russia and Belarus have expanded their joint military training exercises in Belarus, the country's defence TV channel said yesterday, as concern grows that Moscow is pressuring its closest ally to join the war in Ukraine.

The two countries added weapons, soldiers and specialised equipment to the exercises and are conducting drills drawing on Russian experience in Ukraine, Reuters reported.

On Friday the Belarusian leader, Alexander Lukashenko, visited a military base where Russian troops are stationed to meet troops and discuss the joint military drills.

Unofficial Telegram channels monitoring military activity in Belarus reported that between 1,400 and 1,600 Russian troops had arrived in Vitebsk, in north-east Belarus, yesterday. Reuters could not independently verify the information.

A unilateral, self-declared Russian ceasefire – announced for the Orthodox Christmas celebrations – drew to an end yesterday, but there had been little letup in fighting or civilian deaths during the period.

In the final hours, when Russia was meant to be holding off fire, at least two people were killed by shelling, one in northern Kharkiv and another in Soledar, in eastern Donetsk, Ukrainian officials said.

Moscow claimed without evidence

▲ *A video grab released by Moscow of joint military drills with Belarus*

yesterday that it had killed 600 Ukrainian soldiers in a strike on the eastern town of Kramatorsk, near the frontline in Bakhmut, in revenge for an attack by Ukraine on New Year's Day that killed hundreds of Russian fighters in the town of Makiivka. Ukraine dismissed the claim as propaganda and reporters for Reuters who visited the scene said there was no obvious sign of casualties.

Overnight temperatures are falling well below freezing across Ukraine, which could pave the way for more intense fighting as it becomes easier to move heavy machinery that would have become bogged down in autumn mud.

It will also increase fears of a new military push from the north. Lukashenko has said he will not join the war, but his territory was used as a launchpad for the failed push for Kyiv last year, and Ukrainian authorities say it is still used as a base for drone and missile attacks.

In late December Vladimir Putin made a rare visit to Minsk. The trip was the first time Putin had been to Belarus since 2019 and raised fears he was pushing for military help in Ukraine, where Russia's army has suffered a string of humiliating defeats and is locked into grinding trench warfare.

Many in Ukraine and beyond have warned that Putin is considering a second attempt on the capital from the north, though the borders are now much more heavily fortified.

Ukraine's military intelligence has claimed Russia is set to order the mobilisation of as many as 500,000 conscripts this month in addition to the 300,000 it called up in October, in another apparent sign that Putin has no intention of ending the war.

In December, Ukraine's minister of defence, Oleksii Reznikov, and the army commander in chief, Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, said Russia would attack from Belarus again next month, aiming for Kyiv. However, Ukraine's military intelligence said it believed the possibility of an attack from Belarus was low.

# Star wars

# Hollywood finds a real hero in Zelenskiy

**Isobel Koshiw**
*Kyiv*

When Ben Stiller walked into the office of Volodymyr Zelenskiy in June, he embraced the wartime leader, telling him, "You're my hero."

Stiller is one of a line of stars who have made the long journey to Kyiv to meet the Ukrainian president – himself a former actor and comedian. Before Stiller came Sean Penn, who has visited three times since the invasion, and is making a documentary about the war.

On his last visit, Penn gave Zelenskiy one of his Oscars, saying: "This is for you. It's just a symbolic silly thing, but if I know this is here with you then I'll feel better and stronger for the fight."

Other stars hosted by Zelenskiy include the British adventurist Bear Grylls, the Virgin founder, Richard Branson, the actor Jessica Chastain, U2's Bono, the TV host David Letterman, the Spanish-American celebrity chef José Andrés.

Angelina Jolie and Jean-Claude Van Damme have also visited Ukraine to meet refugees and troops. Van Damme posed for videos with Ukrainian soldiers in December, giving the traditional Ukrainian war cry, "Glory to Ukraine, glory to the heroes."

▲ *Zelenskiy meets Jessica Chastain and Ben Stiller; Bono in Irpin, near Kyiv* PHOTOGRAPHS: VIA AP AND REUTERS; AFP/GETTY

And there are many more celebrities who have been using their platforms to raise funds. The Ukrainian-born actor Mila Kunis and her husband, Ashton Kutcher, who were friends with the Zelenskiys before the war, raised more than $30m (£25m) at the beginning of the war.

The Star Wars actor Mark Hamill, who volunteered to become one of the faces for the Zelenskiys' fundraising platform, United24, has just become the English-language voice of the Ukraine-wide air raid alert system app.

According to those who have followed and been involved in Zelenskiy's communications efforts, it was the president who kept Hollywood following events after the initial media interest in the war subsided. "He's a natural at orating because of his background," said Nikki Fowler, president of the Hollywood Critics Association, who is also half-Ukrainian. "I think that resonates with a lot of celebrities."

Hollywood "respects" Zelenskiy because for them he's a real-life hero, according to Fowler. "When you're able to have access to a real-life hero, [the type] that you just don't see in movies, who would not want to support that?"

Zelenskiy's journey had been "life imitating art" and had intrigued not only Hollywood but the US in general, she said.

Etan Vlessing, a Hollywood Reporter journalist, said Zelenskiy's ability to "command the 24-hour news cycle using social media and video addresses had generated major respect in Hollywood, rather than fleeting fame".

Outside Ukraine's parliament, in perhaps a nod to his past as an actor, Zelenskiy created a Ukrainian Walk of Fame, where those deemed the biggest supporters of Ukraine have been honoured with a plaque.

"As a former actor, Zelenskiy appreciates the power of actors, especially from Hollywood," said his previous press secretary, Iuliia Mendel, the author of the book The Fight of Our Lives. "It made Ukraine more popular [worldwide]." Zelenskiy had channelled his efforts into making people other than politicians understand what was happening in his country.

"At the beginning, Zelenskiy was quite aggressive but he was expressing the collective thoughts and feelings of many Ukrainians," said Mendel, pointing to the president's address in March when he told Nato it was weak and it bore responsibility for every dead Ukrainian. "He was afraid the west would just use bureaucracy or domestic issues to move slowly."

Zelenskiy's rhetoric has become milder as his forces have won back territory. "He wants to show Ukraine as a partner," said Mendel.

***'As a former actor, Zelenskiy appreciates the power of actors'***

**Iuliia Mendel**
*Former press secretary*

▼ *A busy crowd of people among the street food sellers in Bangkok's Chinatown before the pandemic*

PHOTOGRAPH: ALUXUM/ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY

# 'We're ready' Thais welcome return of Chinese tourists

**Rebecca Ratcliffe**
**Navaon Siradapuvadol** *Bangkok*

After almost three years of little to no business, Thai tour guide operator Anchalee Vittayanuntapornkul is more than relieved Chinese tourists will soon be allowed to travel again.

"I'm sure if you ask anyone in the tourism industry, the only nationality that they are waiting to see come back is the Chinese," says Anchalee, who is based in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand.

Yesterday, China scrapped the requirement for inbound travellers to quarantine, making holidaying abroad much easier. The policy change is expected to boost the tourism sector across south-east Asia, which depended heavily on Chinese travellers before the pandemic began.

Anchalee, the owner of CM Paradise tour company, has already hired extra Chinese speakers and drivers to take groups on tours of Chiang Mai's famous Doi Suthep temple, its waterfalls and mountainous landscapes.

When the scrapping of quarantine was announced last month, online travel sites reported immediate increases in bookings and searches. One platform, Qunar, says it saw a sevenfold increase in flight searches within 15 minutes, with Thailand, Japan and South Korea among the top destinations.

China's dismantling of its zero-Covid policy, and the surge in cases that followed, which overwhelmed hospitals, has prompted around a dozen countries globally to impose new requirements for travellers from China.

Britain, India and the US are among those now requiring a Covid test for arrivals from China.

South-east Asian countries have not introduced rules specifically for Chinese tourists. Thailand will, according to reports, require all travellers to provide proof of vaccination or proof of recovery from Covid over the past six months, but the final details have not yet been announced.

Malaysia has said it will screen all incoming travellers for fever, with the prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, saying policies will not be "discriminating [against] any countries". When some in Malaysia reacted negatively to the news China was reopening, the tourism minister, Tiong King Sing, advised people not to create the impression the country was unwelcoming.

Piyanut Intarachai, who runs a restaurant in Chiang Mai, says screening tourists who arrive is a good idea. "They should check the vaccination cards and even ask for a Covid test. I know it doesn't give 100% protection, but it is still better than nothing."

But Piyanut adds that he isn't worried about Covid. "Covid is everywhere, not only in China. There are still new cases every day here. But with the current strain, it's milder. Everybody needs work, and income to live their life."

◀ *The Doi Suthep temple in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, a popular destination for Chinese tourists*

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTEO COLOMBO/GETTY

Before the pandemic, tourists would queue up at Piyanut's restaurant, Kao Soy Nimman, eager to try his speciality, khao soi – a coconut curry noodle soup famous in northern Thailand. The vast majority of his customers were from China, he says. Then Covid hit, and visitors disappeared almost overnight. "It was just empty, all gone, no income."

Pre-pandemic, China accounted for about a third of visitors to Thailand. The Thai authorities are predicting about 5 million Chinese tourists will visit this year – still less than half the number who arrived in 2019. The lack of requirements targeted at Chinese tourists might make south-east Asia a more welcoming destination for those who do choose to travel, said Hannah Pearson, founding partner of the travel consultancy Pear Anderson. But she added that Thailand and neighbouring countries were unlikely to see huge numbers of arrivals, saying: "There just isn't the air capacity for that."

Flight capacity for south-east Asia is still a third down on 2019, Pearson said, adding this was exacerbated by high fuel costs. If airlines were unsure there will be demand, they didn't want to put on extra flights and risk losing money.

Anchalee, however, is hopeful. Her phone began ringing with enquiries almost as soon as the announcement was made that China would reopen and she is booked up until the end of March.

"I believe Chinese tourists will come back to Thailand even more than before, because they could not go out for three years," she said. "We are ready."

# German police 'foil Islamist terror plot' involving ricin and cyanide

**Kate Connolly**
*Berlin*

German police have arrested an Iranian man suspected of planning a chemical attack motivated by Islamic extremism following a tipoff from a foreign intelligence agency that he had obtained toxins, including cyanide and ricin.

The 32-year-old was seized at his flat shortly before midnight on Saturday in Castrop-Rauxel, close to Dortmund. Another man, believed to be the suspect's brother, was also detained. He was known to police but not for his links to terrorism, and it is as yet unclear whether he was involved in the plot. The brothers are believed to have lived in Germany since 2015.

The men were put into waiting police vehicles in the small shopping street, dressed in just their underwear and with coats draped over their shoulders, escorted by police in heavy protective suits. They are being held in custody.

The SEK special forces who organised the operation reportedly arrived in the street in a fire engine in an effort to disguise themselves until the last minute. A decontamination unit of officers and scientists from the government's agency for disease control and prevention, the Robert Koch Institute, as well as a detonation unit, accompanied the operation.

According to a spokesperson for Düsseldorf's state prosecutor, no dangerous substances were found in the flat.

Reports in the German media yesterday said the FBI had been behind the tipoff after identifying the main suspect as a sympathiser of Islamic State, in whose name they said he had intended to carry out the attack. He is not believed to have been acting on behalf of the Iranian state, German security sources told the news agency DPA.

The tabloid Bild, quoting security authorities, said the plans were well advanced, with security agents discovering that the main suspect had searched for ricin and cyanide on the internet and bought the substances, with the intention of building a bioweapon. Initially the man had intended to carry out an attack on New Year's Eve, but did not have enough materials to do so, and had subsequently managed to procure the missing items in the last few days, according to reports.

Herbert Reul, the interior minister of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia in which the operation took place, said: "We had information which needed to be taken seriously, which is why the police were prompted to make their move in the night." He said more details about the investigation would be made public in the coming days.

# Business

## Industry bosses urge Hunt to extend energy support

Richard Partington
Joanna Partridge

Almost two-thirds of manufacturers in Britain fear blackouts this winter amid the fallout from the energy crisis, according to an industry survey, as concerns grow about government plans to cut financial support for businesses.

As the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, prepares to announce a sharp reduction in industry support, the trade body Make UK said the impact from sky-high energy costs on manufacturers showed no sign of abating.

The industry group, which represents 20,000 UK manufacturers, said that cutting financial support would exacerbate job losses and reduce factory output, hurting the economy.

Hunt is expected to unveil a package of measures this week to help businesses with high energy costs, including the extension of a scheme beyond its March expiry date.

However, the chancellor told bosses in a crunch meeting last week that the current measures are "unsustainably expensive", and would be replaced at a "lower level".

According to a survey of more than 200 senior manufacturing industry bosses by Make UK and the accountancy firm PwC, almost three-quarters of companies (70%) expect their energy costs to increase this year, with two-thirds saying they expect to cut production or jobs as a result.

In the latest business surveys by accounting and business advisory firm BDO, employers also signalled plans to pause recruitment amid concerns about a recession, with firms struggling with high inflation and supply chain pressures.

Make UK found as many as 60% of bosses had grown increasingly concerned about blackouts affecting their business, while almost two-thirds (64%) said higher energy costs posed the biggest risk to their company. More than 13% have specifically considered closing the business or implementing shutdowns, with more than one in 10 considering relocating production to another country where energy costs are cheaper.

> *'Some very significant companies could fall through the cracks'*
>
> **Stephen Phipson**
> *CEO, Make UK*

Despite heightened concern among industry leaders, wholesale energy prices have fallen sharply over recent weeks after a period of mild weather in the UK and Europe.

Elizabeth Martins, a senior economist at HSBC, said falling prices could benefit firms and help bring down inflation. "Assuming only minimal additional support from April, then this drop in gas prices will be critically important for many businesses."

Stephen Phipson, the chief executive of Make UK, said that existing levels of government support were an inadequate sticking plaster. "Making it less generous will make the situation worse for many companies," he said. "In fact, there is a very strong and urgent case for matching the more generous schemes our competitors have in place.

"Government must also ensure that all major users of energy are included in any extension, not just those traditionally regarded as 'energy intensive'. Otherwise there are some very significant companies that will fall through the cracks."

Low confidence among firms about the economic outlook and problems with productivity are making them reluctant to hire new staff, according to BDO's latest business surveys.

Businesses' hiring intentions slumped to a two-year low, the weakest reading since the final quarter of 2020 when they were facing new Covid restrictions, according to the firm's employment index. This was despite firms reporting slightly improved levels of output and business confidence to BDO in December.

"Inflation and supply chain pressures are being felt across the board as employers pause recruitment plans and consider redundancies to manage rising costs," said Kaley Crossthwaite, a partner at BDO.

*A vendor waits for customers at a market in Colombo. Sri Lanka is banking on an IMF loan*

PHOTOGRAPH: PRADEEP DAMBARAGE/ NURPHOTO/REX/ SHUTTERSTOCK

## Call for private creditors to ease burden on crisis-hit Sri Lanka

Larry Elliott
*Economics editor*

Some of the world's most powerful investors are holding up vital help for crisis-hit Sri Lanka by their hardline stance in debt-relief negotiations after the Asian country's $51bn (£42bn) default last year, according to 182 economists and development experts from around the world.

In a statement released to the Guardian yesterday, the group said extensive debt cancellation was needed to give the economy a chance of recovery and that Sri Lanka would be a test case of the willingness of the international community to tackle a looming global debt crisis.

The group – including the Indian economist Jayati Ghosh and Greece's former finance minister Yannis Varoufakis – said private sector creditors such as investment companies and hedge funds were preventing a deal.

"Debt negotiations in Sri Lanka are now at a crucial stage," the statement says. "All lenders – bilateral, multilateral, and private – must share the burden of restructuring, with assurance of additional financing in the near term."

Private creditors own almost 40% of Sri Lanka's external debt stock, mostly in the form of international sovereign bonds, although the higher interest rates levied on the bonds mean they receive more than 50% of external debt payments.

"Such lenders charged a premium to lend to Sri Lanka to cover their risks, which accrued them massive profits and contributed to Sri Lanka's first ever default in April 2022. Lenders who benefited from higher returns because of the 'risk premium' must be willing to take the consequences of that risk."

Negotiations have been under way since an economic crisis forced the Sri Lankan government to default for the first time in the country's history last spring. A loan from the International Monetary Fund will only be provided once it is confident Sri Lanka's debts are sustainable, but the 182 economists fear the tough stance adopted by private creditors will result in a poor deal for Colombo.

**42bn**

*The amount, in pounds, of Sri Lanka's debt default that the nation is trying to renegotiate*

## Rees-Mogg gets £500,000 from investment fund he co-founded

Joanna Partridge

Former business secretary and staunch Brexiter Jacob Rees-Mogg will receive about £500,000 in annual dividends from his stake in Somerset Capital Management, the investment fund he co-founded in 2007.

However, the prospect of Rees-Mogg collecting an even bigger multimillion-pound windfall appears to be on ice, as the Guardian understands Somerset is no longer holding talks about a potential sale of the firm valued at between £70m and £100m.

More than a dozen members of Somerset will collect part of the £6.49m profit available to them for the year to 31 March 2022, although this was one-third lower than the nearly £9.7m recorded a year earlier, after a fall in profit. Rees-Mogg received dividends of at least £600,000 in 2021, according to the Times.

Before he stopped taking a salary from the firm he helped establish in 2007, Rees-Mogg previously received about £15,000 a month, plus his salary as an MP. He stopped receiving wages from the firm in 2019. He remains an equity-holding member.

Rees-Mogg's current role at Somerset has been described as a sleeper shareholder, someone not involved in advising the firm on its investment strategy or in running the business.

A vocal supporter of Brexit, he has received at least £7m in dividends from Somerset since the EU referendum, according to media reports.

Analysis

**Larry Elliott**

# *Tories have chosen easy targets for 2023 – beyond that they just hope something will turn up*

Think back 12 months to January 2022. Boris Johnson was prime minister and had resisted calls for a lockdown in response to the Omicron variant of Covid-19. It was assumed inflationary pressure from post-pandemic supply-chain bottlenecks would soon abate. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was still several weeks away. There were rumblings of discontent in the Labour party at Keir Starmer's failure to register a commanding opinion-poll lead.

All of which is a way of making the point that a lot can happen – to the economy and in politics – in the course of a year. And given that the next election is not going to be held until 2024 it would be unwise to assume the next year will be any more predictable.

Even so, the first few days of 2023 have provided clues as to the strategies the Conservatives and Labour will adopt in the months ahead. The speeches Rishi Sunak and Starmer made last week were light on detail but significant.

Of the five pledges made by the prime minister in his speech, three related to the economy: halving inflation by the end of 2023; to resume growth; and to ensure the national debt is falling.

These are not ambitious targets. Most forecasters expect inflation to come down from its current 10.7% to about 5% by the end of the year, and, of course, a lower inflation rate doesn't mean prices are falling, simply that they are rising less quickly. In any case, bringing inflation down is the Bank of England's job.

Sunak was not specific about when the other two pledges would be met, which renders them largely meaningless. It is quite possible the economy will be posting modest growth by the end of the year, especially if the recent fall in global energy prices is sustained. It is telling, though, that the prime minister felt unable to commit himself to a precise timetable.

As for the third pledge, while there is not the remotest prospect of debt falling as a share of national income this side of a general election, the Office for Budget Responsibility said at the time of November's autumn statement that the government's plans were consistent with its objective of having the debt ratio falling in five years' time. Again, Sunak chose a soft target he knew he was going to meet.

He and his chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, hope if they can survive this winter something may turn up. As it might. If gas prices continue to fall, inflation will come down more quickly and the government will save billions of pounds on subsidising energy bills. HSBC says Hunt could have an extra £7bn at his disposal: Capital Economics think it could be at least £10bn. Those savings could be used to boost spending on the NHS, cut taxes or increase pay offers to public sector workers. Europe's warm winter is a stroke of luck for the government.

The pain announced by Hunt in November has mostly been delayed until after the election, which makes economic and political sense. The chancellor said he had no choice but to announce tax rises and spending cuts, and that Labour would be adopting broadly the same approach if it was in charge.

▲ *Jeremy Hunt makes a glass bauble at a Christmas market in Downing Street to promote small businesses*
PHOTOGRAPH: ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY

In a way, this is a tribute to Starmer's success in defusing the idea that Labour would blow up the economy with reckless spending pledges. Polls suggest Labour is just as trusted to run the economy as the Tories. Yet there is a clear risk of moving too far in the other direction and appearing bland. That was what Starmer was seeking to counter in his "give back control" speech last week, his levelling up pitch to the "red wall" voters who have deserted Labour at recent elections.

> *The pain announced by Hunt in November has mostly been delayed until after the election, which makes economic and political sense*

Starmer's political message was clear. We, the Labour party, understand why there was strong support for Brexit in the less prosperous parts of the country. We have no intention of seeking to reverse the decision to leave. Instead, we intend to hand back control of a whole range of powers – from employment support to climate crisis – from the centre so that local people can determine their own future.

Yet levelling up means money – big money – as well as devolving power. A recent study of the reunification of Germany – the biggest levelling up project in recent decades – said Berlin invested the equivalent of what the British government spent on the pandemic furlough scheme every year for three decades, and even now the divide between the western and eastern Länder has not been fully closed.

Cross-party support for large-scale spending has been vital in Germany, and it will be vital in Britain, too. There is no way levelling up can happen if Starmer keeps the "big government chequebook" closed, as he insists he will.

Getting the message right matters because Starmer is the one with everything to lose. He has the big opinion poll lead, while Sunak – like Alec Douglas-Home when he took over from Harold Macmillan in 1963 – has a shot to nothing.

Like Douglas-Home, Sunak took over after the Conservatives had been in power for 12 years and with the party mired in scandal. Not even Tory MPs expect him to win the election, and if Sunak manages to repeat Douglas-Home's feat of whittling away Labour's lead and losing by only a handful of seats he will be doing even better than his 1960s predecessor.

That's because the economic circumstances are quite different. Douglas-Home was helped by an unsustainable pre-election boom in 1964. Halving inflation and getting the economy going again doesn't really compare.

# Incomes 'to fall by £2,000' as crisis extends over two years

**Phillip Inman**

British households are only halfway through a two-year cost of living crisis, with average incomes set to fall by more than £2,000, a leading think-tank has warned.

Disposable incomes for working-age family households are on track to fall by 3% in this financial year, and by 4% in the year to April 2024, says the Resolution Foundation. Only the richest households will see incomes rise, according to the thinktank's annual Living Standards Outlook for 2023. Middle-income households face an average £2,100 loss.

The warning comes amid a rash of strikes by workers demanding pay rises closer to the average CPI inflation rate of 10.7%.

A vote by teachers is expected to be in favour of strike action when the ballot results are announced over the next fortnight, adding more than 500,000 public sector workers to a tally that includes nurses, Whitehall civil servants and Border Force staff.

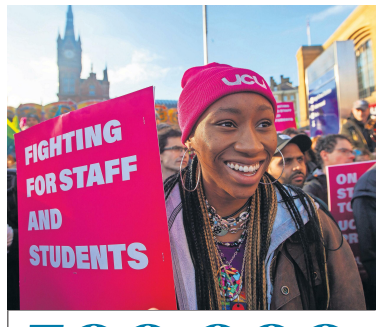
The thinktank said that while the headline rate of inflation was likely to fall over the coming months as gas and oil prices dropped, the cost of living would remain cripplingly high for many households.

Energy bills are expected to rise following "the slimming down of government support", raising the typical energy bill from £2,000 in 2022-23 to £2,850 in 2023-24.

The drop in the cost of wholesale gas is likely to reduce the cost to the Treasury of government energy subsidies, but longer-term contracts covering the supply to households are expected to keep retail prices high for at least the rest of the year.

A freeze on income tax thresholds will increase tax bills for a middle-income household by about £700 from April, and rising loan rates will lead to a 12% fall in real incomes over a two-year period for 3m households forced to refinance their mortgages.

The estimated 7% fall in living standards over two years is worse than the post-financial-crisis squeeze, which resulted in a 5% drop between 2009-10 and 2011-12.




**500,000**

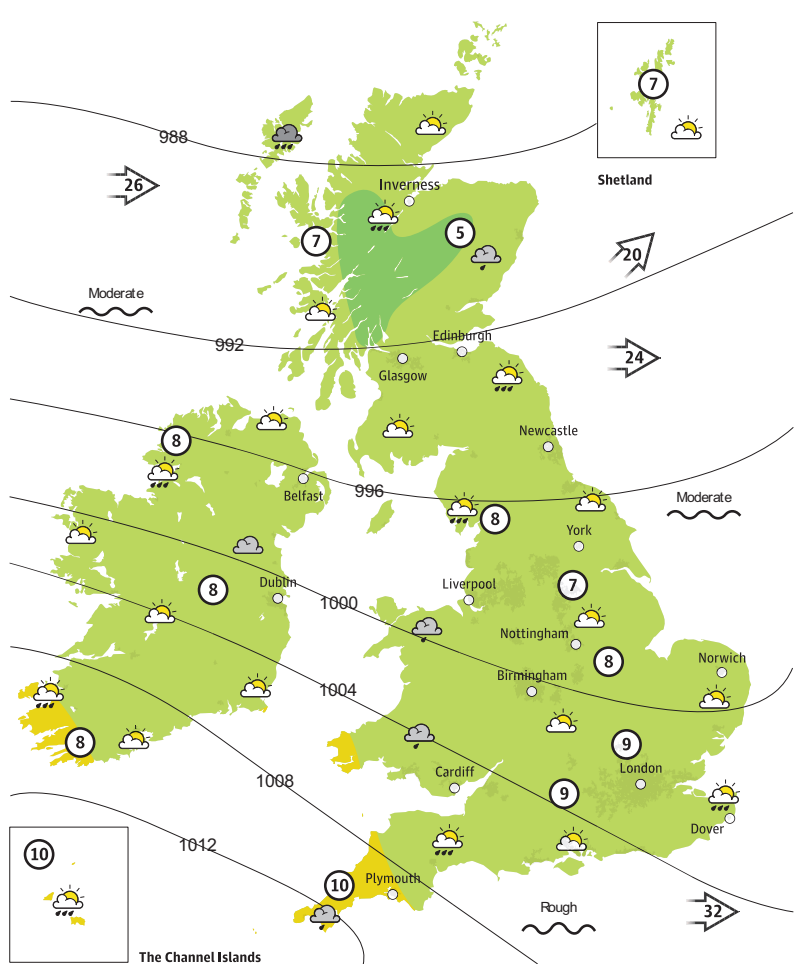
*Number of teachers who will join public sector strikes if ballot results are in favour, as expected*

# Weather
## *Monday 9 January 2023*

## UK and Ireland Noon today

Sunny · Mist · Fog · Sunny intervals · Hazy · Mostly cloudy · Overcast/dull · Sunny showers · Sunny and heavy showers · Light showers · Rain · Sleet · Light snow · Snow showers · Heavy snow · Ice · Thundery rain · Thundery showers · Temperature, °C · Wind speed, mph · Windy

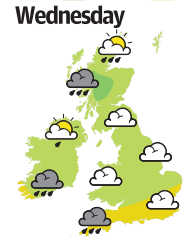
35C 30 25 20 15 10 5 0 -5 -10 -15 -20




## Forecast

Low 3 High 13
**Tomorrow**

Low 5 High 8
**Wednesday**



## Carbon count

Daily atmospheric $CO_2$ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

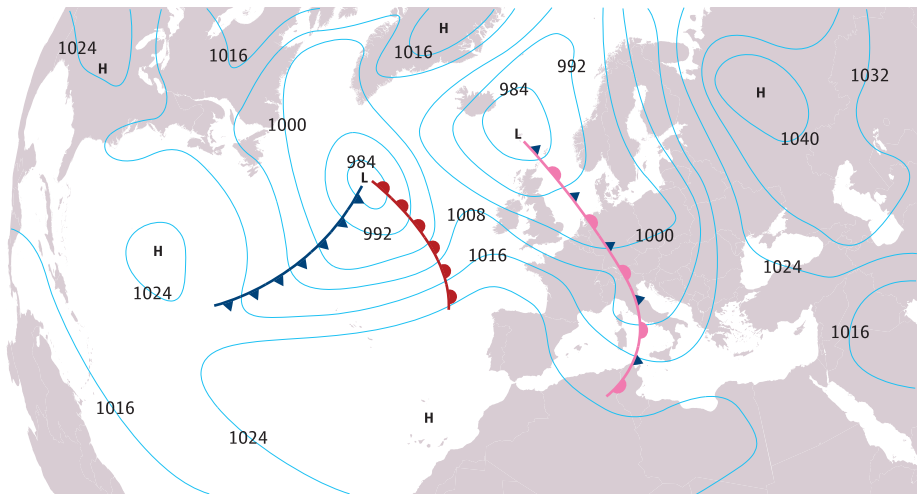
| | |
|---|---|
| *Latest* | |
| **07 Jan 2023** | 419.25 |
| *Weekly average* | |
| **01 Jan 2023** | 419.31 |
| **08 Jan 2022** | 417.55 |
| **08 Jan 2013** | 394.96 |
| *Pre-industrial base* | *280* |
| *Safe level* | *350* |

Source: NOAA-ESRL

## Around the UK

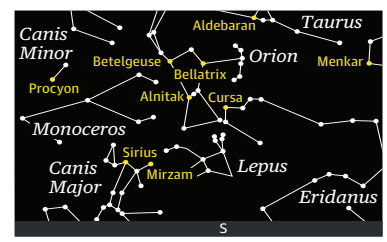
| | Lows and highs | Precipitation | Air pollution |
|---|---|---|---|
| **London** | 4 9 | 15% | Low |
| **Manchester** | 3 8 | 90% | Low |
| **Edinburgh** | 4 6 | 85% | Low |
| **Belfast** | 3 7 | 85% | Low |
| **Birmingham** | 3 8 | 10% | Low |
| **Brighton** | 6 9 | 85% | Low |
| **Bristol** | 6 8 | 5% | Low |
| **Cardiff** | 6 9 | 5% | Low |
| **Newcastle** | 3 7 | 5% | Low |
| **Penzance** | 9 11 | 80% | Low |

## Atlantic front




Cold front
Warm front
Occluded front
Trough

## Starwatch




We return to the same southern patch of sky as last week to track down the faint constellation of Lepus, the hare. The chart shows the view looking south from London at 10pm on 9 January.

