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ZELENSKY'S NATO CONCESSION TO RUSSIA AS WAR DEATH TOLL SOARS

HELL ON EARTH ...BUT GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR PEACE



From **Michael Knowles** on Poland/Ukraine border and **Sam Lister** in London

HOPES of ending the tragic cost of war in Ukraine were tentatively raised yesterday when Volodymyr Zelensky conceded his country could never join Nato.

Russia has demanded that its neighbour must remain outside the alliance.

The concession comes as the death toll continues to rise, with southern city Mariupol described as hell on earth. The bombardment

TURN TO PAGE 4

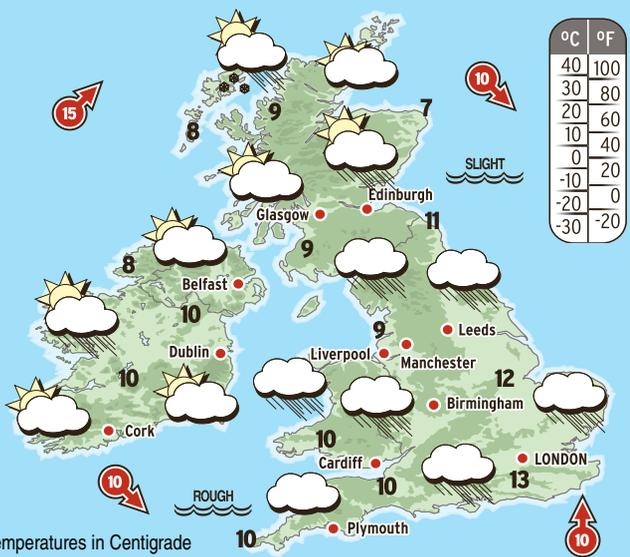


122,000

Brits offer homes to refugees

SEE PAGES 8&9

Weather forecast



North West: Mainly dull and cloudy with light rain, especially later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Northern Ireland: The chance of an isolated shower at first, but mainly fine and sunny. Light winds. High 10C (50F).

Wales: Mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle, heavy at times. Light winds. High 11C (52F).

Midlands: Dull with slow-moving showers and some heavy rain later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 11C (52F).

North East/Yorks: Unsettled with the chance of heavy showers, mainly later. Moderate winds. High 12C (54F).

Scotland: Spells of rain and drizzle for some. Mostly light winds but brisk in the north-west. High 10C (50F).

East Anglia: Mainly dull with heavy rain moving in later. Gentle south-easterly winds. Very mild. High 13C (55F).

London/South East: Mostly cloudy with the chance of showers, heavy later. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 13C (55F).

South: Cloudy, with heavy showers at first and light rain later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 11C (52F).

South West: Cloudy with light rain for a time. Sunshine and showers later. Brisk north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: Wet with outbreaks of rain, possibly heavy later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

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

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Dry with long sunny spells but there will be variable amounts of cloud in the north and west bringing showers to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
London	3 14	4 15	4 15	3 14	4 16	3 16
Belfast	2 11	6 13	5 14	4 13	4 11	5 12
Birmingham	3 13	2 15	2 15	2 14	3 14	3 14
Cardiff	4 13	4 14	4 17	3 15	4 15	4 14
Glasgow	3 10	5 12	2 14	2 14	4 12	4 12
Manchester	2 13	4 15	3 16	2 14	4 14	3 14
Newcastle	0 12	2 13	1 14	2 12	3 12	3 12
Norwich	2 13	4 14	3 12	4 11	4 13	4 12
Plymouth	5 12	7 13	6 13	6 12	6 13	7 13

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min) (max)	Britain yesterday	Mo, sun and tides
Aberdeen	0.9	0.00	0 9	Glasgow	MOON rises: 3.49pm, sets: 6.07am
Aberporth	1.5	0.00	2 12	Hull	SUN rises London: 6.12am, sets: 6.06pm
Ainwick	5.3	0.00	2 10	Ipswich	Manchester rises: 6.21am, sets: 6.14pm
Belfast	0.7	0.01	3 10	Leeds	Full Moon 18 March
Birmingham	6.2	0.00	-1 14	Lincoln	HIGH TIDE
Bristol	2.5	0.01	0 12	London	London B'ge (12.34am), (12.55pm)
Cardiff	6.2	0.00	6 14	Manchester	Liverpool (10.09am), (10.32pm)
Durham	2.8	0.00	2 12	Oxford	Greenock (11.24am), (-)
Edinburgh	7.0	0.00	3 13	S'hampton	Dover (10.02am), (10.20pm)
	0.8	0.00	4 10	St Andrews	

Britain	Lighting-up times
Warmest: Northolt 16C (61F)	Belfast 6.29pm-6.33am
Coldest: Shawbury -4C (25F)	Birmingham 6.13pm-6.17am
Wettest: South Uist Range 0.41in.	Bristol 6.16pm-6.20am
Sunniest: Waddington 9.3hr.	

Today	Europe forecast	Tomorrow
Amsterdam Cloudy	15C/59F	Amsterdam Fair
Brussels Cloudy	19C/66F	Brussels Fair
Dublin Fair	10C/50F	Dublin Fair
Frankfurt Fair	15C/59F	Frankfurt Cloudy
Geneva Sunny	19C/66F	Geneva Cloudy
Lisbon Showers	18C/64F	Lisbon Sunny
Madrid Cloudy	21C/70F	Madrid Cloudy
Paris Fair	21C/70F	Paris Fair
Rome Fair	16C/61F	Rome Fair

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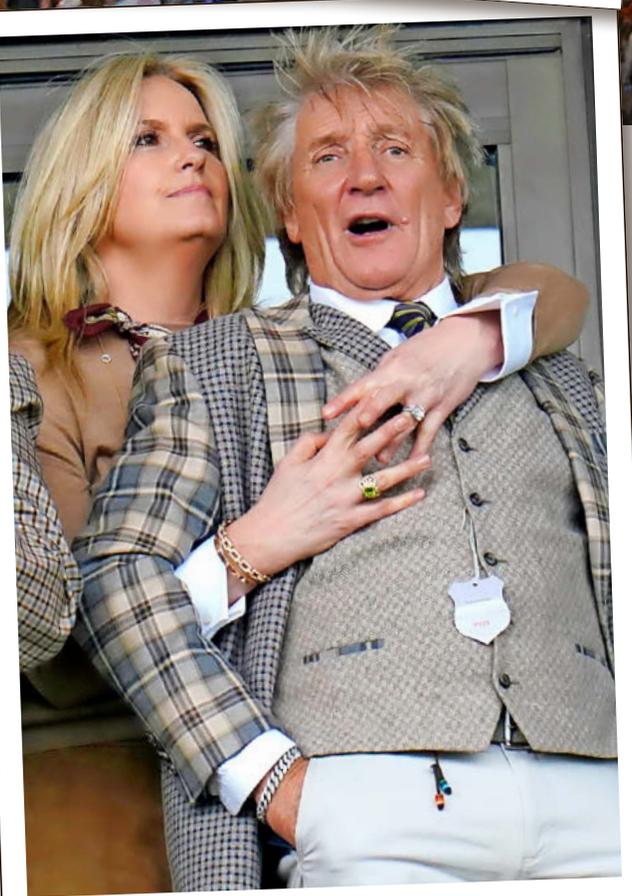
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Under starter's



A cheer from the crowd, above; hats off to these colourful punters, below



Penny gives Frankie Dettori a lift and with Rod, left; a family snap, inset below



RETURN TO CHELTENHAM

orders...and they're BACK!

Returning to form...
Crowds gather in their
thousands to see the
first day of racing



Mike Tindall
above, with Zara
and, left, with
Peter Phillips;
Richard and Mindy
Hammond, below



THRILLED racing fans were back at Cheltenham Festival yesterday for the first time in two years...and Rachael Blackmore made sure of a fairytale start.

The Irish jockey, the first woman to win the Grand National, stormed to victory on Honeysuckle in the Champion Hurdle – 12 months after winning the same race behind closed doors.

The glamour stakes were even higher than ever this year, with a rainbow of eye-catching fashion. Giddy racegoers weren't taking any chances when it came to style, particularly given the balmy 59F temperatures.

Mingling

Bookies expect a staggering £1billion to be gambled over the four-day event and as many as 250,000 fans are set to descend on the Gloucestershire course this week. For many it's all about standing out from the crowds whether in thigh-skimming mini skirts, elegant evening dresses or statement headgear.

Some went for floaty, others for figure hugging. Some tottered on strappy sandals while others opted for knee-length boots.

The Queen's granddaughter Zara Tindall gave the festival the royal seal of approval in a jaunty hat and a blackberry-coloured suit, mingling in the crowds with husband Mike

By Jan Disley

and brother Peter Phillips. Other VIPs included TV's Richard Hammond, sporting the country gent look, with his wife Mindy.

Rod Stewart was there with Penny Lancaster, who made sure jockey Frankie Dettori got carried away.

Cheltenham is a highlight of the British racing calendar but never immune to world events. Yesterday's last race was renamed the Ukraine Appeal National Hunt Chase. The racecourse, which is owned by The Jockey Club, is supporting the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal and is encouraging racegoers to donate as well as making its own donation.

Ian Renton, Cheltenham managing director, said: "Given that coverage of the festival extends far beyond the coverage racing receives on a day-to-day basis, we are keen to hand as much exposure to the invaluable work undertaken by humanitarian charities in these most desperate times."

At its peak, there are expected to be 25,000 bets per minute

with more than one-in-five punters likely to be backing Blackmore to repeat her performance last year when she won six of the festival's 28 races.

Crowd favourite: Rachael Blackmore celebrates her win on Honeysuckle



Bookies may be paying out up to £450million if all the current favourites win. A spokesperson for Paddy Power revealed: "If you had a £1 accumulator bet on all the favourites running on day one in the festival, you would pocket £4,684.79."

"If you carried that through to day two and all those favourites won, you'd need to reverse a horsebox up to the betting ring at Prestbury Park in order to haul home your winnings – as it would be close to £10.5million!"

ITV said there were 23,000 racegoers yesterday, down from an average of 65,000 a day in previous years.

OPINION: PAGE 12



FREEDOM FOR UKRAINE

COMMENT

COLONEL
RICHARD KEMP

Former British
Army Commander



RUSSIA may only be able to fight on for another 14 days, defence sources say.

Putin's terms for ending the war are now the retention of Crimea and the Donbas region and a guarantee that Ukraine will not join NATO.

With his control of Russian media he will be able to spin his gains as a success.

There have been hints in recent days that both sides are getting serious about peace negotiations.

If Putin's terms are met, he will want more.

He will be looking for the end or relaxation of the sanctions on Russia.

Putin will also use the prospect of peace as leverage against NATO and the EU.

He will seek undertakings from NATO to pull back in eastern and northern Europe, and for the EU to repudiate Ukrainian membership, even if only behind closed doors.

Such demands, when set against many more thousands of deaths and millions of refugees, will be hard for European and US leaders to resist.

If peace is agreed on Putin's terms, this will be a victory for him, especially if sanctions are eased.

It will also deter NATO, whose diplomatic resolve in the face of such appalling violence is likely to melt away when it ends.



Desperate...the search for bodies and survivors

Seven killed as school is targeted in atrocity

By John Twomey

SEVEN people were killed and three wounded in a "targeted" Russian air strike on a village school.

Civilians were taking shelter from the bombardment in the basement when the building was blown to pieces.

The callous attack at Zelenyi Hai was described by Ukrainian officials as "precise and powerful". It reduced the building to a pile of smoking rubble.

Debris

Images showed firefighters clambering over debris to recover bodies and search for survivors. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine said: "People were hiding in the cellar under the school."

Details of Sunday's strike at a village near the Black Sea city of Mykolaiv in the south, were revealed as President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned global

companies still trading with Russia. He accused business leaders of making money out of misery and of not "caring about the 97 kids killed so far" by Vladimir Putin's "war crimes" and atrocities.

He called for a worldwide trade embargo, saying Western sanctions were "not enough". In a speech to Canada's parliament, Mr Zelensky, who received a standing ovation, said: "They've already killed 97 Ukrainian children."

"They are destroying everything, memorial complexes, schools, hospitals, housing complexes."

With reports of medics and patients being held hostage in the besieged city of Mariupol, the president repeated calls for a no-fly zone. He said: "How many more cruise missiles have to fall on our cities until you make this no-fly zone happen?"



Anguish...residents in shock after being rescued from their burning apartment block in Kyiv yesterday



No open door to NATO



Little girl stands by her father's coffin at funeral

FROM PAGE ONE

of Kyiv and other cities continued on day 20 of President Putin's invasion.

A 35-hour curfew was declared in the capital after artillery strikes on residential areas.

Nearly 100 children have been killed since the war began and the Russian military has continued to target homes, hospitals and schools.

Mr Zelensky conceded yesterday that Ukraine cannot join Nato and must seek "separate" security guarantees with allies.

The president offered a glimmer of hope for peace in eastern Europe during an address to the nation, describing "pretty good" negotiations with Russia on Monday.

He added: "We can still stop the Russian war machine, we can still stop the killing of people and it will be easier to do it together, stopping the destruction of democracy."

But he said some Nato countries

are "hypnotised by Russian aggression" and that Kyiv understands Ukraine is "not a member" of the "strongest alliance".

He added: "We have heard for years that the doors were open, but we also heard that we could not join."

"It's a truth and it must be recognised, and I'm glad that our people are starting to realise that and count on themselves and our partners who are helping us."

"If we cannot enter through open doors, then we must cooperate with the associations with which we can, which will help us, protect us, and have separate guarantees."

Oleksiy Arestovich, one of Mr Zelensky's advisers, suggested that an agreement could be reached within weeks.

He said: "I think that no

Glimmer of hope...
Volodymyr Zelensky

later than in May, early May, we should have a peace agreement, maybe much earlier, we will see.

"I am talking about the latest possible dates."

"We are at a fork in the road now. There will either be a peace deal struck very quickly, within a week or two, with troop withdrawal and everything."

"Or there will be an attempt to scrape together some, say, Syrians for a round two and, when we grind them too, an agreement by mid-April or late April."

A senior aide to Ukraine's president said it would be necessary for Mr Zelensky and Putin to actually meet to make major progress in any peace talks.

Downing Street was last night monitoring the development closely as

it upped its sanctions on Russia.
The Prime Minister's



Pictures: ARIS MESSINIS/AFP, ALEXEY FURMAN/GETTY, BULENT KILIC / AFP, ROMAN PILIPEY/EPA



Troops move to lay siege to Kyiv

MOSCOW'S tanks were closing in on Kyiv last night.

Russian troops have nearly encircled the Ukrainian capital in a bid to lay siege to the city which has become a ghost town of empty streets, checkpoints and fear.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko ordered a two-day curfew amid a "difficult and dangerous moment".

At least five people were killed in artillery attacks on tower blocks yesterday morning.

Separately, a horrific video showed a Ukrainian west of Kyiv get out of his car with his hands up – only to be gunned down by Russian troops.

Missiles

The US says missiles targeting civilian areas are using previously unseen technology to ensure they reach their targets.

Intelligence officials said Moscow's Iskander-M missiles are deploying decoy systems to fool Ukraine's air defence systems.

In a brave show of unity, the leaders of Poland, Slovenia and Czech Republic arrived in the Ukrainian capital yesterday to hold talks with President Zelensky. Polish PM Mateusz

By **Michael Knowles**

Morawiecki said: "It is here, in war-torn Kyiv, that history is being made. It is here that freedom fights against the world of tyranny.

"It is here that the future of us all hangs in the balance."

Terrified citizens still trapped in Kyiv hide in basements as artillery rockets rain down.