Although the constellation was recorded by the astronomer Ptolemy in the second century, there is no classical myth of the hare. The nearest story comes from Aesop's fables circa 600 BC, and is the tale of the tortoise and hare. However, there is no tortoise constellation. The association may simply have been because the asterism can easily be imagined as a hare with two large ears. Located at the feet of Orion, it is often said to be the hunter's quarry, being pursued by his dogs: Canis Major and Canis Minor. There are no particularly bright stars in Lepus, instead memorise the shape. Locate Orion and look below his feet, where the hare will leap out at you. **Stuart Clark** *@DrStuClark*

## Around the world

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Algiers | 21 | Lisbon | 17 |
| Ams'dam | 8 | Madrid | 13 |
| Athens | 16 | Malaga | 22 |
| Auckland | 24 | Melb'rne | 25 |
| B Aires | 28 | Mexico C | 21 |
| Bangkok | 30 | Miami | 26 |
| Barcelona | 16 | Milan | 11 |
| Basra | 14 | Mombasa | 32 |
| Beijing | 7 | Moscow | -13 |
| Berlin | 8 | Mumbai | 31 |
| Bermuda | 19 | N Orleans | 17 |
| Brussels | 7 | Nairobi | 27 |
| Budapest | 6 | New Delhi | 20 |
| C'hagen | 6 | New York | 7 |
| Cairo | 18 | Oslo | 3 |
| Cape Town | 27 | Paris | 8 |
| Chicago | 4 | Perth | 36 |
| Corfu | 15 | Prague | 6 |
| Dakar | 28 | Reykjavik | 1 |
| Dhaka | 25 | Rio de J | 25 |
| Dublin | 7 | Rome | 16 |
| Florence | 14 | Shanghai | 18 |
| Gibraltar | 19 | Singapore | 31 |
| H Kong | 18 | Stockh'm | 3 |
| Harare | 22 | Strasb'g | 8 |
| Helsinki | -2 | Sydney | 25 |
| Istanbul | 11 | Tel Aviv | 16 |
| Jo'burg | 25 | Tenerife | 23 |
| K Lumpur | 32 | Tokyo | 12 |
| K'mandu | 21 | Toronto | 3 |
| Kabul | 5 | Vancouv'r | 8 |
| Kingston | 30 | Vienna | 8 |
| Kolkata | 26 | Warsaw | 8 |
| L Angeles | 15 | Wash'ton | 10 |
| Lagos | 30 | Well'ton | 20 |
| Lima | 25 | Zurich | 7 |

## High tides

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| **Sun sets** | 1611 |
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| **Last Quarter** | 15 Jan |

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# Weather
## *Monday 9 January 2023*

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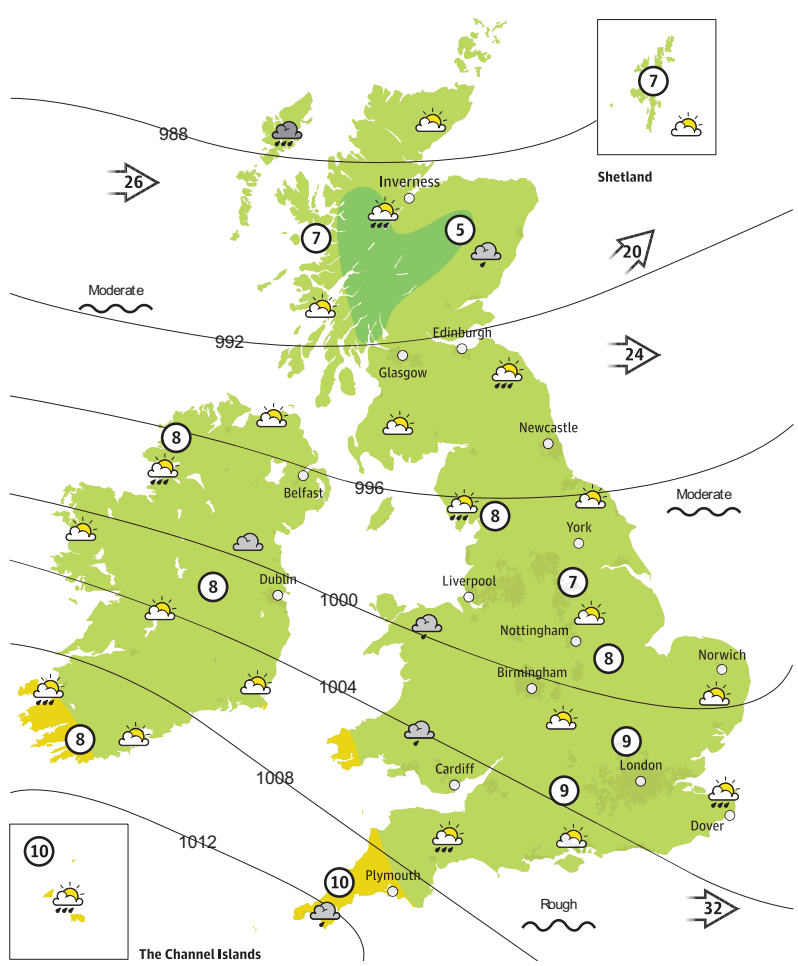
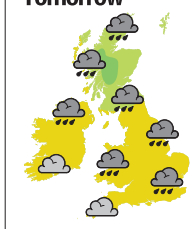
Sunny · Mist · Fog · Sunny intervals · Hazy · Mostly cloudy · Overcast/dull · Sunny showers · Sunny and heavy showers · Light showers · Rain · Sleet · Light snow · Snow showers · Heavy snow · Ice · Thundery rain · Thundery showers · Temperature, °C · Wind speed, mph · Windy

35C 30 25 20 15 10 5 0 -5 -10 -15 -20

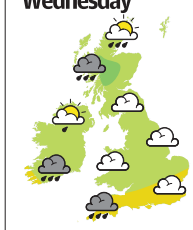



## Forecast

Low 3 High 13
**Tomorrow**



Low 5 High 8
**Wednesday**



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| *Safe level* | *350* |

Source: NOAA-ESRL

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| **Birmingham** | 3 8 | 10% | Low |
| **Cardiff** | 6 9 | 5% | Low |
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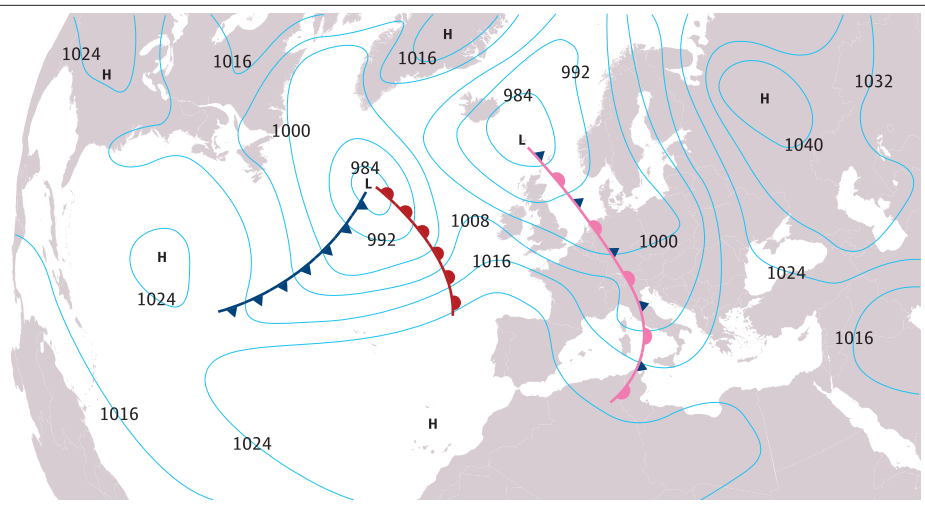
## Atlantic front




Cold front · Warm front · Occluded front · Trough

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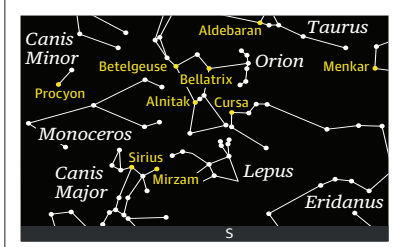
## Starwatch

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| | | | |
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| Athens | 16 | Malaga | 22 |
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| Budapest | 6 | New Delhi | 20 |
| C'hagen | 6 | New York | 7 |
| Cairo | 18 | Oslo | 3 |
| Cape Town | 27 | Paris | 8 |
| Chicago | 4 | Perth | 36 |
| Corfu | 15 | Prague | 6 |
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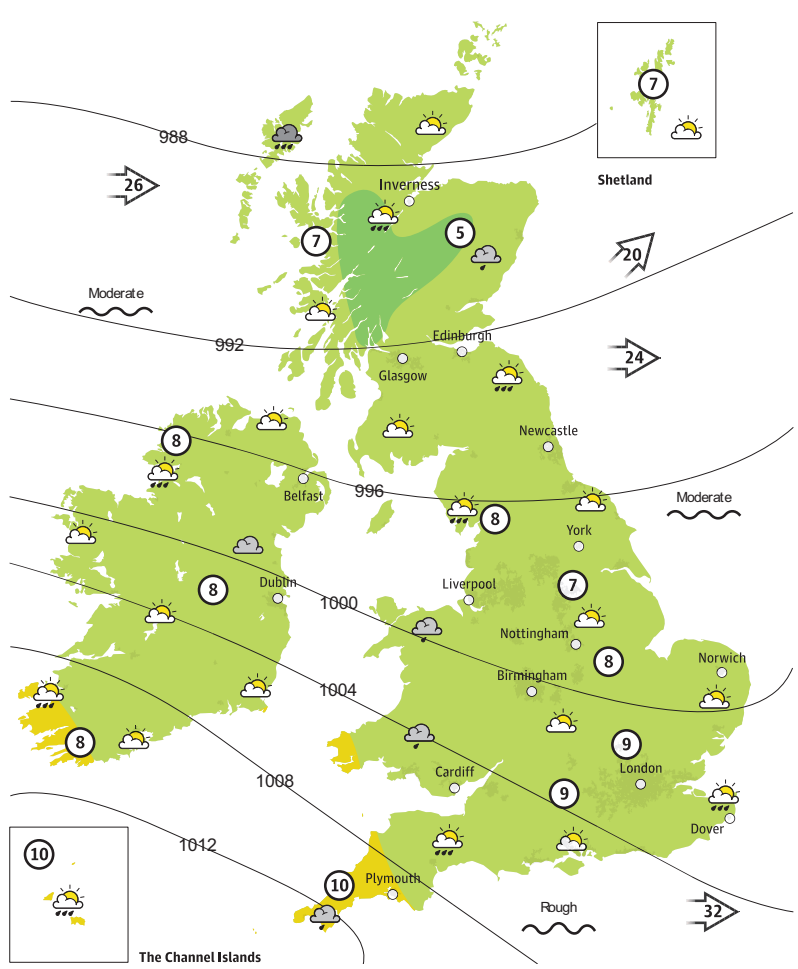


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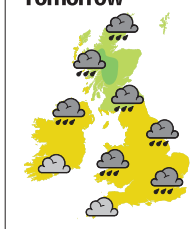

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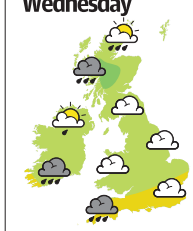

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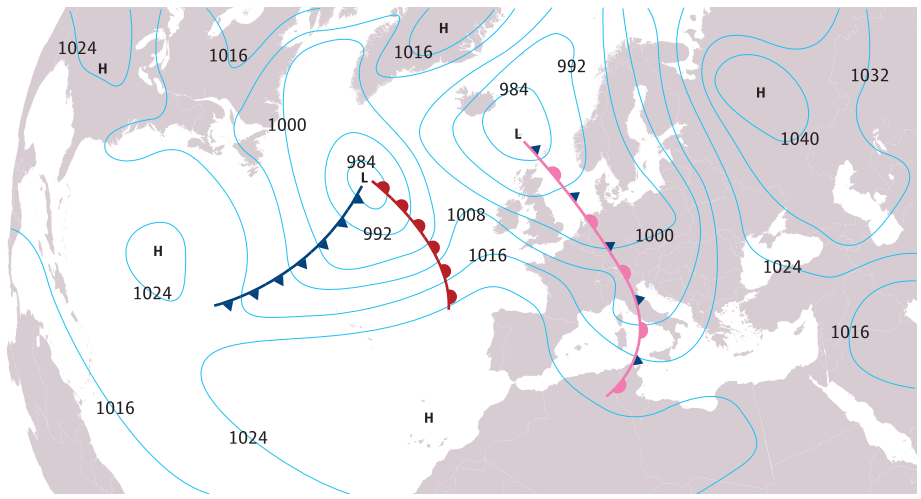


Cold front · Warm front · Occluded front · Trough

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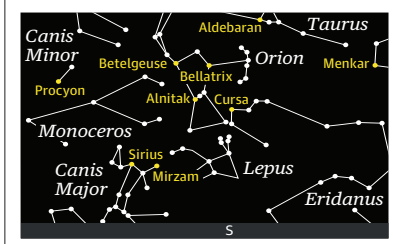


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# Sport

**Cricket**

## South Africa deny Australia series sweep in Sydney

Page 31 →

**Rugby union**

## White among tries as Exiles did deep to beat Bristol

Page 32 →

▲ *Adam Zampa of Melbourne Stars gets a lesson in the laws after illegally attempting a Mankad run-out in the Big Bash League*
MORGAN HANCOCK/GETTY

# Doing it by the book

## Cricket's laws are occasionally comical and very long – but remain unfinished

**Simon Burnton**

The latest iteration of the laws of association football is 26,868 words long. Despite having to deal with variations for sevens and 10s, rugby union manages to deal with its laws in 22,480. Including field and equipment specifications, hockey sticks to 11,408 words. The latest playing rules of the Darts Regulation Authority amount to barely a third of that, treble-topping out at 4,275 words. The part of the International Weightlifting Federation's rules that actually concerns lifting weights weighs in at a mere 1,325 words, clean and with minimal evidence of jerks. And so on, all the way down to the World Rock Paper Scissors Association, which requires only 62 words to explain the finer points of its game, those involved having perhaps learned from bitter experience the potential ramifications of overusing paper.

Cricket, a sport in which a game can last five days, has a bit extra to cover, and, as updated last September, its regulations finally run out after 34,602 words. Add the preface and indices and the document hits 37,827.

Used wisely, these are enough words to create an entire world - CS Lewis needed 594 more for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. It is almost exactly half as long as Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (but 52 times the length of the conversation between Potter and Oliver Wood which establishes the rules of quidditch), and represents 42% of The Handmaid's Tale. Like those novels, it attempts to conjure its own alternate reality. But unlike them, no editor intervened when the authors' imagination ran out of control.

Over the years cricketers - with their underarm-bowling, aluminium bat-wielding ways - have tugged at every stray thread their rule-weavers left dangling, repeatedly forcing them back into action to repair the damage. But we have now reached the point where pretty much all imaginable things are covered. Take, for example, Law 19.5.1 subsection four: "A fielder is grounded beyond the boundary if some part of his/her person is in contact with another fielder who is grounded beyond the boundary, if the umpire considers that it was the intention of either fielder that the contact should assist in the fielding of the ball."

This is the part of cricket's laws that specifically deals with the possibility of one fielder standing on the shoulders of another, or perhaps being tossed into the air like a gymnast, while both are outside the field of play, collecting the ball, and being carried back inside the rope before returning to earth and claiming to have taken a fair catch. At some point a committee has convened in one of the splendid wood-panelled rooms within the Lord's pavilion specifically to debate the possibility of a captain, with at least 12,000 square metres of grass to defend, deciding not just to place two fielders outside the field entirely but also choosing to put one on top of the other.

The image conjured by the following paragraph is better still. Here we learn that "a fielder who is not in contact with the ground is considered to be grounded beyond the boundary if his/her final contact with the ground, before his/her first contact with the ball after it has been delivered by the bowler, was not entirely within the boundary". This is where our lawmakers established whether a fielder can catch the ball inside the boundary, throw it back into the air, catch it again beyond the boundary, throw it back into the air again, repeat the process as many times as they fancy, and the batter still be out. Which they can, so long as whenever they are in contact with the ball they are also airborne. As New Zealand's Jimmy Neesham put it, upon becoming aware of this law: "So I can just endlessly jump up and down on the spot over the boundary patting the ball up in the air until another fielder runs over to me, then tap it to him? Well then that's stupid."

These are laws potentially unique in all serious sports, in being very specifically conceived and worded to be as silly as possible. And while the chances of the first ever being needed seem remote, last weekend in Australia's Big Bash League the Brisbane Heat player Michael Neser executed a boundary-straddling double-leap juggle-catch to dismiss Jordan Silk and remind the world of the absolute absurdity that is Law 19.5.1 subsection five. Two days later, in the same competition, Tom Rogers was saved from being run out at the non-striker's end - Mankaded, if you will - because the bowler's arm had gone beyond vertical before he turned to knock off the bails (Law 38.3.1), a nuance of which the bowler, Australia's Adam Zampa, a veteran of 148 international matches, had been unaware. Then on Friday in Karachi, Pakistan stood 15 runs from victory, one wicket from defeat and no more than 20 minutes away from concluding a compelling Test against New Zealand with a result, one both teams had spent five days striving for, when - despite the presence of floodlights - the umpires called it a draw because, somewhere else, it was getting a bit dark (Law 12.9.2).

*As New Zealand's Jimmy Neesham said upon becoming aware of Law 19.5.1: 'Well then that's stupid'*

If anything could be seen even more clearly than the floodlit handshakes as play ended it was that, however long cricket's laws already are, they remain unfinished. Perhaps that committee should expedite its return to their fusty wood-panelled room in St John's Wood, and, ideally, be a bit more serious this time.

# The week ahead

*Shelina Zadorsky leads Tottenham at Aston Villa as the WSL returns*

## Today

**Football**

**Emirates FA Cup**
**Third round** Oxford Utd v Arsenal (8pm) *ITV1/STV*

**Cricket**

**First One-Day International**
Pakistan v New Zealand, Karachi (9.30am)

**Tennis**

**ATP/WTA Adelaide International**
Australia (to Sun) *Amazon Prime/ Eurosport 1*

**ATP ASB Classic**
Auckland, New Zealand (to Sun)

**WTA Hobart International**
Australia (to Sun) *Amazon Prime*

**Snooker**

**The Masters**
Alexandra Palace, London (to Sun) *Eurosport 2/BBC Red Button*

**Racing**
Ayr, Taunton, Wolverhampton

## Tomorrow

**Football** (7.45pm unless stated)

**Carabao EFL Cup**
**Quarter-finals** Manchester Utd v Charlton (8pm); Newcastle v Leicester (8pm) *Sky Sports Main Event/Sky Sports Football*

**Papa Johns EFL Trophy**
Bolton v Portsmouth; Bristol Rovers v Plymouth; Cheltenham v Salford City; Lincoln City v Accrington (7pm)

**Sky Bet League Two**
Bradford City v Rochdale

**Vanarama National League**
Aldershot v Dag & Red; Notts Co v Boreham; Wealdstone v Chesterfield; Wrexham v Bromley (7.30pm)

**Scottish Challenge Cup**
**Quarter-finals** Dundee v Dunfermline *BBC Alba/BBC iPlayer*; Hamilton v Clyde; Queen of the South v Kelty Hearts

**Cricket**

**First One-Day International**
India v Sri Lanka, Guwahati (8am)

**Racing**
Doncaster, Exeter *Racing UK*, Southwell

## Wednesday

**Football** (7.45pm unless stated)

**Carabao EFL Cup**
**Quarter-finals** Nottingham Forest v Wolves; Southampton v Manchester City (8pm) *SSME/SSF*

**FA Women's League Cup**
**Group B** Sunderland v Leicester (7.30pm). **Group D** Charlton v Crystal Palace (7.30pm)

**Scottish Challenge Cup**
**Quarter-final** Queen's Park v Raith

**Cricket**

**Second One-Day International**
Pakistan v New Zealand, Karachi (9.30am)

**Racing**
Kempton, Leicester, Lingfield

## Thursday

**Football**

**Premier League**
Fulham v Chelsea (8pm) *BTS1*

**Cricket**

**Second One-Day International**
India v Sri Lanka, Kolkata (8am)

**First Twenty20 International**
Zimbabwe v Ireland, Harare (11am)

**Golf**

**Sony Open in Hawaii**
Honolulu (to Sun) *SSME/SSG*

**Racing**
Bangor, Catterick *Racing UK*, Chelmsford *Racing UK*, Newcastle

## Friday

**Football** (7.45pm unless stated)

**Premier League**
Aston Villa v Leeds (8pm) *SSME/SSPL*

**Scottish Premiership**
Hearts v St Mirren

**Rugby union**

**European Championship Cup**
**Pool B** Clermont Auvergne v Leicester (8pm) *BT Sport 2*

**European Challenge Cup**
**Pool B** Pau v Dragons (8pm) *Premier Sports 1*; Scarlets v Cheetahs (8pm)

**RFU Championship**
Cornish Pirates v Nottingham (7.30pm)

**Cricket**

**Third One-Day International**
Pakistan v New Zealand, Karachi (9.30am)

**Golf**

**Hero Cup**
Abu Dhabi (to Sun) *Sky Sports Golf*

**Hockey**

**Men's World Cup**
Odisha, India (to 29 Jan)

**Racing**
Huntingdon *Racing UK*, Lingfield, Newcastle, Sedgefield

## Saturday

**Football** (3pm unless stated)

**Premier League**
Brentford v Bournemouth (5.30pm) *SSME/SSPL*; Brighton v Liverpool; Everton v Southampton; Nottingham Forest v Leicester; Manchester Utd v Manchester City (12.30pm) *BTS1/ BTS Ultimate*; Wolves v West Ham

**Cinch Scottish Premiership**
Hibernian v Dundee Utd; Motherwell v Ross County; St Johnstone v Livingston

**FA Women's Super League**
Aston Villa v Tottenham (12.30pm)

**Sky Bet Championship**
Bristol City v Birmingham; Burnley v Coventry; Cardiff v Wigan; Hull v Huddersfield; Luton v West Brom Middlesbrough v Millwall; Preston v Norwich; Reading v Queens Park Rangers; Rotherham v Blackburn (12.30pm) *Sky Sports Football*; Sheffield Utd v Stoke; Sunderland v Swansea; Watford v Blackpool

**Viaplay Scottish League Cup**
**Semi-final** Celtic v Kilmarnock (5.30pm) *Viaplay Sports 1*

**Sky Bet League One**
Accrington Stanley v Bristol Rovers Bolton v Portsmouth; Burton Albion v Shrewsbury; Cambridge Utd v Morecambe; Charlton v Barnsley; Cheltenham v Derby; Exeter v Forest Green; Fleetwood v Oxford Utd; Ipswich v Plymouth; MK Dons v Lincoln City; Wycombe v Sheffield Wed

**Sky Bet League Two**
AFC Wimbledon v Bradford City; Carlisle v Newport County; Crawley v Doncaster; Gillingham v Hartlepool; Harrogate v Stevenage; Leyton Orient v Barrow; Mansfield v Crewe; Rochdale v Colchester; Salford v Sutton; Stockport v Northampton; Swindon v Grimsby; Tranmere v Walsall

**Vanarama National League**
Scunthorpe v Woking

**Isuzu FA Trophy**
**Fourth round** Aldershot v Leiston; Altrincham v Wrexham; Banbury v Coalville; Bracknell v Bath City; Dag & Red v Maidenhead ; Dorking v Kidderminster; Eastleigh v Braintree; Farsley Celtic v Marske; Gateshead v Oldham; Harrow Borough v Halifax; Hungerford v Tamworth; Notts County v Maidstone; Solihull Moors v Barnet; Southend v Darlington; Torquay v Taunton; York v TBC

**Cinch Scottish Championship**
Ayr v Arbroath; Cove Rangers v Raith; Dundee v Partick; Hamilton v Morton; Inverness CT v Queen's Park

**Cinch Scottish League One**
Alloa v FC Edinburgh; Dunfermline v Peterhead; Falkirk v Clyde; Kelty Hearts v Airdrieonians; Montrose v Queen of the South

**Cinch Scottish League Two**
Bonnyrigg Rose v Stirling Albion; East Fife v Stenhousemuir; Elgin v Annan; Forfar v Dumbarton; Stranraer v Albion Rovers

**Rugby union**

**European Champions Cup**
**Pool A** Bulls v Exeter (5.30pm) *BT Sport 3*; Gloucester v Leinster (1pm) *BT Sport 2*; Saracens v Lyon (8pm) *BT Sport 2*; Sharks v Bordeaux Bègles (3.15pm) *BT Sport 3*
**Pool B** La Rochelle v Ulster (5.30pm) *BT Sport 2*; Munster v Northampton (3.15pm) *BT Sport 2*; Ospreys v Montpellier (8pm) *BT Sport 3*; Sale v Toulouse (1pm) *BT Sport 3*

**European Challenge Cup**
**Pool A** Bath v Toulon (3.15pm); Connacht v Brive (5.30pm); Perpignan v Glasgow Warriors (8pm); Zebre v Bristol (8pm)
**Pool B** Benetton v Bayonne (1pm); Stade Francais v Lions (1pm)

**Women's Allianz Premier 15s**
Bristol v Sale (1pm); Gloucester-Hartpury v Loughborough (1pm); Darlington MP v Worcester (3pm); Exeter v Saracens (3pm); Wasps v Harlequins (1.30pm)

**RFU Championship**
Caldy v Richmond (2pm); Coventry v Jersey (3pm); Doncaster v Hartpury (2.30pm); Ealing v Ampthill (3pm); London Scottish v Bedford (3pm)

**Cricket**

**Second Twenty20 International**
Zimbabwe v Ireland, Harare (11am)

**Cycling**

**Women's Santos Tour Down Under**
Adelaide, Australia (to 17 Jan)

**Racing**
Chelmsford *Racing UK*, Kempton *Racing UK*, Lingfield, Warwick *Racing UK*, Wetherby *Racing UK*

## Sunday

**Football** (3pm unless stated)

**Premier League**
Chelsea v Crystal Palace (2pm); Newcastle v Fulham (2pm) *SSME/ SSPL*; Tottenham v Arsenal (4.30pm) *SSME/SSPL*

**FA Women's Super League**
Arsenal v Chelsea (midday) *Sky Sports Football*; Everton v Reading (1pm); Leicester v Brighton; Manchester Utd v Liverpool (2.05pm) *BBC One*; West Ham v Manchester City; (6.45pm) *SSF*

**Scottish League Cup**
**Semi-finals** Rangers v Aberdeen *Viaplay Sports 1*

**Rugby union**

**European Champions Cup**
**Pool A** Castres v Edinburgh (1pm) *BT Sport Extra*; Racing 92 v Harlequins (3.15pm) *BT Sport 1*
**Pool B** London Irish v Stormers (1pm) *BT Sport 1*

**European Challenge Cup**
**Pool A** Cardiff v Newcastle (1pm)

**Cricket**

**Third One-Day International**
India v Sri Lanka, Trivandrum (8am)

**Third Twenty20 International**
Zimbabwe v Ireland, Harare (11am)

**Racing**
Kelso *Racing UK*, Southwell

## The main event

### Manchester Utd v Manchester City

*Saturday 12.30pm, BT Sport 1*

United appear to be on the rise as of late under Erik ten Hag (right) while City are five points behind Arsenal in the title race

# Football results

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES**
Algeria 0 Ghana 0; Iceland 1 Estonia 1

**EMIRATES FA CUP**
**Third round**

**Aston Villa** (1) 1 — **Stevenage** (0) 2
Sanson 33
32,343
Reid 88pen
Campbell 90

**Blackpool** (1) 4 — **Nottingham Forest** (0) 1
Ekpiteta 17
Poveda-Ocampo 64
Hamilton 71, Yates 87
Yates 90
8,750

**Boreham Wood** (0) 1 — **Accrington Stanley** (1) 1
Ndlovu 78
2,001
Astley 6

**Bournemouth** (1) 2 — **Burnley** (3) 4
Christie 12, Solanke 48
10,116
Manuel 6 57
Zaroury 39 43

**Brentford** (0) 0 — **West Ham** (0) 1
16,725
Benrahma 79

**Bristol City** (0) 1 — **Swansea** (1) 1
Semenyo 75
Piroe 15

**Cardiff** (2) 2 — **Leeds** (0) 2
Philogene 24
Ojo 31
20,324
Rodrigo 65
Perkins 90

**Chesterfield** (3) 3 — **West Brom** (2) 3
Williams 7
Dobra 36 41
9,819
Thomas-Asante 2 90

**Coventry** (1) 3 — **Wrexham** (3) 4
Sheaf 36, Gyökeres 69
Palmer 76
18,218
Dalby 12, Lee 18
O'Conner 45
Mullin 58pen

**Crystal Palace** (1) 1 — **Southampton** (1) 2
Édouard 14
Ward-Prowse 37
A Armstrong 68

**Derby** (1) 3 — **Barnsley** (0) 0
Collins 45pen
Barkhuizen 60, Knight 79
11,512

**Fleetwood** (1) 2 — **QPR** (1) 1
Nsiala 40
Omochere 67
Field 37
3,151

**Forest Green** (-) P — **Birmingham** (-) P
*(postponed due to a waterlogged pitch)*

**Gillingham** (0) 0 — **Leicester** (0) 1
8,567
Iheanacho 56

**Grimsby** (0) 1 — **Burton** (0) 0
Richardson 76
5,447

**Hartlepool** (0) 0 — **Stoke** (2) 3
Murray 16og
4,340
Brown 43, Menayese 48og

**Hull** (0) 0 — **Fulham** (1) 2
Kurzawa 37
14,175
James 90

**Ipswich** (1) 4 — **Rotherham** (0) 1
Humphreys 43
Chaplin 74pen
Ladapo 79, Burns 87pen
Washington 47pen
15,728

**Liverpool** (1) 2 — **Wolves** (1) 2
Núñez 45
Salah 52
Guedes 26, Hwang 66
52,636

**Luton** (1) 1 — **Wigan** (1) 1
Cornick 45
5,660
Naylor 17

**Middlesbrough** (1) 1 — **Brighton** (2) 5
Akpom 13
Gross 8, Lallana 29
Mac Allister 58 80
21,982
Undav 88

**Manchester City** (3) 4 — **Chelsea** (0) 0
Mahrez 23 85pen
Álvarez 30pen, Foden 38
51,505

**Millwall** (0) 0 — **Sheffield Utd** (2) 2
Jebbison 23
7,268
Bogle 36

**Norwich** (0) 0 — **Blackburn** (1) 1
20,472
Vale 31

**Preston** (0) 3 — **Huddersfield** (0) 1
Lees 60og, Diaby 73
Browne 85
Kamberi 57
6,799

**Reading** (1) 2 — **Watford** (0) 0
Abrefa 45, Long 90
7,954

**Sheffield Wed** (0) 2 — **Newcastle** (0) 1
Windass 52 65
25,884
Guimarães 69

**Shrewsbury** (0) 1 — **Sunderland** (0) 2
Pennington 81
6,309
Stewart 90
O'Nien 90

**Stockport County** (0) 1 — **Walsall** (0) 2
Madden 88
9,178
Johnson 63
Williams 90pen

**Tottenham** (0) 1 — **Portsmouth** (0) 0
Kane 50
60,161

*(played on Friday)*

**Manchester Utd** (1) 3 — **Everton** (1) 1
Antony 4, Coady 52og
Rashford 90pen
Coady 14
72,306

**SKY BET LEAGUE ONE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plymouth | 26 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 46 | 26 | +20 | 57 |
| Sheffield Wed | 25 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 45 | 18 | +27 | 52 |
| Ipswich | 25 | 14 | 8 | 3 | 47 | 25 | +22 | 50 |
| Derby | 24 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 33 | 17 | +16 | 41 |
| Bolton | 25 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 30 | 20 | +10 | 41 |
| Barnsley | 23 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 30 | 21 | +9 | 40 |
| Wycombe | 25 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 33 | 26 | +7 | 38 |
| Bristol Rovers | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 42 | 43 | -1 | 37 |
| Peterborough Utd | 24 | 11 | 2 | 11 | 39 | 31 | +8 | 35 |
| Port Vale | 24 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 27 | 32 | -5 | 35 |
| Exeter | 25 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 38 | 36 | +2 | 34 |
| Charlton | 25 | 7 | 10 | 8 | 38 | 36 | +2 | 31 |
| Portsmouth | 22 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 29 | 27 | +2 | 31 |
| Fleetwood | 24 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 28 | 25 | +3 | 29 |
| Oxford Utd | 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 29 | 27 | +2 | 29 |
| Lincoln City | 24 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 24 | 30 | -6 | 29 |
| Shrewsbury | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 29 | -6 | 29 |
| Cheltenham | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 27 | -8 | 28 |
| Morecambe | 25 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 26 | 35 | -9 | 24 |
| Cambridge Utd | 25 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 22 | 41 | -19 | 24 |
| Accrington Stanley | 23 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 21 | 38 | -17 | 22 |
| Burton Albion | 25 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 32 | 50 | -18 | 22 |
| MK Dons | 24 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 23 | 36 | -13 | 21 |
| Forest Green | 25 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 21 | 49 | -28 | 20 |

**Bolton** (0) 0 — **Plymouth** (0) 0
18,638

**Cambridge Utd** (1) 1 — **Bristol Rovers** (2) 2
Smith 5
5,703
Coburn 21
Sinclair 29

**Charlton** (2) 2 — **Lincoln** (0) 1
Fraser 35
Blackett-Taylor 42
Mandroiu 76
12,165

**Morecambe** (1) 2 — **Cheltenham** (1) 1
Weir 20
Phillips 47
May 39
4,677

**SKY BET LEAGUE TWO**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leyton Orient | 25 | 17 | 5 | 3 | 36 | 13 | +23 | 56 |
| Stevenage | 24 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 35 | 17 | +18 | 51 |
| Northampton | 25 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 40 | 26 | +14 | 46 |
| Carlisle | 24 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 37 | 25 | +12 | 39 |
| Bradford City | 23 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 30 | 23 | +7 | 39 |
| Barrow | 25 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 32 | 30 | +2 | 39 |
| Salford City | 24 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 32 | 24 | +8 | 38 |
| Swindon | 25 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 28 | 25 | +3 | 38 |
| Mansfield | 25 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 35 | 34 | +1 | 38 |
| Doncaster | 25 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 30 | 35 | -5 | 37 |
| Walsall | 23 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 29 | 21 | +8 | 36 |
| Sutton | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 27 | 33 | -6 | 36 |
| AFC Wimbledon | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 29 | 28 | +1 | 35 |
| Stockport County | 23 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 33 | 23 | +10 | 34 |
| Tranmere | 25 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 27 | 22 | +5 | 34 |
| Grimsby | 23 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 26 | 27 | -1 | 30 |
| Crewe | 23 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 19 | 27 | -8 | 29 |
| Newport County | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 24 | 28 | -4 | 26 |
| Harrogate | 24 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 31 | 39 | -8 | 23 |
| Colchester | 25 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 24 | 32 | -8 | 23 |
| Crawley | 24 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 26 | 39 | -13 | 22 |
| Hartlepool | 24 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 24 | 45 | -21 | 19 |
| Rochdale | 24 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 19 | 36 | -17 | 17 |
| Gillingham | 23 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 28 | -21 | 14 |

**Crewe** (0) 0 — **AFC Wimbledon** (0) 0
4,379

**Harrogate** (0) 1 — **Colchester** (2) 3
Armstrong 77
2,144
Akinde 12, Chilvers 17
Tchamadeu 54

**Leyton Orient** (0) 1 — **Doncaster Rovers** (0) 0
Archibald 68
7,404

**Mansfield** (2) 2 — **Barrow** (1) 3
McLaughlin 9
Quinn 25
Waters 45
Gordon 49
Hawkins 77og

**Rochdale** (1) 1 — **Newport County** (0) 1
Rodney 34
Lewis 46

**Salford City** (2) 2 — **Northampton** (1) 1
Galbraith 9
McAleny 33
Hoskins 22
2,753

**Tranmere** (1) 2 — **Sutton** (1) 2
Hawkes 39
Hemmings 58
Smith 11 61

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Notts County | 26 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 68 | 24 | +44 | 61 |
| Wrexham | 24 | 17 | 5 | 2 | 62 | 20 | +42 | 56 |
| Chesterfield | 23 | 15 | 4 | 4 | 49 | 27 | +22 | 49 |
| Woking | 25 | 15 | 4 | 6 | 45 | 25 | +20 | 49 |
| Barnet | 24 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 44 | 41 | +3 | 41 |
| Southend | 25 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 33 | 21 | +12 | 38 |
| Wealdstone | 25 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 32 | 36 | -4 | 37 |
| Dag & Red | 23 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 37 | 38 | -1 | 35 |
| Eastleigh | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 32 | 33 | -1 | 35 |
| Bromley | 23 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 32 | 29 | +3 | 34 |
| Solihull Moors | 24 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 36 | 34 | +2 | 33 |
| Altrincham | 25 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 37 | 45 | -8 | 33 |
| Boreham Wood | 23 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 27 | 24 | +3 | 32 |
| York | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 32 | 30 | +2 | 32 |
| Halifax | 25 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 24 | 32 | -8 | 32 |
| Dorking | 27 | 8 | 6 | 13 | 44 | 64 | -20 | 30 |
| Maidenhead | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 27 | 37 | -10 | 29 |
| Yeovil | 24 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 20 | 22 | -2 | 27 |
| Aldershot | 24 | 8 | 2 | 14 | 32 | 42 | -10 | 26 |
| Oldham | 24 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 30 | 40 | -10 | 24 |
| Gateshead | 25 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 31 | 41 | -10 | 22 |
| Torquay | 26 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 29 | 49 | -20 | 22 |
| Maidstone | 27 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 31 | 59 | -28 | 21 |
| Scunthorpe | 26 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 32 | 53 | -21 | 19 |

Aldershot 0 Notts County 3; Barnet 1 Gateshead 1; Dag & Red 1 Woking 2; Dorking 1 Oldham 5; Scunthorpe 3 Maidenhead 0; Southend 3 Solihull Moors 0; Torquay 1 Halifax 0; Wealdstone 3 Eastleigh 1; York 4 Maidstone 1

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH**
Alfreton 1 Farsley Celtic 0; Blyth Spartans 0 King's Lynn 0; Boston Utd 2 Gloucester City 2; Brackley 1 Chester 1; Bradford PA 1 Kettering 1; Curzon Ashton 2 Buxton 1; Darlington 0 Chorley 3; Fylde 5 Banbury Utd 0; Hereford 2 Scarborough 0; Peterborough Sports 2 Southport 1; Telford 1 Spennymoor 1

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH**
Bath City 2 Eastbourne Borough 0; Chelmsford 0 Chippenham 1; Cheshunt 1 Dartford 3; Dulwich Hamlet 1 Farnborough 4; Ebbsfleet Utd 4 Weymouth 1; Havant & Waterlooville 3 Braintree 1; Hemel Hempstead 2 Hampton & Richmond 0; Hungerford 1 Dover 0; Oxford City 2 St Albans 1; Taunton P Concord Rangers P; Tonbridge 3 Slough 3; Worthing 3 Welling 2

**WOMEN'S EMIRATES FA CUP**
**Third round** AFC Wimbledon 1 Gillingham 0; Birmingham 4 Huddersfield 0; Blackburn 0 Sunderland 1; Burnley 1 Norwich 0; Charlton 3 MK Dons 1; Crystal Palace 5 Watford 1; Leeds 3 Stoke 1; Lewes 5 London Bees 0; Liverpool Feds 2 West Brom 3; London City 1 Portsmouth 0; Peterborough 0 Durham 1; Sheffield Utd 3 Nottingham Forest 0

**CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 21 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 65 | 17 | +48 | 58 |
| Rangers | 21 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 48 | 20 | +28 | 49 |
| Hearts | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 36 | 31 | +5 | 32 |
| Aberdeen | 21 | 9 | 2 | 10 | 35 | 32 | +3 | 29 |
| Livingston | 20 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 28 | -8 | 28 |
| St Mirren | 19 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 22 | 26 | -4 | 27 |
| Hibernian | 21 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 27 | 35 | -8 | 26 |
| St Johnstone | 21 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 24 | 32 | -8 | 24 |
| Kilmarnock | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 17 | 35 | -18 | 20 |
| Motherwell | 20 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 25 | 31 | -6 | 19 |
| Dundee Utd | 20 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 35 | -12 | 19 |
| Ross County | 21 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 34 | -20 | 16 |

**Aberdeen** (0) 2 — **St Johnstone** (0) 0
Duk 74 84
14,202

**Celtic** (1) 2 — **Kilmarnock** (0) 0
Jota 45, Taylor 51og
58,612

**Dundee Utd** (0) 0 — **Rangers** (0) 2
Sakala 54
Tillman 57

**Motherwell** (0) 2 — **Hibernian** (1) 3
McKinstry 59
Tierney 90
Nisbet 16 52 74
5,594

**Ross County** (0) 0 — **Livingston** (0) 2
Anderson 66 70

**St Mirren** (1) 1 — **Hearts** (0) 0
Strain 4
7,249
Snodgrass 49

# Other results

## Rugby union

**GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | B | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saracens | 12 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 392 | 268 | 8 | 52 |
| Sale | 12 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 322 | 232 | 7 | 43 |
| Harlequins | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 303 | 307 | 7 | 31 |
| Gloucester | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 272 | 276 | 7 | 31 |
| Exeter | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 299 | 293 | 6 | 30 |
| Northampton | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 343 | 366 | 9 | 29 |
| Leicester | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 294 | 336 | 7 | 29 |
| Newcastle | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 286 | 319 | 6 | 26 |
| Bath | 12 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 309 | 308 | 10 | 26 |
| London Irish | 11 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 250 | 270 | 7 | 23 |
| Bristol | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 237 | 332 | 7 | 21 |

Exeter 35 Northampton 12; Harlequins 16 Sale xx; London Irish 23 Bristol 7; Newcastle 45 Licester 26. **Friday** Gloucester 16 Saracens 19

**UNITED CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | B | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leinster | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 384 | 188 | 8 | 56 |
| Stormers | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 344 | 225 | 11 | 45 |
| Bulls | 12 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 378 | 308 | 7 | 39 |
| Ulster | 11 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 335 | 256 | 10 | 38 |
| Glasgow | 11 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 286 | 259 | 6 | 34 |
| Benetton | 12 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 293 | 330 | 5 | 33 |
| Munster | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 249 | 198 | 8 | 32 |
| Edinburgh | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 321 | 266 | 10 | 30 |
| Sharks | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 284 | 261 | 5 | 29 |
| Cardiff | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 270 | 288 | 5 | 29 |
| Connacht | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 228 | 274 | 5 | 25 |
| Lions | 11 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 241 | 315 | 4 | 24 |
| Ospreys | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 270 | 310 | 8 | 24 |
| Dragons | 12 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 261 | 336 | 5 | 17 |
| Scarlets | 12 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 259 | 352 | 3 | 17 |
| Zebre | 12 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 200 | 437 | 5 | 5 |

Benetton 31 Ulster 29; Cardiff 22 Scarlets 28; Connacht 24 Sharks 12; Edinburgh 24 Zebre 17; Glasgow 24 Stormers 17; Ospreys 19 Leinster 24. **Friday** Dragons 14 Bulls 29; Munster 33 Lions 3

**RFU CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | B | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ealing | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 464 | 189 | 11 | 51 |
| Jersey | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 364 | 208 | 9 | 49 |
| Coventry | 11 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 352 | 282 | 9 | 41 |
| Bedford | 11 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 332 | 351 | 8 | 32 |
| Doncaster | 11 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 298 | 268 | 6 | 30 |
| Hartpury | 11 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 255 | 286 | 5 | 29 |
| Cornish Pirates | 11 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 220 | 217 | 4 | 24 |
| Nottingham | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 286 | 304 | 8 | 24 |
| Richmond | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 244 | 363 | 6 | 20 |
| Caldy | 11 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 230 | 340 | 6 | 18 |
| Ampthill | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 226 | 254 | 5 | 15 |
| London Scottish | 11 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 187 | 396 | 4 | 8 |

Caldy 26 Ealing 24; Cornish Pirates 37 Doncaster 15; London Scottish 19 Hartpury 20

**NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE**
Bishop's Stortford 12 Darlington MP 10; Cinderford 23 Leeds 17; Esher 24 Birmingham Moseley 14; Hull 19 Rams 24; Sale FC 45 Plymouth 35; Taunton 8 Cambridge 36. **Friday** Chinnor 48 Rosslyn Park 12

**NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO**
**East** Bury St Edmunds 31 Tonbridge 10; Canterbury 50 Westcliff 14; Dorking 17 Barnes 13; Guernsey 26 Henley 27; Old Albanian 31 North Walsham 7; Rochford 10 Blackheath 31; Sevenoaks 19 Worthing 21

**North** Blaydon 19 Rotherham 47; Chester 19 Huddersfield 20; Harrogate 0 Fylde 52; Hull Ionians 37 Wharfedale 24; Otley 25 Sheffield 3; Preston Grasshoppers 7 Sedgeley Park 46; Sheffield Tigers 26 Tynedale 7

**West** Dings Crusaders 30 Old Redcliffians 37; Exeter University 17 Loughborough Students 15; Hinckley 9 Barnstaple 5; Hornets 27 Redruth 38; Luctonians 52 Bournville 0; Newport 32 Leicester Lions 38; Stourbridge 12 Clifton 27

**WOMEN'S ALLIANZ PREMIER 15S**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | B | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gloucester-Hartpury | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 294 | 37 | 5 | 29 |
| Exeter | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 290 | 58 | 5 | 25 |
| Harlequins | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 145 | 97 | 3 | 19 |
| Bristol | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 196 | 122 | 3 | 15 |
| Saracens | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 173 | 103 | 3 | 15 |
| Sale | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 83 | 118 | 1 | 13 |
| Worcester | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 118 | 152 | 3 | 11 |
| Loughborough | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 143 | 163 | 4 | 8 |
| Wasps | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 18 | 274 | 0 | 0 |
| Darlington MP | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 24 | 360 | 0 | 0 |

TANO PECORARO/ LAPRESSE/ SHUTTERSTOCK

**Vialli remembered** Sampdoria players warm up in Gianluca Vialli shirts before yesterday's match as a tribute to the striker, with whom they won the scudetto in 1991. The Serie A club lost 2-0 at home to Napoli and are currently in 18th place, six points from safety.

**SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Queen's Park | 20 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 44 | 27 | +17 | 39 |
| Ayr | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 39 | 27 | +12 | 35 |
| Dundee | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 33 | 25 | +8 | 35 |
| Partick | 21 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 42 | 36 | +6 | 33 |
| Morton | 19 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 28 | 21 | +7 | 30 |
| Inverness CT | 20 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 30 | 28 | +2 | 29 |
| Raith | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 26 | 27 | -1 | 28 |
| Cove Rangers | 20 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 28 | 40 | -12 | 21 |
| Arbroath | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 34 | -16 | 17 |
| Hamilton | 20 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 16 | 39 | -23 | 11 |

Arbroath 1 Inverness CT 4; Ayr 1 Hamilton 0;
Cove Rangers 0 Queen's Park 6; Partick 2 Morton 1.
**Friday** Raith 1 Dundee 1

**SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dunfermline | 19 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 28 | 11 | +17 | 42 |
| FC Edinburgh | 21 | 12 | 2 | 7 | 42 | 30 | +12 | 38 |
| Falkirk | 19 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 38 | 23 | +15 | 35 |
| Airdrieonians | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 39 | 30 | +9 | 32 |
| Alloa | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 37 | 28 | +9 | 32 |
| Montrose | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 30 | 27 | +3 | 30 |
| Kelty Hearts | 21 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 22 | 29 | -7 | 27 |
| Queen of the South | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 34 | 36 | -2 | 26 |
| Clyde | 20 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 24 | 42 | -18 | 10 |
| Peterhead | 20 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 10 | 48 | -38 | 8 |

Clyde 1 Kelty Hearts 2; Falkirk 2 Montrose 1;
FC Edinburgh 0 Dunfermline 1; Peterhead 0 Airdrieonians 3;
Queen of the South 1 Alloa Athletic 2

**SCOTTISH LEAGUE TWO**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dumbarton | 18 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 31 | 16 | +15 | 40 |
| Stirling Albion | 18 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 39 | 21 | +18 | 36 |
| Elgin | 19 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 34 | 32 | +2 | 28 |
| East Fife | 19 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 28 | 30 | -2 | 25 |
| Annan Athletic | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 29 | 33 | -4 | 23 |
| Stenhousemuir | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 32 | 37 | -5 | 23 |
| Stranraer | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 28 | 34 | -6 | 23 |
| Forfar Athletic | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 20 | 26 | -6 | 22 |
| Albion Rovers | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 22 | 26 | -4 | 20 |
| Bonnyrigg Rose | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 23 | 31 | -8 | 20 |

Annan Athletic 0 Forfar Athletic 2; Bonnyrigg Rose 0
Albion Rovers 4; Dumbarton P Stirling Albion P;
Elgin City 1 East Fife 2; Stenhousemuir 2 Stranraer 1

**HIGHLAND LEAGUE**

Deveronvale 2 Fraserburgh 3; Inverurie Loco Works 2
Clachnacuddin 4; Brora Rangers 6 Keith 1; Formartine Utd 5
Lossiemouth 0; Forres Mechanics 8 Strathspey Thistle 1;
Huntly 2 Turriff Utd 0; Nairn County 3 Banks O'Dee 0;
Rothes 0 Brechin City 1; Wick Academy 0 Buckie Thistle 1

**LOWLAND LEAGUE**

Bo'ness Utd 1 Berwick 0; Broomhill 0 Celtic B 3;
Dalbeattie Star P Cowdenbeath P; East Kilbride 0 Spartans 1;
Gala Fairydean 0 Caledonian Braves 4; Hearts B 2
Cumbernauld Colts 1; Stirling University 2 Gretna 0;
Tranent Juniors 3 East Stirlingshire 1

**CYMRU PREMIER LEAGU**

Airbus UK 0 Cardiff Met 2; Bala Town 3 Pontypridd 0;
Newtown 0 Connah's Quay 0; Penybont 5 Caernarfon 1;
The New Saints 3 Haverfordwest 1.
**Friday** Flint Town 1 Aberystwyth 1

**IRISH CUP**

**First round** Ballinamallard 1 Glenavon 2;
Ballyclare Comrades 1 Dollingstown 0; Bangor 4
Tandragee Rovers 0; Carrick 1 Ballymena 1
(aet; Ballymena won 3-0 on pens); Coleraine 3 Loughall 1;
Crusaders 6 Dergview 0; Dungannon Swifts 3 Ards 1;
Institute 4 Annagh Utd 0; Larne 3 Crumlin Utd 0; Linfield 3
Warrenpoint 0; Moyola Park 0 Glentoran 2; Newington 2
Ballymoney 2; Newry City 1 Harland & Wolf Welders 2;
Portadown 2 Banbridge 0. **Friday** Dundela 0 Cliftonville 5

**JUPILER LEAGUE**

Anderlecht 1 Union St-Gilloise 3; Cercle Brugge 0 Westerlo 1;
Eupen 1 Sporting Charleroi 2; Genk 3 Club Brugge 1;
Oostende 1 Seraing 2; Oud-Heverlee Leuven L Kortrijk L;
Royal Antwerp 2 Gent 0;Zulte Waregem 2 Mechelen 0.
**Friday** Standard Liège 1 St-Truiden 1

**SERIE A**

Fiorentina 2 Sassuolo 1; Juventus 1 Udinese 0; Lazio 2
Empoli 2; Milan L Roma L; Monza 2 Inter 2; Salernitana 1
Torino 1; Sampdoria 0 Napoli 2; Spezia 0 Lecce 0.
Today Bologna v Atalanta (7.45pm);
Verona v Cremonese (5.30pm)

**EREDIVISIE**

AZ Alkmaar 1 Vitesse Arnhem 1; Cambuur 0 Volendam 3;
Excelsior 1 Groningen 0; Fortuna Sittard 0 Go Ahead Eagles 2;
NEC Nijmegen 1 Ajax 1; PSV Eindhoven 0 Sparta Rotterdam 0;
RKC Waalwijk 0 Heerenveen 0; Utrecht 1 Feyenoord 1.
**Friday** Twente 2 Emmen 0

**PRIMEIRA LIGA**

Arouca 2 Estoril 0; Boavista L Gil Vicente L; Casa Pia 0
Porto 0; Guimarães 0 Rio Ave 0; Marítimo L Sporting L;
Paços Ferreira 1 Chaves 1. **Friday** Benfica 1 Portimonense 0;
Famalicão 2 Vizela 1

**LA LIGA**

Almería 0 Real Sociedad 2; Atlético Madrid L Barcelona L;
Espanyol 2 Girona 2; Mallorca 1 Real Valladolid 0;
Rayo Vallecano 1 Real Betis 2; Sevilla 2 Getafe 1; Villarreal 2
Real Madrid 1. **Friday** Elche 0 Celta Vigo 1; Valencia 0 Cádiz 1.
**Today** Athletic Bilbao v Osasuna (8pm)

Sale 10 Exeter 35; Loughborough 62 Wasps 5;
Saracens 89 Darlington MP 0;
Worcester 5 Gloucester-Hartpury 52

## Cricket

**THIRD TEST** (final day of five)

Sydney Australia 475-4 dec (UT Khawaja 195no, SPD Smith 104, M Labuschagne 79, T M Head 70). South Africa 255 (KA Maharaj 53; JR Hazlewood 4-48) and 106-2. Match drawn. Australia win series 2-0.

## Golf

**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS** (Maui, Hawaii)

**Leading third-round scores** (US unless stated)
**195** C Morikawa 64 66 65. **201** S Scheffler 66 6 69; JJ Spaun 64 68 69; M Fitzpatrick (Eng) 66 69 66. **202** Kim J-h (Kor) 65 69 68; J Rahm (Sp) 64 71 67. **203** M Homa 70 70 63; Im S-j (Kor) 66 72 65. **204** J Spieth 67 66 71; B Harman 68 69 67; H Matsuyama (Jpn) 67 70 67; Lee K-h (Kor) 68 69 67. **205** T Finau 67 69 69; T Hoge 66 71 68; JT Poston 68 69 68. **206** A Wise 66 70 70; L List 61 65 70; P Cantlay 70 70 66. **207** S Power (Ire) 68 69 70; R Brehm 68 71 68; W Zalatoris 69 69 69; S Stallings 67 72 68; J Thomas 70 70 67. **208** C Conners (Can) 68 68 72. **209** V Hovland (Nor) 67 72 70; S Straka (Aut) 71 70 68; C Young 70 70 69. **210** R Henley 69 70 71; S Theegala 67 71 72; A Scott (Aus) 70 68 72.

## Greg Wood's racing tips

**Taunton** **12.55** Iliko D'Olivate **1.25** Cap Du Mathan **1.55** Rare Middleton **2.30** Afadil **3.00** Sayadam **3.35** Never No Trouble **4.10** Envious Editor
**Ayr** **1.10** Champagnesocialist **1.40** Horacio Apple's **2.10** Masked Crusader **2.45** Rocco Storm **3.20** Agilulf **3.55** Chance The Robin
**Wolverhampton** **5.30** Miss Calculation **6.00** Algheed **6.30** Hello Queen **7.00** Debydinks **7.30** Lihou (nb) **8.00** Win Win Power **8.30** Busby (nap)

## Tennis

**UNITED CUP** (Sydney, Australia)

**Final: USA 4 Italy 0: J Pegula** (US) bt M Trevisan 6-4 6-2; **F Tiafoe** (US) bt L Musetti (It) 6-0 ret; **T Fritz** (US) bt M Berrettini (It) 7-6 (7-4) 7-6 (8-6); **M Keys** (US) bt L Bronzetti (It) 6-3 6-2.

**ATP MAHARASHTRA OPEN** (Pune, India)

**Final: T Griekspoor** (Neth) bt B Bonzi (Fr) 4-6 7-5 6-3.

**ATP/WTA ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL** (Australia)

**Men: Final: N Djokovic** (Ser) bt S Korda (US) 6-7 (8-10) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4.
**Women: Final: A Sabalenka** (Blr) bt L Noskova (Cz) 6-3 7-6 (7-4).

**WTA ASB CLASSIC** (Auckland, New Zealand)

**Final: C Gauff** (US) bt R Masarova (Sp) 6-1 6-1.

## Snooker

**THE MASTERS** (Alexandra Palace, London)

**First round: S Murphy** (Eng) bt N Robertson (Aus) 6-4.

**Cricket** *Third Test*

# Erwee and Bavuma deny Australia series sweep

| | |
|---|---|
| **Australia** | 475-4 dec |
| **South Africa** | 255 & 106-2 |

Match drawn. Australia win series 2-0

**Geoff Lemon**

South Africa's lower order was instrumental to securing a draw in the third Test in Sydney, after the visitors resumed their first innings on 149 for six on the fifth morning.

While Australia's bowlers were eventually able to dismiss them for 255, short by 21 runs of avoiding the follow-on, that did not come until after lunch and left South Africa only 47 overs to survive. They did so on a surface that had its challenges but was still largely good for batting, with play called off with five overs to spare and South Africa on 106 for 2.

After watching the first two Tests from the sidelines, off-spinner Simon Harmer took a chance with the bat to press his claim for first-choice status. On a day that finally dawned sunny and warm after days of rain, he resumed alongside Marco Jansen. The tall fast bowler was interested only in defence, adding one run in an hour before being dismissed.

Travis Head's occasional but effective off-spin got rid of Jansen via a catch behind, but fellow spinner Keshav Maharaj came in swinging. Two savage pull shots to the bound ary against Pat Cummins saw the Australian captain replace himself with spin, but Maharaj was also happy to smack slow bowling down the ground and bomb Nathan Lyon for a huge six over midwicket.

By lunch South Africa had added 95 in the extended first session with no loss beyond Jansen. Harmer and Maharaj ended up adding 85, with Maharaj making what was only South Africa's fifth half-century of the tour.

Eventually, in a spell of subtle reverse swing, Josh Hazlewood hit Maharaj on the knee roll for 53 and bowled Harmer for 47, finishing with four for 48 on his return from injury before a signature Lyon diving return catch from Kagiso Rabada ended the innings.

The Australians had missed chances to finish things earlier. Tough catches of the stick-or-don't variety went down off Lyon in the first session in consecutive balls. Most crucially, when on four, Maharaj smashed a drive back at Head that was too hot for the bowler. Five overs before the end, Ashton Agar in front of square leg missed a leading edge from Rabada off Hazlewood.

▲ *Sarel Erwee's unbeaten 42 helped South Africa hang on for a draw*

That all left too much for Australia to do in the third innings, on a surface where patches of rough made the spinners a threat, but that sucked the pace out of fast bowling. The Australians knew their own batting in the first innings had grabbed 475 for four in well under two days, and might have made 700 without rain.

Hazlewood and Cummins had each bowled 23 overs already in the second innings, Lyon had bowled 40. That left Agar to open the bowling in the third innings, but his left-arm orthodox spin was no more threatening this time around.

Opening bat Dean Elgar departed quickly, gloving a catch down the leg side for the fourth time in the series. After South Africa returned from tea at 46 for one, though, a review against Heinrich Klaasen showed that the ball was hitting halfway up middle stump, but was umpire's call for whether it had hit his pad outside the line of off stump. It was the third umpire's call review of the day to go against Lyon. Three balls later Steve Smith caught Klaasen off Lyon at slip, but for the third time in the match the third umpire overturned a catch for being close enough to the ground to engender doubt.

Klaasen was eventually cleaned up by a stunning piece of reverse swing bowling from Hazlewood, snaking in the air before bounding in off the seam to hit middle stump. There were a couple of close appeals to follow. But the moments of threat were too few, as Sarel Erwee ended unbeaten on 42, and Temba Bavuma batted brightly again for 17 not out.

A series loss of 2-0 has little to take from it for South Africa, but there will be some satisfaction in at least stopping Australia from having it all their own way.

## Sport In brief

**Tennis**

### Djokovic warms up for Open with Adelaide win

Novak Djokovic warmed up for his Australian Open return by saving a championship point en route to clinching the Adelaide International title with a thrilling victory over the American Sebastian Korda. The Serb looked in danger of slipping to a surprise defeat before triumphing 6-7 (8-10), 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 in a gruelling three hours and nine minutes to extend his winning streak in Australia to 34 matches, dating back to 2019. Meanwhile, the two-time champion Naomi Osaka has formally withdrawn from the first grand slam of the year. Osaka has not played since September and was long odds to make her comeback at Melbourne Park after posting pictures on social media last week of her jaunt through Europe with her US rapper boyfriend, Cordae. **Agencies**

**Snooker**

### Defending champion Robertson exits Masters

Shaun Murphy held off a spirited fightback from Neil Robertson to dump the defending champion out of the Masters in the first round. Robertson won the opening frame with a break of 73 but Murphy reeled off the next five in succession thanks to contributions of 98, 53, 61 and 100. From 5-1 down Robertson battled back to 5-4 but Murphy clinched things in the 10th frame. "I was as surprised as anyone to find myself 5-1 ahead," Murphy told the BBC. "I played well but of course against Neil you don't expect to be in that position. The seventh frame, that won't be on the highlights, we both had chances, and from then on I've just sat in the chair for 45 minutes whilst he played snooker from the gods. It's great to be back, I didn't enjoy the last half an hour I've got to say but in general it's been a good season, my game's been trending in the right direction." **PA Media**

▲ *Novak Djokovic celebrates with his Adelaide International trophy*

**Rugby union**

### Former Lions full-back Scotland dies, aged 86

The former Scotland and Lions full-back Ken Scotland has died at the age of 86, the Scottish Rugby Union has confirmed. Scotland, who also represented his country at cricket, made his international rugby union debut against France in the 1957 Five Nations championship. He went on to make 27 appearances over the next eight years and also played for Leicester Tigers, who named him in their "Team of the Century" in 1999. Scottish Rugby said it was "immensely saddened" by Scotland's death, describing him as "a player ahead of his time, a true trailblazer". Another former Scotland full-back Andy Irvine said: "Ken was undoubtedly one of the greatest players ever to grace the rugby field." **PA Media**

▼ *Sale's Rob du Preez touches down to score his side's second try*
STEVE BARDENS/GETTY IMAGES FOR SALE SHARKS

# Curry injury mars Sale's impressive wet-weather win over Harlequins

| | |
|---|---|
| **Harlequins** | **16** |
| **Sale** | **24** |

**Robert Kitson**
*Twickenham Stoop*

England have been handed a fresh injury concern with the Six Nations approaching after Tom Curry limped off in the opening quarter of Sale's impressive win at Harlequins. The 24-year-old flanker has a strained right hamstring and faces a race against time to be fit for the Calcutta Cup fixture against Scotland over the road at Twickenham on 4 February.

Exeter's Luke Cowan-Dickie also suffered a worrying ankle injury over the weekend and Owen Farrell is awaiting the citing commissioner's verdict following a contentious high tackle in Gloucester on Friday night. Curry's availability is therefore a further complication for the new England head coach Steve Borthwick as he looks to his first Six Nations campaign in charge.

Alex Sanderson, Sale's director of rugby, was understandably keener to dwell on the positives of his side's latest hard-edged performance but suggested Curry would not playing any more club rugby before the tournament's opening weekend. "Even if hamstring injuries are the lowest grade they are generally two to three weeks," said Sanderson. "He will get a scan. He was walking around but it has stiffened up, fingers crossed he will be OK."

The more encouraging news for Borthwick is that Marcus Smith is due to return for Quins in their European pool game in Paris next weekend, having been sidelined lately with a high ankle sprain. With fitness doubts still hanging over Courtney Lawes, Henry Arundell, Raffi Quirke and Will Stuart, there will be some relief within England's new regime that Manu Tuilagi avoided any on-field sanction after a horrible second-half collision which saw Tommy Allen carried off on a stretcher.

The England centre received no punishment after referee Wayne Barnes decided the centre's onrushing charge at a falling Allen did not merit a card of any colour and Sanderson suggested the officials had dealt with the incident correctly. "I thought it was a brilliant way to referee the game nowadays. The guy was coming towards the deck, it was a purely accidental rugby incident as opposed to Manu being reckless. I thought it was Wayne Barnes at his best."

There could be no argument whatsoever about the effectiveness of Sale's wet-weather rugby, with the visitors dealing much better with the sodden underfoot conditions and slippery ball. So much rain had fallen prior to kick-off that parts of the A316 outside the ground were flooded and retaining the ball was tricky throughout.

▲ *Tom Curry's hamstring injury is a new concern for Steve Borthwick*

It was certainly not a day to study Quins' attacking shape in an England context following the elevation of Nick Evans to the national coaching panel, although the home side's director of rugby Tabai Matson suggested England had made a shrewd appointment. "We're really excited for him. When our attack's going well he's clearly the mastermind behind it. We'll be filling a big hole."

Matson also acknowledged Evans could well end up joining England on a permanent basis, while the former All Black fly-half already sounds keen to get started and is hoping to "bring energy" to the English attack. Sale certainly have a few individuals who should at least merit consideration for a place in Borthwick's first England squad. Sam and Luke James again showed their unfussy ability while wings Aaron Reed and Tom O'Flaherty both did their reputations no harm behind a muscular pack not obviously inconvenienced by Curry's premature departure.

Ben Curry and Simon McIntyre may have struggled to catch Eddie Jones's eye but the pair were again influential as Sale made the most of Quins' sluggish start. O'Flaherty splashed over for his side's first try after 18 minutes before Rob du Preez touched down a chip ahead to add a second and help the Sharks into a 14-6 half-time lead.