The head of the region warned "streets have been turned into a mush of steel and concrete".

Mayor Klitschko promised it would not surrender, saying: "The capital is the heart, and it will be defended."

His brother, Wladimir, said Russian troops are so close you can "throw a stone at them". He added: "I'm not kidding."

Early morning artillery strikes hit the Svyatoshynskiy district of western Kyiv, adjacent to the suburb of Irpin, which has seen some of the worst battles of the war.

Alla Ragulina broke down as she clambered over rubble in her flat after a rocket attack.

"The explosion was so big," she said through sobs, shaking with shock.

Evacuations from some of Ukraine's hardest-hit cities continued, with authorities in the devastated southern port of Mariupol saying 2,000 civilian vehicles had left along a 160-mile "humanitarian corridor".

LIFE IN KYIV

JOHN MARONE 
Despatch from the front line

THE Russian army has begun ramping up rocket attacks on the Ukrainian capital, hitting apartment blocks and other civilian targets.

It's 3am on Tuesday and I am woken by the familiar sound of air raid sirens.

But this time, there's something different.

A volley of anti-aircraft fire rises to meet the challenge, but instead of dying out, it becomes stronger.

Seconds later, I glimpse a flash of light in the night sky, then another, followed by an enormous explosion.

The next morning I learn that Russian rockets had hit three separate blocks of flats, killing and wounding civilians in their beds.

It's day 19 of Russia's invasion and its troops and tanks have stalled outside Ukrainian cities. But aerial bombings, artillery fire and rockets launched from over the horizon have been stepped up.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko announced yesterday that the city would be under curfew from 8pm this evening until 7am Thursday.

"Today is going to be difficult and dangerous," he said, warning citizens of the capital to be prepared for more attacks.

Defended

The mayor also called on those men who have left the city to return. "The capital, the heart of Ukraine, will be defended! They will not bring us to our knees! Today every citizen of Kyiv has an important role to play, by picking up arms and joining the territorial defence, by helping build barricades, by feeding our soldiers or fellow citizens in need, by delivering food."

But not everyone is ready to fight it out to the end. Around 20 MPs have fled abroad, first deputy speaker Oleksandr Korniyenko announced yesterday, noting that the MPs all had pro-Russian leanings.

President Zelensky has promised swift military justice to everyone from saboteurs to traitors.

In the meantime, citizens of the capital have learnt to live in a new reality.

The State Emergencies Service has warned people not to publish information online about addresses hit, as the Russian army is said to use this to correct its aim.

Men gather in the courtyard of my building smoking nervously as dusk descends. Some discuss which areas are being targeted. "I'm not worried," says a pensioner. "The people on the other side of our building refuse to pray. They are the ones who should be worried."

admits Zelensky

spokesman said: "I think what we are seeing here is President Zelensky and the Ukrainian government seeking a path of diplomacy throughout.

"What's important is that it is for the Ukrainian government to decide what they think is suitable and they should have no decisions imposed on them.

"Certainly, we do want a peaceful solution but it must be on the terms the Ukrainian government agree to and they should not be forced into it.

"It remains the PM's view that

Nato membership is a right of democratic countries but it is for those countries to decide."

But there were more distressing scenes in Ukraine yesterday.

Mariupol's deputy mayor Sergei Orlov claimed that Russian troops had taken staff and patients at the city's hospital as hostages.

Families fleeing the besieged city feared Russian fighter jets would kill them as they escaped, it was said.

One of the city's residents, named as Lidiia, said: "We stopped several times and hid the children

because the airplane was flying very low directly above us.

"We were afraid that we would come under fire. But it was no longer possible to stay in the city. Mariupol is now just hell."

Another civilian, Svitlana, added: "Yesterday, the last grocery store in the city was bombed. I wonder how will people survive now?"

The horror of the war was summed up by an image of a soldier's daughter at his funeral yesterday.

The daughter of Ukrainian

soldier Rostyslav Romanchuk stood with her head bowed by his coffin in Lviv.

Her father and his colleagues died in Sunday's airstrike on the Yavoriv military complex.

The barrage of Russian missiles killed 35 and wounded scores.

Meanwhile, Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg yesterday revealed there are "hundreds of thousands" of troops on "heightened alert", including 100,000 US troops in Europe.

And he said that "substantially more forces" could be deployed to eastern Europe amid fears Putin will invade another European country if he is successful in Ukraine.

US President Joe Biden is to meet with Nato and EU leaders in Brussels next week in response to the invasion, the White House has said.

'SNOW GIRL' BRINGS HOPE AMID DESPAIR

A MOTHER cuddles her daughter born in a hospital basement as air raid sirens scream above ground.

Aleina embraced Snizhana – "snow girl" – who arrived amid fierce battles in Mykolaiv, which is en route to the key southern port Odesa. Almost

By **Chris Riches**

half of 49 women at the city's maternity hospital have given birth since the invasion began. Joy was clouded by the death of a mum-to-be and her baby after an air strike on Mariupol's maternity unit last week.



Defiant arrival...Aleina with Snizhana

OPINION: PAGE 12
PUTIN'S STALINGRAD: PAGES 26&27

FREEDOM FOR UKRAINE



Pictures: AFP

Free...Marina Ovsyannikova outside court and, right, TV protest

I was quizzed for 14 hours after TV demo

A RUSSIAN journalist has been fined after protesting against the war in Ukraine on a live TV news show – having been interrogated for 14 hours.

Marina Ovsyannikova, an editor at state-controlled Channel 1, was detained after she ran on to the set on Monday holding a placard saying “Stop The War”.

She was fined around £215 by a court, but experts said she is likely to face further action.

After the court hearing, Ms Ovsyannikova told reporters that she had been questioned for more than 14 hours without being given legal help or the opportunity to contact her loved ones.

Ukrainian-born Ms Ovsyannikova said: “It was my anti-war decision. I made this decision by myself because I don’t like Russia starting this invasion. It was really terrible.

“I want to thank everyone for their support, friends and colleagues. It has been a very hard few days in my life.

“I spent two days without

By **Will Stewart**

sleep. I was being questioned for over 14 hours.”

In a prerecorded speech, she said: “What is currently going on in Ukraine is a crime, and Russia is an aggressor.

“And only one person is to blame for this aggression, and that person is Vladimir Putin.”

The 43-year-old mother of two had walked in on veteran TV newsreader Ekaterina Andreeva, holding a placard on the most-watched news programme.

Ms Ovsyannikova was arrested immediately after her protest. But this has posed a major dilemma for the Russian authorities as goodwill messages flood in from around the globe. Many have labelled her a hero.

But headline Russians want her charged with treason.

In a foul-mouthed rant, Anton Krasovsky, a prominent TV figure with the RT channel, called for her to be jailed for at least a decade.

Captured soldiers sorry for ‘acting like fascists’

CAPTURED Russian troops apologised for Vladimir Putin’s bloody invasion yesterday as they were paraded before the media by the Ukrainian army.

The five young conscripts claimed Kremlin chiefs tricked them into fighting and told of their shame at behaving “like fascists”.

Dressed in fatigues and looking contrite, they urged Russian families to resist sending sons to fight in Moscow’s campaign.

They also revealed their advance into Ukraine stuttered as supplies ran out and described their surprise at being well-treated by their enemies.

Private Aleksandr Morozov, 22, said: “I want to apologise to Ukraine for coming

By **Cyril Dixon**

here. I don’t want violence in this country. I’m very ashamed.”

Nikolai Polshchikov, 21, said: “I want to appeal to the citizens of my country, to parents whose children are going to serve.

“Do not send them – terrible things are happening here you are unaware of. Our aircraft and artillery bomb peaceful cities.”

Niyaz Akhunov, 20, claims Putin is using conscripts as human fodder, saying: “This is a senseless war in which we were thrown, conscripts who haven’t seen real hostilities.”

Andrey Pozdeev, 19, said his president’s claims to have no conscripts fighting in the war “are lies”.



Pozdeev, 19



Akhunov, 20



Polshchikov, 21

Fears over China supplying weapons to bolster invasion

By **Mark Reynolds**

CHINA may be willing to supply weapons to Russia despite pleas to stay out of the conflict in Ukraine, warn US defence officials.

The claims, made in diplomatic cables and handed to Nato allies, have prompted Washington to threaten leader Xi Jinping with economic sanctions if he helps Vladimir Putin.

Anxiety over any such involvement led US and Chinese delegations to meet for talks in Rome in a bid to avoid escalating the war.

Risk

Fears over Beijing’s possible involvement came after reports Russia had asked for military equipment, including drones, to make up for unexpected heavy losses.

According to the US, China “indicated a willingness to provide military and economic aid to Russia”.

But diplomatic experts warn China getting involved could risk a Third World War. A senior US administration official said there were “deep concerns” over Beijing’s alignment with Putin.

The official said: “We are communicating privately and directly to China our

concerns about what kind of support other countries might be providing to Russia.”

It was the prospect of such an alliance between Beijing and Moscow that prompted Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, to issue a warning to China that it would face “harsh economic penalties” as a consequence.

Moscow has dismissed any talk of an alliance with China. Dmitry Peskov, Putin’s spokesman, said Russia had no need of Chinese assistance.

He added: “Russia has its own potential to continue the operation which is unfolding in accordance with the plan and will be completed on time and in full.”

The Chinese foreign ministry also denied the reports, describing them as “disinformation”.

But the possibility of Russia looking for military help comes as it continues to struggle in Ukraine.

Earlier this week, Viktor Zolotov, head of the Russian National Guard and Putin’s former bodyguard, became the first member of his inner circle to admit the war was not going as expected.

‘Putin’s like a to get off our

BORIS Johnson will today call for Saudi Arabia to increase its supply of oil and help the world reduce its dependence on Russian energy.

The Prime Minister is heading to Riyadh for talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, despite deep concerns about the Gulf state’s human rights record.

But Mr Johnson stressed the need to build the “widest possible coalition” in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

He compared Vladimir Putin to a drug dealer who had got western nations hooked on his supply of oil and gas.

The PM said: “Vladimir Putin over the last year has been like a pusher, feeding an addiction in Western countries to his hydrocarbons. We need to get ourselves off

By **Sam Lister**
Deputy Political Editor

that addiction.” Mr Johnson said standing up to Putin’s “bullying” means “we need to talk to other producers around the world”.

He added: “We’ve got a global crisis in which it’s obvious that the Russian aggression in Ukraine has helped to trigger a spike in the price of hydrocarbons, a spike in the price of oil.

Tour

“It’s vital, if we are going to stand up to Putin’s bullying, if we are going to avoid being blackmailed by Putin in the way that so many Western countries sadly have been, we have got to get ourselves off

Russian hydrocarbons.” The PM said British consumers were feeling the impact of the Russian invasion and that it is crucial to build a secure long-term energy supply.

He said that while only three per cent of the UK’s gas comes from Russia, “a lot more of our diesel” does.

Ending dependence on Russian supplies is “one of the reasons I’m going out to the Gulf”, he added.

Mr Johnson is visiting the United Arab Emirates’ Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi this morning before heading to Riyadh on the whistle-stop tour.

Britain has vowed to phase out Russian oil by the end of the year. Saudi Arabia has around two million barrels a day in



Pictures: STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE OF UKRAINE/AFP

Devastation in Kyiv... additional firepower for Russia from China would only add to the toll of destruction

RUSSIA'S FRIENDS GET UK AID

A HANDFUL of countries still support Putin while receiving aid from the UK.

BELARUS

Putin's closest ally. Russia accounts for 48 per cent of Belarus' external trade. Leader Alexander Lukashenko enjoys the role of being Putin's war-mongering sidekick
Aid from the UK? Yes, £80,000.

PAKISTAN

Signed a trade deal with Russia for wheat and gas after Prime Minister Imran Khan met Putin on the day he sent troops into Ukraine.
Aid from the UK? Yes, around £305million.

INDIA

Russia continues to be India's biggest arms supplier. India has also recently mooted the idea of taking Moscow's gas supplies.
Aid from the UK? Yes, £108million.

CHINA

Abstained in UN vote against the war, but claims it wants to broker peace.
Aid from the UK? Yes, around £12million.

SERBIA

Shares strong historic, political and cultural ties with Russia but support for the invasion has led to protests.
Aid from the UK? Yes, £1.8million.

SYRIA

Bashar al-Assad praised Putin for his invasion.
Aid from the UK? Yes, £223million

NORTH KOREA

Kim Jong Un continues to back Russia.
Aid from the UK? Yes, £15,000.

CUBA

Promised to deepen ties with Russia as the conflict in Ukraine revitalises old Cold War alliances in Latin America.
Aid from the UK? Yes, around £500,000.

VENEZUELA

Offered "strong support" to Putin.
Aid from the UK? Yes, around £900,000.

ERITREA

Voted against UN condemnation of invasion.
Aid from the UK? Yes, £680,000.

by Mark Reynolds

COMMENT

DANIELLE
BOXALL

Media campaign manager
at Taxpayers' Alliance



THE horrifying events in Ukraine have rightly sparked condemnation from many nations all over the world.

However, some notable countries – while not condoning Russia's actions – haven't exactly condemned them either.

India recently abstained on a vote at the United Nations to deplore Russia, while also raising the possibility of taking on Russian gas supplies.

Similarly, Pakistan has been hesitant to support Ukraine after recently signing a new trade deal with Russia.

Both countries received foreign aid, courtesy of British taxpayers, totalling more than £400million in recent years.

Likewise, we are donating equally large sums to countries such as Belarus, China, Serbia, Syria and North Korea.

Nearly all of which have publicly backed Vladimir Putin.

It's not unreasonable therefore to question, yet again, if we should be funding tinpot dictators.

Ridiculous

When the foreign aid budget was cut by just 0.2 per cent of national income last year, there was uproar that this would diminish Britain's standing on the world scene.

Proponents of overseas aid argue that it is a tool of soft power.

But by what measure could they now claim this to be working?

Taxpayers are right to be concerned that these same commentators may call for even more money to be given to these countries in an effort to persuade them.

The TaxPayers' Alliance has long questioned the value for money the taxpayer receives from foreign aid.

We've revealed the ridiculous ways that government bureaucrats have wasted money, from training imams to preach against smoking in Pakistan and even salt reduction projects in China.

Given the dire economic and geopolitical circumstances we find ourselves in, our politicians shouldn't be wasting a single penny on ineffective foreign policy in the form of overseas aid.

The Government needs to rethink its strategy and make sure any aid actually helps those that need it most.

pusher, we need energy addiction'

spare oil capacity, and the United Arab Emirates around one million per day, with production limited by the Opec+ oil pact with Russia.

Combined, the capacity still falls short of Russia's daily exports of around seven million. But Mr

Johnson hopes he can alleviate some of the pressure causing food and fuel prices to spiral by convincing the Gulf nations to up production.

Downing Street admitted the issue "won't be fixed in one visit".

The Prime Minister's trip to Saudi Arabia comes just days after it executed 81 people in its largest known mass execution.

The Crown Prince has been a pariah since the US intelligence community said he ordered the 2018 assassination of journalist Jamal

Talks... Boris Johnson and bin Salman

Khashoggi. Thousands of civilian deaths have also been linked to air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition fighting the war against the Houthis rebels in Yemen.

Hostile

Conservative MP Julian Lewis, who chairs Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee, urged the Government to ensure that "in seeking to lessen our dependence upon one source of oil and gas, we do not end up creating a source dependency on another unreliable and sometimes hostile regime".

Mr Johnson is seen as leading the way in the Gulf talks on behalf of the West as relations between the Crown Prince and Joe Biden are non-existent. The US President has

refused to deal with the leader in response to the death of Mr Khashoggi.

No 10 said the PM was taking a role in speaking to countries to end the volatility in oil and gas prices.

The PM's spokesman said the UK is "firmly opposed to the death penalty and will raise Saturday's executions with the government in Riyadh".

During the trip, Downing Street expects Saudi Arabia's Alfanar group will confirm £1billion of investment in the Lighthouse Green Fuels Project in Teesside, trying to produce sustainable aviation fuel from waste.

It is hoped the project will create more than 700 jobs during construction, and 240 once fully operational.



FREEDOM FOR UKRAINE

122,000 Britons rush

By **Sam Lister**
Deputy Political Editor



Rescue mission...Robert Rinder

Rinder fears a repeat of Jewish plight

By **Alex Green**

TV JUDGE Robert Rinder likened scenes at Ukraine's border to the plight of Jews fleeing to Britain in the Second World War.

The barrister and reality show host is in Poland to try to help the grandparents of Oksana Platero, his professional partner on 2016's Strictly Come Dancing, safely cross the border.

Speaking from Przemysl, southern Poland, the 43-year-old challenged the speed at which the UK Government is processing refugee applications.

He told ITV's Good Morning Britain both he and his translator struggled to complete an online form required at the border from those fleeing the conflict.

And he compared scenes at the railway station to his Jewish grandparents' experience fleeing during the Second World War.

Humanity

Rinder said: "People should know what happened in the past or we're doomed to repeat it. I can tell GMB viewers that it is repeating itself.

"It's hard to believe...that this is 2022. The trains arrive infrequently. When they do it is women, it is children, it is babies in mothers' arms.

"They arrive in wagons cheek to jowl, a sea of humanity with just very often one suitcase or the clothes on their back."

Rinder was made an MBE for services to Holocaust awareness last year, after exploring the stories of Jewish families in a BBC series and speaking in schools alongside survivors.

Ukrainian dancer Platero confirmed that her relatives had now arrived safely in Poland.

SOME 122,000 generous Britons have offered to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees in just 24 hours.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it was "fantastic" that so many people wanted to help those seeking sanctuary.

One family of four who fled across the border to Moldova are in line to be one of the first families to be given a home.

Lillia and Vitalii Kucher, and their daughters Victoria, 14, and Ilona, six, have been offered accommodation at Sabrina and Tony O'Brien's home in Driffield near Hull, East Yorkshire.

The Kuchers matched with the O'Briens, who have three daughters, using EU4UA, a social media-style platform that links refugees to potential hosts before the Government launched its Homes For Ukraine scheme.

Mrs O'Brien has now registered with the official programme in the hope they can be processed as quickly as possible.

"We are ex-Londoners and bought a six-bedroomed house in Driffield. We are lucky enough to have the space and only five of us in our house," she told the Daily Telegraph.

"I can see Lillia is scared. Food is running out. Petrol is running low and it is three hours' drive to the airport.

"All the other countries are helping and I want to do everything in my power to help them feel safe, loved and supported. It is our duty and, besides, would we not want the same if it were us?"

"Their home, business, and livelihood have been destroyed, but not their future. We, with the help of others, will make sure of that."

English teacher Lillia and her husband, a builder, are staying with family a mile from the Ukraine border in Moldova where they can hear the bombs falling.

Demand to take part in the scheme was so great the government website crashed within the first few minutes of going live. By last night 122,000 Britons had signed up.

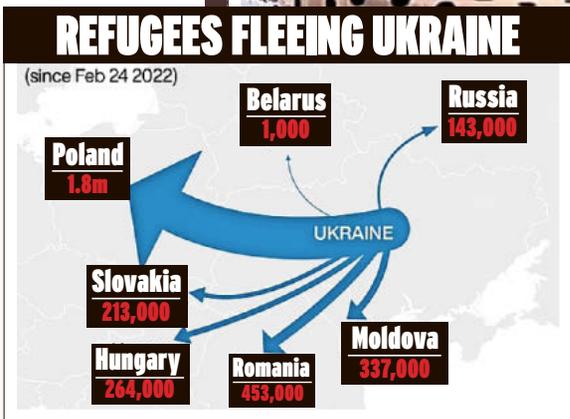
Foreign Office minister James Cleverly said he was "actually quite proud" the website crashed and 10,000 people were signing up every hour at one point.

Hosts are expected to house refugees for at least six months in exchange for a £350 monthly tax-free thank-you payment.

Sponsors have to undergo vet-



Britain-bound ...Lillia and Vitalii Kucher and their daughters Victoria and Ilona



war through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Thank you to everyone across the country who has stepped up to offer their help so far."

MPs who are planning to sign up include Sir Keir Starmer, Matt Hancock, Michael Gove, Grant Shapps, Ed Davey, Louise Haigh and Ben Wallace. A Ukrainian

mother and daughter have also used social media to find a new home in the UK.

Niyara Mamontova, 40, fled Kharkiv with her daughter Eleanora, seven, but her husband Ivan, a surgeon, stayed behind.

Mrs Mamontova is hoping to move in with Si and Don Morris-Green and their two children at

Two journalists killed, with third in

A VETERAN news cameraman and a Ukrainian journalist have been killed covering the war.

Photojournalist Pierre Zakrzewski, 55, and reporter Oleksandra Kuvshinova, 24, died when their vehicle was hit by artillery shelling outside Kyiv on Monday.

British-born reporter Benjamin

By **John Twomey**

Hall, 39, who was also in the car, was hit in his legs by shrapnel and is said to be fighting for his life.

Both men worked for Fox News, which confirmed Mr Zakrzewski's death yesterday. Ms Kuvshinova had been working with the team for the past month.

She was described as "funny and kind" by a producer with the US news channel.

Married Mr Zakrzewski, who was based in London, had been in Ukraine since February, working as a photographer, engineer, editor and producer.

Fox News correspondent Trey Yingst wrote of the veteran of

to take in evacuees

Pictures: PAVLO PALAMARCHUK/REUTERS, PA, TOM MADDICK/SWNS & SABRINA O'BRIEN/HULL LIVE



Cuddle...Lillia with daughter Ilona, six. Below, Tony and Sabrina O'Brien, who hope to take them in



their home near Petersfield, Hampshire, after meeting on a Facebook group. The Government has faced criticism for refusing to scrap all red tape for Ukrainians fleeing to Britain.

But a frontbencher told peers bogus refugees claiming to be Ukrainian have used false documents in a bid to enter the UK.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom insisted it was right to keep a visa requirement in place despite calls to waive checks in line with other European countries.

The Tory whip said it keeps British citizens safe and also ensures help for the genuine.

"Security and biometric checks are a fundamental part of our visa

process in order to keep people in this country safe and this is consistent with our approach to the evacuation of Afghanistan," he said. "We are already seeing people presenting false documents claiming to be Ukrainians. This is a fluid and fast moving situation."

More than three million people have fled Ukraine since the war

began on February 24, the United Nations said yesterday. Filippo Grandi, head of the UN's High Commission for Refugees, said: "We have passed another terrible milestone. Three million refugees have fled from Ukraine. The war has to stop. Now."

The UN's International Organisation for Migration said millions more were stuck or displaced within the country.

Its chief Antonio Vitorino said: "Three million lives uprooted. Three million women, children and vulnerable people separated from their loved ones."

The vast majority of those are arriving in Poland, although other surrounding nations like Slovakia, Hungary and Romania have taken in desperate families.

The UN estimated up to four million could leave but admitted that might be revised upwards.

fight for life

major conflicts, including Iraq and Afghanistan: "Pierre was as good as they come. Selfless. Brave. Passionate."

In a statement, Fox News said: "He was profoundly committed to telling the story and his bravery, professionalism and work ethic were renowned among journalists."



Hit...Pierre Zakrzewski and Benjamin Hall working together in 2019

No cigars or cars as UK pair shut up shop on Putin

By **Chris Riches**

TWO more UK businesses joined the economic and moral exodus from Russia yesterday.

Cigarette maker Imperial Brands and car dealership firm Inchcape are pulling out – with Imperial saying negotiations are under way to sell all of its Russian assets.

They are the latest firms to shun Putin's murderous regime in line with the Daily Express rallying call to Take A Stand Against Russia.

Imperial – maker of Winston cigarettes and Backwoods cigars – has joined British rival BAT, which makes Camel and Lucky Strike cigarettes.

Imperial employs around 1,000 people in Russia and the market is worth about two per cent of its £32.79billion net revenue.

Inchcape's operation there is retail-only and contributed £750million of revenue in 2021, around 10 per cent of sales.

It said: "We share the hopes of the world for a peaceful resolution to this conflict."



"Inchcape is deeply saddened by the ongoing war and the enormous humanitarian impact.

"In light of the circumstances, we have concluded that the group's ownership of its business interests in Russia is no longer tenable."

The Daily Express crusade urges brands to join the likes of Nike, Adidas, Apple, Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Ikea in boycotting Russia, whose economy has nose-dived after tough UK, EU and US sanctions.

Other firms shunning Putin and his pariah nation include Netflix, Universal Music, Pizza Hut, Starbucks, PepsiCo, Unilever, Visa, Mastercard, Microsoft, TikTok, PayPal and American Express.

Former Formula One tyre-maker Bridgestone joined the growing list of firms to cease operations in Russia on Monday, citing its slaughter of the "innocent people" of Ukraine.

The Japanese-owned multinational inflicted further blows by freezing new investments and axing exports.

COMMENT: PAGE 12

FREEDOM FOR UKRAINE

Picture: LLUIS GENE / AFP



**Docked...
Chemezov's
Valerie will
remain in
Barcelona**



Spain seizes £117m superyacht of Kremlin crony

FORMER KGB officer Sergey Chemezov's £117million superyacht has become the first Russian oligarch-owned vessel to be seized by the Spanish government.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez promised "more will come".

The 279ft vessel, Valerie, was being repaired in the same Barcelona shipyard from which Roman Abramovich's superyacht last week left in a hurry.

The seizure was described by Mr Sanchez, leader of Spain's left-wing PSOE party, as a "temporary

By **Natalia Penza**

immobilisation". He did not name the vessel that had been targeted, but well-placed sources identified it as Valerie, which boasts seven bedrooms, a spa, gym and helipad.

Mr Sanchez said: "There will be more. We have to act forcefully and firmly against Putin, his regime and oligarchs, who have enriched themselves by oppressing the Russian people."

Chemezov is a friend of Putin's from

their KGB days and is now CEO of Rostec State Corporation, a state-owned defence conglomerate.

The Spanish move follows a series of similar actions by other European countries, with authorities placing several Russian billionaires and businessmen on a sanctions list this month, preventing them from moving their assets.

Valerie is registered to Chemezov's stepdaughter, Anastasia Ignatova, according to a 2021 article published in the Pandora Papers information leak.

By **Sam Lister**
Deputy Political Editor

BRITAIN imposed 370 more sanctions on Vladimir Putin's cronies yesterday in the biggest crackdown yet.

Some 51 oligarchs and their family members were hit with the latest wave of measures, along with the Russian president's allies and propagandists.

The Government also tightened the economic squeeze by banning exports of luxury goods to Russia and raising tariffs on £900million of imports by 35 per cent.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the latest round of sanctions, which came into force yesterday and are also targeted at Belarus, take the number of restrictions to more than 1,000.

They include measures on 775 individuals. Ms Truss said: "We are going further and faster in hitting those closest to Putin - from major oligarchs to his prime minister and the propagandists who peddle his lies and disinformation.

"We are holding them to account for their complicity in Russia's crimes in Ukraine.

"Working closely with our allies, we will keep increasing the pressure on Putin and cut off funding for the Russian war machine."

Government insiders said the latest measures show the UK leads the way in sanctioning Russia.

A Foreign Office source said: "We're not finished. Liz wants to keep pressure on via sanctions and

Britain slaps 370 new sanctions on Putin henchmen

RUSSIA BANS US PRESIDENT BIDEN



Retaliation... Biden

US President Joe Biden has been banned from Russia in retaliation for sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine.

Mr Biden, who has not visited the country since 2011, is on the list of 13 senior White House people, which also features former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, CIA chief William Burns, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan are also banned.

will be hitting more oligarchs, banks and businesses to help make sure Russia loses in Ukraine."

The new Economic Crime Act gave the Government powers to act more swiftly.

Oligarchs affected include Mikhail Fridman, Pyotr Aven and German Khan, with a combined

worth of more than £100billion. All have links to Alfa Bank, the largest private bank in Russia.

Sanctions were also imposed on Russian prime minister Mikhail Mishustin, defence minister Sergei Shoigu and former president Dmitry Medvedev. Among the propagandists are Putin's press

secretary Dmitry Peskov and Russian foreign affairs spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

They will have UK assets frozen, which means no British citizen or firm can do business with them, and they are banned from travelling to or from the country.

The Foreign Office said the Internet Research Agency, a "notorious" internet "troll farm", has also been sanctioned.

Luxury goods which cannot be exported include British vehicles, high-end fashion and works of art as part of co-ordinated action by the UK and allies in the G7 group of countries.

Russian vodka is among imports hit with an extra 35 per cent tariff and Government-backed export finance for Russia and Belarus, such as loans, guarantees and insurance, will be cut off.

Abramovich faces claims over 'corrupt' oil billions



Abramovich in Tel Aviv airport

By **Cyril Dixon**

ROMAN Abramovich was facing fraud allegations yesterday as it was suggested he had fled to the Russian capital by private jet.

The Chelsea Football Club owner has been accused of cheating the Russian government in a corrupt oil privatisation deal.

The oligarch's lawyers say there is no basis for the fraud allegations.

Mr Abramovich, 55, was spotted at Tel Aviv airport. His £46million jet then left the Israeli capital and touched down in Moscow after a brief stop at Istanbul.

Yesterday's allegations came after Britain sanctioned him and six other Russian super-rich oligarchs. Their assets were frozen and Mr Abramovich was disqualified as a director of Chelsea.

Properties

A stakeholder in Russian steel giant Evraz, Mr Abramovich also owns British properties including a £150million, 15-bedroom mansion in London.

He made the bulk of his money in the 1990s.

This week a BBC Panorama investigation said it had uncovered evidence of "corrupt" deals that made his fortune. The Chelsea owner made billions after buying an oil company from the Russian government in what BBC Panorama said was a rigged auction in 1995.

Mr Abramovich paid around £190million for Sibneft, selling it back to the Russian government for £9billion in 2005. The Panorama document is said to have been copied from files held on the businessman by Russian law enforcers. It says: "If Abramovich could be brought to trial he would have faced accusations of fraud."

Retirees forced to raid pension pots to pay bills

By **Sarah O'Grady**
Social Affairs Correspondent

PEOPLE are raiding their savings for old age to pay the bills as the cost-of-living crisis bites budgets.

Soaring energy costs coupled with rising inflation are squeezing the fixed incomes of pensioners, leaving retirement plans "between a rock and a hard place", warn experts.

And a "double depletion" impact of falling stock market values – combined with an increasing need for more cash to cover living costs – will make it harder for pensioners to stretch their savings into old age.

Becky O'Connor, head of pensions and savings at Interactive Investor, said: "For retirees, watching the value of a pension pot going up and down is like watching a bank balance rising and falling without you having done anything at all. Scary, in other words."

Exposed

Some experts predict energy bills could skyrocket to as much as £3,000, which is dire news for pensioners. And they face a cut in spending power, with inflation tipped to surge above eight per cent while the state pension increases by just 3.1 per cent in April.

The amount of money savers are withdrawing increased to £1,927 from £1,785 across January and February – a rise of eight per cent.