The maroon-clad visitors added a third through their dynamic hooker Akker van der Merwe before Cobus Wiese secured their fourth try from close range early in the final quarter. Tuilagi had a mixed afternoon opposite the similarly hard-hitting André Esterhuizen but the home's side's two second-half tries from Joe Marchant and Nick David were scored mostly against the run of play. It leaves Sale, who stuck 40 points on Leicester in their previous outing, sitting pretty in second position behind Saracens at the top. Third-placed Quins have lost their last three Premiership games and are 12 points adrift of the Sharks with attention switching to Europe for the next fortnight.

# Irish looking up after punishing Bristol's indiscipline

| | |
|---|---|
| **London Irish** | **23** |
| **Bristol** | **7** |

**Gerard Meagher**
*Gtech Community Stadium*

This might have been a bottom-of-the-table clash but increasingly things are looking up for London Irish. It must be qualified in the sense that Bristol, not for the first time this season, were desperately disappointing, but for the second home match in a row Declan Kidney's side produced the kind of matured performance that suggests they can look up the league table with optimism.

Irish's two stand-out performers were also their try-scorers - Benhard Janse van Rensburg and the livewire Ben White - but they were ably assisted by Tom Pearson and Rory Jennings, who was a late replacement for Paddy Jackson at fly-half. Given Jackson had started the previous 57 Premiership matches for Irish they would have been forgiven for taking a while to adjust but Jennings turned in a composed performance, guiding the Exiles to a victory which gets the gut-wrenching defeat by Gloucester last week out of the system.

Bristol, meanwhile, were rank average. They scrapped their way to victory at Harlequins just after Christmas but in similarly bad conditions they found repeating the trick in west London too tall an order in no small part to 19 penalties conceded which left them feeding off scraps, according to their director of rugby Pat Lam. They find themselves bottom of the table and longing for the firmer pitches that spring will bring but the suspicion remains that a club with such lavish resources have been languishing for far too long now.

"We were on the end of a 19-7 penalty count, with territory and possession 40%, so we couldn't get our game going," Lam said. "You don't really want to be chasing the game in those conditions. There's frustration in the dressing room, and guys have to take responsibility for this, because [our discipline] is killing us."

Irish's home form is impressive to the extent that they have lost just once here since April. Bristol might have been welcoming back both Ellis Genge and Kyle Sinckler but Irish had the best of the gain-line in the opening exchanges and Jennings kicked them into a 3-0 lead after a strong carry from Van Rensburg.

In a rare foray into the Irish 22, Bristol struck with the opening try midway through the first half after keeping the ball alive for a number of phases. Semi Radradra was prominent in the buildup before Joe Batley punctured the hosts' defensive line and Harry Thacker spotted a gap, picked and darted through it.

White was a menace throughout, however, and he had a hand in both of Irish's first-half tries. He was determined to keep the tempo high and, while he could not quite get to the line with a quickly taken penalty, it had Bristol scrambling. After some excellent handling in dreadful conditions, Ben Loader put Van Rensburg over in the right-hand corner. Jennings nailed an excellent conversion from the touchline.

Irish were on top at the breakdown and with Bristol's discipline wavering the Exiles extended their half-time lead to 10 points. Twice they kicked penalties to the corner but were unable to capitalise, but Bristol gave them one more attempt and White sniped his way over after Rob Simmons had dragged his side close. Another tricky conversion from Jennings and a penalty early in the second half put the hosts in command.

Bristol's cause was not helped when Gabriel Ibitoye hobbled off before the full-back Noah Heward followed him soon after. The visitors remained on top at the scrum - Genge and Sinckler saw to that - but Bristol could not take advantage with indiscipline again their downfall before another Jennings penalty ended any hopes of a comeback by the visitors. It rarely looked like coming given their torpor in the face of resolute Irish defence. Indeed, if the Exiles were the league's great entertainers last season, Kidney has added a dose of pragmatism to good effect. "We played our game but we played it smartly," Kidney said.

▲ *London Irish's Ben White drives for the line to score his side's second try*
DANNY LOO/PPAUK/SHUTTERSTOCK

# Campbell strikes late to stun Aston Villa in classic Cup shock

**Aston Villa** 1
Sanson 33

**Stevenage** 2
Reid 88pen, Campbell 90

**Peter Lansley**
*Villa Park*

Stevenage could only name six substitutes but two of them, Jamie Reid and Dean Campbell, scored the goals, in the 88th and 90th minutes, that enabled the League Two title chasers to pull off the shock of all the shocks in this remarkable FA Cup third round tie and come from behind to beat seven-time winners Aston Villa, 59 places above them in football's pecking order.

Villa thought they had finally brought an end to their abysmal third-round record when with two minutes remaining, leading through Morgan Sanson's first-half goal, Leander Dendoncker received a ball from his goalkeeper Robin Olsen on the edge of his own box.

It is the kind of risk Premier League midfielders invariably take. But as the Belgium international attempted to turn past his man, Campbell was not having it. The Scotland youth international, on loan from Aberdeen, dispossessed Dendoncker, who proceeded to pull his shirt just outside the penalty area before taking his foot away, just inside.

Graham Scott initially awarded a free-kick before glancing over at his assistant who justly flagged for the spot-kick. From 12 yards, Jamie Reid, who scored in the second-round win at Kings Lynn, kept his composure to drill in his penalty, sending Olsen the wrong way. Dendoncker was sent off.

Villa, losing at this stage of the competition for the seventh successive season, were shell-shocked. Jake Reeves, impressive throughout, was allowed to take a short corner to Campbell, who could not have believed Villa had left him free. He ventured into the corner of the penalty area before drilling his shot past Olsen at the near post.

Unai Emery may have made eight changes to his Premier League side but, having won the Europa League three times with Sevilla, the FA Cup was high on his agenda after winning three of his first four games in charge at Villa Park. Instead, the glory of a fourth-round trip to Stoke City belongs to Stevenage.

Defeated just once in 15 games, and that to Portsmouth in the Football League Trophy, Stevenage's confidence never dipped.

Stevenage had broken through in the 17th minute only for Luke Norris to time his run off the back of Matty Cash just too early. Danny Rose finished neatly with a low sidefoot into the bottom of the corner before the VAR assured Scott the offside flag had been correctly raised.

Philippe Coutinho, afforded his first start since his mentor Steven Gerrard vacated the manager's dugout in October, was one with much to prove. But the former Liverpool star too often cut back inside onto his right foot to dispatch shots that rose too high or allowed Taye Ashby-Hammond to save comfortably.

Sanson was another keen to show Emery he deserves a future here. Signed from Marseille for £14million two years ago, he scored his first goal for Villa on his first start since last February.

It was a beautifully worked goal, full of one-touch lay-offs. Coutinho fed Douglas Luiz and when Leon Bailey invited Danny Ings to play in Sanson, the Frenchman took a touch to steady himself before dispatching a crisp low drive into the far bottom corner.

If the sizeable home crowd thought the floodgates would open, the 3,000 Stevenage fans had other ideas. Norris, having scored in the previous two rounds against Gateshead and Kings Lynn, almost extended his cup heroics but his crosshot deflected off the top of the woodwork.

Steve Evans's side were content to allow Villa possession and then look for their chances from breaks or set-pieces. Captain Carl Piergianni headed Reeves' corner wide. The latter then steered a shot from 20 yards wide. Stevenage were still in this, even as Calum Chambers tickled a shot just wide from Coutinho's last contribution amidst a raft of substitutes.

What Stevenage lacked in resources, they more than made up for in heart and belief. How their fans celebrated on the final whistle.

**Super substitute raises the roof**

*Stevenage's travelling fans celebrate Dean Campbell's dramatic late winner*

IAN WALTON/ REUTERS

▲ *Jamie Reid strikes from the spot to equalise for Stevenage*

▲ *Villa keeper Robin Olsen fails to stop Campbell's strike finding the net*
ANDREW BOYERS/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

# Perkins saves Leeds after handball drama

**Cardiff** 2
Philogene 24, Ojo 31

**Leeds** 2
Rodrigo 65, Perkins 90

**Ben Fisher**
*Cardiff City Stadium*

Just as it seemed Leeds United were staring at another early FA Cup exit to file with the rest of them, the teenage substitute Sonny Perkins struck in the third of five minutes of second-half stoppage time to earn a replay against 10-man Cardiff City.

Leeds's recent history in this competition is ignominious at best – they have gone out at this stage in each of the five previous seasons – and at half-time they trailed to goals by Jaden Philogene and Sheyi Ojo. Another substitute, Rodrigo, headed in within five minutes of entering and then had a penalty saved before Perkins, on his second senior appearance, soothed the pain somewhat by registering his first professional goal.

By the end Jesse Marsch was moonlighting as a ballboy, hurtling after the ball after the equaliser in an attempt to restart play and snatch victory. But more than 6,000 Leeds supporters had to settle for a replay.

Many fans spent the buildup to this game harking back to 2002, when a then third-tier Cardiff sent the then Premier League leaders Leeds packing from the same stage of the competition at Ninian Park. These teams are in different places these days – only 26 spots apart in the league pyramid and Cardiff's identikit home is on the other side of Sloper Road – and a repeat of the result that day or the prospect of an equally meaty contest felt highly unlikely. What ensued was another classic.

The team 20th in the Championship without a win in seven games or a goal in almost six hours scored twice inside seven first-half minutes; there was Marsch's double fist pump as the Leeds debutant Max Wöber made a storming challenge on Ollie Tanner; the Cardiff defender Joel Bagan's handball to prevent Junior Firpo from a certain equaliser, earning him a red card and allowing Rodrigo a chance to level; and Jak Alnwick's subsequent spot-kick save.

Marsch, for whom this marked his first taste of the Cup, was under no illusions as to the meaning of the competition given Leeds's miserable record and last week the club's chief executive, Angus Kinnear, reminded him as much. "Message received," Marsch said. He still made seven changes, with Crysencio Summerville, Wilfried Gnonto, Brenden Aaronson and Pascal Struijk the quartet whom retained their places from Leeds's draw against West Ham.

It was all Leeds early on. Darko Gyabi fired a shot wide inside the first couple of minutes before Summerville skied an attempt over.

A few minutes later Cardiff prospered from their first meaningful attack. Isaak Davies had an effort blocked by Diego Llorente and the ball ricocheted towards the back post via Sam Greenwood. Philogene was well placed to tuck the ball home. Mark Hudson, the under-pressure Cardiff manager, hopped in unrestrained delight on the touchline.

▲ *Joel Bagan's save earns him a red card but Leeds missed the penalty*

Cardiff's second was a peach. Andy Rinomhota's scooped pass towards Ojo took a nick off Llorente but the former Liverpool winger did not allow that touch to bother him and calmly chested the ball before dispatching a right-foot finish into the roof of the Leeds net.

The lead would not last, however. Rodrigo headed in at the front post and then his shot, parried by Alnwick only as far as Firpo, was the catalyst for the penalty. Firpo side-footed the rebound goalwards and Bagan stuck out a left hand to stop the ball flying in. Alnwick dived to his left to keep out Rodrigo's poor penalty and it seemed as though Leeds had passed up the chance to level.

But Leeds were incessant and crafted a fine equaliser. Firpo backheeled Gnonto's cross into the lurking Perkins who, inside the six-yard box, flicked the ball in with the outside of his right boot. For the final moments Marsch morphed into Marcelo Bielsa, seeking comfort on top of the drinks cooler. It was the kind of crescendo whereby everyone needed a breather.

# Mahrez stunner sparks City rout over Chelsea

**Manchester City** 4
Mahrez 23 85pen, Álvarez 30pen, Foden 38

**Chelsea** 0

Andy Hunter
*Etihad Stadium*

"Vinci Per Luca" read a banner draped over the Chelsea end. Win for Luca was the request but Graham Potter's outclassed team were unable to deliver as Manchester City cruised into round four. The teams have met three times in three different competitions this season, City victorious and shutting out Chelsea every time. To compound the misery for Potter and co-owner Todd Boehly, the names of former manager Thomas Tuchel and former owner Roman Abramovich echoed from the away section as their expensive, ineffective side slipped to another defeat.

Chelsea's first third-round exit for 25 years – when the late Gianluca Vialli scored twice in a 5-3 loss to Manchester United – continued their miserable run of form and results under Potter. It is now five defeats in seven games for the former Brighton manager and five games without a goal in that sequence. They never troubled City's stand-in goalkeeper Stefan Ortega throughout a chastening cup tie. City operated on a different level, scoring three in the first half through Riyad Mahrez, Julián Álvarez and Phil Foden. The excellent Mahrez added a fourth from the penalty spot late on.

Both clubs paid a fitting tribute before kick off to Vialli, who died on Friday aged 58 and whose name was chanted regularly by the 8,000 travelling supporters. Chelsea players warmed up in No 9 shirts in memory of their former player and manager while the entire stadium rose to applaud the great Italian when his picture appeared on the giant screens. City then got on with the business of ushering Chelsea out of another cup in an utterly dominant first half display.

Guardiola made seven changes from Thursday's win at Stamford Bridge, Potter six, with teenagers Bashir Humphreys and Lewis Hall starting in the visitors' defence, new signings Benoit Badiashile and David Fofana on the bench and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang joining a lengthy injury list with a bad back. The Chelsea manager's plan was to contain and strike on the counterattack but neither was executed convincingly as his team were gradually taken apart. There were boos from the away end when the half-time whistle sounded and many fans did not return for the second half. A double substitution at the break suggested Potter had a similar opinion on Chelsea's opening 45 minutes.

It was a cagey start. The lively Cole Palmer squandered the first chance when played through by Aymeric Laporte's lofted pass. Palmer had World Cup winner Álvarez unmarked to his right but opted to shoot through the legs of Kepa Arrizabalaga and struck the side-netting. There would be no cause to rue the miss.

The hosts took the lead five minutes later courtesy of a stunning free-kick from Mahrez. Thursday's match-winner was fouled 25 yards out by Hall and brushed himself down to curl an unstoppable free-kick into

▲ *Pep Guardiola issues instructions as City players celebrate the opener*

Arrizabalaga's top left-hand corner. The shot may have taken a touch off the Chelsea wall but that did not alter the flight of the ball as it flew beyond the Chelsea keeper, giving Mahrez his third goal against the Stamford Bridge club this season.

City were soon handed a second. Literally. Play continued after Chelsea cleared a corner from Palmer but referee Robert Jones was instructed to check his pitchside monitor by VAR. There he spotted an inexplicable handball by Kai Havertz, who had been fortunate early on not to be penalised for standing on Rodri's foot, as he challenged with Laporte for a header at the corner. Jones pointed to the spot and Álvarez,

**Mahrez curler sets City on their way**

*Riyad Mahrez curls a free-kick out of the reach of Kepa Arrizabalaga to give City the lead*
JASON CAIRNDUFF/ ACTION IMAGES/ REUTERS

making his first start since the World Cup, drove the penalty into the bottom corner. Arrizabalaga got a hand to the spot-kick but could only turn it onto the post and in.

The third was peak City. Sergio Gómez and Álvarez worked the ball to Rodri on the left and he switched play with a glorious crossfield pass to Mahrez. The winger fed Kyle Walker as the right-back motored into the penalty area and when he cut the ball back from the byline Foden stretched to steer a finish past Arrizabalaga.

Potter replaced Havertz and Mateo Kovacic with Fofana and Denis Zakaria respectively for the second half. There was modest improvement in the Chelsea performance but not enough.

Police and stewards moved in to the away section in the second half to remove Chelsea fans who had been throwing drinks and objects on to City supporters in the tier below. Those that remained saw Mahrez add a fourth from the penalty spot after Foden had been upended by Kalidou Koulibaly. Oxford or Arsenal await City at the Etihad Stadium in round four. Another inquest awaits Potter.

**Analysis**

**Jonathan Wilson** *Etihad Stadium*

## *Guardiola showcases strength of his supporting cast while Blues' poor recruitment is laid bare*

To be the leading man in slightly smaller productions, or to be an understudy for the elite? It's not the most significant consequence of the financial stratification of modern football but what the division of the game into superclubs and the rest has done is make that decision far more urgent for promising young players. Which is why, quite apart from anything else, the domestic cup competitions matter. It's hardly the romance of old, the epic tales of knockout glory that thrilled previous eras, but the FA Cup offers a stage on which the next generation can test themselves.

However there are supporting casts and supporting casts. Manchester City, in the 15th year of the Abu Dhabi project, boosted not merely by the extent of the resources that have been invested but the intelligence with which that money has been spent, can look to their bench and call upon a World Cup winner who has started only three league games this season.

Other than converting a penalty, Julián Álvarez had a fairly quiet game but there is little doubt about his talent. His time will come and the only reason he remains in the shadows is that the player casting that shadow is Erling Haaland. Perhaps that could eventually become an issue, but regular substitute appearances and a World Cup win represent a decent enough first season in Europe.

Sérgio Gómez, brought in from Anderlecht in the summer, is another who demonstrates the acuity of City's recruitment. The Spanish left-back is 22 and is yet to start a Premier League game, although he has made four Champions League and one Carabao Cup start. But he was arguably the best player in the pitch in the first half, playing a key role in the early buildup to the third City goal.

Cole Palmer may sound as though he's made up of cast-off Carltons, but he doesn't play like it. Rather his slow emergence – eight substitute appearances in the Premier League and three in the Champions League, plus a start in the Champions League and two in the Carabao Cup – is one to terrify the rest of the league. City have the wealth and the expertise, but they also have a richly productive academy.

Football rarely runs entirely smoothly, and the eventual departure of Pep Guardiola will inevitably cause disruption, but the sense at the moment is of a dynasty that could endure for years and years.

The link up of Gómez and Palmer with Phil Foden, himself apparently relegated to understudy since he returned from the World Cup, was a window into just how well-drilled this City is. Again and again the Chelsea right-back Trevoh Chalobah was isolated, not through any real fault of his own but because Chelsea's system simply couldn't compete with City's.

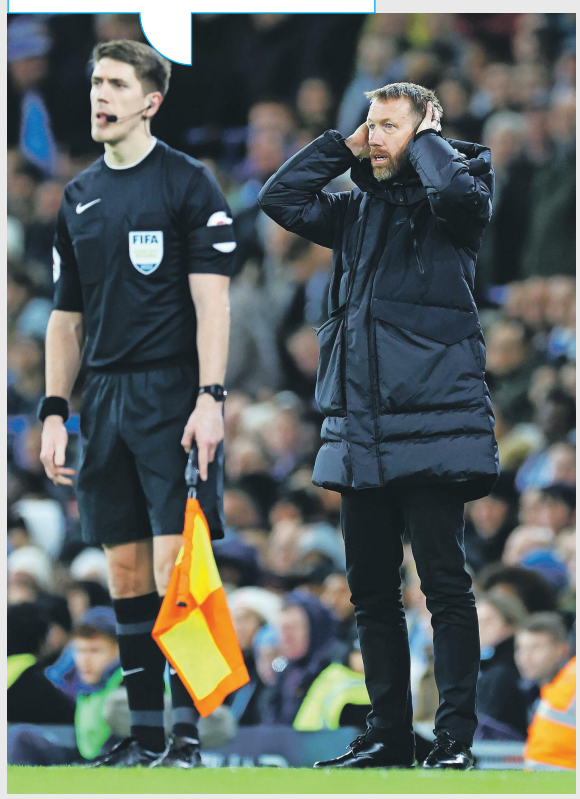
There had perhaps been a thought before kick-off that this was a fine opportunity for Conor Gallagher, whose energy after coming off the bench had helped Chelsea put City under pressure late in Thursday's league meeting between the sides, but he was sooner reduced to chasing haplessly as the ball was worked around him. He did it gamely enough but, not for the first time, it was hard to see quite how he fits into this Chelsea side.

As midfields have tended to be broken into two bands over the past couple of decades, Gallagher's sort of player – Steven Gerrard and Paul Pogba might fall into a similar category – has found it hard to adapt. In the 1980s they would have been box-to-box dynamos, but that style has fallen out of fashion at elite level, in part because the physical demands are probably too great. Is Gallagher disciplined enough to sit deep? Is he technically good enough to play as an attacking midfielder? He falls awkwardly between two stools. Perhaps he can function on the outside of a midfield three, but not when there is as much defensive work to be done as there was here.

*Manchester City's Cole Palmer may sound as though he's made up of cast-off Carltons, but he does not play like it*

But to be critical of an individual in this Chelsea side – other perhaps than Kai Havertz, who looked disaffected from the off, was fortunate to get away with a late challenge on Rodri and then gave away a stupid penalty – is probably unfair. It's not just that they have 10 players out injured, and that Thiago Silva, their best player this season, was understandably rested, it's that, for all the money they've spent, recent recruitment has been shambolic.

Lewis Hall impressed against Chesterfield in the Cup last year but has only ever made one Premier League start. Bashir Humphreys was making his first senior appearance. Omari Hutchinson's debut came off the bench on Thursday. City's backups are young stars who have been slowly blooded over the past few months and a World Cup winner. If this looked at times like men against boys, there is a reason. Not all supporting casts are built the same.



◀ *Graham Potter is struggling as Chelsea manager but he does not have the squad depth that Pep Guardiola has at Manchester City*

ALEX LIVESEY/ GETTY IMAGES

# Semenyo saves Robins as Derby ease past Barnsley

Antoine Semenyo headed a second-half equaliser as **Bristol City** fought back to earn an FA Cup third-round replay with **Swansea** after a 1-1 draw at Ashton Gate.

The visitors were gifted a 15th-minute lead when Rob Atkinson's misplaced pass was intercepted by Liam Cullen, who squared for Joël Piroe to shoot into an unguarded net. But after being outplayed in the first half, the hosts battled hard to level on 75 minutes when Semenyo netted with a downward header from Andreas Weimann's left-wing cross.

Both sides could have won it in a rip-roaring finale but in the end Swansea paid for not making more of their first-half dominance.

**Derby** comfortably saw off their fellow League One side **Barnsley** with a 3-0 victory at Pride Park. James Collins opened the scoring from the penalty spot just before half-time before Tom Barkhuizen and Jason Knight also struck for Paul Warne's in-form side.

Derby, unbeaten in 90 minutes in all competitions since October, took the lead in the 45th minute after Matthew Wolfe handled from a corner and Collins converted the penalty. Derby doubled their lead on the hour after Barnsley failed to clear and Barkhuizen fired into the roof of the net from 15 yards. The tie was over in the 79th minute when Barnsley were caught trying to play out from the back and although Nathaniel Mendez-Laing's first shot was saved, he rolled the rebound to Knight to drive in the third.

David Wagner's tenure in charge of **Norwich** began with a defeat with Jack Vale scoring the only goal as **Blackburn** edged past their Championship rivals, while **Stoke's** league struggles were put aside with a comfortable 3-0 victory at **Hartlepool**. League Two **Walsall** earned a fourth-round tie with Premier League Leicester after a 2-1 win over **Stockport** thanks to Andy Williams's stoppage-time penalty.

## Fourth-round draw

**Preston v Tottenham**
**Southampton v Blackpool**
**Wrexham v Sheffield United**
**Ipswich v Burnley**
**Manchester United v Reading**
**Luton/Wigan v Grimsby**
**Derby v West Ham**
**Stoke City v Stevenage**
**Blackburn v Forest Green/ B'ham**
**Walsall v Leicester**
**Sheffield Wednesday v Fleetwood**
**Manchester City v Oxford/Arsenal**
**Bristol City/Swansea v Chesterfield/ West Brom**
**Brighton v Liverpool/Wolves**
**Fulham v Sunderland**
**Boreham Wood/Accrington Stanley v Cardiff/Leeds**
*To be played 27-30 January*

The Guardian
*Monday 9 January 2023*

# Sport

## Sonny delight
Perkins strikes late as Leeds force replay with Cardiff

*Page 33 →*

## Curry concern
Sale flanker gives England injury worry in victory

*Page 32 →*

▲ *Julián Álvarez celebrates with Phil Foden after scoring his side's second goal against Chelsea* NAOMI BAKER/ GETTY

**Manchester City** 4

**Chelsea** 0

Mahrez 23 85pen, Álvarez 30pen, Foden 38

# 'Second best' Potter in pain after hammering by City

**Andy Hunter**
*Etihad Stadium*

Graham Potter admitted Chelsea's comprehensive FA Cup defeat at Manchester City was "painful" and not good enough as his four-month reign as manager suffered another setback at the Etihad Stadium.

Chelsea fans booed their team off and also chanted for former manager Thomas Tuchel and former owner Roman Abramovich as they endured a fifth defeat in seven matches. The visitors were 3-0 down by half-time as Pep Guardiola's team cruised into a home tie against Oxford or Arsenal.

"The first half was painful and tough for us all," the Chelsea manager said. "We were second best to a very, very good side. We are not in a great moment and even though it was a cagey first 20 minutes we couldn't attack the backline well enough, we couldn't attack as well as we would like. Manchester City are very good at stopping you doing that but at the same time we struggled.

"In terms of the Premier League we have lost four matches - to Newcastle away, when we had nine players unavailable, we lost 1-0 to Arsenal, we lost on a bad day to Brighton and we lost to Manchester City. We have also drawn to Manchester United and Brentford so the results in a small space of time aren't positive."

The manager accepted the criticism and the chants that came from the away section. "You understand the supporters' frustration, we respect that," he said. "There are always other opinions and negativity and criticism because the results haven't been positive. That's part of the job and part of the challenge."

Potter has pleaded for time at Chelsea, comparing his situation to Guardiola's first season at the Etihad Stadium, and the City manager insisted it had to be granted.

Guardiola said: "I would say to Todd Boehly: 'Give him time.' I know in the big clubs the results are important but I would say give him time.

"What he has done in Brighton was outstanding, but all managers need time. We needed time in my first season. It wasn't the same in Barcelona because I had Messi there. That's why I didn't need two seasons, only one."

**Match report** *Page 34 →*

## Evans hails his Stevenage side after putting Villa to sword

**Peter Lansley**
*Villa Park*

Steve Evans, the Stevenage manager, acclaimed his League Two players' "hearts the size of Big Ben" as they knocked Aston Villa, 59 places above them in the pyramid, out of the FA Cup in the third round.

As Villa's new manager, Unai Emery, admitted he may need to start making greater demands of his players, who lost 2-1 after leading until Jamie Reid's 88th-minute penalty, 3,000 Stevenage fans raucously celebrated reaching the fourth round for the first time in nine years.

Villa have now lost eight consecutive games in this competition, stretching back to 2016, but the glory belongs to Stevenage, whose highest finish was sixth in the third tier 11 years ago.

Evans said: "It's magical for the players, the chairman and for the town of Stevenage to see over 3,000 fans and, winning the way we did, it's the FA Cup and what dreams are made of. I said to the players they will have a dream they will talk to the kids and grandkids about it. I've got grandkids and little Joseph, James and Mimi will be hearing about in the next few years."

Morgan Sanson had given Villa a first-half lead but Emery criticised his players' lack of clinical finishing.

Stevenage kept a tight shape and after Leander Dendoncker was sent off for conceding the penalty Stevenage went for broke. Dean Campbell smashed in the winner in the 90th minute.

Emery said: "I'm upset, disappointed and sorry for our supporters. We have lost a very good opportunity to do something in the FA Cup. It is a process and I will continue to be demanding. Maybe now, I need to be more demanding. I'm shocked. But it can happen when you have good chances to score but don't take them."

**Match report** *Page 33 →*

▲ *Dean Campbell celebrates scoring Stevenage's dramatic late winner*

G2

The Guardian

# “I don’t imagine I’ll ever drink like that again

## Kathleen Turner on booze, love, health and Hollywood

Monday 09/01/23

# Life & Arts

**A new start after 60**
The 86-year-old naturist
*page 2*

**David Lynch**
Subversive, shocking – and sincere
*page 8*

# A new start after 60

## Stuart Haywood ‘I became a naturist at 75’

Shortly before his 76th birthday, Stuart Haywood made his debut as a naturist. He was visiting Abbey House gardens in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, with his wife Rhona (who is not a naturist), for a “clothes optional” day. He and Rhona share an interest in horticulture, but being able to walk around the gardens naked added a new dimension to Haywood’s experience. He “felt free and relaxed”.

Yet, he says, “at school, I was very bothered about nudity. I wouldn’t have wanted to go around the showers naked.” Over time, “it all altered”.

The turning point occurred a few years earlier, when Haywood, 86, and Rhona signed up for an art course at the adult education centre near where they live in Newhall, Derbyshire. When Rhona was diagnosed with breast cancer, they cancelled, vowing that “once she had been cleared, we would do the next available course”.

It turned out to be life drawing. “I was quite taken by the chap who was a male model,” Haywood says. “The fact that he could sit in position for a long time without being able to move. I said to the woman who ran it, ‘I could do that. Can I have a go?’” The teacher put Haywood in touch with Jackie Adshead, an artist with an erotic element to her portfolio.

Haywood went alone to Adshead’s house. “She explained all the chalks and different things you can draw with … That was the very first time I stripped off before anybody, except my wife.”

One of Adshead’s pictures of Haywood now hangs at home in the front room. “Everyone who comes into the house sees it,” says Haywood. “If people don’t like it? As far as I’m concerned, I don’t see anything wrong in the human body. Why they should get so excited about seeing a little bit of flesh hanging down, I don’t really know.”

Haywood prefers not to wander naked in his own garden, at the sheltered accommodation where he and Rhona live. “You don’t want to upset your neighbours,” he says. Instead, they holiday at Lakeside Farm naturist resort near Skegness. Rhona, 91, stays clothed, but “doesn’t mind being in the midst of people that way inclined”. When the couple renewed their wedding vows in 2015, after 55 years of marriage, Haywood, the officiant and most of the guests were naked.

So, how did Haywood come to find freedom in nudity? Were his parents very relaxed about the body? “No, I should say not at all,” he says. They “wouldn’t have thought very well” of his enjoyment of naturism.

Haywood’s father, who became a bus conductor after the war, wanted his son to leave school at 15, but his mother insisted he complete his exams. The teenage Haywood lost interest in education when it became clear that university was not an option: “I was expected to bring some money in.”

He got a job with a bookmaker, where he met Rhona, who was a co-worker. Stints as an accountant, and running a temping agency and a greengrocer, both also with Rhona, followed. When they sold the grocery, Haywood was 57 and he struggled to find more work, so he took a horticulture course and volunteered at Calke Abbey gardens in Derbyshire, rekindling his love of the great outdoors.

As a child, Haywood had roamed for hours around the 2,000-acre Bretby Park with his grandfather. He remembers looking up into a foxglove that towered over him, and seeing its blooms full of bees. Each spring, frogs laid their spawn in a ditch that filled with rainwater. “You could see all these things happening, just at the bottom of the garden.”

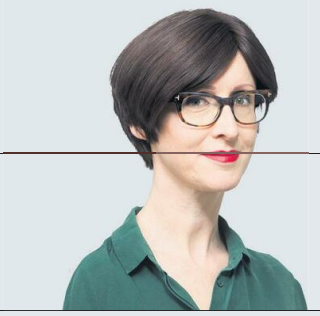
In a sense, his interest in naturism has sprung from these moments. “It gives you an extra dimension to being in the natural world,” he says. On holiday at Lakeside, he was wandering alone when he came face to face with a fox cub. They took each other in, before the fox shot off. “For some reason, because you’ve got no clothes on, it’s a better experience.”

**Paula Cocozza**

*Has your life taken a new turn after 60? Fill in the form at theguardian.com/new-start-after-60*

PHOTOGRAPH: FABIO DE PAOLA/THE GUARDIAN

# Emma Beddington



## My New Year resolution? To lower my goals

How are your resolutions going on this, the precise day (unscientifically speaking) when everyone gives in to the general bleh of the season? Perhaps you didn't make any. The balance has been shifting for a while, but it feels as though this year, anti-resolution messaging is stronger than pro. With everything being demonstrably terrible and every sign it will get worse, why bother? As TikToker @erin.monroe put it: "I don't need 2023 to be my year, I need it to not be a soul-sucking drag through earthly purgatory." To which, amen (and also good luck).