The January pension withdrawal average of £1,945 was up 25 per cent on the long-run average for the month of £1,559. Average February draw-downs were £1,910 compared with £1,787, over the previous four years.

At the same time, the average value of a pension with Interactive Investors fell by 8.9 per cent from £321,512 at the end of December to £293,013 at

DAILY EXPRESS VOTE

Q Should pensioners get more help to offset price rises?

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the end of February. By March 10, this had fallen to £284,230. Ms O'Connor added: "For those who are in draw-down, investments are their income.

"Not only do older people face a disproportionate impact – because of the greater than average proportion they spend on essentials such as energy and food – they are also more exposed to the slings and arrows of global stock market fortunes.

"What we are likely to see is retired people paying more attention than ever to that fine balance between withdrawing what they need and keeping enough in the pot to sustain them for their whole retirement."

Energy price cap rises in April will push bills up by an average £693 as a result of record high global wholesale gas prices. This is a hike of 54 per cent and households on default tariffs are set to see their bills jump to £1,971.

Gas prices may rise even further following the invasion of Ukraine.

OPINION: PAGE 12 YOUR MONEY: PAGE 29



Stretched and stressed...Phil and Sue Brown

People are taking cash out as cost of everything is going up

PHIL and Sue Brown have been retired for almost two years and are concerned about inflation and the volatile stock market.

Phil, 56, and Sue, 48, live off a £500,000 self-invested personal pension and savings in an Isa.

The couple, who live in Bingley, West Yorks, with their 12-year-old son, moved £60,000 out of their pension and into premium bonds to protect the money from falling investment returns. Phil, who

By **Sarah O'Grady**

retired in November 2020 after being made redundant from his job in marketing, said: "People are taking more money out of their pensions because the cost of everything is going up.

"Not only that, it's also difficult to trust the market. We want to make the cash in premium bonds last two years and I've also saved by cutting all my pension fees."

NEWS that people's pension fund withdrawals have risen sharply in recent months may represent a danger signal for the future.

As the cost of essentials, such as food and heating, go through the roof, people need higher incomes just to cover their basic bills.

But, with pay rises lagging well behind the current 30-year record high inflation rates, many workers will be searching for other ways simply to make ends meet.

It is hardly surprising, therefore,

COMMENT

ROS ALTMANN

Former Pensions Minister



to see people taking more money from their pension funds.

But it is worrying because private pensions are meant to support people in retirement, not top up

their current earnings. Coupled with latest labour market news showing more than half a million over-50s have left the workforce since the pandemic began, the signs are deeply concerning.

Higher pension withdrawals now risk rising pensioner poverty and lower long-term growth.

Of course, having private pensions to fall back on before reaching the ever-rising state pension age is helpful short-term. But spending more of their

pension savings now just to keep up with accelerating inflation, increases the likelihood of exhausting their retirement fund.

The Government needs to urgently investigate what is happening to these pension savings, help more over-50s back to work if they want to, and encourage people to build their funds back up again.

The sooner the Government gets to grips with inflation, the better for us all.

Covid hit young readers hardest

YOUNGER pupils' reading standards were hardest hit by pandemic school closures, a report shows.

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) found Key Stage 1 children [aged 5-7] were worst affected, "particularly those in Year 1".

Carole Willis, NFER chief executive, said urgent action was needed before young children "become struggling

By **Catherine Lough**

or reluctant readers". The report also suggested the maths skills of Key Stage 2 pupils [aged 7-11] were recovering slower than the same age groups' reading levels.

And it warned funding to help disadvantaged pupils catch up was having less of an impact than expected. It said there was no evidence

the attainment gap between poorer pupils and their peers had widened,

"suggesting disadvantaged pupils are recovering at around the same rate as non-disadvantaged pupils".

It added: "This is despite the targeting of recovery funds and initiatives on disadvantaged pupils which might have been expected to enable them to recover at a faster rate."

Deaths from Covid still falling

WEEKLY coronavirus deaths have seen their longest uninterrupted fall since spring last year, analysis shows.

Some 670 registered in England and Wales during the week to March 4 mentioned Covid-19 on the death certificate.

This was down 13 per cent on the previous seven days

By **Hanna Geissler**

and just under half the number at the peak of the Omicron wave, according to the Office for National Statistics. Latest data suggests Covid deaths are still on a downward trend, following a rise in December and early January.

But it is too soon to see any impact in the



Knock on effect... Chris Hopson

figures following a recent rise in coronavirus infections.

Health chiefs are keeping a close eye following an uptick in hospitalisations.

There were 10,877 patients on wards in England yesterday, up 28 per cent from 8,486 a fortnight earlier.

Chris Hopson, NHS Providers chief executive, said while the overall number in hospital remains relatively low, "rising admissions can have knock on effects for patient care".

Picture: PA



Under pressure...Rishi

Slash fuel duty, Tory MPs urge Sunak

By **Martyn Brown**

RISHI Sunak is being pressured by Tory MPs to slash fuel duty to help motorists hit by huge price rises.

Backbenchers also want the Chancellor to use next week's Spring Statement to raise business mileage rates and give a 15 per cent discount to vital users, such as haulage firms.

Petrol hit a new high of 163.71p on Monday with diesel also at a record 173.68p.

The RAC says filling an average family car's 55-litre fuel tank with petrol now costs above £90 for the first time.

Pump prices spiked after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But in the past few days wholesale prices have fallen, amid hopes of drops at the pumps.

Tory MP Jake Berry yesterday urged Mr Sunak to "look at cutting fuel duty but also look at mileage recovery rates" in Wednesday's Spring Statement.

Mr Sunak said he would "bear them in mind", adding the price of crude oil had fallen "by about 25 per cent...illustrating the volatility of the situation".

Fuel duty is currently set at just under 58p per litre for petrol and diesel. The standard rate VAT of 20 per cent is also applied to most fuel.



DAILY EXPRESS

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A lasting and fair peace the priority for Ukraine

SECURING a just peace in Ukraine must be the priority of the world. Every day that President Putin's barbaric bombardment continues, more Ukrainian families are robbed of loved ones. Proud towns and cities are being devastated with each new hour of the conflict, and innocents ensnared in this nightmare will carry wounds and trauma all of their lives.

Nothing should be done to pressure President Zelensky, his comrades or his country into accepting a peace deal that would be bad for Ukraine. It would be abhorrent, and dangerous, if Putin's aggression was seen to be rewarded.

But it is right that Ukraine is exploring diplomatic options. Citizens across this great country are ready to fight to the death and have already humbled us with their courage, yet it would be a defining tragedy if Russian forces lay waste to Ukraine.

Putin and his henchmen will remain pariahs and reparations will be sought and prosecutions will be pursued for their obscene transgression of international law, but his gang in the Kremlin must understand it is in their interest to secure a swift end to the war. Many ordinary Russians are already appalled at the kleptocrats who run Putin's gangster state and anger will reach boiling point if more young people are sent to die in Ukraine.

We wish the brave and brilliant men and women working to win peace, without sacrificing the demands of justice, every success.

Fears over pension raids

IT IS highly concerning that people are dipping into their pension pots as the cost of living crisis gets worse.

The anxiety which has gripped Britain as the prospect of higher prices and giant bills looms could push worried savers into making deeply damaging decisions.

If individuals raid their pension savings today they may find themselves in profound difficulties in the near future.

The increase in life expectancy is a triumph which follows improvements in healthy lifestyles and breakthroughs in medicine, and it is essential the country finds a way of securing decent incomes for people in later life. We may need a champion in government who will push for reform, work with the pensions sector and fight to ensure people who have worked hard for decades can enjoy the comfortable retirement they deserve.

Back as racing certainty

THE return of punters to the Cheltenham Festival is glorious. Two years ago, there was controversy when the event was labelled a "super-spreader" of Covid-19. Now though, the legions of fully-jabbed equine enthusiasts can raise a Guinness to the brilliant people who raced to perfect life-saving, society-liberating vaccines and found the winning ticket.

Britain is a truly generous nation in darkest hours

AS 122,000 Britons offered to open their homes to refugees came tragic news that three ex-special forces troops from the UK were feared among the dead in a Russian missile strike on a Ukrainian military base.

Ever since Russian dictator Vladimir Putin first threatened Ukraine, Britain has been generous in aiding the Ukrainians, whether with tank-destroying weapons and training or havens for refugees; whether with Government help or individual generosity. Two days ago, a 20-strong convoy of lorries packed with aid left Wrexham in Wales to journey to Ukraine, among dozens taking supplies from all corners of the UK.

"I've had it up to here with people trying to suggest that this country is not generous," minister Michael Gove told MPs yesterday. Hoping to cut back on the bureaucracy that initially hindered offers of refuge, it is the great British public helping to set a faster pace for government assistance by responding in their thousands to a request for rooms for families fleeing war.

IT MAY not seem as generous as Poland, which has taken in more than 1.7 million refugees from its neighbour, but as the lion-hearted Ukrainians defend their country, the military hardware we have provided is much appreciated by soldiers reportedly shouting "God Save the Queen" when one of our missiles destroys a Russian tank.

That the invasion has not been as easy as Putin expected is demonstrated by the increasing brutality of his generals' tactics, obliterating entire city centres to reduce resistance. Without doubt, it was the UK's supply of anti-tank and anti-aircraft weaponry, sent before the invasion even began, that has given the Ukrainians the ability to slow down the Russian army. Indeed, some military experts



PUBLIC SUPPORT: Volunteers in Wrexham, Wales, gather supplies for an aid convoy to Ukraine



Tim Newark
Political commentator

believe that if the Ukrainians can hold out for a few more days or weeks, Putin's lumbering war machine will fail.

"They don't have the time, they don't have the manpower and I don't think they have the ammunition," says retired General Ben Hodges, former commanding officer of the US Army in Europe. "The West needs to accelerate the delivery of the capabilities Ukrainians need to destroy Russian long-range artillery and rocket launchers and missile sites."

With Britain leading the way, it is good to see Germany and the EU stepping up a supply of lethal arms to Ukraine. It is stirring also to hear of British former soldiers volunteering to help fight alongside Ukrainians. Sadly, it was the presence of this foreign legion and the supply of weapons from the West that encouraged the horrific missile assault on the military

base at Yavoriv just 15 miles from the Polish border. British blood is now on Russian hands.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky is desperate for us to provide air power too, and with the under-performance of the Russian army it seems likely Nato aircraft could swiftly dispatch them, bringing a quick end to the war. No-fly zones in Iraq, Bosnia and Libya proved effective in deterring murderous tyrants. Seeing President Biden scotch Poland's initiative of sending their old MiG-29s to Ukraine because he feared it would escalate the war with a nuclear power makes one wonder whether a more robust wartime leader, such as Margaret Thatcher, would have called Russia's bluff and sent in Nato aircraft anyway, knowing they would make quick work of Putin's failing forces and drag him to the peace table. Vital time is being lost by not provid-

ing air cover, leaving Putin to blitz the Ukrainians into submission. Once their land is reduced to a smoking pile of rubble, all the help in the world won't matter.

WITH such a fate threatened, it seems unlikely that many Ukrainians will want to return to their homeland and they must be helped to forge a new life in Western Europe. Allowing them to live and work in the UK with a minimum of red tape will bring a welcome injection of dynamism to our economy.

But the UK must match their faith in our freedom and democracy by doing everything we can to protect our way of life from foreign bullying. That means maintaining our armed forces with the most sophisticated weaponry and becoming energy independent, drilling for our own oil and gas so we don't need fuel from foreign tyrants.

It is a sign of the wonderful compassion shown by British people that despite inflation and sky-high household bills making life so difficult, they are still willing to open their homes to strangers fleeing the trauma of war. That is a truly generous nation.

'Wonderful compassion is shown to strangers fleeing trauma of war'

Vigil not an exception to Covid rules

IT SEEMS an odd ruling of the courts that the police were wrong to prevent the Sarah Everard vigil on the grounds that it infringed the participants' right to free speech and assembly.

Well, of course it did but so did the entire raft of Covid emergency measures forced on us by Boris & Co. We lived through an abrogation of our civil liberties which



was unprecedented in peace time and if one restriction was unlawful then logic suggests all the other restrictions were too as they were passed under the same emergency Act.

I understand the feelings of grief and outrage behind the vigil but the police could hardly pick and choose between one cause and another.

Gatherings were banned. Simples.

Poor form to insist on visas

THE British response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis has been a jungle of red tape. Where citizens in other countries meet the stream of human suffering with placards saying how many they can take into their homes, Brits will have to have criminal record checks and be Government-approved.

Meanwhile those fleeing Putin's barbarians must complete swathes of paperwork and be issued with visas before they can set foot on UK soil, even if they have close family in Britain.

We should be setting up centres in countries receiving vast numbers of refugees and there processing those with Ukrainian passports and giving them passage straight to the UK instead of risking their being ensnared by people traffickers at Calais. No chance.

Britain loves forms and hates kindness and common sense. Remember the Afghan interpreters?



Amm Widdecombe

'Bully' Bercow was always kind to me

ONE of my mother's favourite maxims was "speak as you find". Throughout my childhood and youth she hammered home the message that, whatever the consensus around me, I must stick to what I thought. If I liked another child then I must base my attitude on that and not on somebody else's dislike.

So, if I speak as I found, I never had any problem with John Bercow. He was the junior in my team when I was Shadow Home Secretary and despite our being at opposite ends of the argument on issues such as drugs and clause 28, was never other than pleasant and kind. He was solicitous about the health of my elderly mother. When I left the front bench and was as another of my former deputies so charmingly put it, "not important any more" he remained friendly and concerned.

Some years after I had left Parliament he let me use Speaker's House for a reception to mark my papal honour. He chatted away during several more events there held by various MPs and organisations and made a point of appearing in person to add to the occasion and the participants' delight. Even recently when we were poles apart on Brexit, he gave me a cheerful write-up in his autobiography.

Of course, I had issues with the way he prosecuted his determined campaign to become Speaker when he simply took every opportunity to congratulate Labour MPs and curry favour with them, but when once I asked him if he was considering crossing the floor, he laughed as if I had uttered a pleasant absurdity.

THAT was as nothing compared to the way he tried to prevent Brexit from his position as Speaker. One day he would quote precedent as a reason not to allow the Government to take a particular course and the next would be saying that precedent was there to be set as well as broken. His best friends could not argue that he showed due impartiality, which was the very essence of his role.

That may have brought the office of Speaker into disrepute but it does not make him a nasty bully.

Yet if I speak as I find, then the complainants are neither liars nor snowflakes. I have had recent dealings with Kate Emms who is efficient, kind and reliable. I knew Lord Lisvane in his previous incarnation of head clerk and he is no shrinking violet and a man of integrity.

So, whatever happened? Did the pressures of his wife's much-publicised antics plus Brexit plus virulent Tory hatred simply become too much so that he took to shouting and throwing things or are there grounds for doubting the verdict or did time warp memories? I don't know, but given the welter of vituperation and vilification now launched against John Bercow I feel compelled to reach for my tin hat and speak as I found.

Pictures: GETTY



OF COURSE it is right to freeze Russian assets in this country but the stench of hypocrisy as the yachts sail off to Dubai is overpowering.

We took Abramovich's money and that of those like him for years. Chelsea Football Club did very well out of it. I didn't see the directors sporting clothes pegs on their noses, nor ministers either.

If Putin had not invaded a sovereign state the establishment and the oligarchs would still be hobnobbing. So, yes, freeze the assets but spare us the self-righteous sermonising.



DOUBLE TAKE: John Bercow, above, and right, Roman Abramovich

I DON'T get it. It is OK for Nato countries to equip Ukraine with surface-to-air missiles with which to shoot down Russian bombers but not to give them planes to do

exactly the same thing. As long as said planes bear Ukrainian colours and are under Ukrainian not Nato command, then what the heck is the difference?

Spuds for breakfast!

Potatoes in the morning may help fight diabetes

EATING potatoes in the morning, grains in the afternoon and greens in the evening may help diabetics live longer.

Researchers found those who had certain foods at particular times were less likely to die from heart disease or strokes.

But a lot of processed meat in the evening increased risk by 74 per cent.

Author Dr Qingrao Song, of Harbin Medical University in China, said: "We observed that eating potatoes in the morning, whole grains in the afternoon, greens and milk in the evening and less processed meat in the evening was associated with better long-term survival in people with diabetes."

People who ate the most potato and starchy veg in the morning were 54 per cent less likely to die of heart disease compared with those who ate the least.

Eating whole grains in the

By **Hanna Geissler**
Health Editor

afternoon cut their risk by a third, while dark vegetables and milk in the evenings reduced the risk by 45 per cent.

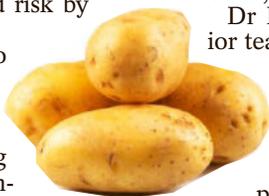
But one dietitian said he was wary of the study, based on data from 4,642 US diabetics.

Dr Duane Mellor, a senior teaching fellow at Aston University, said: "This could imply you're better off having potatoes for breakfast. For most people in the UK that would be a hash brown with a fried breakfast.

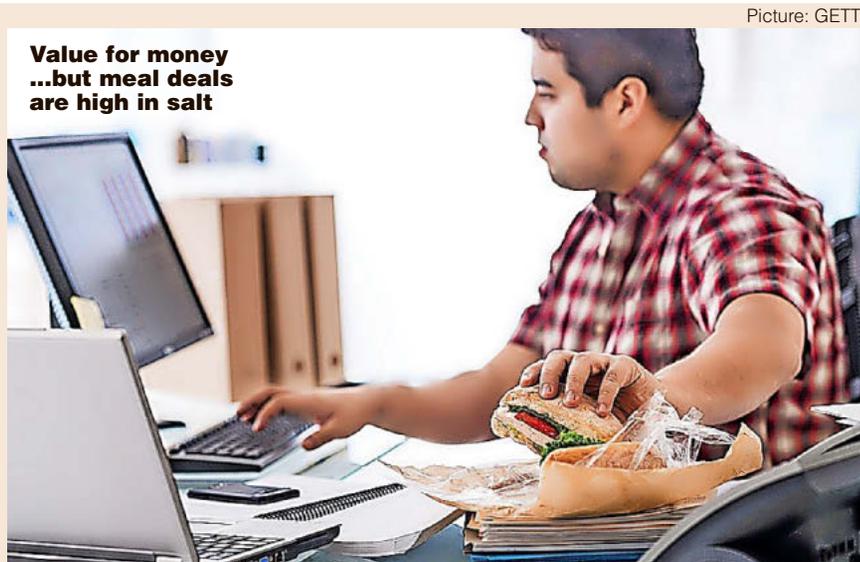
"That is not a way of reducing risk of cardiovascular mortality.

"The timing of whether you have potatoes before or after lunch is probably less important than how you cook them and what you eat them with.

"It's better to have them boiled or with other vegetables, particularly green vegetables."



Starchy...potatoes



Picture: GETTY

'Healthy' snacks packed with salt

SEVEN in 10 snacks included in lunchtime meal deals are high in fat, salt and sugar, analysis suggests.

Campaign group Action on Salt surveyed 360 products, two-thirds of which claimed to be healthy.

Co-op's lemon and coriander olives had over 2g of salt, equal to five portions of salted peanuts.

A Ginsters pasty had 1.89g, or more than 5.5 packets of salted crisps.

A Subway chicken sandwich had

By **Hanna Geissler**

5.3g – almost a whole day's worth and more than a Big Mac and fries.

Graham MacGregor, professor of cardiovascular medicine at Queen Mary University of London, said:

"Reducing salt is the most cost-effective measure for lowering blood pressure and reducing the number of people dying from strokes, heart disease and life changing disabilities."

More live longer in fine fettle

By **Mark Waghorn**

PEOPLE in England are living longer and enjoying more years in good health.

Chronic conditions strike later than 30 years ago, says a study.

Between 1991 and 2011, disability-free life expectancy went up by 3.7 years for men over 65 and two years for women.

Medical advances and better access to treatment help.

Those with respiratory difficulties or living after a stroke saw the greatest improvements.

The findings are based on two surveys involving more than 15,000 over-65s.

Lead author Dr Holly Bennett, of Newcastle University, said: "While these findings are mostly positive, we found an increase in percentage of remaining years spent with cognitive impairment."

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Smith...with tragic Star

Star mum sentence increased

By **Jess Glass**

THE mother of murdered toddler Star Hobson has had her prison sentence increased to 12 years by the Court of Appeal.

Frankie Smith, 20, was jailed at Bradford Crown Court in December last year for her role in the death of her 16-month-old daughter, killed by her former partner, Savannah Brockhill, 28.

Star died in September 2020 when she was taken to hospital after suffering "utterly catastrophic" and "unsurvivable" injuries.

Smith was found guilty of causing or allowing her death and sentenced to eight years in prison.

Brockhill, a bouncer and security guard, was found guilty of Star's murder.

Smith's sentence was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Attorney General's Office under the unduly lenient sentencing scheme.

Smith, of Keighley, West Yorks, attended proceedings yesterday via video-link from HMP New Hall.

Scandal of delays for rape justice

By **John Twomey**

RAPE victims are waiting up to five years for justice, it was revealed yesterday.

Unnecessary bureaucracy and delays are prompting more to drop out of the case against their attackers.

The report by the CPS inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary urged the Government to set up special courts to tackle the crisis.

Previous studies have highlighted the lack of collaboration between police and prosecutors.

Now the revelations will pile more pressure to improve the pitifully low conviction rate for sex crimes against women and girls.

Settle our £400m bill and you get Nazanin, says Iran

Picture: PA



Hope...Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe pictured in 2020

By **John Twomey**

IRAN has claimed Britain will pay off a £400million debt to free aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

Hopes were yesterday rising for her imminent release after Iran returned her UK passport.

Multiple sources have told the New Arab newsgroup that the British government has agreed to pay off an outstanding £400million debt relating to the non-delivery of a contract for Chieftain tanks in the 1970s.

This will pave the way for British-Iranian Nazanin to be released, it was said.

The Government declined to comment on the speculation.

Whitehall also refused to respond to rumours of a "strategic deal" with Iran to ease its dependence on Russian oil and gas.

British negotiators are understood to be in Tehran and Nazanin's lawyer said he was "hopeful of good news soon".

Nazanin, 44, was arrested at Tehran Airport in April 2016 as she prepared to fly home with her daughter Gabriella, then aged one, following a visit to her parents.

A project manager for the Thomson Reuters Foundation, she was later sentenced to five years in jail for allegedly plotting to overthrow the Iranian regime – charges she vehemently denied.

She served four years at Tehran's Evin Prison and the last 12 months under house arrest at her parents' home.

In April last year, she was sentenced to another 12 months confinement for allegedly "spreading propaganda".

The second sentence has not started and she has been barred from leaving Iran.

Her husband Richard Ratcliffe and Gabriella are waiting anxiously at their home in Hampstead, north London.

Asked about her possible release, Boris Johnson said he did



Flashback...Nazanin with her husband Richard and daughter Gabriella

not "want to tempt fate" as "delicate discussions" were ongoing.

The Prime Minister added: "I think that it's very important when you have got quite delicate discussions going on, you should say as little as possible unless and until the thing is actually concluded."

"Everybody wants Nazanin home, we have been working on

'Indications from Iran are positive... but there have been false dawns'

that for a long, long time. I do not want to do anything to interrupt the conversations right now."

Tulip Siddiq, Labour MP for Hampstead and Kilburn, said yesterday: "I am very pleased to say that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been given her British passport back."

"She is still at her family home in Tehran. I also understand that there is a British negotiating team in Tehran right now."

"I will keep posting updates as I get them." Nazanin's lawyer

Hojjat Kermani said: "I am hopeful that we will have good news soon."

Her mother-in-law Barbara Ratcliffe said the latest development sounded "really positive".

She said her daughter-in-law "seemed really quite upbeat".

But crushing disappointments in the past have left the family "all a bit battle-scarred", she added.

Rupert Skilbeck, director of the Redress human rights organisation, said: "The latest indications coming from Iran are a positive sign, but there have been false dawns in Nazanin's case before."

"So we remain cautious and continue to encourage the UK Government to do the right thing and ensure the debt it owes to Iran is paid, and that it does everything in its power to secure Nazanin's release."

The "debt" relates to a cancelled order for 1,500 Chieftain tanks dating back to the 1970s.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said in December that the £400million is a "legitimate debt" that the Government wants to pay.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We continue to explore options to resolve this case and will not comment further as discussions are ongoing."

Mum referred killer son to terror scheme



Davison shot dead five people

MASS shooter Jake Davison was reported to the counter-terrorism Prevent scheme by his mother months before he applied for a shotgun licence, an inquest heard.

The 22-year-old killer's mum Maxine, 51, contacted the Government's multi-agency programme, which aims to stop people becoming terrorists, in November 2016 with concerns about her son.

Details of the referral were not disclosed during a pre-inquest hearing at Plymouth Coroner's Court but will be a key area covered by the inquest set for January next year.

By **Rod Minchin**

Davison killed his mother after an argument and then shot dead four others in a 12-minute attack.

Three-year-old Sophie Martyn, her father Lee, 43, Stephen Washington, 59, and Kate Shepherd, 66, died on August 12 last year in the Keyham area of the city.

The apprentice crane operator then turned the shotgun on himself.

The killings happened just weeks after the pump-action weapon and licence had been returned to him by Devon and Cornwall Police.

They were seized after

Davison assaulted two teenagers in a park.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) is investigating how the force approved his application and then later gave him back the licence and shotgun.

Davison originally applied for a certificate in July 2017, which was issued in January 2018, and valid for five years.

As part of the inquiry, two staff members in the firearms licensing department involved in the granting of the certificate have been served with gross misconduct notices, while an officer has been served with a misconduct notice.

Mrs Davison was said to be struggling to get help for her son. The inquest will look at social media usage by Davison, which suggested an obsession with "incel" culture, meaning "involuntary celibate", and an interest in guns.

Ian Arrow, senior coroner for Plymouth and South Devon, said it was likely to be held under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which widens the scope of the hearing.

Davison's contact with mental health services in May 2021 and occupational health assessment would also be examined.

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Kelly's Eye



BY FERGUS KELLY

UNLIKELY as it might seem, perhaps we should be grateful to the likes of Sergei Lavrov. He's that flesh-crawling myrmidon of Vladimir Putin and Russia's foreign minister, who branded the horrified response to his country's deliberate bombing of a maternity hospital as a "pathetic outcry" (Incidentally, I notice the most virulent opponents of our government in this country, who sniggered approvingly at Lavrov's pre-war belittling of Liz Truss as a "deaf person", have since fallen uncomfortably silent).

Like his Kremlin master, Lavrov reminds us what true evil looks like because, again like his boss, he represents the genuine fascist article.

So, too, does Hong Kong's Orwellian-named Security Bureau, which this week threatened Benedict Rogers, the British-based founder of the human rights watchdog Hong Kong Watch, with life imprisonment. By highlighting the brutality and suppression of free speech there, his organisation is "jeopardising national security"

according to Beijing's goons. The courage of the dissidents actually in Hong Kong who oppose such tyranny is awe-inspiring. So too is that of the valiant few Russian protesters we have witnessed demonstrating against their president's defilement of Ukraine. Just uttering the words "war" or "invasion" can now land them in jail for 15 years, and you can be certain the Russian police, not least the paramilitary thugs of their OMON units, are rather less solicitous than our own when effecting an arrest. Those brave people's situation is rather more daunting than poncing around in fancy-dress wailing about a climate "emergency".

We should remember and support this opposition every bit as much as the remarkable democracy campaigners in Hong Kong, instead of succumbing to a lynch-mob mentality against all Russians amid our entirely justified revulsion at Putin's atrocities.

Like the monsters they confront, they remind us what really matters.

Blinders way past its Peak

FOR the record, I rather enjoyed the first four series of *Peaky Blinders*. I'm not saying the plot was particularly cogent even then, but it generated a tension and menace that kept you watching.

It began to lose those attributes during the previous series, but it has taken the current final one for the plot to plunge to its most bewildering and – more disappointingly – most boring.

I can cope with the usual gamut of gypsy curses and sons-of-toil socialist platitudes, and even that drug addict Arthur is even more indecipherable than ever. It is still arrestingly shot and wardrobe.

But amid the chaos of Chinese opium dealers, Jewish gangsters, American organised crime families, an almost cartoon-like parody of Oswald Mosley, a trench-coated woman commandant of the IRA (not an organisation traditionally noted for its feminist sensibilities) and a Winston Churchill tribute act, all it boils down to is a lot of highly stylised nonsense.



Picture: BBC

BRITAIN'S clumsy and graceless-looking response so far to the ever mounting numbers of Ukrainians seeking sanctuary does not represent some innate racism on our part, as our most fervent self-loathers imply.

It is down to the sort of monolithic indifference and inflexibility in which hidebound bureaucracies like the Home Office specialise.

We saw it with the hounding and

deportation, during the 2018 Windrush scandal, of Britons who had been here for decades. It belies the vast majority of us who always welcome genuine refugees, but prefer not to have our policy dictated by pitiless people traffickers.

And it results in the bleak irony that perhaps the Ukrainians wishing to reach our shores might achieve their aim more quickly by risking it on a cross-Channel dinghy.

Nanny state has to butt out

YOU can join the army or get married from the age of 16, and vote, have a tattoo, and sit on a jury once you're 18. But under new proposals from our anti-smoking tsar (will that witless title for various government appointees be discontinued now that we're banning anything Russian-related?), you might soon have to be 25 to buy cigarettes.

Nothing offends the morality of our disapproving public health guardians more than what should be an adult's personal choice.



Row...Jeremy at farm

Clarkson's fresh farm site fracas

By **Tom Bryant**

JEREMY Clarkson is at the centre of a new row over his Diddy Squat farm.

The former Top Gear star has asked for permission to build a large car park on the site, the focus of his series Clarkson's Farm.

But local police are worried the property, in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, will attract anti-social elements at night.

The broadcaster had his last application rejected by a West Oxfordshire District Council planning committee in January.

Locals had previously been left furious after the area around the farm was besieged by traffic.



Slumber...Lord Young

Peer pays for dozing in debate

By **Martyn Brown**

A LABOUR peer was barred from a debate in the House of Lords after falling asleep.

Lord Young's "you snooze, you lose" moment came when he tried yesterday to intervene in a discussion on genetically modified crops in the UK.

Government Whip Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist bluntly pointed out that he had been "fast asleep" throughout the minister's opening speech – and could not participate.

When the 79-year-old objected he was "not now" asleep, Lady Bloomfield responded that she had been forced to ask one of the doorkeepers to stir him.

£4bn tycoon gambled on fall of communism

Picture: KARL SCHOENDORFER/REXSHUTTERSTOCK



Golden ticket...Karel Komarek and his wife Stepanka in 2019

CZECH billionaire Karel Komarek may not be a household name, but his National Lottery takeover makes him one of the most important men in British cultural and sporting life.

Komarek lives in Switzerland and regards Florida as his second home.

His \$5.5billion (£4.2billion) fortune came from oil and gas in the Czech Republic in the 1990s, following the Velvet Revolution and the end of the communist regime.