Celebrity endorsements of not bothering are widely available. "I've been dogged by a feeling, as real as any of the parts of myself I 'should' be remodelling: I'm so fucking sick of trying," Lena Dunham posted on Instagram. Happy Valley actor Siobhan Finneran dispatched a question about whether she was making resolutions, protesting that January was hard enough, especially with the self-employed tax deadline looming (I feel you, Siobhan). "Denying yourself a drink or some chocolate is just too much," she said. "Enjoying finishing off the Christmas leftovers."

I realise I ended last year urging everyone to become neo-nihilists and not bother with anything and I'm starting this year doing the same; it's become something of a personal brand. But if you can't get on board with your animal self just doing what it loves, there are alternatives. How about radically downgrading your self-improvement goals? The New York Times says that's OK, in its exploration of the low-key hashtag #dontsuck2023. I tried "low-res" last year. Mine was to buy a box of chocolates and eat one every day in January. (Smashed it!) This year, similarly devoid of meaningful aspirations, I resolved to bring all the clothes I need to get dressed into the bathroom in the morning, saving myself the freezing trudge along the landing to find knickers. Days 1 to 3 went well, but I forgot my trousers on day 4 and lost heart.

> Why commit to doing something all year? You could just do it once

So I've changed tack and I commend my new strategy to you: the one-off resolution. Why commit to doing something all year when you could just do it once, neatly avoiding the impulse to fail then give up? Rationally, we know that all of us being imperfectly better – recycling more, eating less meat – does more good than a handful committing to absolute purity, but our all-or-nothing mindset means Veganuary is cancelled after a bite of buttered toast.

If you resolve to do something only once, it's harder to fail. Taking into consideration my general lethargy – I even brush my teeth sitting down – I have set myself three eminently achievable goals. The first was to clean my computer keyboard. I did it yesterday, and if starting the year absolutely disgusted with yourself floats your boat, it's a winner. There's a healing shame to confronting your filth – yours and no one else's – that is very January sackcloth and ashes. (Were those actual ashes on my keyboard? No, too sticky.) I Googled how to clean it, disregarding pages of "Don't let it get dirty in the first place" advice (sure, nerds), then ended up scrubbing it with soapy water, an old toothbrush and a tampon because I didn't have any of the recommended cotton buds or screen wipes. Still, it's decontaminated, still working (just) and I feel incredible: chastened, purged and with no intention of keeping it clean in future.

Resolution No 2 is finding out where to recycle my sons' disposable contact lens cases, which have been piling up for three years and are now a significant trip hazard. The last one is to order a sandwich other than the one called Alan in my local sandwich bar. Alan is an absolute wrong 'un – a deranged combo of mushrooms, olives, sun-blushed tomatoes, red onion and mustard I only ordered because of the name. But now, paralysed by choice, I find myself ordering then unhappily eating Alan, repeatedly. This year it stops. And by "stops", I mean, I'll try to order a different sandwich once before 31 December. My personal hashtag for the year? #dontsuckoncein2023.

## Who wants to live for ever? Billionaires, mainly

The anti-ageing industry is hotting up. Not the one advertising me snail goo and sheep placenta facials (the algorithms can't accept that I barely moisturise); the one exploring how elastic the limits of life are. A generic diabetes drug, metformin, apparently shows potential to slow ageing. A "longevity diet" could hack cell ageing, but you had better like your proteins "pesco-vegetarian-derived" and your fats "mostly from plant-based and pro-longevity sources". There's a definite buzz, but it's all in the early stages – as one researcher put it: "It's a great time to be a rich mouse."

Rich – that's key. We relish tales of absurd billionaire biohacks – dodgy supplements, cryochambers and fasts so long I'd eat my own arm – as evidence that all their money can't buy them eternal life. But now we might have to be grateful for their hubris: billionaire-funded private sector startups are apparently funding anti-ageing research, with Jeff Bezos, Larry Page and Sergey Brin all involved.

Mainly, I keep thinking how only billionaires believe great age is desirable. Recent research found just 35% of "ordinary" people want to reach 100. There's no mystery: getting old at the pointy end of the climate catastrophe, as food and water supplies falter, is one thing; getting old on your private climate-controlled island is quite another. Then there's the "health span" disparity: the wealthiest live nearly 10 disability-free years longer than the poorest.

We are in the UN's "decade of healthy ageing" and there are tons of innovative ideas out there that could make living longer appeal to more of us. But all that requires money. Let's hope the billionaires discover the secret to eternal life is paying a lot more tax.

## How we met
## Sarah and Martin

Sarah never imagined that her online word-game addiction would become more than a hobby. But at the end of 2019 it led to an unexpected, long-distance love story. "I was living in Germany but spending a lot of time with my daughter in Switzerland," says Sarah, 59, who left the UK with her husband when she was 20. "I'd been widowed in 2018 and was still feeling a bit disoriented."

The Scrabble-style game Words With Friends soon became a nice distraction. "You can play with anyone in the world," she says.

When she connected with Martin through the game, they began to chat on the messaging function. "He congratulated me on a word I'd played."

They felt drawn to each other as soon as they began to communicate. Martin, 50, was working in Adelaide, Australia, as a carer, and living part-time with his teenage daughters from a previous marriage. "I just used the game to pass time after work," he says. "But I noticed Sarah's sense of humour was wonderful. We chatted on Words With Friends for about three months, before we moved to Facebook Messenger and started talking face to face through video."

They discovered they both loved dogs, books and the same music. "We set up a book club where we'd put messages in the books and send them to each other," says Sarah.

> By the time we met in person, we had already fallen in love online

They planned to meet in March 2020, but the pandemic robbed them of the chance to travel. Yet their online relationship continued to grow. "It kept me going," says Sarah. "Having him to share things with was lovely."

Eventually, in September 2022, they were able to meet in Singapore. "It wasn't like meeting someone for the first time," says Martin. "It was so comfortable and exciting at the same time. We had already fallen in love online." They spent eight days touring the sights of Singapore. "In a normal relationship, you can have times of silence but you can't do that online," says Sarah. "When we met in person, I realised how lovely it was to be together and not even talk."

Martin says that leaving each other at the end of the trip was "incredibly hard". "As soon as we got home, we started planning the next time we could see each other. It's been challenging because we both have commitments in our own countries." They hope to meet again early this year and want to find a way to be together permanently. "I really want to grow old with Martin," says Sarah. "When you've made that decision, the rest should fall into place."

**Lizzie Cernik**

*Want to share your story? Tell us a little about yourself, your partner and how you got together by filling in the form at theguardian.com/how-we-met*

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY
COVER: CAMERA PRESS

# Chips with everything!

Loaded fries have reached the next level – topped with chutney, tofu, even ice-cream. **Tony Naylor** finds out how to recreate chefs' tastiest recipes at home

French fries transcend fashion. Food trends come and go but chips persist as a source of comforting joy, something we all badly need this winter. For many, that will mean sun-gold chips doused in salt and vinegar, ketchup or mayo. But why stop there?

With budgets tight, loaded fries are enjoying a bounce as a relatively affordable, filling treat. Last year, Burger King introduced jazzed-up fries (topped with cheese sauce and/or bacon bits), as did several big-name pub chains. These brash stacks of top-loaded fries, a street food staple, are going mainstream.

Not that you need to go out to enjoy loaded fries. Think of them as hot nachos: a comforting carb-y base, where toppings are limited only by your imagination and what ingredients you have handy. "It's in desperate situations the most creative toppings come about," says Meriel Armitage, the chef-owner at Club Mexicana in London.

We asked the experts to share their wisdom.

## The fries

Rules? There are no rules. These are loaded fries. From heaped skinny fries, which invite runnier toppings to drip through their gaps, to experiments with loaded roast potatoes (shout-out to Manchester's Butty Shop), any form of crispy potato works.

Whether using frozen oven fries or triple-cooking chips from scratch (a tip from the Welsh BBQ wizards Hang Fire: use chicken stock when first parboiling your potatoes), a robust, well-bronzed chip is preferable. Undercooked chips too readily absorb moisture and, "once loaded, turn to mulch", warns Zoë Perrett, the co-owner of the burger brand Slap & Pickle.

## Assembly

"Pile it high does not apply," says Perrett, who prefers an even layer of "crisp, well-drained" fries in a shallow vessel. Go high and under the topping you may find "a layer of nude, probably soggy fries", she warns. You can avoid that issue by patiently layering fries and sauces. Either way, distribute toppings "evenly, so there's a bit in every bite", says Perrett. Add any sauce or stew-like topping first, as "edible glue" to which other ingredients will adhere. Thicker, creamier, reduced sauces work better than watery gravies.

Think about balance. For example, "offset soft pulled meats with something crunchy or dry", Perrett advises. But beware items such as prawn crackers that wilt in moist heat.

## Toppings

**Murgh makhani:** "At home, this is an addictive go-to dish," says Aktar Islam, the chef-owner at Opheem in Birmingham. Toss chopped chicken tikka with shallots and coriander (if using leftover chicken, ensure it is piping hot), then mix that into creamy makhani sauce (AKA butter chicken). "Adapt supermarket versions to your preferred spice levels," advises Islam, who embellishes his with Kashmiri chillies. Serve with raita.

**Maple and spice:** To invigorate four to six portions of chips, create a powdered spice mix with: 6.5g each white pepper, sugar, onion powder; 1.5g each five spice, smoked paprika, black pepper, salt; and 0.5g star anise. Multiply amounts to make a larger batch. It will keep in an airtight container for a month. Erchen Chang, the co-founder of Bao in London, sprinkles this mix over fries, then coats them in maple syrup: "As sugar absorbs into hot fries, it becomes slightly crunchy around the edges. It's delicious."

*Maple syrup and a spice mix make a delicious combo*

*Anything goes: why not try pulled pork, jalapeños, cheese sauce and onion?*

**Chaat masala chutney**: Inspired by bhel puri and other chaat snacks, Brighton's Curry Leaf Cafe serves fries tossed with sweet and sour chaat masala spice mix. They're topped with three chutneys: mango, mint and chilli, and date and tamarind, finished with crispy onions, crunchy sev noodles, pickled pink onions, spring onion, chillies and coriander. You can buy almost all those components premade in Asian food stores. Look for MDH brand chaat masala.

**Japanese curry and lime pickle:** Chips with curry sauce is one of British food's greatest double acts, and many chefs now use Japanese curry sauces (commonly served with katsu breaded chicken) as an improvement on mild, sweet chip-shop curry sauce. You can make your own but packet curry roux blocks, such as S&B's classic Golden Curry, "taste better with chips", says Armitage. Nina Matsunaga, the chef-owner at the Black Bull in Sedburgh, ups the ante by dressing curry fries with squiggles of "very spicy" smooth lime pickle and topping that with strong cheddar. Melt the cheese under the grill and garnish with coriander. "It sounds weird, but really isn't," she says.

**Fermented tofu:** Amy Poon, from the sauce maker Poon's, swears by fermented tofu mashed with sesame oil over fries. Preserved in brine, rice wine and seasonings, and available in Chinese supermarkets, the tofu is, she says, "deliciously complex: tangy, faintly cheesy, sweet, salty, creamy. Think roquefort." Sprinkle over sugar, chillies and chopped spring onions to taste.

**Kimchi:** Judy Joo, chef-founder of Seoul Bird in London, uses "spicy, umami" kimchi (drained and diced – she names Bibigo's as an off-the-shelf option) under a layer of grilled mature cheddar, garnished with hot sauce, sour cream, red onion,

jalapeños and coriander. "The jalapeños and kimchi cut through with the right sharpness and heat," says Joo. Ratios are freeform: "Like nachos, put as much or as little on as you want."

**Double chicken:** After roasting a small chicken, Kenny Tutt - Brighton's Patty Guy - sometimes serves the meat with fries, topped with crispy onions, chives and a "chicken gravy mayo", created by folding warm roasting juices into mayonnaise (3tbsp per 100g of mayo). You could triple the poultry action by adding chicken gravy, too.

**Nacho taco fries:** These are like "extra-naughty" loaded nachos, says chef Sam Evans, the co-author of Hang Fire Cookbook: Recipes and Adventures in American BBQ. To serve two as a sharing main, toss 500g of fries in half a 25g packet of taco seasoning. Make a thick béchamel sauce (flour and butter roux, 450ml milk and a splash of cream). Add the remaining seasoning and melt in 250g of burger cheese singles, 75g mozzarella and 100g mature cheddar. Stir until smooth. To assemble the dish, take a large bowl and alternate layers of fries with sauce and scatterings of minced pickled jalapeños, deseeded diced tomato and diced red onion. Pour the remaining sauce on top and garnish with coriander and more onion, tomato and jalapeños. Add sour cream and guacamole on the side.

**Veggie lasagne fries:** "Firstly, apologies to anyone remotely connected to Italy," says Evans as she explains this redeployment of leftover meat-free bolognese made with a 50:50 red lentil and minced soy protein mix. For two people, make or buy 450ml of béchamel (see above), add 125g each of mozzarella and cheddar, and prepare 500g of chips. Cook three lasagne sheets ("green spinach ones look great"), and, making two horizontal and two vertical incisions, cut each into nine pieces. In a dish, repeatedly layer the fries, pasta pieces, bolognese and béchamel. Top with the remaining cheese sauce, plus parmesan, mozzarella and cheddar. "Grill until bubbling," says Evans, who, to bring a modicum of "freshness" to this carb'n'dairy doozy, adds chopped chives and flat-leaf parsley.

**Cacio e pepe fries:** "A revelation," says Leyli Homayoonfar, the intrepid owner of Caerphilly's Bab Haus, who swapped the spaghetti in this dish for fries. For each portion, whisk an egg yolk ("this replaces the starchy pasta water to create that creamy texture") with a handful of grated pecorino, fresh black pepper and salt. Toss plenty of fresh hot chips in the mix to coat them and gently cook the egg.

**'Nduja sausage, hot honey and cheddar:** He may hold a Michelin star at Upstairs restaurant in Lichfield, but off the clock, Tom Shepherd loves loaded fries. "I've had curry, chilli, chicken caesar salad, even tuna mayo on fries," he says. This riff around the soft, chilli-mined sausage 'nduja is, he says, "the best to date: savoury, sweet, salty, spicy". As a sharing dish for two: tear 200g of 'nduja into 2cm nuggets and, in a tray, add salt, one garlic clove, one rosemary sprig. Jostle everything in a little vegetable oil. Roast the sausage at 200C (fan-assisted) for 10 minutes. Place 500g of hot skinny fries in a bowl, then top with 'nduja and the roasting juices.

Drizzle over chilli honey (Shepherd uses Rowse's Chilli Fusion), a smoky, BBQ-style mayonnaise (such as Johnny's hickory) and 100g of mature cheddar. Grill and top with sliced spring onion.

**Baked bean and hummus:** A dollop of hummus offers saltiness, "that lift of fresh, zingy acidity" and a creamy textural contrast to the stodgy beans, says Armitage. Finish with sea salt, chilli flakes and, if you are "feeling bougie", drizzle over tahini.

**Mapo no-tofu fries:** "I like to make Chinese mapo tofu sauce, without the tofu, and cover fries with it," says John Javier, the chef at London's the Tent (at the End of the Universe). For four portions of fries: in a wok, fry 400g pork mince, 120g sliced onions and four chopped garlic cloves in oil. Set the cooked ingredients aside. Heat the wok to almost smoking, and carefully add 100ml vegetable oil and 72g doubanjiang (fermented broad bean chilli paste). Cook the paste until dark red and add 40ml shaoxing rice wine to deglaze the wok. Reduce the liquid by around 20%. Add the cooked ingredients to the wok, with 40g caster sugar, 50ml light soy sauce and enough water to cover the mixture.

Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes. Thicken the mapo by slowly adding cornflour slurry (equal parts cornflour and water, whisked smooth) to create a gravy consistency. It will thicken more as it comes to a boil. Serve over fries, topped with grilled mozzarella and spring onion.

*Ice-cream on chips ... 'It's not for the faint-hearted'*

**Ice-cream:** "Surprisingly, hot fries melt the ice-cream rather than the fries getting cold," says the US food writer Capri Cafaro, who likens this sweet and savoury novelty to dunking fries in a milkshake. Place scoops of softened chocolate ice-cream on the chips with chocolate sauce and crushed biscuits. "It's not for the faint-hearted," says the United We Eat author, "but it's a great birthday dessert. Kids love it."

**Leftovers:** Loaded fries love leftovers. "Go crazy with what you have in the fridge," says Armitage, who likes grilling vegan cheese over fries and adding a plant-based chilli, tomato salsas and chilli lime salt. Akwasi Brenya-Mensa, the owner of Tatale in London, reheats red red, a Ghanaian bean stew, and loads it on fries with chives, sour cream and Monterey Jack cheese.

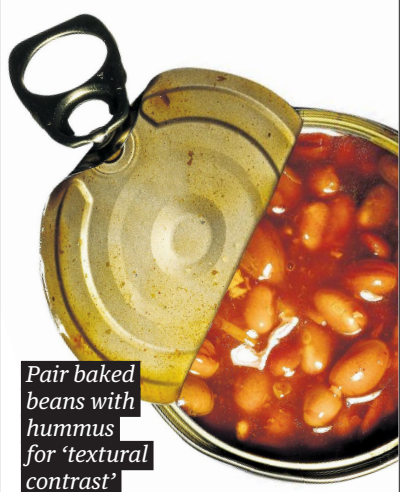
## Sauces & seasoning

Loaded fries aren't always teetering stacks crowned with Korean fried chicken or shredded birria brisket. There are simpler ways to transform chips.

Chef James Cochran's jerk salt - a 50:50 mix of sea salt and dry jerk seasoning - offers the heat and "bold, punchy" flavours that turbo-charge fries, says the owner of London's Valderrama's. Combine salt and seasoning in a spice grinder and tumble chips through it. Tutt tops chips with garlic aioli, parmesan and chives: "Three ingredients, absolutely delicious."

Armitage augments fries with Marmite and grills them with vegan cheese, while Jess Karia, from the hot sauce retailer Bauce Brothers, makes spicy mayo: mix gochujang paste, miso, soy sauce, honey, hot sauce and rice vinegar into mayonnaise, to taste, and add water if required, to make a sauce. Then slather it over fries gilded with parmesan, coriander, sesame seeds and spring onions.

**Surprisingly, hot fries melt the ice-cream rather than the fries getting cold**



*Pair baked beans with hummus for 'textural contrast'*

PHOTOGRAPHS: DANIEL MEGIAS/GETTY/ISTROCKPHOTO; GETTY/AMANA; IAN GWINN/GETTY; FRANK BEAN/GETTY/UPPERCUT

# ‘I’m intrigued by political stupidity’

Kathleen Turner was a huge star in the 80s. Then she stopped getting leading roles. She tells **Ann Lee** why, and explains what drew her to a new TV series about the Watergate scandal

*Kathleen Turner in White House Plumbers*

Kathleen Turner is pondering her acting career, a smile playing on her lips. “I’m becoming legendary, which I think only means that I have been around that long,” she purrs regally. It is, after all, more than 40 years since Lawrence Kasdan’s erotic thriller Body Heat turned her into one of Hollywood’s most in-demand stars.

Now, at 68, she’s coming to TV screens with White House Plumbers, playing Dita Beard, a foul-mouthed lobbyist involved in the Watergate scandal that ruined president Richard Nixon in the early 1970s. HBO’s new political drama revolves around E Howard Hunt (Woody Harrelson) and G Gordon Liddy (Justin Theroux), two members of a covert White House special investigations unit. They were supposed to protect the presidency, but they ended up bringing it down.

Beard is a true survivor, says Turner, video-calling from her home in New York. She “was the one that blew the whole damn thing open, then tried the most fantastical ways to get around it”. These included faking heart attacks. “She’s the only one who ended up well, with a horse farm in Virginia, where she lived happily ever after with her daughter. As opposed to everyone else, who pretty much ended up in jail.”

While Watergate dominated politics 50 years ago, Turner describes the show as “very pertinent” to what is happening today. “I’m always intrigued by this political stupidity, which has been going on for years: that you can say something, and it can be a flat-out lie, yet you expect people to believe it. It’s just extraordinary to me. I mean, this whole Trump business with the endless, consistently disproven lies, it’s just fascinating. Who thinks like this?”

On screen, Turner is magnetic – fierce, bold and sultry, with an impeccable sense of comic timing to match that oh-so-husky and commanding voice. There’s nothing more satisfying than watching her deliver a killer one-liner. As mysterious Matty in 1981’s Body Heat, she was powerfully seductive, coolly flirting with William Hurt by telling him: “You’re not too smart, are you? I like that in a man.”

It was her first film role, after a stint on the schlocky soap opera The Doctors made her a sex symbol overnight. She followed this up by poking fun at the femme fatale trope in the wacky comedy The Man With Two Brains, opposite Steve Martin. A few years later, she would parody it again by voicing Jessica in the animated whodunnit Who Framed Roger Rabbit.

From the start, Turner has tried her hardest to avoid being typecast. She leapt from playing a mousy novelist in 1984’s Romancing the Stone to a prim fashion designer moonlighting as a sex worker in Crimes of Passion and then a time-hopping housewife in Peggy Sue Got Married (which earned her an Oscar nomination). Is there a common thread that ties her roles together? “It’s rage,” she says. “I was so angry at the shit that goes down – the white male privilege crap.” Disgust laces each word. “Somebody sent me an interview that I did 35 years ago. Everything I said in that, about equal pay, protecting women’s rights and health, I am still saying today, so one can get discouraged.”

*With William Hurt in Body Heat*

Turner has always stood up for herself, channelling her rage into action. She hated the script for Romancing the Stone’s sequel The Jewel of the Nile and tried to get out of making it (she was threatened with a $25m lawsuit but eventually came to a compromise with co-star and producer Michael Douglas). She dug her heels in, too, when director Ken Russell asked her to do a nude scene in Crimes of Passion.

“I learned very early that I had to have script approval,” she says. “They couldn’t make changes without consulting me. I learned that my first time in Los Angeles doing a screen test – the script they gave me in New York was not the script they gave me in LA. It was a women’s mud wrestling film. We had to put on bikinis and get sprayed with oil. So I went to the bathroom, got a roll of toilet paper, slapped it on my shoulder and hip, and wrote Miss Missouri across it.” She lets out a cackle of pure glee. “I got out of the audition.”

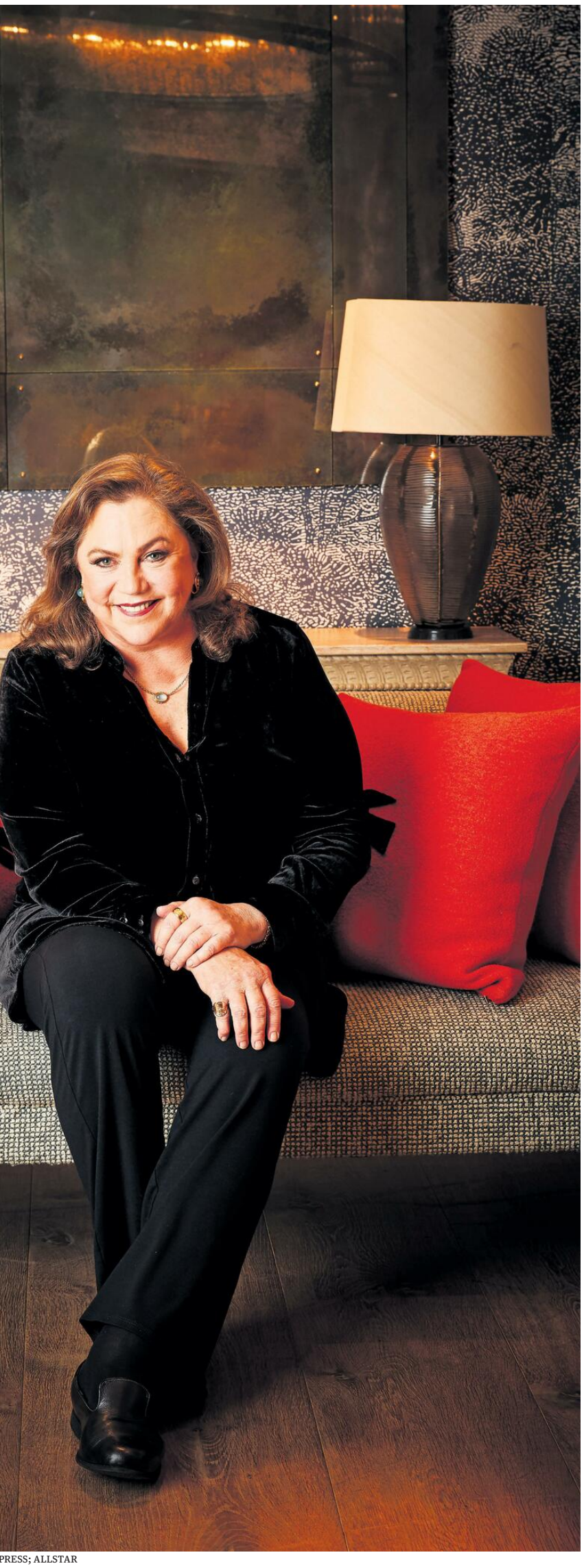
But speaking up earned her a reputation for being difficult. Is there any truth to it? “Being decisive, knowing what I want, is too much of a male characteristic, so therefore I must be difficult,” she says. “Listen, if you talk to anyone who’s actually worked with me, you’ll never hear that.”

Turner’s parents didn’t approve of her choice of career. The third of four children, she was born Mary Kathleen Turner in Springfield, Missouri, to a mother and father who both worked for the US foreign service. They lived in Cuba and Venezuela before moving to Britain when she was a teenager. There, Turner started acting while studying at the American School in London. One week before she graduated, her father died of a coronary thrombosis. He was, she says, “an extremely disciplined, in some ways rigid man. He had no idea what acting was. He equated it with being a streetwalker.”

She studied theatre at Southwest Missouri State University and the University of Maryland, moving to New York in 1977. When she started auditioning for commercials, Turner realised her distinctive voice set her apart. “Right away, they told me I would have trouble getting a job because of my voice. Well, I wouldn’t trade it for the world. You kidding? I love it!” In her 2008 memoir, Send Yourself Roses: My Life, Loves and Leading Roles, Turner writes about making her voice even deeper. How did she do that? “Exercise. Run the scales, push it lower and lower. It’s a muscle.”

Some of Turner’s most memorable roles have been alongside Douglas in Romancing the Stone and The Jewel of the Nile – fun, Indiana Jones-style action adventures – and The War of the Roses, a devilishly spiky black comedy about feuding exes. Their chemistry on and off the screen was electrifying. While on location in Mexico for Romancing the Stone, it threatened to spill into real life. Turner was single, while Douglas was separated from his first wife, Diandra Luker.

PHOTOGRAPHS: TRISTRAM KENTON/THE GUARDIAN; CAMERA



PRESS; ALLSTAR

"I think we might have been falling in love," says Turner. "But then Diandra flew down and made it clear that she did not consider Michael to be available. So that ended that because I can't get involved with another woman's relationship. But oh my, that attention is delicious!" How close did she get to dating Douglas? "None of your business," she drawls. As the shoot came to an end, she met Jay Weiss, a property developer, and married him in 1984. The couple, who divorced in 2007, have a daughter, Rachel, a singer-songwriter.

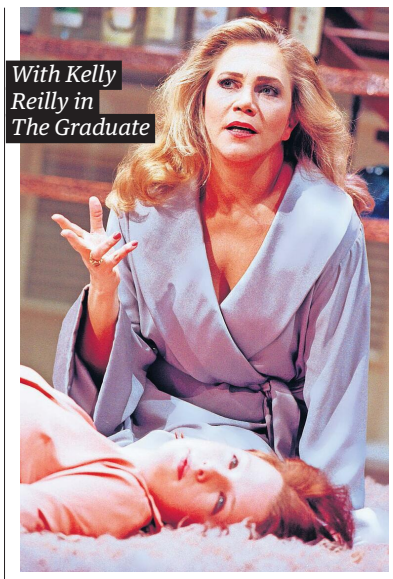
Turner reunited with Douglas as the ex-wife of his acting coach in the Netflix comedy series The Kominsky Method, which ended in 2021. "He's such a good friend. It made it very easy to play ex-husband and wife. In a funny way, we were. Not that I ever married the man - never would have, never could have!"

After a string of box office hits in the 80s, Turner was flying high and "having a ball". But then she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disease that affects the joints and organs. She was filming the black comedy Serial Mom in 1993 when she realised her feet were so swollen that she couldn't fit into any of her shoes. Soon the illness became completely debilitating. "I couldn't walk. I couldn't hold a glass. The only way I could go up and down stairs was on my butt, pushing myself. The pain is very bad because there's no way to sit, lie or stand that allows you to escape it. People don't understand because it's not life-threatening. It will not kill me, but it kills your life."

She started avoiding lead parts, plumping for smaller, less demanding roles. Did her illness derail her career? "Yeah, but I wouldn't accept it. I am a very stubborn woman. I got back to full strength, as full as I would ever be again. They told me I would be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life. Now, that was almost 30 years ago. And I look at what I've done in 30 years and I think: 'Well, go to hell!'"

The steroids and pain medication she took to treat the disease made her gain weight and certain corners of the press would savagely pick apart her appearance. Rumours spread

With Michael Douglas in The Jewel of the Nile



With Kelly Reilly in The Graduate

that she had a drinking problem. Turner says she felt "complete betrayal", but refused to publicly disclose what was wrong with her. "It was self-defence not to discuss this mysterious disease. They would hire drunks or even drug addicts all the time." But she was convinced no one would cast her if they knew what was really wrong with her. "Better to be quiet and let them think whatever the hell they wanted to. But it hurt a lot."

Alcohol eventually became a real problem, however, as Turner drank to ease the pain of her illness, although she was careful never to drink while working. Still, she says: "It was incredibly stupid. I had this thing in my head where I thought: 'I'm not taking

**Michael and I might have been falling in love. His wife made it clear he wasn't available**

pain pills - they are addictive and dangerous.' But it was OK to have that second or third vodka." Until she had a sudden burst of clarity. "I thought: 'I am wasting my entire day with my daughter, with my husband, because I'd close myself down and drink.'"

She checked into rehab in 2002, where she recalls meeting fellow patients, former doctors and nurses, who told her they had killed somebody because of their "inattention". "I couldn't see that in myself at all. I thought: 'OK, it's not me. I'm not an alcoholic, but I am an abuser [of drink].' So I stopped drinking for a couple of years." Nowadays, she has a cocktail when she feels like it. "I don't imagine I'll ever drink like that again. But then I don't have that amount of pain, either."

Turner is now in remission from rheumatoid arthritis, although she still has flare-ups. She has worked steadily over the years, gravitating to theatre, where there are better roles for older women. When she was 46, she played Mrs Robinson in a West End production of The Graduate, stripping off every night on stage. She even created her own one-woman cabaret show, Finding My Voice. There have also been appearances as an overprotective mother in the film The Virgin Suicides and a sexually voracious talent agent in the TV comedy Californication.

Fans of the sitcom Friends will remember her from 2001 as Chandler's parent Charles, who performed as drag queen Helena Handbasket. The show's co-creator Marta Kauffman confirmed last year that the character was a trans woman, although other characters referred to her as Chandler's father. "There was no question of casting a trans person or a drag queen - it was never considered," says Turner. "It never crossed my mind that I was taking a role from someone." Would she say yes if she was offered it today? "Probably not. But I certainly don't regret having taken it. It was a challenge!"

When she's not filming, Turner teaches acting at various universities in the US. She reads "endlessly" and likes to hold poker nights with her female friends, where they eat sushi and drink bourbon. "I don't lack interests," she says. "I would like to be more active physically. But at the moment I'm having a bad flare-up."

Turner once said that turning 60 freaked her out. Now that she is approaching her 70s, how does she feel? "I talked to Maggie Smith about that." Adopting an impeccable English accent, she mimics the 88-year-old British star. "She said: 'Darling, every age just seems so young now!' You think: 'OK, she's done some of her best work in later years.'"

She sounds inspired and then, suddenly, pensive. "Part of me goes: Jesus, do I get to stop working at some point? On the other hand, I can't imagine not working. So there you go."