In 2012, he took over Czech lottery firm Sazka, which he used to build a

By **Geoff Ho**

£7billion European lotteries empire. Other business ventures include IT, real estate and bio medicine.

Komarek is married to Stepanka and has four children.

When not working 12 hours a day, he enjoys golf, cycling and paddle boarding. His foundation sponsors the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC, as well as the Dvorak Prague International Music Festival.

New lottery boss: We'll halve price of a ticket

NATIONAL Lottery tickets could be slashed to just £1 in a major shake-up, its new bosses say.

Allwyn Entertainment is ousting current operator Camelot, which has run the lottery since 1994.

It proposes cutting ticket prices by half – from £2 to £1 – and having two draws on one night.

Allwyn is owned by Czech billionaire Karel Komarek, who has made an estimated £4.2billion fortune in oil and gas.

And the entrepreneur got his birthday wish yesterday when he won the rights to operate the National Lottery for 10 years.

He turned 53 in style by scooping the top prize following months of robust competition.

Taking to professional networking site LinkedIn, he called it "the best birthday present ever".

Allwyn is one of Europe's largest lottery firms, operating in the Czech Republic, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Austria.

It will take over the National

By **Graham Hiscott**

Lottery in 2024 after being named as the Gambling Commission's "preferred bidder".

Due to the secretive bidding process for the lottery, Allwyn has yet to give much away about its planned changes.

But reports say it pledged to donate £38billion to good causes over the next decade, and slash ticket prices to £1.

The decision is a blow to Camelot, whose CEO Nigel Railton said: "We're carefully reviewing the Gambling Commission's evaluation before deciding on our next steps."

One of Mr Komarek's subsidiary companies has previously been involved in joint ventures with the German arm of Gazprom, which is majority owned by the Russian state and has been targeted in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine.

The Gambling Commission says that it is "satisfied that no application is impacted by sanctions related to the conflict in Ukraine".



Racism claim after police strip-search schoolgirl

A BLACK girl was strip-searched by police after being wrongly suspected of carrying cannabis.

Officers acted without another adult present at her comprehensive school and in the knowledge that she was menstruating, a report found.

Relatives said the incident changed her from a "happy-go-lucky girl to a timid recluse that hardly speaks", who self-harms and needs therapy.

The report by City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership

By **Jemma Crew**

concluded the search in 2020 was unjustified and that racism "was likely to have been an influencing factor".

Police arrived at the school in east London after being called by teachers who had been concerned the girl had drugs because she smelt of cannabis.

She was taken to the medical room and searched by two female officers while teachers remained outside.

During the ordeal her intimate body

parts were exposed and she was made to take off her sanitary towel.

In a statement, the girl said she cannot go a single day "without wanting to scream, shout, cry or just give up". She said: "The people that allowed this to happen need to be held responsible."

Scotland Yard has apologised and the Independent Office for Police Conduct is investigating.

London mayor Sadiq Khan said: "This is a deeply disturbing case. No child should have to face a situation like this."



'Disturbing case'...Sadiq Khan

First date pair in Alton Towers crash to marry

A COUPLE who suffered serious injuries in a rollercoaster crash at Alton Towers seven years ago are getting married.

Leah Washington and Joe Pugh announced they were engaged on Instagram, with Leah, 24, posting pictures showing her new ring during a trip to Venice.

She wrote: "So this happened yesterday I SAID YES."

Joe, 25, posted: "The best city break so far made even better by getting a yes from Leah".

The pair, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had gone on their first

By **Dave Higgins**

date to the Staffordshire theme park in 2015. Leah, now a model, had her left leg amputated and Joe suffered shattered knees.

Operator Merlin Attractions was fined £5million for health and safety violations.

A court heard Leah, then 17, and Vicky Balch, 19 could have bled to death on The Smiler ride when their carriage hit an empty one in an impact like a 90mph car crash. Sixteen people were hurt in total, five seriously.



Engaged...Joe and girlfriend Leah

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I'll help cut by treating

EXCLUSIVE

By **Giles Sheldrick** Chief Reporter

THOUSANDS of NHS cancer patients could be fast-tracked for treatment after Daily Express columnist Karol Sikora offered to help clear the mounting backlog.

The globally-respected oncologist wants to open his network of private centres to help up to 30,000 of the most seriously ill in Britain.

His unprecedented not-for-profit deal would give access to life-saving therapies almost instantly.

The offer has been put to NHS chiefs by Prof Sikora's private provider Rutherford Health. But, despite acknowledging the deepening emergency, it has not yet been taken up.

Prof Sikora, 73, who founded the company in 2015, said: "We are in the midst of a cancer crisis. It's unlike anything I've seen during almost half a century in oncology.

"Tens of thousands of people have missed their diagnosis with countless others experiencing very significant delays in treatment – I don't need to give any lectures on the importance of prompt action."

Discussions have been held with No10, the Department of Health and NHS England since the offer was made on December 21.

But the Express understands they favour local arrangements with individual trusts, rather than a sweeping national deal. It means 70 days later – the time most patients should be starting cancer treatment after a referral – discussions are ongoing.

Results

Prof Sikora – former director of the World Health Organisation's Cancer Programme – added: "Capacity needs to be urgently expanded. We are offering a quick win for the NHS in tackling the backlog and we are capable of achieving immediate results.

"Cancer patients need action, not words. At Rutherford, we are willing to help deliver that."

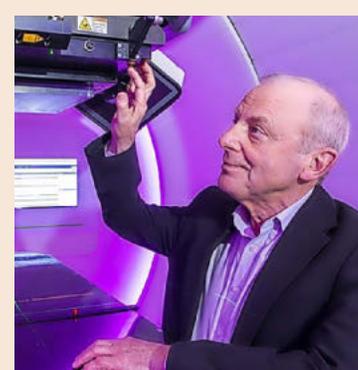
The NHS says at least 85 per cent of patients should wait no more than 62 days to start treatment after an urgent GP referral. But this target has not been met for six years.

A deal with Rutherford would be the biggest public-private partnership in NHS history.

It would allow clinicians from Britain's 223 overstretched trusts to refer patients to some of Europe's most highly specified cancer centres.

Those currently at the mercy of lengthy waiting lists would be referred according to individual need for diagnostic and oncology services.

Rutherford says it is willing to open its £400million network of radiotherapy, chemotherapy, proton beam therapy suites, MRI, CT and ultrasound machines to the public at sites in Newport, South Wales,



Karol by a proton beam machine

COMMENT

KAROL SIKORA

Eminent oncologist

TO prevent a devastating number of life years lost to cancer, we need urgent action. Capacity needs to be expanded and it needs to happen rapidly.

But building a cancer centre is not easy, it requires years of work – I know, I've been involved in the construction of many across the world.

That's time cancer patients can't afford to waste.

So, how can we solve it?

Rutherford is offering our facilities to help clear the backlog caused by Covid over the next 36 months.

That would be equal to an additional level of cancer service capability of between four and five major NHS acute trusts.

Currently we provide for the NHS as partnerships with local cancer services, but we have the capability to do far more.

We can offer hundreds of trained staff, world-class treatment technology and access to cutting edge diagnostic facilities. And we have the capacity for thousands of new patients.

Our offer is all on a not-for-profit basis.

Co-operation is in place with various NHS trusts, with patients already benefiting across the country, but we want to work at a national level to ensure as many as possible can access our services.

Reading, Liverpool, Newcastle and Taunton, Somerset. It estimates it could treat at least 8,000 NHS patients a year over 36 months.

The firm already treats NHS patients in devolved Wales.

Earlier this month, Boris Johnson announced a new target to clear the mounting backlog – but it will take more than a year.

He said he ultimately wants the "vast majority of people" who

RENOWNED SPECIALIST'S OFFER TO EASE CRISIS

NHS's huge cancer backlog 30,000 at my private centres

PUT SHIRT ON ME BEATING DISEASE

Tough... Adam shows off some of his T-shirts and with mum Paulina, inset



WHEN brave Adam Lewandowski was going through gruelling cancer treatment, he wanted to show the world that he was a true fighter.

So each time he went through chemotherapy, he wore a different T-shirt with powerful messages such as, "Hey Cancer You Picked The Wrong Boy".

They helped the five year old beat a rare eye cancer and he was finally declared cancer-free last May.

Strong

His relieved mother Paulina Trzcinska, of Bournemouth, said: "The T-shirts reflected how he tackled cancer head on. He never let it get him down and he wanted to show everyone how strong he was. I am so proud of him."

Adam, who has an older brother Oliver, 15, and a sister Alicia, 12, was diagnosed with

EXCLUSIVE By Lucy Laing

rhabdomyosarcoma in his right eye in August 2020.

Ms Trzcinska, 36, said: "I'll never forget the day that doctors told me that Adam had cancer – it was such a massive shock."

Doctors managed to remove 80 per cent of the tumour but Adam then had seven months of chemotherapy treatment.

Ms Trzcinska said: "The chemotherapy left him so exhausted. There were days when I didn't think he was going to make it."

She added: "He would pick out some favourite T-shirts to wear and that really kept him going throughout it all."

"He loved dressing up as superheroes too, so he'd wear a cape with a T-shirt message underneath."

Adam was given the all clear to ring the end of treatment bell the day after his mother's birthday. She said: "It was the best birthday present I could have asked for."

Waiting lists set to grow

By Jane Kirby

YEARS of decline have affected cancer and waiting times targets in the NHS, say MPs.

The cross-party Public Accounts Committee warned yesterday that the treatment waiting list – currently 6.1 million people – is likely to grow for the next few years.

In a report, it said that even before the pandemic the Department for Health and Social Care and NHS England "did not increase capacity sufficiently".

The Committee chair, Labour's Dame Meg Hillier, said it "is dragging our national health service and heroic staff down".

Patients get drug lifeline

By Hanna Geissler

A DRUG that can offer patients with incurable blood cancer an extra nine months of life will be available on the NHS.

Daratumumab is an antibody treatment and works by attaching to a protein on the cancer's cells, then signalling to the immune system to kill it.

It was previously available for a limited time through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Around 350 people with multiple myeloma are expected to benefit each year.

Amanda Pritchard, NHS chief executive, said: "This offers a ray of light."



suspect cancer to have confirmation within 28 days.

More than six million patients are languishing on waiting lists for non-urgent treatment in England after Covid decimated services and sent waiting times soaring.

Health Secretary Sajid Javid said he wants to deliver nine million more treatments, scans and operations by 2024 as part of NHS recovery plans.

In its formal written offer,

Rutherford bosses said: "We believe we can offer a scaled-up, more efficient and cost-effective service to a far wider range of NHS trusts beyond such local agreements providing considerable additional capacity for a fixed period. This offer aligns with the spirit of the most recent guidance from NHS England which urges greater utilisation of the independent healthcare sector in addressing backlogs caused by the pandemic."

There are some 367,000 new cancer cases in Britain each year, equal to 1,000 a day.

The number who should have been diagnosed quicker, or started treatment sooner, now stands at 63,873. More than one million more desperately need tests and treatment.

Rutherford CEO Sean Sullivan said: "Addressing the Covid backlog is the number one priority facing the British people. Rutherford is already

playing an important role, but our Cancer Recovery Contract would enable thousands more patients to receive the diagnosis and treatment they require.

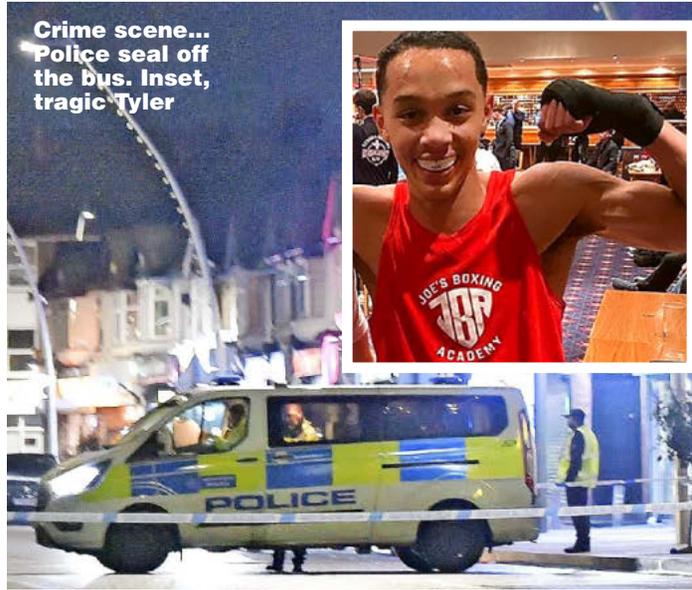
"This is a quick win for the NHS.

"We have the staff, facilities and desire to immediately deliver solutions. Given the urgency of the situation, we hope our not-for-profit offer can be explored as quickly as feasibly possible."

Call firms fined £400k

FIVE “predatory” firms who targeted the elderly with more than 750,000 marketing calls have been fined £405,000.

The companies – Domestic Support Ltd, Home Sure Solutions Ltd, Seaview Brokers Ltd, UK Appliance Cover Ltd and UK Platinum Home Care Services Ltd – had been investigated by officials at the Information Commissioner’s Office after complaints from the public.



Crime scene... Police seal off the bus. Inset, tragic Tyler



Teen arrest after boy, 16, is stabbed to death on bus

By John Twomey

POLICE launched a murder inquiry after a “charismatic and charming” 16-year-old schoolboy was fatally stabbed on a bus.

Officers arrested an 18 year old near the scene, initially on suspicion of attempted murder.

The victim has been named locally as Tyler Hurley. He was attacked in Chadwell Heath, east London, at around 4pm on Monday.

He is the second teenager to be murdered in London this year after Donovan Allen, 18, was stabbed to death in Enfield last month.

Anita Johnson, headteacher at Loxford School Trust, and Jennifer Ashe, headteacher at the Warren School, said pupils at Tyler’s school have been left “grief stricken”.

Passion

They said: “Tyler was a charismatic and charming young man who was just about to start his GCSEs.

“He was a talented footballer and had a great passion for boxing.”

Chief Superintendent Paul Trevers, of the Met’s East Area Command, appealed for information.

He said: “The victim was only 16 years old and I can only imagine his family’s anguish at this terrible time.

“A person has been arrested and there will be a full investigation by homicide detectives.”

He added: “Violent crime is down across London, but that is no solace to those affected by it.

“As a police officer I know that we cannot tackle violent crime alone, it needs everyone to work together.

“Whether it is telling police about those who carry weapons or talking to young people about the dangers of



Grim...police at scene in Worthing

Five children held over ‘knife brawl’

FIVE boys – including one aged just 12 – were arrested after a 13-year-old was stabbed in a mass brawl at a seaside town.

The victim suffered knife wounds to his torso and was rushed to hospital.

His injuries are not life-threatening, said police in Worthing, West Sussex.

Five boys, aged from 12 to 15, were held. The outbreak of violence on Sunday afternoon was described by police as “deeply concerning”.

A spokesman added: “We have warned that youth violence will not be tolerated, after five children were arrested in connection with a stabbing.”

knife crime, what we all do can make a difference.”

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Rogers added: “This boy’s family deserve to have their questions answered. I am asking anyone who can assist the investigation to show your support for them by calling the police.”

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Charles buoyed by the black stuff

By **Richard Palmer**

PRINCE Charles banged the drum for Anglo-Irish relations yesterday... after pulling himself a pint of Guinness.

Charles, 73, left wife Camilla in stitches as he struggled to pour his stout and was then left with froth on his nose after being too eager to drink it.

The couple, who will tour Ireland next week, got in some practice at the Irish Cultural Centre in west London, ahead of St Patrick's Day tomorrow.