*White House Plumbers is coming soon to Sky Atlantic and Now*

G2 The Guardian
Monday 9 January 2023

# ‘It’s a strange world, isn’t it?’

Fragmented … Lynch in 1990

David Lynch’s work is freaky and frightening, yet today he cuts an almost cosy figure. As the Twin Peaks director turns 77 – a number of significance – **Phil Hoad** explores his dark contradictions

Violence and voyeurism … Isabella Rossellini in Blue Velvet

Beyond his holiness Saint Keanu, if there is another universally beloved figure online it is David Lynch. He is the internet’s eccentric grandpa: unfailingly ringing in the day with his daily weather reports, banging the gong for transcendental meditation and crafting miniature farmyard barns for his youngest daughter, Lula.

His other line, perhaps the most overtly Lynchian, is his daily lottery in which – for seemingly no other reason than gratuitous delight and enigma – he draws a random numbered ball. A confirmed numerologist, his preferred integer is seven. Dorothy Vallens’s apartment – the nexus of lust, violence and voyeurism in Blue Velvet – was on the seventh floor. So was the office of Gordon Cole, the FBI chief played by the director in Twin Peaks. On 20 January, David Lynch will be 77. So there is no better time to ask: how did this once-cult artist – whose work is filled with seething psychopaths and funky dwarves and who for the past 20 years has reverted solely to his most experimental and challenging work – become such a cosy cultural presence?

This turn of events seems all the more unlikely when you consider his position in the mid-90s. Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me, a harrowing, humour-free sojourn with incest, was booed by the press at Cannes in 1992, and five years later Lost Highway wasn’t much more warmly received. If “Lynchian” – defined by David Foster Wallace in his seminal 1996 essay as “a particular kind of irony where the very macabre and the very mundane combine in such a way as to reveal the former’s perpetual containment within the latter” – was a quantifiable sensibility, it either remained marginal, or people were already tiring of it, or both.

Weirdly, that is not the case now. Lynchian is the go-to adjective to describe any sniff of the uncanny and esoteric on screen, from Donnie Darko to True Detective. It will never be a mainstream quality, but it exists explicitly in orientation towards the mainstream, often represented by the discordant versions of 50s Americana that

Dream or reality? … Naomi Watts and Laura Harring in Mulholland Drive

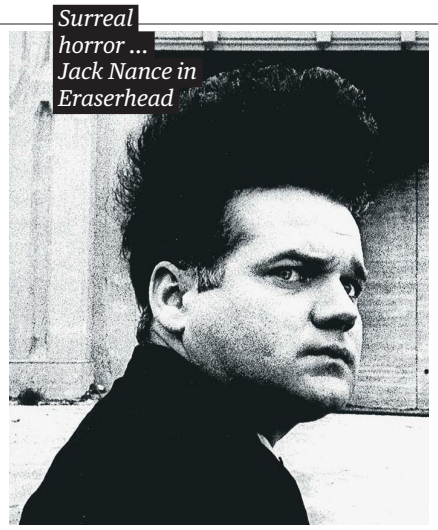
appear so often in his work. And so his destabilising vision has become a common lens for discerning the truth about the “normal world”: that white picket fence America paints over deviant and sometimes evil obsessions, as in Blue Velvet and Twin Peaks, or that Hollywood is in fact a nightmare factory, as in Mulholland Drive and Inland Empire. Lynch playing John Ford, maybe the most establishment of all golden age directors, in Steven Spielberg’s The Fabelmans is a neat joke about his skewwhiff relationship with the mainstream.

Maybe the most naturally Lynchian congregation are the hipsters, among whom subversion and irony thrive and where Pabst Blue Ribbon – recommended beverage of Blue Velvet’s resident psychopath Frank Booth – is drunk. Lynch has the boho quiff, the retro fetish and a single-minded commitment to his art that hipsters would approve of.

This is the man who toiled for five years to make Eraserhead, breaking off during night shoots to do his paper round delivering the Wall Street Journal. Since the fiasco of his 1984 film Dune, he has been fiercely uncompromising to the point where he managed to persuade a major TV network to effectively fund an 18-hour avant-garde drama in the third series of Twin Peaks. He’s a living, nicotine-hoovering paladin of personal creativity who, despite appearing in documentaries and penning books bigging up what he calls “the art life”, never reveals anything specific about his process, or the meaning of his work.

Flowing out from this single-mindedness is the radiant sincerity filling Lynch’s films, something

> **Lynch’s great moral conviction has been to show us how good and evil co-exist in the same person**


Surreal horror ... Jack Nance in Eraserhead

missing in Foster Wallace's irony-based classification. This, as much as the trademark freakiness, is what continues to draw people to him in this era of social-media posturing and fakery. He consciously amps up this earnestness in Twin Peaks' lead character Dale Cooper, and it is most clearly visible in the almost embarrassing levels of romanticism in The Elephant Man and The Straight Story.

But Lynch is sincere about all sorts of other feelings, especially the unbidden and the inadmissible. Wallace calls it a "psychic intimacy" delivered from a primitive part of the director's psyche. Few could make innocuous childhood learning a source of blackly comic primal dread, as in his 1968 student film The Alphabet. Almost everything he does, no matter how ostensibly offbeat, is underscored by authentic emotion: compare the first 17 episodes of Twin Peaks, when Lynch was fully involved, with the heavy-handed, self-conscious kookiness of much of what followed. Occasionally, this spelunking of his inner self becomes too intense: there's a one-note quality to both Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me and Lost Highway. But it is never less than completely unfiltered.

He is disturbingly forthcoming with sexual violence, too, often meted out towards a gallery of victimised women that parallels Hitchcock. Post-#MeToo, you would have thought this might render him unpalatable – or at least put him in the crosshairs of some heavy discourse. Dorothy Vallens, Laura Palmer, Lost Highway's dismembered dame Renee, the bitter Tinseltown washup Diane Selwyn in Mulholland Drive, Inland Empire's "woman in trouble" Nikki Grace: Lynch definitely has a type.

But he consistently inverts misogyny and flips the male gaze by fully inhabiting these women with a fervour that's rare for a male director. He plays with the Madonna/whore dichotomy of film noir women, but transmutes it into something higher. After we learn that Twin Peaks' prom queen Laura Palmer was a doomed femme fatale, she is resurrected as a metaphysical symbol of the capacity to withstand cycles of violence.

In his structural masterpiece Mulholland Drive, it is ultimately ambiguous whether bushy-tailed ingenue Betty Elms is the dream-creation of homicidal failure Diane, if this dream is more real than the reality, or if it even matters which interpretation is correct. But this magnificent suite of role-playing contains Hollywood in all its aspirations and sordidness, and Diane's infatuation and bitterness with the dream factory are our own. These women come to us as ghosts of past systemic oppression, but end up disordering it in a way that keeps Lynch on speaking terms with current gender politics. As the recent documentary Lynch/Oz puts it, in his work trauma is a source of transcendence.

If Lynch is capable of this radical empathy, sometimes I wonder if the darkness in his films is equally his. As much as the stricken women, his films are populated by exuberantly coiffed straight men who seem like his proxies; hapless bystanders to monsters such as Blue Velvet's Frank Booth but haunted by the possibility of becoming them. Which is what happens to Bill Pullman's frenzied saxophonist Fred, another Lynchian stooge, in the grip of a "psychogenic fugue" in Lost Highway. It's striking not only that Lynch directed the pivotal episode of Twin Peaks himself – Lonely Souls, where the identity of the demonic killer Bob is finally revealed in shockingly brutal style – but how personally he stamps it. "Leland says you're going back to Missoula, Montana," Bob rages at his latest victim, referring to the director's hometown.

That sort of displacement is the artist's prerogative, and Lynch is by all accounts a good egg in real life: open to collaboration and protective of his actors. He gives excellent meme, such as nominating Vladimir Putin for the ice bucket challenge, and has canonical hair. But he remains part of the zeitgeist for deeper reasons: the times have caught up with him and become more Lynchian, more bewildering and subject to shocking disruptions. The US of Twin Peaks: The Return was not the nostalgic haven of the first; in fact, it actively rubbished that sentiment. Or as Pullman said recently about Lost Highway: "Maybe that reality is what we're living in now. Where people suddenly say things where you can't believe they're the same person."

Online especially, we respond to this fragmentation with evermore polarised positions, ones that seek to permanently separate virtue from vice. But Lynch's great moral conviction has been to show us to what extent good and evil coexist in the same person. Excessive zeal, like stainless Agent Cooper, is replaced by his scowling, mullet-haired doppelganger. Corruption and entropy are part of life – not exactly a commercial proposition, which is probably why Lynch hasn't made a feature in 15 years. But even if not everyone wants to lend their ear, he burrows downwards – as in Blue Velvet – into the cochlea and inside our heads. Happy birthday, Mr Lynch, and thanks for showing us the way to seventh heaven.

*Lynch/Oz is available on DVD and Dogwoof on Demand*

PHOTOGRAPHS: JEAN-CHRISTIAN BOURCART; LIBRA FILMS; EVERETT COLLECTION; UNIVERSAL



# The great women's art bulletin

## Katy Hessel

Rishi Sunak may believe that compulsory maths is the key to education – but sculptor Ruth Asawa showed a different path with her belief that 'art makes a person broader'

Shapes and shadows ... Ruth Asawa in 1954

'Art will make people better, more highly skilled in thinking and improving whatever business or occupation one goes into. It makes a person broader." So proclaimed Ruth Asawa in 1976. Born 50 years earlier, she was a US artist hailed for her cocoon-like sculptures made from interlocking, silvery wires that hang from the ceiling and evoke womb-like forms. When lit, they create shadows, enhancing unexpected shapes from every angle.

Asawa is also remembered as one of the foremost educators in the San Francisco region, having founded the city's first public arts high school in 1982 – renamed Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts in 2010. Raised on a farm in California by immigrant Japanese parents, as a teenager, Asawa became one of the 100,000 Japanese Americans placed in internment camps after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. In the camp, one of her tutors included Tom Okamoto, an animator for Walt Disney, who no doubt served as an influence for her later fine line drawings.

On her release, Asawa trained at Milwaukee State Teachers College for three years, but anti-Japanese racism prevented her from getting a job. In 1946, she enrolled at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, one of the most revolutionary arts colleges of the 20th century. Black Mountain had adopted the principles of the Bauhaus, offering painting, philosophy, mathematics and music and aiming to eliminate hierarchies between students and teachers.

With faculty staff who included Josef and Anni Albers, John Cage and Buckminster Fuller – even Albert Einstein was on the board – the school, says Emma Ridgway, curator of last year's Asawa exhibition at Modern Art Oxford, was about creating "active citizens of democracy" through "making and working with people".

After excelling at the college and galvanised by its approach to art and life, Asawa moved to San Francisco and set up her practice at home, all while bringing up her six children. But after witnessing the lack of arts education for children in the city, in 1968 she co-founded the Alvarado School Arts Workshop.

Led by parents, teachers and professional artists, the workshop encouraged children to use "baker's clay" (flour, salt and water mixed): cheap material that could be cooked and transformed into small ceramic sculptures. Asawa once noted: "I'm primarily interested in making it possible for people to become as independent and self-sufficient as possible. That has nothing really to do with art, except that through the arts you can learn many, many skills."

I was thinking about this commitment to non-hierarchical education, to shape young people into well-rounded citizens, in the light of Rishi Sunak's speech last week, which suggested it should be compulsory for all UK students up to the age of 18 to study mathematics.

While numeracy is a key asset for young people, it shouldn't be seen as above other subjects. Sunak's view of education should want to play to people's strengths. Not every young person succeeds at mathematics – for instance 6% of the UK population have dyscalculia.

In his speech, Sunak said that as "data is everywhere and statistics underpin every job, our children's jobs will require more analytical skills than ever before". Yet data does not underpin everything. In order to be balanced and equitable, we must have diverse thinkers. Not giving children the opportunity to explore different subjects is letting them down.

This new emphasis on maths also comes in light of big cuts to arts education, even though the UK's creative industries are worth more than £100bn to the economy. In 2021, education secretary Gavin Williamson cut funding for art and design courses by 50% across higher education institutions in England, focusing the money on Stem subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Lizzie Crump and Sam Cairns from Cairns Crump, a freelance consultancy that specialises in arts and education, say: "All learning should enable young people to make meaning through self-expression, and give them the skills and understanding to thrive personally, economically and in our society."

Never has it been a more pressing time to support the arts and arts education in order to create well-rounded citizens. As Asawa affirmed: "Through the arts, you can learn many skills that you cannot learn through problem-solving in the abstract."

PHOTOGRAPH: NAT FARBMAN/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/SHUTTERSTOCK

*Spector at the Los Angeles superior court in 2005*

Review Spector, Sky Documentaries

# Phil Spector's victim gets her due in compelling documentary

★★★★☆

Leila Latif

When Phil Spector died in a prison hospital in January 2021, the BBC headline was "Talented but flawed producer Phil Spector dies aged 81". Outrage ensued that the rock'n'roll figure, accused of abuse by myriad women, and convicted of murdering Lana Clarkson, could be defined in such breezy terms. The BBC quickly apologised, but the incident spoke to the difficulty of portraying violent creators of beloved work.

When it comes to documentaries, the tightrope between sensitive and salacious is a perilous one to walk. Last year's We Need to Talk About Cosby and 2016's OJ: Made in America grappled with exactly this difficulty. Both addressed the issue of how we paint a picture of remarkable achievement and its cultural impact, how to understand the behaviour of the men and the system that protected them - without excusing the heinous crimes they committed. And Spector seeks to do the same, as it plunges into the life of the murderer responsible for some of the most recognisable pop songs of the 20th century.

In four hour-long episodes, the directors Sheena M Joyce and Don Argott (makers of the documentary The Atomic States of America and the romcom Slow Learners) seek to explain not just the what but the why of the Spector story - while doing justice to the life of Clarkson. For the most part the show succeeds, and it never takes us far from Clarkson. The first episode begins with Spector's driver's distressed 911 phone call: he is nearly hyperventilating as he says: "I think my boss killed somebody." This starkly contrasts with the audio of Spector at the crime scene and the eerie nonchalance of his words: "I'm sorry there's a dead woman here … I'm sorry, but this happened."

As well as a comprehensive compendium of recordings, footage and images, the documentary has assembled an impressive roster of interviewees to paint a complex portrait of a violent genius. The investigating officers, his music colleagues and beloved daughter appear alongside Clarkson's loved ones. Most frequent are the insights of the journalist Mick Brown, who was granted a rare audience with the reclusive Spector a few weeks before Clarkson was killed. His expertise bridges the man's musical and criminal escapades but, in some respect, has an old-school view of the power dynamics in Spector's life. When it comes to his relationship with Ronnie Bennett, the lead singer of the Ronettes (then aged 20), Brown speaks of a transactional relationship where "Ronnie wanted to be a star". To the documentary's credit, it goes beyond that mercenary narrative with testimony from her counsin Nedra who firmly points out, "Someone has their eye on you, and they are older than you, and they say: 'I can do all these big things' - you can see why that's a big pull. But you don't know what you are being pulled into."

The abuse Spector suffered as a child - and went on to re-enact on many of the women in his life - is shown in tandem with the signature "wall of sound" he created, best found in the Ronettes' Be My Baby and the Righteous Brothers' You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling. His contribution to the music of the Crystals, Tina Turner and the Beatles is spectacular, as was his vision for music made for - and by - young people. As Spector's former Teddy Bears bandmate, Carol Connors, states during the first episode's conclusion: "You have to give the devil his due."

Over the last three episodes, as well as exploring Spector's downward spiral, we dig deeper into the life and passions of Clarkson - who was dismissed by much of the media at the time as just a "B-list movie star", as if that rendered her murder a lesser crime. The trial is examined with a fine-tooth comb, as is its broader context.

We hear how, after OJ Simpson and Robert Blake were found innocent of killing their wives, the conviction of a celebrity murderer seemed depressingly unlikely. That the California justice system punished Spector, and Clarkson's family got the closure of justice being served, is small comfort at the end of a harrowing tale. It speaks to what makes this documentary so compelling: a refusal to diminish Clarkson's value, plus a determination to sit in grief with those who love and miss her, and to define her as more than just a stain on Spector's legacy.

## The US and the Holocaust
10pm, BBC Four

Ken Burns' scathing three-part documentary looks at how the US responded to Jews and others seeking refuge from the Nazis. "We all tend to think of the United States as the country with the Statue of Liberty poem 'Give me your tired, your poor …'" says historian Peter Hayes in this week's first scene-setting episode. "But, in fact, exclusion of people and shutting them out has been as American as apple pie."

**Hollie Richardson**

**What's On**
**Scan the QR code below to sign up for the What's On newsletter, our free TV email with the best reviews, news and exclusive writing direct to your inbox every Monday**

**George Clarke's Amazing Spaces**
8pm, Channel 4
The affable architect returns to nose around more compact projects and attempt design ingenuity in places where cat-swinging is inconceivable. There is a vehicular theme to this opener as Clarke looks at plans to convert a leaky boat and a vintage caravan, while also cooking up an ambitious four-wheeled build of his own.
**Graeme Virtue**

**Hornby: A Model World**
8pm, Yesterday
Hornby has given the Lilliputian treatment to the Flying Scotsman 47 times. At the start of this second series, which once again takes a magnifying glass to the beloved model-making company, product development director Simon Kohler commissions yet another version to take it up to date - while keeping the project as secret as possible.
**Ali Catterall**

**Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton**
8.30pm, BBC Three
Faryal Makhdoom and Amir Khan return for a third season of inessential reality TV, with former pugilist Amir struggling to focus after his retirement from competitive sport. No time to wallow, however, as Faryal's new makeup brand isn't going to launch and market itself - and she's much keener to start a new phase of life.
**Jack Seale**

**Silent Witness**
9pm, BBC One
Emilia Fox, David Caves and co continue to frown their way through the 26th series of the forensics drama. This week's grisly two-parter starts with a group of partying teenagers discovering a deserted van, which they prise open to find dead bodies inside … **HR**

**999: On the Front Line**
10pm, Channel 4
Another eye-opening 12-hour shift riding shotgun with West Midlands paramedics, filmed in early 2022 when Covid uncertainty was often eclipsed by a desire to return to social normality. That means a combination of alcohol-related incidents and stressful at-home emergencies. As ever, the crews demonstrate incredible resilience. **GV**

## BBC One

**6.0** **Breakfast** (T) **9.15** Rip Off Britain: Holidays (T) **10.0** Big Little Crimes (T) **10.45** For Love Or Money (T) (R) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (T) (R) **12.15** Bargain Hunt (T) **1.0** News (T) **1.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **1.45** Doctors (T) **2.15** The Farmers' Country Showdown (T) **3.0** Escape to the Country (T) (R) **3.45** The Repair Shop (T) **4.30** Make It at Market (T) **5.15** Pointless (T) (R) **6.0** News (T) **6.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **7.0** The One Show (T) **7.30** EastEnders (T)

**8.0** **We Are England** (T) Regional current affairs reports.
**8.30** **The Bidding Room** (T) (R) The dealers vie to buy a ventriloquist's dummy.
**9.0** **Silent Witness** (T) An abandoned lorry is found with several dead and dying people in the back. Nikki and the team must piece together what happened.

**10.0** **News** (T)
**10.30** **Regional News** (T) Weather
**10.40** **James Arthur: Out of Our Minds** (T) (R) The singer opens up about his mental health struggles.
**11.40** **The Graham Norton Show** (T) (R) With Jamie Dornan and James Norton.
**12.30** **Have I Got News for You** (R) **1.0** Weather **1.05** News (T)

## BBC Two

**6.30** **Bargain Hunt** (T) (R) **7.15** Make It at Market (T) (R) **8.0** Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow Christmas Special – Toys and Childhood (T) (R) **9.0** News (T) **12.15** Politics Live (T) **1.0** Live Snooker: The Masters (T) **5.15** Flog It! (T) (R) **6.0** Richard Osman's House of Games (T) **6.30** Take a Hike (T) **7.0** Nadiya's Fast Flavours (T) (R) **7.30** Mastermind (T)

**8.0** **Only Connect** (T) Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts.
**8.30** **University Challenge** (T) The students attempt to secure a place in the quarter-finals.
**9.0** **The Mayfair Hotel Megabuild** (T) The team use unusual measures to make way for the roof extension, while the basement reaches its deepest level.

**10.0** **QI** (T) With Rose Matafeo, Lou Sanders and Ross Noble.
**10.30** **Newsnight** (T) Weather
**11.15** **Snooker: The Masters** (T)
**12.05** **Snooker: The Masters – Extra** (T) **2.05** Sign Zone: Countryfile (T) (R) **3.0** Miriam Margolyes: Australia Unmasked (T) (R) **4.0** The Traitors (T) (R) **5.0** This Is BBC Two (T)

## ITV

**6.0** **Good Morning Britain** (T) **9.0** Lorraine (T) **10.0** This Morning (T) **12.30** Loose Women (T) **1.30** News and Weather (T) **1.55** Local News and Weather (T) **2.0** Dickinson's Real Deal (T) **3.0** Lingo (T) **4.0** Tipping Point (T) **5.0** The Chase (T) **6.0** Local News and Weather (T) **6.30** News and Weather (T) **7.0** Emmerdale (T)

**7.30** **Live FA Cup Football** (T) Oxford v Arsenal (kick-off 8pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the third-round tie at Kassam Stadium. League One Oxford earned this plum tie after defeating Woking and Exeter City.

**10.20** **News** (T) Weather
**10.50** **Local News** (T) Weather
**11.05** **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** (T) (R) New Border Force officer Rob arrives on a hectic day at Heathrow.
**11.35** **All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite**
**1.15** **Shop: Ideal World** **3.0** Lingo (T) (R) **3.50** Unwind With ITV (T) **5.05** Dickinson's Real Deal (T) (R)

## Channel 4

**6.10** **Countdown** (T) (R) **6.50** 3rd Rock from the Sun (T) (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) **9.0** Frasier (T) (R) **10.25** Undercover Boss USA (T) (R) **11.25** News (T) **11.30** Couples Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **12.30** Steph's Packed Lunch (T) **2.10** Countdown (T) **3.0** A Place in the Sun (T) **4.0** A New Life in the Sun (T) **5.0** Come Dine With Me: The Professionals (T) (R) **6.0** The Simpsons (T) (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (R) **7.0** News (T)

**8.0** **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (T) George visits a carpenter trying to save a boat from the breakers yard.
**9.0** **The Kardashians: Billion Dollar Dynasty** (T) The second episode examines the impact of Kanye West on the family, as well as how they used social media as a successful business vehicle.

**10.0** **999: On the Front Line** (T)
**11.05** **Emergency Helicopter Medics** (T) (R)
**12.05** **Murder in the Outback** (R) **1.0** Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) **1.50** The Simpsons (T) (R) **2.15** Couples Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **3.05** Old House, New Home (T) (R) **4.0** Grand Designs (T) (R) **4.55** New Life in the Country (R)

## Channel 5

**6.0** **Milkshake! 9.15** Jeremy Vine (T) **12.45** Traffic Cops (T) (R) **1.40** News (T) **1.45** Home and Away (T) (R) **2.15** FILM The Mother-in-Law (David DeCoteau, 2021) (T) **4.0** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) **5.0** News (T) **6.0** Holiday Homes in the Sun (T) (R) **6.55** News (T) **7.0** Police Interceptors (T) (R) **7.55** News (T)

**8.0** **Traffic Cops** (T) A tipoff leads to a major drugs bust in North Yorkshire, as well as the arrest of a suspected drug runner.
**9.0** **Police: Night Shift 999** (T) PCs Hayes and Fox are called to a suspected fight, but all is not as it seems and they try to get to the bottom of a drug deal gone wrong.

**10.0** **Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts** (T) (R)
**11.05** **999: Critical Condition** (R)
**12.05** **Police Interceptors** (T) (R) **1.0** The Live Casino Show (T) **3.05** Holiday Homes in the Sun (T) (R) **3.55** Get Your Tatts Out (T) (R) **4.45** Divine Designs (T) (R) **5.10** House Doctor (R) **5.40** Paw Patrol (R) **5.50** Pip and Posy (R)

## BBC Four

**7.0** **Great Indian Railway Journeys** (T) (R) Michael Portillo travels from Mysore to the first stronghold of the East India Company in Chennai.

**8.0** **Vienna: Empire, Dynasty and Dream** (T) (R) The transformation of Vienna into a great cultural capital.
**9.0** **Britain's Lost Masterpieces** (T) (R) Bendor Grosvenor finds a painting from the 1770s at the Manchester Art Gallery, which he believes has been misattributed to Nathaniel Dance.

**10.0** **The US and the Holocaust** (T) New series. How the American people and their leaders responded to the Holocaust. The first episode focuses on how a xenophobic backlash inspired laws restricting immigration.
**12.0** **Ireland to Sydney By Any Means** (T) (R) **1.0** The Capture (T) (R)

# Other channels

### BBC Three

**7.0pm** Hungry for It **8.0** Young MasterChef **8.30** **Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton** **9.0** Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars **10.0** Search Party **10.25** Search Party **10.50** Back to Life **11.15** Back to Life **11.40** Back to Life **12.05** Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton **12.35** Young MasterChef **1.05** Hungry for It **2.05** Back to Life **2.30** Back to Life **2.55** Back to Life **3.20** Young MasterChef **3.50** Press X to Continue

### Dave

**6.0am** Teleshopping **7.10** Modern Wheels Or Classic Steals **7.35** Modern Wheels Or Classic Steals **8.0** Fast Justice **9.0** Fast Justice **10.0** Rick Stein's India **11.0** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul **12.0** The Force: Behind the Line **12.30** The Force: Behind the Line **1.0** Special Ops: Crime Squad UK **2.0** Top Gear **3.0** Top Gear **4.0** QI XL **5.0** Taskmaster **6.0** Taskmaster **7.0** Richard Osman's House of Games **7.40** Would I Lie to You? **8.20** QI **9.0** QI XL **10.0** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **11.0** Taskmaster **12.0** Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** QI **2.0** Richard Osman's House of Games **2.30** Famalam **2.55** Modern Wheels Or Classic Steals **4.0** Teleshopping

### E4

**6.0am** Hollyoaks **7.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.0** The Goldbergs **10.0** The Big Bang Theory **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.0** The Big Bang Theory **3.0** Modern Family **4.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.0** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.0** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** Modern Family **8.0** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer **9.0** Gogglebox **10.0** Naked Attraction's Best Naughty Bits **11.05** First Dates **12.10** Gogglebox **1.15** Gogglebox **2.15** Naked Attraction's Best Naughty Bits **3.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.50** The Goldbergs

### Film4

**11.0am** FILM Hatari! (1962) **2.10** FILM The Long Memory (1952) **4.05** FILM The Long Ships (1963) **6.40** FILM The Mountain Between Us (2017) **9.0** FILM Kingsman: The Secret Service (2015) **11.40** FILM Daredevil (2003) **1.45** FILM Ray & Liz (2018)

### ITV2

**6.0am** World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.0** Secret Crush **8.0** Dress to Impress **9.0** Chuck **10.0** One Tree Hill **11.0** The OC **12.0** Secret Crush **1.0** Dress to Impress **2.0** Family Fortunes **3.05** Chuck **4.0** One Tree Hill **5.0** The OC **6.0** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.0** Ninja Warrior UK **8.0** Superstore **8.30** Superstore **9.0** Family Guy **9.30** Family Guy **10.0** Family Guy **10.30** Family Guy **11.0** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.0** American Dad! **12.30** Superstore **1.0** Superstore **1.30** Kavos Weekender **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.0** Teleshopping

### Sky Max

**6.0am** Stop, Search, Seize **7.0** Stop, Search, Seize **8.0** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **9.0** The Blacklist **10.0** Supergirl **11.0** NCIS: New Orleans **12.0** NCIS: New Orleans **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 **2.0** S.W.A.T **3.0** The Blacklist **4.0** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **5.0** Supergirl **6.0** NCIS: New Orleans **7.0** NCIS: New Orleans **8.0** Agatha Raisin **9.0** Agatha Raisin **10.0** A League of Their Own Road Trip: Dingle to Dover **11.0** The Force: Manchester **12.0** Road Wars **1.0** Road Wars **2.0** Brit Cops: Rapid Response **3.0** Hawaii Five-0 **4.0** S.W.A.T **5.0** Highway Patrol **5.30** Highway Patrol

### Sky Arts

**6.0am** Hollywood in Vienna: The Sound of Space & Alexandre Desplat **8.0** Reinventing the Orchestra With Charles Hazlewood **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected **9.30** Tales of the Unexpected **10.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **10.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.0** Discovering: Richard Gere **12.0** The Summer of Love **1.0** Tales of the Unexpected **2.0** Wordsworth & Coleridge Road Trip With Frank Skinner and Denise Mina **3.0** Portrait Artist of the Year 2022 **4.0** Discovering: Dennis Hopper **5.0** Tales of the Unexpected **5.30** Tales of the Unexpected **6.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.0** André Rieu: Live in Brazil **9.0** Spike Milligan: The Unseen Archive **10.35** Comedy Legends **11.35** Discovering: Doris Day **12.35** Too Young to Die **1.35** Margaret Atwood: A Word After a Word After a Word Is Power **3.35** The South Bank Show **4.35** Discovering: Jethro Tull **5.05** Music Icons: Metalheads **5.30** Video Killed the Radio Star

### Sky Atlantic

**6.0am** Urban Secrets **7.0** The Sopranos **9.25** True Blood **11.35** Game of Thrones **12.40** True Detective **3.30** The Sopranos **5.45** True Blood **7.55** Game of Thrones **9.0** Succession **10.20** My Brilliant Friend **11.50** Big Little Lies **12.55** Babylon Berlin **2.55** Game of Thrones **4.0** Urban Secrets

*Daredevil, Film4*

# Radio

### Radio 3

**6.30am** Breakfast. With Petroc Trelawny. **9.0** Essential Classics **12.0** Composer of the Week: Mozart – A Servant's Lot in Life (R) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert. The Mithras Trio play Bridge's Phantasie Piano Trio, Beethoven's "Ghost" Trio and Joy Lisney's Petrichor. **2.0** Afternoon Concert. NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo perform Beethoven's Symphony No 7 in A. **4.30** New Generation Artists. Pianist Eric Lu plays Schubert's Sonata in A minor, D784. **5.0** In Tune. With a cappella vocal group Apollo5. **7.0** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. François-Xavier Roth conducts Les Siècles in Franck's Le Chasseur Maudit, Symphony in D minor and Symphonic Variations, with pianist Bertrand Chamayou, plus Debussy's La Mer. **9.15** Northern Drift. With Anthony Dunn and Nightports. **10.0** Music Matters (R) **10.45** The Essay: Art and Uncertainty – The Benefit of Doubt. How artists embrace uncertainty as a key part of the creative process. (1/5) **11.0** Night Tracks **12.30** Through the Night

### Radio 4

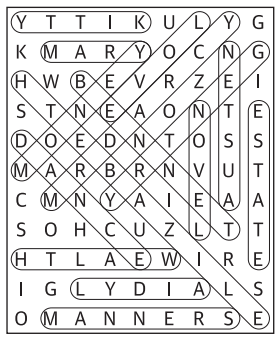
**6.0am** Today **9.0** Start the Week. Kenan Malik, Francesca Sobande and Don Paterson discuss upbringing and identity politics. (1/12) **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Clubland. By Peter Brown. (1/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour. **11.0** The Invention of Russia. Misha Glenny explores the country's history. (1/5) **11.30** Made of Stronger Stuff (R) **12.0** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** You and Yours **1.0** The World at One **1.45** NatureBang. The science behind phenomena in the natural world. (1/5) **2.0** The Archers **2.15** This Cultural Life (R) **3.0** Counterpoint. Music quiz. (1/13) **3.30** The Food Programme (R) **4.0** Warsan Shire on a Nation of Poets (R) **4.30** Beyond Belief. Experiences of the interplay between sport and spirituality. **5.0** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **5.57** Weather **6.0** News **6.30** Just a Minute (3/8) **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.0** In Dark Corners. Follow-up to the series about historical abuse in boarding schools. (4/4) **8.30** Crossing Continents (R) **9.0** Born in Bradford (R) **9.30** Start the Week (R) **9.59** Weather **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Lessons in Chemistry (6/10) **11.0** Lights Out (6/6) **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Clubland (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet of the Day (R)

### Radio 4 Extra

**6.0am** Busman's Honeymoon (6/6) **6.30** The War of the Worlds (6/6) **7.0** Machines Like Me (6/10) **7.15** Talking About Jane Austen in Baghdad (1/5) **7.30** In and Out of the Kitchen (2/6) **8.0** Brothers in Law (6/13) **8.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (5/6) **9.0** All the Way from Memphis (5/6) **9.30** My Turn to Make the Tea (R) **10.0** And Other Stories: Katherine Mansfield (1/2) **11.0** Busman's Honeymoon (6/6) **11.30** The War of the Worlds (6/6) **12.0** Machines Like Me (6/10) **12.15** Talking About Jane Austen in Baghdad (1/5) **12.30** In and Out of the Kitchen (2/6) **1.0** Brothers in Law (6/13) **1.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (5/6) **2.0** All the Way from Memphis (5/6) **2.30** My Turn to Make the Tea (R) **3.0** And Other Stories: Katherine Mansfield (1/2) **4.0** Busman's Honeymoon (6/6) **4.30** The War of the Worlds (6/6) **5.0** Machines Like Me (6/10) **5.15** Talking About Jane Austen in Baghdad (1/5) **5.30** In and Out of the Kitchen (2/6) **6.0** Brothers in Law (6/13) **6.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (5/6) **7.0** Jake Yapp's Unwinding (6/20) **10.0** Just a Minute (2/8) **10.30** Lucy Montgomery's Variety Pack (3/4) **11.0** The News Quiz (2/11) **11.30** As Told to Craig Brown (4/6) **12.0** And Other Stories: Katherine Mansfield (1/2) **1.0** Busman's Honeymoon (6/6) **1.30** The War of the Worlds (6/6) **2.0** Machines Like Me (6/10) **2.15** Talking About Jane Austen in Baghdad (1/5) **2.30** In and Out of the Kitchen (2/6) **3.0** Brothers in Law (6/13) **3.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful (5/6) **4.0** All the Way from Memphis (5/6) **4.30** My Turn to Make the Tea (R) **5.0** And Other Stories (2/2)

## Friday's solutions

**Wordsearch**



**Sudoku**

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

**Suguru**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

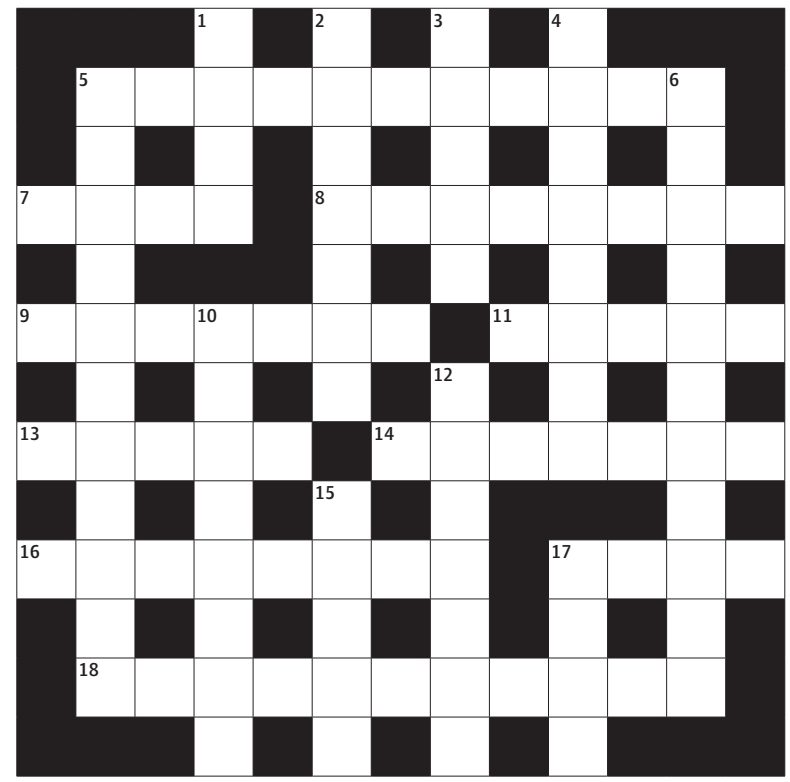
**Word wheel**
ENLIVENED

**Saturday's Quick crossword**
**Solution no 16,434**

## Quick crossword no 16,435

**Across**
**5** Annual British art award (6,5)
**7** Aberration (4)
**8** Disaster (8)
**9** Amazed (7)
**11** Cellist, d. 1987 (2,3)
**13** Superior to (5)
**14** Main road in North America (7)
**16** Device for spraying paint (8)
**17** Magician's rod (4)
**18** Much in demand (6-5)

**Down**
**1** Cut - cultivated plant (4)
**2** Educator (7)
**3** American IT company (5)
**4** Someone who talks too much (8)
**5** British TV series for little children (11)
**6** The __ (1902 Scott Joplin piano rag) (11)
**10** Dark colour (4,4)
**12** Washing-up cloth (7)
**15** Overly assertive (5)
**17** Scottish engineer, d. 1819 (4)



Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge.
Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate).
To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

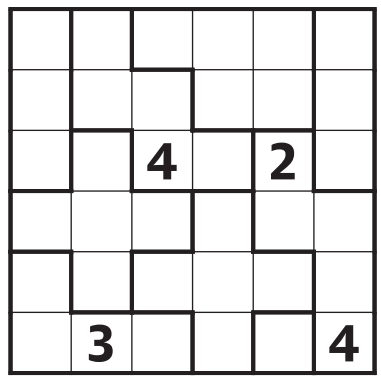
## Sudoku

*Easy. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku*

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

## Suguru

*Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.*



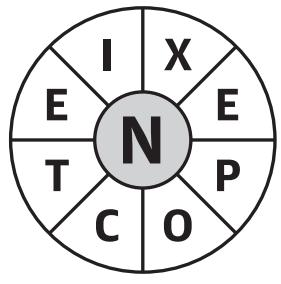
## Wordsearch

*Can you find 15 words associated with pianos in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | B | F | V | G | R | A | N | D |
| A | S | O | L | O | G | A | T | E |
| O | R | E | G | N | I | F | C | A |
| E | P | E | I | S | O | C | H | C |
| R | B | M | T | S | Y | I | O | N |
| A | I | O | E | S | D | S | R | E |
| T | O | P | N | T | O | U | D | H |
| L | U | E | O | Y | L | M | R | I |
| A | E | D | T | L | E | N | S | T |
| D | N | A | H | P | M | E | C | R |
| A | I | L | N | I | V | O | R | Y |

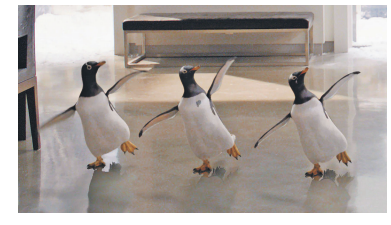
## Word wheel

*Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-41. Good-34. Average-25.*




## Pet corner

**Which actor gets the surprise gift of some penguins in the film Mr Popper's Penguins?**
a. Tom Hanks
b. Jim Carrey
c. Matt Damon
d. Hugh Jackman
*Answer top right*



TODAY'S PET CORNER ANSWER **JIM CARREY**

The rising tide in favour of the return of stolen artefacts *Editorials, page 2*

Sweeping social care reform can wait – homes need help now *John Harris, page 3*

What it's like being gay in a town that's very straight *James Cottis, page 4*

**G2**
**Daily pullout life & arts section**
*Inside*

**The Guardian** Monday 9 January 2023

# Journal

Opinion and ideas

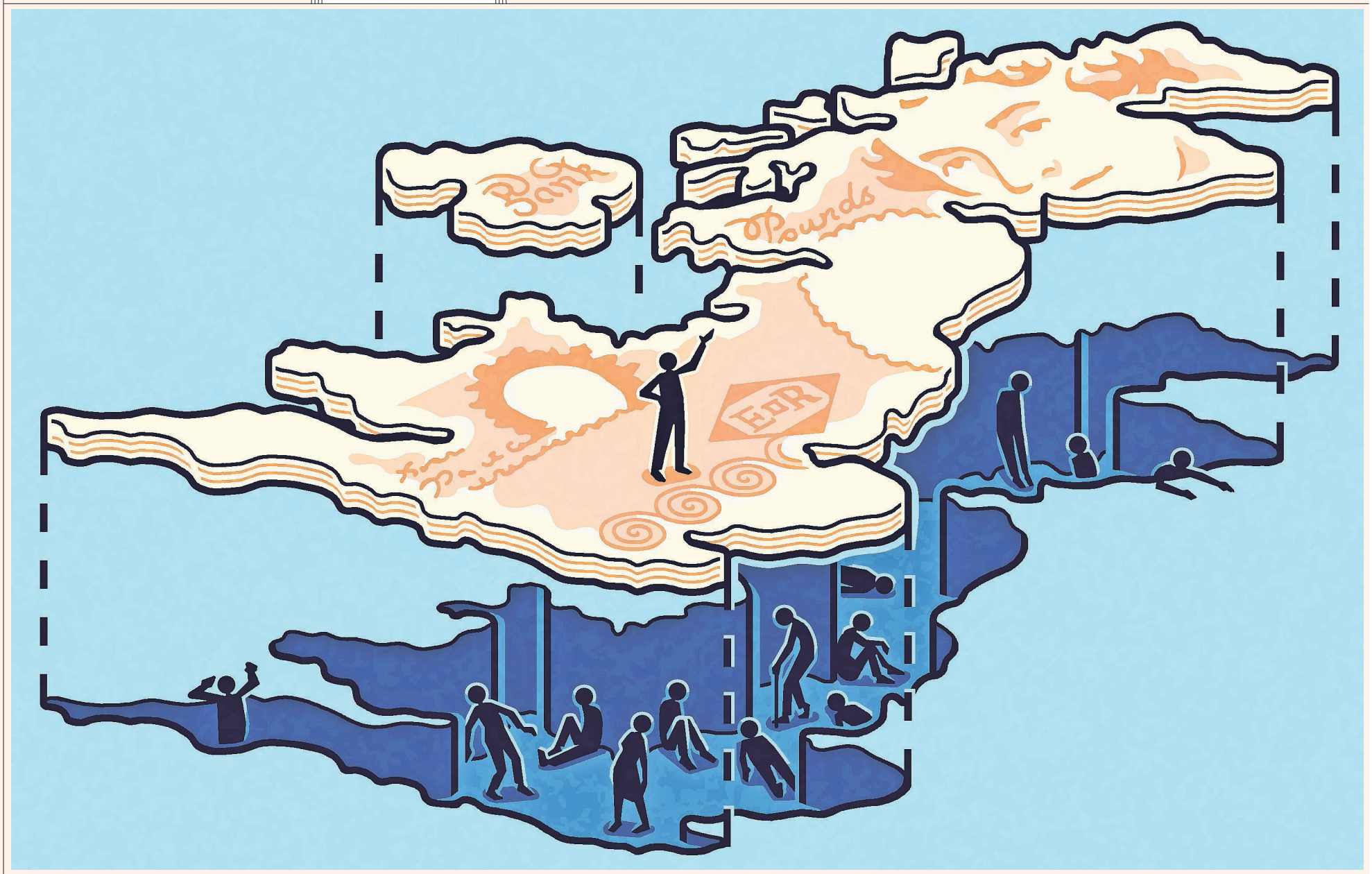



ILLUSTRATION: MATT KENYON

## In Sunak's UK, we pay extra for state services – or simply sink

**Nesrine Malik**

It's official. A two-tier health system, that long-feared prospect that rings the death knell of the NHS, has arrived. Trusts with long waiting lists are offering and promoting "quick and easy" private services in their hospitals. It's not a choice anyone would relish, but increasingly, those who can are paying up. If you're after a hip replacement, £1,200 can make the difference between a two-year and a two-week wait. You can get an MRI for £379 in 48 hours, and with it a diagnosis that could save a limb or a life.

The story is the same across England's public infrastructure. Those who can, after standing on a packed train platform, the clock ticking down to an important appointment, will take a taxi. Those who can will work several jobs to pay exorbitant and rising rent because they have no access to social housing. Those who can will take the hit, and those who can't will be stranded, on the streets and in the wards.

Every time you have taken that hit, and nobody can blame you for trying to move or heal, you have paid a ransom in a transaction where the government had held you hostage to your needs. By failing to provide public services, by privatising them, or by refusing to engage with striking workers, the government effectively withholds your rights, for which you have already paid through taxes and national insurance, and dares you to blink first. Whether you can afford to blink has little to do with your real wealth, because loans, credit cards and, if you are lucky, family are there to help you cope.

The result is a poorly regulated monopoly of exploitative private interests that mops up unmet demand or "helps" satisfy it: private health practices that charge an eye-watering amount just for a remote consultation, and ride-hailing firms whose prices surge when public transport is down or the weather is severe and yet still cannot keep up with demand. There are the instalment payment bolt-ons that appear when you check out online with items you cannot afford. This network, emerging and dystopian as it feels in England's economic climate at the moment and Britain's in general, is not unique. It is part of a global pattern that exists in every country where the state has withdrawn, or was never present in the first place.

It rises from the dust of disintegrating public amenities. As a child, I remember my father driving me, curled up in the back of the car in the middle of the night, through the streets of Khartoum to find an emergency room

2

## In Sunak's UK, we pay extra for state services – or simply sink

**Nesrine Malik**

← Continued from front

that would treat sudden crippling back pain. We returned at dawn, still unseen. All public hospitals were either deserted or overrun with patients. Today, in the same city, things are different. You have the option of treatment in a number of shiny private clinics and hospitals, but only if you have the money for a down payment that is required before you are even allowed to take a seat.

You also, as you do in many similar African economies, have options for almost everything that the state does not, or cannot provide. In Lagos, Nairobi, even more relatively affluent cities such as Cairo and Johannesburg, you have the choice to rent a private vehicle, from a motorcycle to beat traffic to an air-conditioned Uber, that can take you to your destination as you drive past rickety and unsafe public transport minibuses. There are electric generator providers who will sell you a wide range of devices to keep your lights on when the power goes out. There are sellers of water pumps to tease out the water from the mains, and another set of contractors to build you giant water containers to store that water when even the pumps don't work any more.

Policing is patchy and unreliable, so you can pay someone to guard your home during the night. If you need to deal with state bureaucracy, which is slow, unpredictable and extractive, there is a private army of fixers that will help you, for a fee of course. Think of them as that expensive "fast track" you take to renew your British passport for urgent travel. You still pay tax. Whenever the state can get its hands on your cash, it will take a chunk and you will pay it knowing that it is not going anywhere from which you will benefit.

This is the endgame – fast approaching here, in localised form – when the state stops performing its primary function, which is to provide basic human rights to health, shelter, energy, water and transport. Beyond the very wealthy who float above everyone else, the world becomes bifurcated into two classes, the same two that we are also beginning to see emerge in the UK. On the one hand, a class that may perish or starve, and another with disposable income diverted from self-improvement, leisure and savings to fund the creation and maintenance of a makeshift system of self-funded utilities.

The danger is less about the deliberate defunding of the public realm by the government – serious though that is. It lies more in the divestment from the public realm by the people. The withdrawal of the state creates not a physical place, but a mental place, where you give up on the government altogether.

Politicians feed this psychological reshaping. The most chilling aspect of Rishi Sunak's premiership so far is a studied remoteness that seems to ask: "What does this have to do with me?" We told you there would be challenges, he says, in the face of a crisis of historic proportions. How about more maths in schools and fewer migrant boats in the Channel? Keir Starmer finally finds some fire in his belly to tell us there will be devolution of decision-making (a good thing, local politicians may be more minded to protect and invest in public infrastructure), but no extra spending under Labour. So that's the future for communities: penniless autonomy.

At some point, poor countries and very rich capitalist countries end up in the same place – that is, hoarding resources and leaning on the private sector to keep the lights on, and passing on the cost of that process to the citizen.

But poverty hasn't brought us to a place where our transport, housing market and healthcare system are buckling; we are here thanks to conscious political choices disguised as a fact of nature. The spirit of public service can only be kept alive through constantly combating this swindle of scarcity; through maintaining anger and holding on to a sacred definition of what rights and expectations we have – and seek to retain. Pay up if you have to, but don't give up. Because they are counting on you to do just that.


# The Guardian

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*'Comment is free... but facts are sacred'* CP Scott


**Western Balkans**

## Europe must do more to help out in its troubled south-eastern corner

In early December, European Union officials headed to Albania to make a symbolic point. The latest EU-Western Balkans summit, held in Tirana, was the first to be actually held in a region whose populations mostly long to belong to the Brussels club, but have begun to doubt they ever will.

The gesture – along with concrete measures such as inclusion in the EU's Erasmus programme – went down well. "Things are changing," Albania's prime minister, Edi Rama, observed at the summit's conclusion, as other leaders hailed "a new mindset". A couple of weeks later, Bosnia and Herzegovina was granted the status of candidate country to join the EU.

The new mood music is not hard to explain. As EU enlargement fatigue set in over recent years, the western Balkans – and its seemingly intractable, unresolved tensions – fell far down the Europe's list of geopolitical concerns. But the war in Ukraine has concentrated minds in Brussels, as Russia seeks to expand its influence in the region at the expense of the EU and Nato, and leverages political instability to its own advantage.

This renewed western focus is much-needed but, given a darkening context, more than warm words is required. Last month, local disputes led to barricades being briefly erected in the northernmost part of Kosovo, which is mainly ethnic Serb. Relations between Pristina and Belgrade – which enjoys the Kremlin's enthusiastic backing and refuses to acknowledge Kosovo's independence – look worse than at any point during the last 20 years.

The EU's capacity to mediate is complicated by Serbia's dependency on Russian gas, and Belgrade's refusal to impose sanctions on Moscow. But unless the 2013 Brussels agreement is finally implemented this year – linking political autonomy for Kosovo Serbs to a normalisation of relations between the two countries – the risk of imminent conflict is real. Were that to happen, the wider ramifications would be serious, not least in terms of a new refugee crisis.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the situation is also bleak. Moscow gives generous support to the secessionist agenda of the Bosnian Serb nationalist leader, Milorad Dodik. At the same, the Kremlin cultivates Bosnian Croat nationalists, who are equally determined to entrench and deepen the ethnic divisions enshrined in the country's Dayton constitution. The German high representative appointed to oversee that constitution, Christian Schmidt, has appeared to cooperate with this agenda, controversially changing election laws after national polls closed in October. That has been taken as a sign by many Bosnians that the west has given up on the idea of the country ever becoming a normal, unified democracy. Meanwhile, in North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania, the relatively upbeat Tirana summit followed a period of growing disillusionment, as negotiations over joining the EU stalled.

Given the geopolitical stakes, and the growing influence of Chinese investment in the region, the EU needs to up its game. The success of anti-immigration, Islamophobic parties in countries such as France and the Netherlands means enlargement to the east is unrealistic for the forseeable future. But the EU can still exert influence by reversing the years of neglect. Short of accession, far more should be offered in terms of gamechanging economic assistance and greater EU market access. In exchange for progress on issues such as corruption, rule of law and free expression, a truly engaged approach could generate the goodwill necessary to defuse regional tensions and uphold democratic values.

The unpalatable alternative is to allow a strategically vital region to look east as much as west, empowering ethno-nationalist, illiberal forces and advancing the Kremlin's agenda in Europe's back yard.

**Museums**

## The swelling tide now in favour of returning stolen artefacts can't be ignored

The ceremonial return of 21 Benin bronzes to Nigeria by Germany last month gave the latest powerful signal of how fast the international tide is turning on the repatriation of looted art. The German handover followed an American one two months earlier, when the Smithsonian Institution signed over 29 bronzes in Washington. Both ceremonies turned the spotlight once again on the country whose army was responsible for seizing the bronzes in the first place: Britain.

The restitution of artefacts is an old bone of contention that has left the British Museum, in particular, beleaguered on all sides. The defence has often focused on how works arrived in museum collections: whether they were honestly acquired or stolen by individuals or armies. In the case of the Benin bronzes, there is no ambiguity. They were looted in 1897, when British forces sacked the Benin kingdom, in modern-day Nigeria, burning down the royal palace, exiling the oba (ruler), and seizing all royal treasures.

Most ended up at auction in London, where an estimated 3,000 objects eventually made their way into museums and private collections around the world. Ownership of more than 1,000 bronzes that ended up in Germany was legally transferred to Nigeria last July, five months before the symbolic handover, in the capital, Abuja, of the 21 outstanding items. Several of the UK's smaller institutions have also joined the great repatriation of Benin plunder, with the University of Cambridge last month pledging to return more than 100 objects, after similar moves by Jesus College, Cambridge, and the University of Aberdeen. South London's Horniman Museum returned six bronzes in November.

Each handover piles more pressure on the British Museum, which has more than 900 artefacts from Benin in its collection, but has recently been more occupied with trying to find a compromise with Greece over the future of the Parthenon marbles. Unlike its smaller siblings, the British Museum is forbidden by law from disposing of its holdings unless they are duplicates, irreparably damaged or unworthy of a place in the collection. In the case of the Parthenon marbles, the chairman, George Osborne, has been trying to sidestep this legal barrier with behind-the-scenes attempts (unsuccessful so far) to reach a loan agreement with Greece.

The Benin bronzes cast the legislation in a different light. They might not be duplicates, damaged or unworthy, but there is only room to display 100 of them at any one time in the British Museum, making them a prime hostage of what the Canadian author Malcolm Gladwell has described as the "dragon psychology" of modern museums: an instinct to hoard for hoarding's sake.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the National Heritage Act, which locked several other national museums into a similar bind over the disposal of their possessions. Tristram Hunt, the director of the V&A, argued last year that it was time for the act to be repealed, enabling institutions to sharpen up their act and respond to the ethical demands of a changing world. It is a conversation that is badly needed if the UK's national museums are not to become bywords for postcolonial backwardness.

*Brendoncare Knightwood care home, Hampshire*
PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEVENE

# Sweeping social care reform can wait – homes need help now

**John Harris**

Last Thursday, I spoke to a hospital doctor based in north-east England working in acute medicine, a catch-all term that takes in most conditions that present as emergencies, from heart attacks to kidney failure. I was put in touch with her by EveryDoctor, the advocacy group set up just before the pandemic. "I've never seen anything like this," she told me. "The corridors are crammed with people on trolleys, being nursed. Our A&E department is twice the size it was before the pandemic, but it's just silted up with people who can't get beds."

What had tipped her hospital into crisis, she said, was a bad flu season and a sharp rise in respiratory viruses, coupled with deep systemic problems that had been festering for years. "I think most people would say that if they were really ill, when they got through the doors, they'd be as safe as they could be. It feels like that's not the case now."

Our conversation flipped from the state of the NHS into the equally dire condition of the adult social care administered by councils and largely delivered by private providers, and a fundamental issue that hangs over this winter: the reality of an increasingly ageing society. Low pay, high staff turnover and ongoing austerity remain the defining features of how we deal with society's care needs, and gaping holes in provision have one particularly tragic result: patients who ought to be discharged from hospital being stranded there.

According to the president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, as many as 13,000 NHS patients – who account for up to 13% of hospital beds – are "medically ready to leave hospital, but have to stay because there is nowhere else for them to go". My doctor contact's estimate of numbers in her hospital chimed with that figure.

Journalists and politicians in England tend to fixate on the huge care bills paid by more affluent households and the proposed funding reforms, now delayed until 2025. But what of the state of social care itself? Thanks partly to rising energy costs, record numbers of care homes are going bust. In the first three months of last year, the Care and Quality Commission reported that more than 2m annual hours of home care could not be delivered because of an inadequate workforce. By late summer, credible figures suggested that nearly 300,000 people in England were waiting for an assessment of their care needs, with 600 people a day joining waiting lists.

> **Contrary to what we hear from Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer, there is no way out of this that does not involve large amounts of money**

The backstory to all this is depressingly familiar: the reckless austerity pursued by David Cameron, George Osborne and Nick Clegg, and how it flew in the face of rising need. I first heard people in local government talking about social care cuts blocking hospital beds eight years ago. More recently, sporadic but inadequate pots of money have been accompanied by equally sporadic talk of reform, but no sense of anyone managing to arrest snowballing failures. Over the weekend, there was news of more emergency spending – "hundreds of millions of pounds", said the front page of the Sunday Times – to block-buy places in care homes and free up NHS beds, on top of the £500m already allotted to a new "discharge fund". These moves might be welcome, but there is no strategic coherence: they leave the underlying factors behind the crisis untouched.

Yesterday morning, Laura Kuenssberg asked the prime minister the right question: "Would you do a job as a care worker for £18,000 a year?" He did not answer. About 50% of people in the sector earn within 30p an hour of the minimum wage. Brexit simmers away in the background, as both a cause of mounting labour shortages and the trigger of more indirect effects: increased vacancies in other fields are pulling people away from care in ever greater numbers. In 2021, the vacancy rate in adult social care was 5.9%; a year later, it reached 10%.

Notwithstanding the culpability of Westminster politicians for so much of this mess, these problems run across the UK, and are now receiving different and belated answers. In the face of loud opposition, the SNP government in Scotland is trying to centralise provision into a new national care service; in England, Labour offers vague talk of a system that would take shape "over several parliaments", while Tory ministers hype up the Health and Care Act of 2022 as a historic shift in "how health and care services work together". But there is one argument you hear repeatedly from social care insiders: that before we get to big conversations about sweeping change, our current crises need to be eased by quickly paying people more, and putting the system on a stable footing. Contrary to what we hear from Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer, there is no immediate way out of this mess that does not involve large amounts of money, spent year after year, and a plentiful supply of care workers.

There are two viable ways to secure those things: a growing economy that will bring in sufficient tax revenue, and a genuinely welcoming approach to people from overseas. But we are not that kind of country any more. Encouraged by the same charlatans who now wail about a "broken" Britain, the vote to leave the EU among over-65s came in at 64%. That grim irony is one more element of a winter characterised by chaos and carnage, and one symbolic image that still seems overlooked: people nearing the end of their lives, stuck in hospital, hanging on to a dimming hope that they may somehow make it home.

# Being gay in a town that is very straight

**James Cottis**

I grew up in the straightest town in England and Wales: Rochford, a small town in Essex. Last week, in figures revealed by the Office for National Statistics from its 2021 census, just 1.6% of the people living in my town said they were LGB+ – it was probably even more straight in the mid-90s, when I was about 15 and realised I was gay. Then, it felt like a complete taboo. My way of dealing with it was to try to put it at the back of my mind. I went through school, college and university doing exactly that.

When I left university and got involved in politics, I didn't meet many openly gay people. At the time, there were a few out members of parliament in the Labour government – people such as Chris Smith, Ben Bradshaw and Stephen Twigg – but none in the Conservatives, the party I joined when I was 18, until Alan Duncan came out a couple of years later. It still felt like a taboo. I was petrified about coming out or even telling anyone I was gay.

I was elected to the district council during 2006, and got a lot of local press attention because, at 24, I was the youngest councillor. Then I started hearing whispers that some people thought I was gay, and I would laugh it off. I was still in denial, but it got to the point a couple of years later when I became interested in the LGBT community.

Rochford, unsurprisingly for the straightest town in England, did not have any gay clubs – for that, you had to go down the road to Southend or, as I preferred, to Heaven, the famous gay club in London. For me, like many other young people finding out about their sexuality, it became the place where I could be who I really was. It felt as if I was living a double life – as a country boy in Rochford during the week, and a different person on a Saturday night in London. I didn't worry, because I thought I'd never bump into anyone from Rochford – the straightest town, remember – at Heaven, but sometimes it *did* happen. "I'm not gay," I would immediately tell them, "I'm just here with friends."

I stood for re-election in 2010, and decided that if I won, I would come out. I did. I told close friends first, and then my family. Nobody was bothered, or particularly surprised. It might not, thankfully, be considered a big deal now, but 12 years ago, in a small rural area, it was, and so I was advised to tell the leader of the council too.

Nobody treated me any differently; most local people either didn't know or didn't care. I was aware that I represented a number of older people who may have had negative attitudes about LGBT people, but I never experienced any hostility in Rochford. I did, however, from my own party. I planned to stand for election again in 2014, but some local Conservatives took a dislike to me and tried to stop me standing. I believe it was because of my sexuality – one mentioned, disparagingly, an interview I'd given to a local BBC radio station a few months earlier, in which I talked about coming out.

But this is not an accurate picture of what the wider Conservative party is like. People have asked how I can be a member of the party of section 28, but I believe Conservative attitudes have moved on, including legalising same-sex marriage. Apart from that one incident with my local party, I've never felt unwelcome. At one Conservative Pride party, I was on the dancefloor with Liz Truss, then foreign secretary, to It's Raining Men.

I still live in Rochford, where I'm now on the parish council, a property investor and finishing a master's degree on US foreign policy. I've never felt any overt homophobia in the community, although it's not somewhere I would necessarily walk around holding hands with a partner.

There are other LGBT people in the town and surrounding area – and in fact probably many more than the census revealed. Maybe the people who were marking the tick boxes felt they couldn't be honest, even to themselves. Rochford has an older population than Brighton, which has the highest proportion of LGBT people in the population.

You tend to find that in these rural areas, there are a lot of older gay couples – but they keep themselves to themselves, and you know that they will probably never come out publicly.

I find it sad that people still feel they can't be themselves. But if the Conservative party has changed, one day so will Rochford.

* **James Cottis** *is a Conservative district councillor and property investor*

# Letters

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## Country diary

*Allen Banks, Northumberland*

**After the rains the river is vigorous, churning over rapids, frothing like a cappuccino against rocks, full of vim and energy. The Allen is broad here at Allen Banks, just a few miles downstream from where its east and west arms conjoin.**

**This is a place I return to often, a place where layers of memory overlap. My children skimming stones at the gravelly bend; my grandchildren playing at the exact same spot. Slow summer walks with friends, brisk walks on cold days. Knowing where to find orchids and mountain pansies or the lone spindleberry. Winter's spectacular hair ice bursting from rotting wood.**

**The deep gorge is covered in ancient semi-natural woodland, paths threading up and down its steep sides. It's a landscape that was moulded and enhanced in the 19th century by Susan Davidson, who owned nearby Ridley Hall. She spent 30 years revealing its dramatic beauty, making a Victorian wilderness garden of rustic bridges and summerhouses, viewpoints, avenues of beech trees and a boating tarn.**

**One path runs along the top lip of the gorge where a shingle-roofed Cedar Hut has been recreated by the National Trust. Further along, high above the river, is the ghost of another summerhouse. Semi-circular nobbles of bone, pitted and ash-grey, punch up through yellow-green mosses. They are sheep's knucklebones, rammed into the earth, ebbing out in concentric rings to make a patterned floor.**

**The Knucklebone Floor is a collection of poems by Linda France imagining the 19th-century widow who intervened in the landscape. A part of Linda's creative practice-led PhD titled "Women on the Edge of Landscape", it won last year's Laurel prize, the international accolade for nature and environmental poetry. She writes: "We almost don't find what's left of the knucklebone floor from her vanished moss house." You have to look carefully among beech mast and leaves.**

**This January day feels between seasons, with tight nascent catkins on the hazels and glossy-leaved hollies still blazing with berries. Goldcrests skip through a lattice of silver birch twigs; a coal tit calls. A dipper slips into the turbulence to feed, unfazed by the high water, and a rusty-backed kestrel dashes ahead of me. It's a good start to a new year.**
**Susie White**

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## In hospital, I saw how the NHS has been vandalised

Rishi Sunak tells us that there is no crisis in the NHS (Doctors condemn 'delusional' PM after he denies crisis in the NHS, 4 January). I have just spent a week in hospital following an emergency. I managed to get to A&E; four hours into my wait to be seen, I collapsed and was taken into a treatment room. A stay in hospital was needed. Two hours into my wait for a bed, I had to relinquish my position in the treatment room for a chair as someone else needed to be treated in the room. At 11.30pm that night a bed was found, I was stabilised and checked, and told that I would have the vital procedure the following day. This was cancelled, and the next day allocated. This too was cancelled. Four times, in fact.