There they learnt to play the bodhran – a traditional drum – by musician Tad Sargent.

They also joined a singsong of Mountains of Mourne, with Charles revealing it was a favourite of his grandmother.

Talking to a knitting group, the prince confessed he tried to learn the craft aged “six or seven” but “failed miserably”.

Settle

But it was at the bar the heir to the throne looked most at ease as he volunteered to pour a pint, but at first struggled to get a grip of tilting the glass.

His impatience got the better of him after barmaid Jude Hynes made him wait for his Guinness to settle.

Charles then joked: “How much longer are we going to have to wait.”

He then raised his glass before taking a sip, followed by another.

Camilla, 74 – wearing a green silk print dress by Samantha Cameron’s label Cefinn in honour of St Patrick’s Day – spied white froth on his nose, which the Prince wiped off.

As he returned to his pint, the party started to leave the bar. “Just one more,” he laughed.



Knighted... by Princess Royal

Sir Steve’s searchlight on the Blitz

By **Ted Hennessey**

SIR Steve McQueen gave Princess Anne a sneak preview of his next movie yesterday as she awarded a knighthood to the director.

The Oscar winner and artist, 52, said the production, which starts shooting in the autumn, will tell the stories of Londoners during the Blitz.

The 12 Years A Slave director, being recognised for services to art and film, also told the Princess Royal he was “very happy” for his mum Mary, who was at Windsor Castle with him.

Others recognised included Sara Rowbotham, a former health worker who exposed a child sex abuse ring in Rochdale. She said it was “validation” that she “did the right thing”.

Sara, *inset*, who was depicted in TV drama Three Girls, added: “It’s been such an exciting day.”



Prince of ales... Charles, with Camilla, enjoys a pint. Below, the Queen meets Ms Simon and Mr Fraser



The Queen is back on duty

THE Queen yesterday hosted Canada’s Governor General for afternoon tea – a day after missing the Commonwealth Day service.

The monarch, 95, welcomed Mary Simon and husband Whit Fraser to Windsor Castle – without using her walking stick.

It is thought Monday’s absence was due to concerns of her comfort, rather than an illness.

Hero pilot’s medals sell for £10,000

By **James Podesta**

THE bravery medals of a Bomber Command pilot who survived a 600ft fall from his burning aircraft without a parachute have sold for £10,000.

Wing Commander Terence Helfer was blown out of his Hudson bomber during a secret Special Operations raid in March 1944.

Badly burned, he survived the fall into Nazi-occupied France and was taken in by a priest before being repatriated.

He carried on flying for 40 years and died in 2010 aged 90. His Distinguished Flying Cross Air Force Cross, and log books, were sold at auction in Devon.

HSBC announces 69 more branch closures



Shutting down...HSBC

HSBC is to shut 69 branches as customers shift online, in a move that will affect around 400 staff.

The bank said it would try to replace the lost branches with other services, such as cash machines and pop-up outlets.

HSBC said fewer than half its customers are active users of its branches, and that average footfall was down 50 per cent since 2017.

The pandemic has increased the pace of this, it added.

HSBC said it is trying to reshuffle the affected staff into other roles.

Last year banks were closing almost 100 branches a month

By **Emily Braeger**

over the summer and consumer group Which? has called for a pause in closures, as many Britons face being left without access to cash.

Last month NatWest confirmed plans to close 32 outlets across the UK.

HSBC last announced a big round of branch closures in January 2021, with 81 shutting in that year.

The reason was the same – fewer people calling into its branches.

Jackie Uhi, head of HSBC UK’s branch network, said: “The way people bank is

changing – something the pandemic has accelerated.

“Our branches continue to support people with their more complex banking needs.

“But the way we can do this has also evolved, with the addition of banking hubs, community pop-ups and continued use of the Post Office network.

Support

“Rather than a one-size-fits-all branch approach, it’s an approach built around the way different customers are choosing to bank in different areas.

“We know that the majority of our customers have a prefer-

ence to do much of their day-to-day banking online or via mobile, so we’re removing locations where we have another branch nearby, and where there is a significant reduction in customers using face-to-face branch servicing.

“This will enable us to invest in locations where our customers are continuing to utilise the branch network, including updating technology and refurbishing branches.”

It said the move was part of a wider “transformation programme” which will see it launch community pop-ups, new self-service machines and digital support for customers.

HOCKNEY'S SPRING BLOSSOM BRUSHES AWAY WINTER BLUES

By Matt Nixon

A joyous new exhibition by our greatest and most influential living artist bursts with vibrant colours and optimism...

NOTHING says spring is here better than the inspirational, cheering new David Hockney exhibition opening in Cambridge this week. The stunning selection of his works, many unseen in the UK and including a fabulous 2021 self-portrait of the 84-year-old Bradford-born artist, fills eight galleries with stunning colours.

The career-spanning exhibition, titled Hockney's Eye, simultaneously opening across The Fitzwilliam Museum and The Heong Gallery at Downing College, shares an artist's-eye view of the world over more than six decades.

Hockney's drawings, paintings and digital artworks – several created during lockdown on an iPad at his 17th century farmhouse in Normandy – have been placed alongside works by, among others, William Hogarth, Claude Monet, John Constable and Andy Warhol. And, as one critic put it this week, "Those oldies have met their match."

Co-curator Martin Gayford explains: "Hockney's Eye is a new look at the artist's own work, seeing it as a lifelong quest to find new ways to represent the world around us, pictures that are closer to human experience."

HOCKNEY is famous for swapping the grimy monochrome of his post-war Bradford childhood for the sunshine and colour of 1960s America (at least one of his iconic California paintings, Rubber Ring Floating In A Swimming Pool, from 1971, is included, as is his more recent acrylic on canvas, Grand Canyon I, from 2017).

More recently based in Europe, the art reflects his obsession with the rebirth and colour of spring. Hockney says: "The green of the spring is a luscious fresh green that's gone by about June really, but April and May have this very, very fresh green... you've got to use a few greens. It's a difficult colour but we can see more greens than any other colour."

● *Hockney's Eye: The Art And Technology Of Depiction runs at The Fitzwilliam Museum and The Heong Gallery, University of Cambridge, until August 29. Visit fitzwilliammuseum.cam.ac.uk/ for more information*



PIONEER: Self portrait, left, and detail from Hockney's Grand Canyon I, above



Vital...sleep quality is essential

'Elite sleep genes' may stave off dementia

By Mark Waghorn

EFFICIENT "sleep genes" could hold the key to beating dementia, a study reveals.

Scientists have identified "elite sleepers" who get by on just four to six hours of shut-eye.

The short sleepers have shown resistance to mental decline, the research found.

The University of California team's

report said: "When it comes to sleep, it is quality over quantity."

For more than a decade the team has been tracking people with familial natural short sleep, finding the four to six hours cycle runs in families.

They have identified five genes

that play a role. Co-author Professor Ying-Hui Fu suggested elite sleep shields against neurodegenerative illnesses.

Prof Fu said: "Many parts of your brain have to work together for you to fall asleep and to wake up. When these parts of the brain are damaged, it makes it harder to sleep or get quality sleep." In experiments, mice

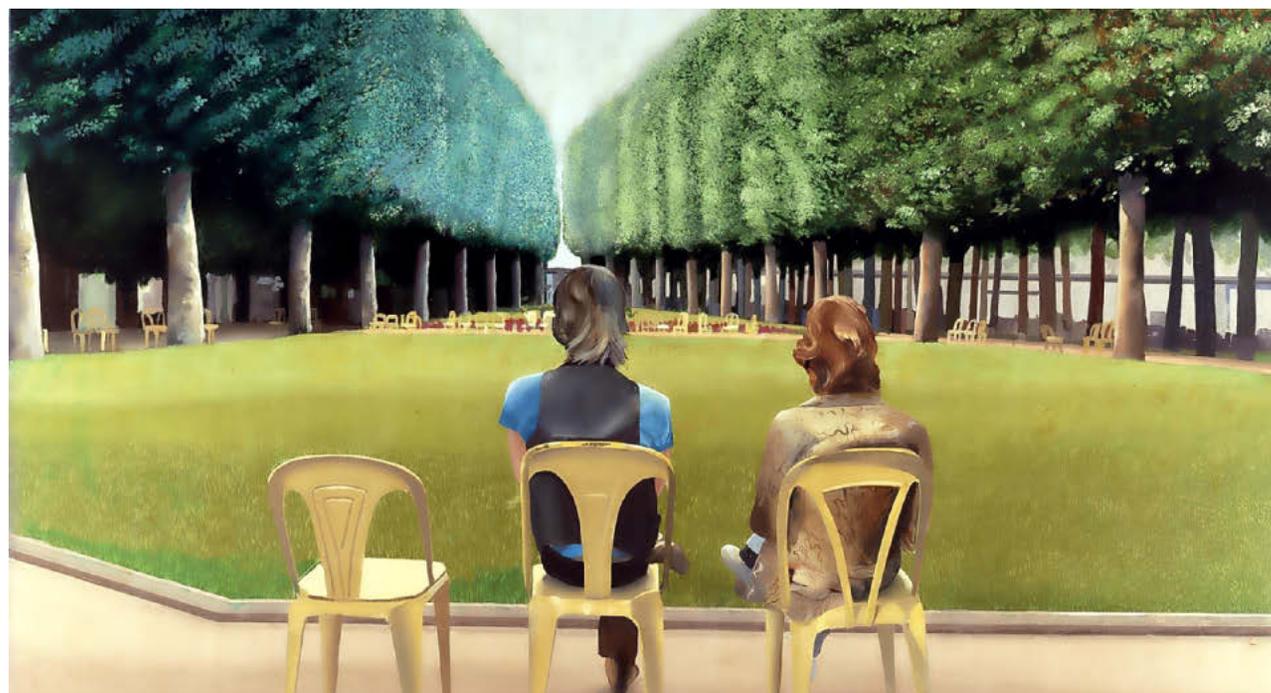
were bred to carry genes that predisposed them to both short sleep and Alzheimer's.

With the sleep genes protecting them, their brains developed far fewer of the rogue proteins linked to the disease.

Improving people's sleep quality could help delay progression of diseases, the team concluded.



Pictures: JONATHAN WILKINSON, RICHARD SCHMIDT, WWW.BRIDGEMANIMAGES.COM



CUTTING EDGE: From Hockney's iPad drawing of 2020 entitled 'No 2', above, to his more traditional acrylics on canvas, Le Parc des Sources Vichy from 1970, left, and Beach Umbrella, right, from 1971, the artist explores colour and how we are able to see the world around us



Picture: PA



The Bake Off team with Clara, Alex, Emma and Blake

Tent-sion hits Bake Off's Matt

By **Mark Jefferies**

PRESENTER Matt Lucas struggles with nerves as much as the contestants in the Great British Bake Off tent.

Judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith revealed the tension sometimes gets to the comedian if things don't go smoothly.

Paul, 56, said: "It's like being

in an exam or in the middle of doing your driving test. He was really nervous, bless him."

Prue, 82, was a little more diplomatic, saying: "He didn't do badly Paul."

Speaking about his experi-

ence, Matt, 48, said: "I was forced to bake when one of the bakers became unavailable.

"I can't tell you how happy I was my humiliation was caught on camera."

The trio, with co-host Noel Fielding, are gearing up for the Stand Up To Cancer series,

which starts on Tuesday. It features celebrities including Clara Amfo, Alex Horne, Sir Mo Farah, Ruby Wax, Emma Willis, Motsi Mabuse and Blake Harrison.

● *The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up To Cancer starts next Tuesday on Channel 4 at 8pm*

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From today's seven races, all eyes will be on the Champion Chase (3:30pm) where we'll get a rematch between Shishkin and Energumene.

The pair faced off in the Clarence House Chase with

Nicky Henderson's star winning by one length. And when you throw Put The Kettle On – last year's winner – Chacun Pour Soi and Nube Negra into the mix, you've got a stellar cast.

Tiger Roll could bow out after the Cross Country. He's a three-time winner of the race and all the talk from Gigginstown suggests this could be his final run.

Plus, Chelsea take on

Lille in the Champions League, while there's Premier League football with Arsenal v Liverpool being the highlight.

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The Sainsbury's Effect... Waitrose is no longer best store to live near

Pictures: GETTY

By **Emily Braeger**

LIVING near a supermarket is well known for giving a boost to the value of your home.

Dubbed the Waitrose Effect, being close to a branch of this store has been a barometer for rising house prices for some time.

Yet research by CIA Landlords has revealed that Waitrose is no longer the top dog when it comes to high house prices near supermarkets.

Sainsbury's has been named the store which will add the most value to homes, with an average increase of £39,572.82. This is followed by properties close to Marks & Spencer, with £16,415, then Waitrose at £6,847.

And living near a Lidl adds more value to the average home (£1,774.06) than Tesco, Morrisons or Asda (£756.85, £808.49 and £932.50, respectively). A Co-op is less valuable, offering just £388.42.

Richard Wayman, of CIA Landlords, believes Sainsbury's took the top spot because of increasing supermarket shortages and rising living prices, making more affordable supermarkets "preferable". Jonathan



Aisle add value...but Waitrose is in third place with Sainburys now top



Rolande, of The National Association of Property Buyers, said: "The 'Waitrose Effect' refers not just to the effect of the supermarkets, but also to the gentrification of areas."



Calvert-Lewin

Speeding fine for star

ENGLAND footballer Dominic Calvert-Lewin has been fined £900 and handed three penalty points for speeding in his Lamborghini.

The Everton striker, 24, was also ordered to pay

£620 costs and a £90 surcharge at Chester magistrates court yesterday.

He admitted driving at 58mph in a 50mph zone in Runcorn, Cheshire, on August 18 last year.

Arthritis risks from pollution

By **Tom Campbell**

PEOPLE who live in polluted areas face a higher risk of suffering from diseases where the body's immune system attacks itself – including arthritis, a study warns.

Breathing in fumes from cars and factories on a daily basis could increase people's chances of developing arthritis by 40 per cent, say scientists.

They also face higher odds of having other autoimmune conditions such as inflammatory bowel diseases. The number of people affected by these conditions has climbed over the past decade.

The findings by a team at Italy's University of Verona were published in the BMJ journal RMD Open.

Study author Dr Giovanni Adami said: "Air pollution has already been linked to immune system abnormalities, and smoking, which shares some toxins with fossil fuel emissions, is a predisposing factor for rheumatoid arthritis."

Bid to save crayfish from bug

By **Tom Wilkinson**

A DESPERATE bid has begun to save one of Britain's most endangered species.

White-clawed crayfish are under threat due to bigger American invaders which can pass on a deadly bug.

One of the native freshwater crayfish's best habitats is the river Wansbeck in Northumberland.

Now 100 have been taken to an adapted former cattle drinking hole at nearby Wallington, run by the National Trust.

The so-called Ark site will be a safe place for them to breed and re-establish numbers.

Matthew Fitch, National Trust Ranger at Wallington, said: "This species is very much on a knife edge."

"The Ark site will not only provide a safe haven but also contribute to the long-term protection of the animal, as the crayfish that are kept here can in theory be used to repopulate other water bodies."

We can see through this ad campaign J.Lo

WE'RE seeing a lot of Jennifer Lopez these days...

The actress and singer stripped to her underwear in her latest ad campaign.

So you'd think J.Lo was trying to sell us lingerie, right? Wrong. Could it be the range of Dolce & Gabbana necklaces and earrings she's wearing? Wrong again.

The 52-year-old displayed her toned torso just to draw our attention to her sunglasses.

The Waiting For Tonight singer is the new face of the designer's Spring/Summer 2022 shades collection.