Nowhere in the chain was there an act of deliberate neglect or prevarication. I was in the real world of NHS 2023, starved of resources to cope with demand. Through my ordeal I saw fellow human beings stretched to the very limit, yet still managing to give me gentle care and the highest quality treatment. The staff at the hospital represent the best of humanity. Every person – paramedics, A&E, ward staff and medics – faced a mass of sick people all needing individual attention and crammed into every available space. The exhausted looks on the faces of staff will stay with me for ever.

It isn't until you need it that you realise how vandalised and broken our health system has become. Not enough medics, not enough nurses, not enough beds, not enough equipment. This government has stealthily undermined each of us by starving our health service of resources over the past decade.
**Michael Newman**
*Shefford, Bedfordshire*

● What our government has chosen to do to our NHS is not just unforgivable, but criminal. I recently had to take my daughter, who is disabled with chronic respiratory issues, to A&E. I have never seen a paediatric waiting room so full, with children lying on the floor, and paramedics bringing patients in and finding nowhere to put them. As a parent, it was terrifying.

We now live in a state of fear. My child can rapidly go from coping well with a chest infection to severely ill. She regularly needs admitting to hospital, and we know that the key to keeping her alive is being seen and given treatment as soon as possible. Now, in 2023, we know that this is not possible.

The defunding of the NHS is a political choice by a government that chooses to serve the rich. It is privatising our healthcare service. It can't comprehend that a service can exist for the good of the people, rather than to make a profit.

Now up to 500 people are dying each week purely because of delays in A&E. How many more are dying because of the horrendous waiting lists for treatment? How can these politicians make decisions that kill people and not be held accountable?

It's not your fault for going to A&E because you couldn't get a GP appointment. It's not your neighbour's fault because they emigrated here. It's not nurses' fault because they campaign for a living wage. It is the fault of a government, that chooses to risk lives in the pursuit of money.
**Rachel Curtis**
*Ellington, Northumberland*

## How a migrant I hosted has enriched Britain

Maya Goodfellow's timely critique of Labour could go further than asking the party to challenge myths and create fewer hostile rules (Labour is too timid. It can win with a humane migration policy, 29 December). Isn't it likely that the growth of positive public attitudes to immigration has been encouraged mainly by images of suffering – Afghans trapped in Kabul, Ukrainians who have lost their homes, families drowned in the Channel?

We need to recognise the courage and determination that enable migrants to get this far. Histories of past migrations (eg to the US in the 19th century) have shown that most migrants enrich and invigorate their destination countries. From 2016 to 2021, I hosted an African asylum seeker. He arrived aged 20, undernourished, lacking any education beyond the age of 12, and was diagnosed with PTSD. He's now a qualified electrician (classed as a "shortage occupation"), a dedicated gym-goer, has a partner and a daughter, and loves life.

He wouldn't have got far in a points-based system, but the kind of contribution he has made to our society and economy could be commonplace, not wasted in hotel accommodation and dumps such as the Manston asylum centre.
**Dr Cary Bazalgette**
*Honorary research fellow, UCL Institute of Education*

## Trapped by a boar hunt in a French forest

For the past 21 years, we have exercised caution when going on our daily walk on hunting days (France hunt tragedy deepens rural divide, 3 January). We live in the middle of a French national forest, where even driving to a safer location may involve running the gauntlet of hunters strung out along our forest road.

Recently, we made an error of judgment and found ourselves in a remote spot surrounded by a pack of hunting dogs trying to flush out a wild boar.

My husband, who has always professed to not being able to sing, struck up a round of "What shall we do with the drunken sailor?", while I, breathless with fear, could only muster a few profanities in French. We kept it up until we reached the safety of our gate, 20 minutes away. Needless to say, the notices that the hunters may or may not have posted at the entrance to the forest to warn people of hunting were totally useless to us.
**Joan Lewis**
*St-Étienne-de-Gourgas, France*

## Honour our dead soldiers on stamps

So Royal Mail is paying tribute to "bona fide rock legends" Iron Maiden on stamps (Chain mail, 5 January). Good to see a bit of heavy metal in the post. But what baffles me is why Royal Mail never issued stamps featuring portraits of the UK soldiers who lost their lives during the Iraq conflict.

In 2009, I helped organise part of the UK art gallery tour of Queen and Country by the Turner prize and Oscar winner Steve McQueen. After travelling to Basra as the Imperial War Museum's official artist, McQueen created a tribute to Britain's fallen. Within a modernist oak sarcophagus are 155 portraits of soldiers printed on large sheets of postage stamps, with their name, regiment, age and date of death in the margin. I remember being profoundly moved seeing the faces of those who had lost their lives.

McQueen's objective was for Royal Mail to officially issue the stamps so that the public would come to recognise those soldiers. But it refused, saying that it would be "distressing and disrespectful" to armed forces families. However, the families I spoke to were keen for their loved ones to be remembered in this way. It's time for institutions to help us remember our past – we'd be a better country for it.
**Madeleine Burbidge**
*London*

## Corrections and clarifications

**● An article gave the incorrect telephone number to find out about giving blood in the UK (How to spread joy in every week of 2023, 3 January, G2, p4). It should have been 0300 123 23 23.**

**● A question in the King William's College quiz (22 December, G2, p8) was in itself puzzling. Question 4.3 should have asked about Rocco's daughter, not Rocca's daughter.**

Editorial complaints and corrections can be sent to guardian.readers@theguardian.com or The readers' editor, **Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU**

## Careers advice to six-year-old me

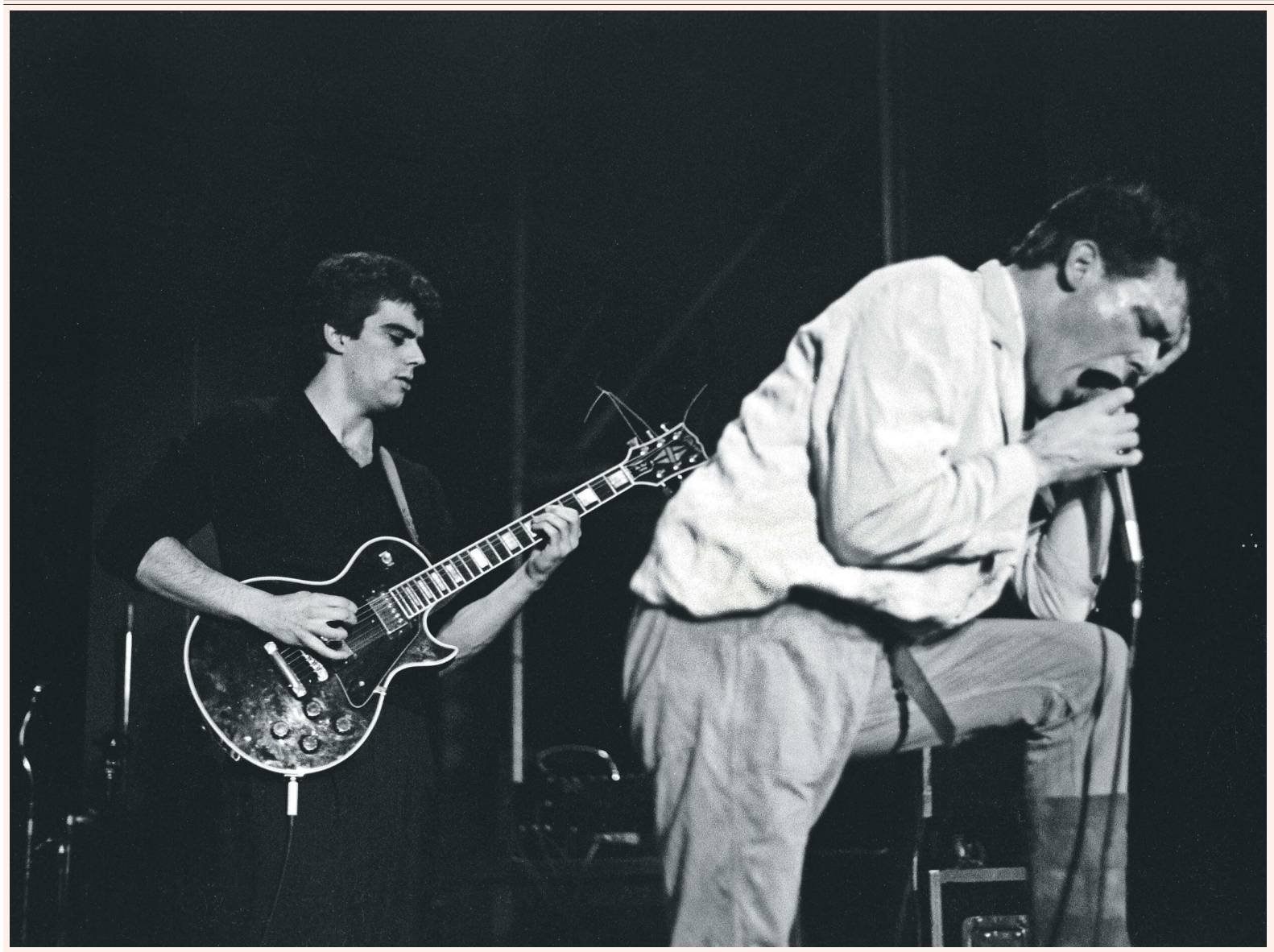
There is nothing new about giving primary school children careers advice and motivation (Report, 6 January). When I was six, my teacher told me that if I didn't learn to spell properly I would never get a good job. My reply, that when working I would have a secretary and therefore not need to spell, was not seen as evidence of high aspiration.
**Ian Sissling**
*Otley, West Yorkshire*

● Re Rishi Sunak's conversation with Dean, a homeless man in a shelter (Letters, 3 January), I recall listening to a resident teaching ancient Greek to the manager of a fantastic project near Chancery Lane in London, run by St Mungo's. He'd been a classics teacher in a former life. Every rough sleeper has a backstory.
**Helen Keats**
*Former national rough sleeping adviser*

● Last week, I received a reply in the post to my two recent brief letters (9 December; 26 December). It had my name, followed by "the Bread Sauce Preservation Society" and my village and county. It took 20 days to reach me, which, given the sparsity of the address, is a credit to the Post Office. There now is another member, welcome Steve. Brief letters brighten my day, every day.
**Gill Empson**
*Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire*

● On 5 January, I received a Christmas card that was posted first-class in North Yorkshire on 7 December. Is this a record?
**Graham Russell**
*Market Drayton, Shropshire*

● Did any of the people pictured skiing on artificial snow in Gstaad (Eyewitness, 6 January) use air travel to get there? If so, how wonderfully ironic.
**Hazel Pennington**
*Bath*



# Alan Rankine

## Guitarist and keyboardist with the Associates best known for their 1982 first hit Party Fears Two

In pop, nothing succeeds like excess, and few songs were more excessive than Party Fears Two, the untethered first hit by the Associates. The guitarist and keyboardist Alan Rankine, who has died aged 64, wrote it with the singer Billy Mackenzie on a hungover Sunday in 1977, but felt that its intricate piano curlicues and Mackenzie's ravenous operatic delivery made it unreleasable in the era of punk and disco.

Deciding the time was right in 1982, they appeared on Top of the Pops that February, and the sight and sound of them – Mackenzie emoting in trenchcoat and beret, the darkly handsome Rankine glowering over a banjo – instantly, albeit briefly, elevated them to the top flight of the UK's alt-indie scene.

The duo never had another Top 10 single, but their uniqueness – the result of a highly musical craftsman (Rankine played all the instruments on the song) bonding with an "extreme at all times" (their producer Mike Hedges's words) tour de force – ensured that they would inspire left-field musicians for decades to come.

Their two albums, The Affectionate Punch (1980) and Sulk (1982), are canonical – exemplifying an era when flights of fancy from two Scottish outsiders could achieve both commercial and artistic success. Rankine left in September 1982 when Mackenzie balked at spending eight months touring Sulk in the US, and from that point was a quiet free agent. As "one of the fastest, most complete and inventive musicians", in Hedges's estimation, doors were open to him. He established a career as a solo artist, a producer for others and a college lecturer.

*Rankine, left, and Billy Mackenzie of the Associates performing at University of London Union in 1981*
DAVID CORIO/REDFERNS

Born in Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire, Alan was the son of Jim Rankine, a school inspector, and his wife, a secretary. His first interest was tennis and he was good enough to consider making it a career but for his height – at 5ft 8in, he could never take on the six-footers who came to dominate the game as tennis rackets became lighter and stronger.

He could, however, play the guitar, once he had nagged his parents into buying him one for his 11th birthday. After he got the hang of it, he turned to the piano. During his first lesson, the tutor put his hand on Rankine's leg, and the 17-year-old "clocked him".

He never took another lesson, teaching himself instead. It was so easy to pick up that he assumed anyone could do it.

By then living in Linlithgow, West Lothian, he imperiously told a local prog-rock band they were terrible; their response was to hire him as guitarist. Rankine renamed them Caspian and found himself playing chicken-in-a-basket lounges and miners' welfare clubs. Caspian's singer had a breakdown and Rankine was tasked with finding a new frontman, which he did on a night out at Tiffany's nightclub in Edinburgh – Mackenzie was on stage.

> **Rankine told a local prog-rock band they were terrible; their response was to hire him**

Rankine said: "I've got to have that voice. I need to meet that person." Mackenzie, from Dundee, joined Caspian but could not abide the straight, testosterone-fuelled lineup. He and Rankine began writing songs together and playing as a duo.

Signing in 1979 to Fiction Records, they maintained a fractious relationship with the company for a year, during which they released The Affectionate Punch (1980). Despite music-press acclaim, the Associates were a niche proposition until the career-changing Party Fears Two. Once they had a hit, Rankine was excited about their imminent US tour, but Mackenzie found touring and promotion intolerable.

Exasperated, Rankine quit and, after four months of drinking and brooding, he returned to produce the Cocteau Twins, and begin again as a solo artist. He was not expecting much – "I'm no singer," he said in 2016 – and the three albums he made in the 1980s (The World Begins to Look Her Age, She Loves Me Not and The Big Picture Sucks) duly failed to sell, despite being praised for his production and instrumentation.

He married Belinda Henderson (nee Pearse), a director of the modish Brussels-based indie label Les Disques de Crépuscule, in the 80s, and became Crépuscule's unofficial house producer, working with Paul Haig and Anna Domino. Later, he joined Stow College in Glasgow as a music lecturer and helped to found the student-run Electric Honey record label, which worked with the future star acts Biffy Clyro, Belle and Sebastian and Snow Patrol.

In 1993, he and Mackenzie discussed reuniting the Associates. Mackenzie still would not tour (he made enough money flying to New York for one night and "playing to 4,000 gay guys", for whom he was a legend), but the pair wrote nearly a dozen songs. The putative reunion album never happened. Mackenzie took his own life in 1997, aged 39.

Rankine continued to write and produce music and was planning to publish a book. A 40th-anniversary Sulk box set was released last year – the latest of many Associates reissues, most of which inspired music-press reflection about the group's far-ranging influence.

His marriage to Belinda ended in divorce. He is survived by his sons, Callum and Hamish.

**Caroline Sullivan**

*Alan Rankine, musician and producer, born 17 May 1958; died 3 January 2023*

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# Other lives

## Jane Harris

*British abstract artist who, through her beautiful handling of paint, could be visually mischievous*

Jane Harris, who has died after a short illness aged 65, was one of Britain's most significant abstract painters. For 30 years she explored, through a set of self-imposed rules, the perceptual qualities of the ellipse.

It was a shape that, in her hands, could be both ornate and spartan, and that, through her beautiful handling of paint, could be visually mischievous. Carefully painted in oils, each of the meticulous brushstrokes that mark out her curvilinear shapes describes both a form, themselves, and a texture, which captures and reflects light.

I met Jane at Goldsmiths College, University of London (now Goldsmiths University of London) in the 1990s, when I was a student on the MA course in fine art. She had just graduated. Jane first studied art in Bournemouth, Dorset, the county in which she spent her childhood. She was born in Swanage, one of four children of George Harris, who was in the navy, and his wife, Eva (nee Armstrong).

After leaving Bournemouth College of Art (now Arts University Bournemouth), she then went, via Camberwell School of Art and Crafts (now Camberwell College of Arts) and Brighton Polytechnic (now University), to the Slade in London. She spent 10 years practising as an artist, during which time she was awarded scholarships to study classical gardens in Paris and Zen gardens in Japan, before she sought out the intellectual debate at Goldsmiths, which was then in its heyday, to challenge herself yet further.

It was there that she began working with ellipses, creating a language that was uniquely her own, and that enabled her paintings to hold multiple and shifting identities. For a decade from 1996 she taught on the MA course herself.

In 2006 she moved, with her husband, the sculptor Jiří Kratochvil, and son, to rural Périgord, in France, where she created a studio and home, to be able to concentrate on her work more fully. From this position of relative isolation, her paintings became first more complex, and then more colourful. She described how inspirational she found the quality of changing light on the surface of the quiet landscape she could view from her window.

Another source of great inspiration was the artists Josef and Anni Albers, and she spent two productive residencies as a visiting artist at the Albers Foundation in Connecticut. It was there that she expanded her drawing practice, making beautiful works on paper in dark graphite pencil, and pencil and watercolour.

Jane's work is held in significant British, French and American collections, including those of the Arts Council England, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Pallant House, Chichester, and Southampton City Art Gallery; and some of the most respected writers on contemporary painting, such as Martin Hentschel and Barry Schwabsky, have written about her art. Her presence, humour, and friendship will be deeply missed by her many artist friends.

A survey of her work is scheduled to open at Frac MÈCA in Bordeaux this year.

She is survived by Jiří and their son, George, and two of her brothers, Tim and Nick.

**Daniel Sturgis**

*Smoke and Mirrors, 2016, by Jane Harris* SAM HARTNETT

## Nicolas Belfrage

*Wine writer with a deep knowledge of Italy dedicated to realising the country's enormous potential*

Nicolas Belfrage, who has died aged 82 of complications arising from Parkinson's disease, was an authority on Italian wine whose knowledge of Italy and its long history of producing and exporting wine was second to none.

He was one of the first to realise the country's enormous potential for quality, against the tired old cliche of barrels of undistinguished cheap wine, which he powerfully counteracted as early as 1985 in his first book, Life Beyond Lambrusco - Understanding Italian Fine Wine.

The book's editor, Jancis Robinson, originally wanted to title it The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, but Nicolas objected, emphasising that fine Italian wine actually existed, even if, at the time, few people were aware of it.

Nicolas was born in Los Angeles, California, the son of the British journalist, film critic and activist Cedric Henning Belfrage and his wife, the writer Molly Castle. Having only briefly joined the Communist party in 1937, Cedric was summoned in 1954 before the House Un-American Activities Committee and, after a period in prison, was deported. Nicolas and his mother had already returned to Britain the previous year.

He went to St Paul's boys' school in London followed by University College London, where he graduated in French and Italian in 1964. At the age of 25, Nicolas went to study Italian in Siena, Tuscany.

His early ambition was to become a writer and he produced three unpublished novels as well as a work on Dante Alighieri. His later efforts had a literary quality rarely seen in wine writing.

As a budding wine journalist, I asked Nicolas in 2011 during an interview: "Why Italian wine?"

"Why wine at all?" he replied.

By sheer coincidence, in 1970 he had begun working in a late-night grocery business in Gloucester Road, west London, set up by his friend Albert Vince. A second store in Paddington, this time including an off-licence, opened up the route to the world of wine for him.

After his first marriage, to Baiba Krumens, ended in 1974, Nicolas continued to visit her at her new home in Bergamo, Lombardy, and there discovered the existence of fantastic Italian wines. In 1986, he founded Wine Cellars in Wandsworth, south-west London, one of the first non-Italian owned stores to distribute high-quality Italian wine.

Having passed the notoriously difficult Master of Wine exams in the 1980s, Nicolas now had the authority, as well as the buying acumen and critical voice, needed to conquer a sceptical market.

In 1996 he founded Vinexus, an agency specialising in top Italian wine. His magnum opus

was contained in two volumes, Barolo to Valpolicella: The Wines of Northern Italy (1999), and Brunello to Zibibbo: The Wines of Tuscany, Central and Southern Italy (2001), in which he described in great detail the diversity of the Italian wine world and its indigenous varieties while, crucially, putting everything into a historical context.

Nicolas is survived by his two daughters, Ixta and Beatriz, both from his second marriage, in 1988, to Candida de Melo, which ended in 2009.

**Walter Speller**

## John Cooper

*Electrical engineer behind the installation of complex TV networks in Madrid and Johannesburg*

My grandfather, John Cooper, who has died aged 96, was an electrical engineer. Throughout his life and work he was open to new ideas and embraced education and other cultures. His own experiences of life fostered a deep concern for the welfare of others.

Born in Reading, John was the eldest son of Maurice, a master draper, and Agnes (nee Bradley), an upholsterer. He gained a scholarship to Reading Blue Coat school, and left at 14, after passing his exams early, to support his family. He initially worked in telecommunications, joining the Post Office telephone engineering department in 1942 and the cable manufacturer Telcon, based in Greenwich, south London, in 1949. For them he installed a large aerial cable on top of the Shot Tower on the South Bank for the Festival of Britain before putting himself through night school to qualify as an electrical engineer.

John loved the opportunities this gave him to travel internationally. He designed and oversaw the installation of complex television networks, including in Madrid, Johannesburg and on the QE2 Cunard liner, collaborating with engineers from many countries and expanding his knowledge of different ways of life. His experiences inspired him to return to evening classes in his 40s to learn Spanish. In 1981 he set up his own consultancy, which designed the television network for the Queen Alia airport in Jordan.

He met Rene Harding while they were both "digging for victory" on a farm in Kent in the aftermath of the second world war; they married in 1951. Family was important to him, and he and Rene had three daughters: Helen, Alison and Barbara. As someone who had had to leave school early, John valued the opportunity of education and saw all his children go to university.

His engineer's mind meant that he continued to embrace new technology. After Rene died of heart failure in 2015, this became a lifeline for him to keep in touch with others. Central to this connection, especially during the pandemic, was the daily sharing of the Guardian puzzles with three generations of his family.

John remained active throughout his life. In his youth he had been a successful amateur footballer, including playing for Putney Athletic. After retiring to the Isle of Wight in his 70s, he joined a walking club, and organised and led the Christian Aid walk.

In his 90s, he took up cycling on his e-bike. He had a photographic memory, and became the family archivist and keeper of its history. He was never without a project, and always ready with a few lines of humorous verse at the milestone events of his friends and family.

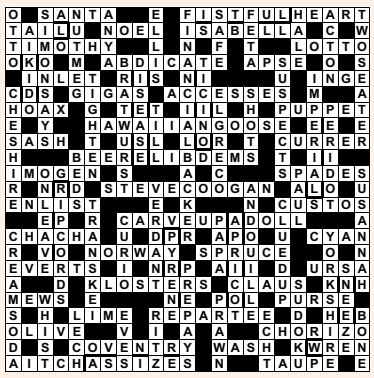
His youngest daughter, Barbara, died in 2018. John is survived by Helen and Alison, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Rosie Hermon**

## Birthdays

**Joan Baez**, singer, 82; **Michel Barnier**, former EU Brexit negotiator, 72; **Sarah Beeny**, broadcaster, 51; **Lady (Christine) Crawley**, former chair, Women's National Commission, 73; **Nicholas Daniel**, oboist, 61; **Prof David Field**, chief executive, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, 56; **Ann Firbank**, actor, 90; **Sergio Garcia**, golfer, 43; **Crystal Gayle**, singer, 72; **Philippa Gregory**, novelist, 69; **Prof Sir Alec Jeffreys**, geneticist, 73; **Robert Jenrick**, Conservative MP and immigration minister, 41; **Katarina Johnson-Thompson**, heptathlete, 30; **Jimmy Page**, musician, 79; **Joely Richardson**, actor, 58; **Dame Ruth Runciman**, former chair, Mental Health Act Commission, 87; **Imelda Staunton**, actor, 67; **The Princess of Wales**, 41.

## Christmas special solution



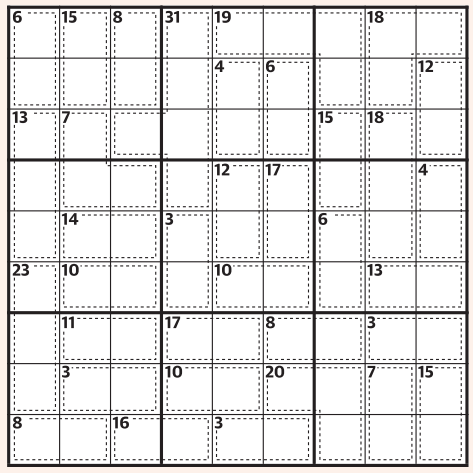
The Christmas cryptic crossword winners of The Language Lover's Puzzle Book are: Brighid Simpkin, Cambridge; Michael Bruce, Glasgow; LF Pritchard, Cromer; Richard Stocks, Waybridge; Linda McCartney, Ipswich; Rev Marjorie Brooks, Bridgnorth; E Ford, Glanamman; Alice Walker, Whaley Bridge; Tim Laffey, Cliffony, Ireland; Veronica Elleson, Reading.

This week's winners are: Peter Phipps, Worcester; Clare Schroder, Penarth; Claudia Houghton, St Albans; Norman Dickson, Glasgow; Isobel Mattews Bury. **Please allow 28 days for delivery.**

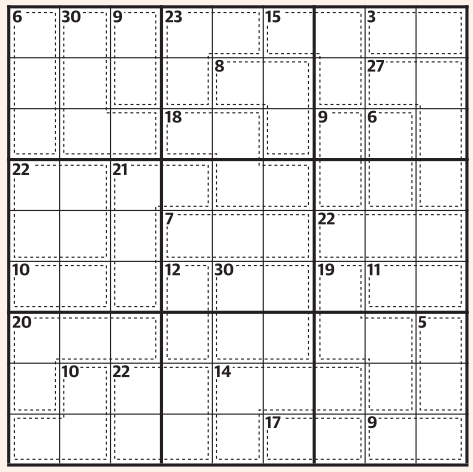
## Killer sudoku

### Easy

*The normal rules of sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.*

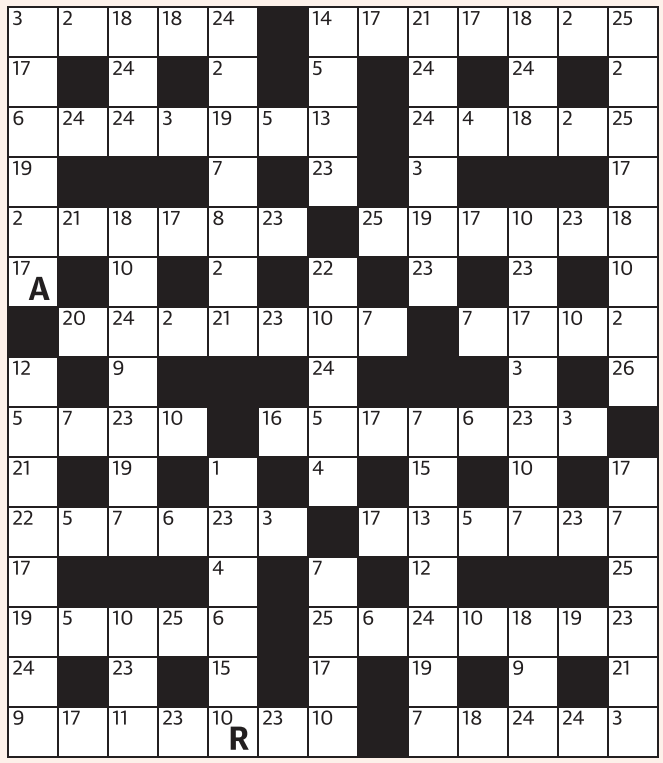


### Medium



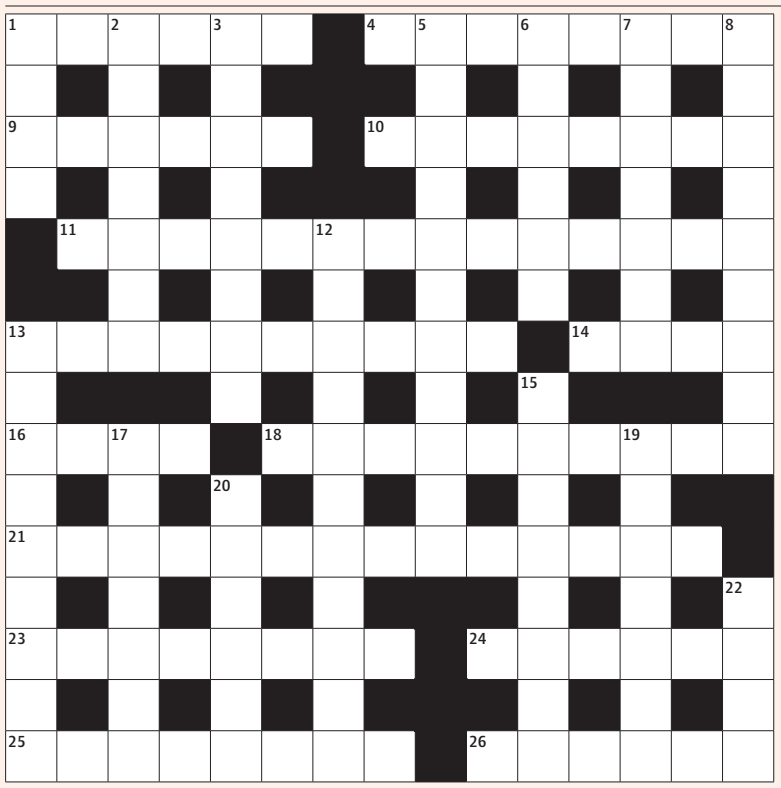
## Codeword

*Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.*



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

## Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,962 set by Matilda



**Across**

**1** Some olives are wasted (6)
**4** Had a laugh when jilted around the third of July (8)
**9** 'Grow up pal', she said, 'you are in' (6)
**10** Hot Romeo spotted in local (8)
**11,21** From bad to worse in terms of eating and heating? (3,2,3,6,3,4,3,4)
**13** Innocent king follows ethnic diversity (2,3,5)
**14** Young Simpson nudging along a spoilt child (4)
**16** Appealing and periodically acquitted (4)
**18** Was uncertain about old elastic pants (10)
**21** See 11
**23** Brief account round home (8)
**24** Legitimate appalling successor to Elizabeth the second (6)
**25** Simple job to enquire after Yeats edition (4,4)
**26** African-American mostly pursuing knowledge (6)

**Down**

**1** Total love for wrestling (4)
**2** Turns to organisation without seeing the evidence (2,5)
**3** Aristocrat with gongs and rings here (8)
**5** Animal, vegetable, plant (11)
**6** Larks in bushes (6)
**7** Happier when Starmer after change of heart supports leaders of leftist unitary councils (7)
**8** Ray indeed is happy (9)
**12** Conservatives delay demoting leader to begin with – they're unbelievable! (4,7)
**13** Powerless South American island quietly coming up (9)
**15** Two thirds of models fall hopelessly for past lover (3,5)
**17** One leaves mangled genitals in knots (7)
**19** Tight old solver's admitting disagreement (7)
**20** Convince strangers to welcome brotherly love? (6)
**22** Family of Cyril Allen gutted (4)

**Stuck?** For help call **0906 200 83 83**. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call **0330 333 6946** for customer service (charged at standard rate).
**Want more?** Get access to more than 4,000 puzzles at **theguardian.com/crossword**. To buy puzzle books, visit **guardianbookshop.com** or call **0330 333 6846**.

## Saturday's solutions

**Sandwich sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 27 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 27 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 13 |
| 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 0 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 20 | 19 | 10 | 35 | |

**Killer Sudoku 847**

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

**Cryptic crossword**
*Solution No. 28,955*