So the black lace lingerie and garter belt she wore in a series of sizzling snaps

By **Emily Braeger**

on Instagram were accessories. But her fans were happy. One wrote:

"This stopped me in my tracks." Another commented: "Beautiful times a trillion."

J.Lo currently stars with Owen Wilson, 53, in the romantic comedy *Marry Me*. She also released a music video from the soundtrack, featuring a cameo from her boyfriend Ben Affleck, 49.

Waiting for sunlight...J.Lo models the new shades



EXCLUSIVE
By **Tom Bryant**

A HOLLYWOOD biopic of Robbie Williams will help the singer finally conquer America, experts say.

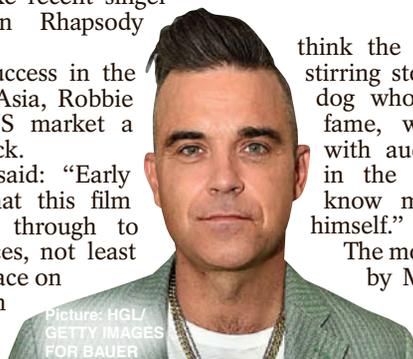
Better Man will see Robbie portray himself in a "warts and all" film about his life.

Hollywood bosses have high hopes the movie could prove a massive hit in the US, just like recent singer biopics *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Rocketman*.

Despite huge success in the UK, Europe and Asia, Robbie has found the US market a difficult one to crack.

But a source said: "Early indications are that this film could really cut through to American audiences, not least as the people in place on the film have such pedigree."

"Movie chiefs



Picture: HGL/GETTY IMAGES FOR BAUER

Robbie Williams

Let me entertain you with a film of my life

think the script, essentially a stirring story about an underdog who was catapulted to fame, will really resonate with audiences, even those in the US who may not know much about Robbie himself."

The movie is being directed by Michael Gracey, who was at the helm of

The Greatest Showman, a massive hit around the world.

He was also an executive producer on *Rocketman*, which told Elton John's life story and was acclaimed critically and did well commercially.

Robbie, 48, is expected to appear as himself in the film, which will follow his rise to fame with Take That and his successful solo career.

He said the movie, called *Better Man* after one of his tracks, will not be afraid to address issues such as

addiction. Robbie said: "I want to do this warts and all. I am not scared to portray myself with the human characteristics that some would see as villainous."

"But hopefully the over-arching storyline will explain who I am and what I am and why."

"The project is a little bit disjointed but is about to be in complete harmony very soon."

Better Man begins filming in Australia later this year.

HICKEY

DAYS after the controversial John Bercow's presence on the lucrative corporate speaking circuit was highlighted in the press, following his much-publicised Parliament ban for serial bullying, has he now gone his separate ways with the top agency that hired him?



While the former House of Commons Speaker's services have in recent years been advertised by London-based JLA – Bercow, pictured, could reportedly be booked for around £5,000 – observers yesterday pointed out that his name had disappeared from the official website listing the company's famous clients.

JLA, however, declined to confirm whether he'd left when I called. Whatever the current situation, no one should expect Mr Bercow to remain quiet for very long.

PUBLICISING his West End run as Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Rafe Spall reveals his 18-year-old self was inspired to become an actor while watching Sir Michael Gambon – albeit with an alarming twist.

The son of fellow actor Timothy Spall, young Rafe was taken backstage to meet Gambon after enjoying his performance in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*. "We knocked on Michael Gambon's dressing room and he opened the door...completely naked!" Spall, 39, explains. "He didn't mention it, it wasn't like he was saying, 'Sorry about this.' It was, 'Come on in'."

Appearing on ITV's *This Morning*, Rafe light-heartedly concludes: "Life hasn't been the same since!"

AFTER esteemed actor Sir Mark Rylance promotes his new screen role as the "world's worst golfer" Maurice Flitcroft on BBC Breakfast, host Dan Walker cheerfully informs viewers they can see "The Phantom of the Opera" from this Friday.

Swiftly correcting Walker on the movie's title, Rylance interrupts: "No, no, *The Phantom of the Open*." Embarrassed Dan clarifies: "Sorry, Phantom of the Open," before joking in cringeworthy fashion: "What's your singing voice like, Mark?"

INTERVIEWING pal Pattie Boyd, ex-wife of George Harrison, on her latest podcast, *Sixties icon Twiggy*, pictured, recalls the atmosphere turning awkward when she once holidayed on a yacht with Pattie and the Beatle's parents.

With Harrison remaining in England to record with the Fab Four, Twiggy says a local newspaper reported their arrival at Mykonos, describing it as "Twiggy's yacht". She adds: "George's mum got very upset and said, 'It's not Twiggy's yacht! It's George's yacht!'"



OSCAR-WINNING American actor William Hurt, who has died of cancer aged 71, struggled to enjoy glitzy industry gatherings.

Attending the Cannes Film Festival in 2005, Hurt announced: "I'm not comfortable with walking the red carpet in a tuxedo and seeing the women with their boobs pushed up and all the men dressed as penguins."

NOW confirming he's managed to keep off the cigarettes for two years, Rolling Stone Keith Richards once resorted to using a "motorised ashtray" that absorbed smoke when he puffed away backstage. This was to avoid incurring the wrath of healthy-living frontman Sir Mick Jagger.

EXCLUSIVE By Leo McKinstry



WAR IS hell and no armed struggle was ever more hellish than the fight for the Russian city of Stalingrad in the winter of 1942-43. Colossal in its scale, savage in its ferocity, this titanic clash between the Nazi invaders and the Soviet defenders reached astonishing heights of courage and plumbed sickening depths of barbarism.

One Russian soldier, Suren Mirzoyan, later recalled his determination in lethal close combat with the German enemy: "I was like a beast. I wanted only one thing – to kill. You know how it looks when you squeeze a tomato and juice comes out. Well, it looked like that when I stabbed them. Blood was everywhere. Every step in Stalingrad meant death. Death was in our pockets. Death was walking with us."

Stalingrad was probably the most important land battle of the Second World War, paving the way for the Allies' triumph and the downfall of Hitler's regime. Its pivotal significance helps to explain its epic cruelty; both sides knew its outcome could change the course of history. In the unceasing violence that lasted for months, around two million combatants and civilians lost their lives and much of the city was reduced to rubble.

Today, almost 80 years since the battle began, an unmistakable echo of Stalingrad can be found in the ordeal of Ukraine's capital city Kyiv as brutal war engulfs the country.

Once again, the destiny of a conflict in Europe could be decided by the capacity of the homeland's forces to prevail in intensive urban warfare, and the city's population to endure almost unimaginable levels of privation.

Ilia Ponomarenko, the brave defence correspondent of the English-language *Kyiv Independent*, recently filed this vivid report from the frontline of the siege: "As I write these lines in Kyiv, my window panes are shaking to the booms of air defence guns intercepting Russian aircraft."

He went on to describe Kyiv as "a ghost city, a mix of London during the Blitz and something from futuristic post-apocalyptic fiction," where the streets "are full of road-blocks" and "incoming artillery rounds breaking the silence in the night are not a surprise any more."

ASIMILAR atmosphere under German barrages at the start of the Battle of Stalingrad was recalled by survivor Boris Serafimovich Kryzhanovskiy: "The central district where I lived was the first to be destroyed. It was one of the most horrible days: the earth literally trembled. We took cover in a bomb shelter. The next day our house was gone."

For the Ukrainian resistance, the lesson of Stalingrad is an inspiration, showing even the most powerful war machine can be defeated.

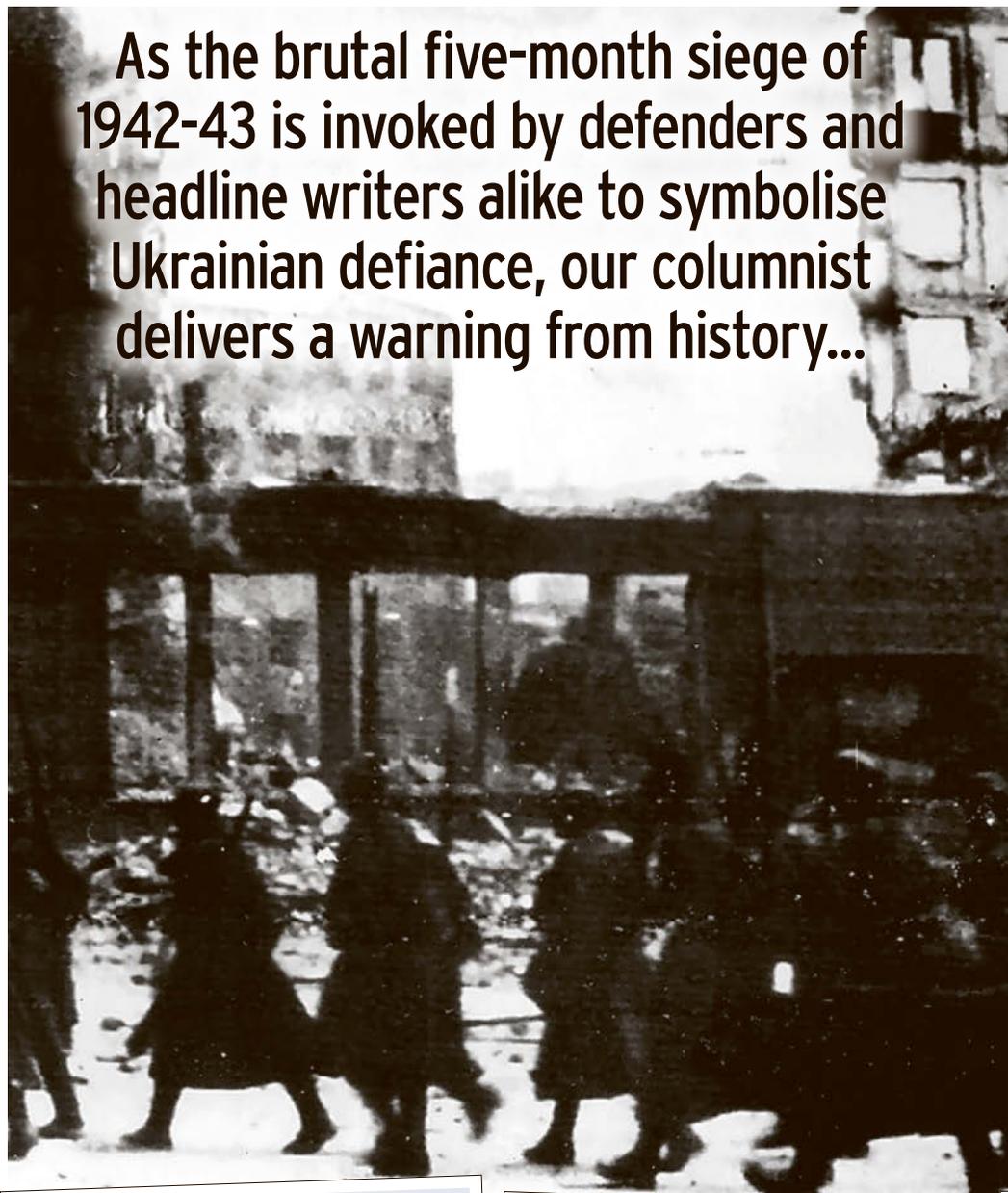
That view was explicitly set out last weekend by Ukraine's youngest MP Sviatoslav Yurash, who declared of Kyiv, "It is a massive town of millions and if the Russians try to come in they will have a massive fight on their hands. This will be their Stalingrad if they want to make it so. Nobody is going to surrender."

If the experience of Stalingrad is indeed repeated, then Kyiv will be the graveyard of Vladimir Putin's forces and perhaps his presidency, too.

It would be wrong, however, to stretch the analogy too far, since there are crucial differences between the two battles.

For a start, Stalingrad was just one element in a vast global

As the brutal five-month siege of 1942-43 is invoked by defenders and headline writers alike to symbolise Ukrainian defiance, our columnist delivers a warning from history...



DIGGING IN: Filling sandbags in Kyiv as Russians advance. Women in 1942, right, toiled to fend off Nazi attacks



cataclysm that embraced much of the world from North Africa to North America, whereas the present war in Ukraine has been contained so far.

Nor is there much resemblance between Ukraine and the Soviet Union. The former is a democracy headed by a charismatic elected President Volodymyr Zelensky, whereas Joseph Stalin was the merciless dictator of a totalitarian police state.

There is also the bitter irony that the Russians were the heroic defenders in 1942-43 against the Germans, but are now aping the Nazis in their aggression.

And despite increasing levels of bombardment by the invader, the battle for Kyiv has not yet descended to the wholesale slaughter or vicious street fighting of Stalingrad. Even so, the parallels cannot be denied.

Just as Kyiv embodies Ukrainian nationhood, so Stalingrad was of vital strategic and political importance in the Soviet Union. Previously called Tsaritsyn and renamed in 1925 in honour of the country's ruler, the city was not only a major transport hub on the river Volga but also a key manufacturer of

metals and armaments. In their faltering campaign, now entering its third week, the Russians have been exposed for their complacency. Putin's forces thought they would overrun Ukraine in a few days and bring down Zelensky's Government but that optimism was a delusion.

The same wishful thinking infused Hitler's armies when they mounted Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of Russia, in June 1941, believing Stalin's regime would collapse in a few weeks. Even at the beginning of Stalingrad, the Nazis were over-confident.

"We are being sent northward along the front towards Stalingrad. We can already see the smoking town. It is a happy thought that the end of the war is getting near," said German infantryman William Hoffmann.

Part of the Germans' problem in 1942-43 was that their supply lines were badly overstretched, because the nearest functioning railroad was 50 miles away and they lacked sufficient trucks.

Led by General Friedrich Paulus, their army needed prodigious amounts of materiel and rations. In September alone, its attack on Stalingrad consumed 25 million rounds of small arms ammunition, 500,000 anti-tank shells, and 732,000 artillery shells, while each division needed 20 tons of food and 50 tons of fodder for its horses. If that sounds

'Russians were the heroic defenders in 1942 but are now aping the Nazis in their aggression'

Pictures: REUTERS/MYKOLA TYMCHENKO, AFP, GETTY, DMYTRO SMOLYENKO/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Why Putin may face his own Stalingrad in assault on Kyiv

RAVAGES OF WAR: Aftermath of shelling in Kyiv's Obolon district on Monday and, left, Red Army troops in the ruins of Stalingrad



FIRE POWER: Defending Stalingrad, left. Ukrainian mortars at Moshchun near Kyiv, right



ON THE GROUND: Ukrainian Defence positions in 2022. Russians hold the line in 1942



familiar, it should. Today, Putin's forces are also plagued by logistical difficulties, with poorly-maintained vehicles breaking down and tanks held up by fuel shortages.

Moreover, the muddy terrain around Kyiv, full of peat bogs and tributaries that flow into the mighty river Dnieper, is unsuitable for the large movement of troops. Russian columns forced to stick to major roads make good targets for Ukraine's lethal Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 drones.

Like the Nazis in 1942, the Russians have been surprised by the strength of resistance to their invasion. Hitler was lulled into a false sense of security about the Soviet Union's military inadequacy by the Russo-Finnish war in the winter of 1939-40, when the Red Army performed miserably against Finland's guerrilla warfare.

But on their own territory in Stalingrad, the Soviets fought to the last man, woman and child, galvanised by Stalin's directive No.227 which warned his people that there must be "not one step backwards".

The same defiant spirit can be found in Kyiv today, reflected in the checkpoints, roadblocks, sandbags and "hedgehog" anti-tank obstacles, many created by the city's artisan metalworkers using old rail tracks, that predominate on the streets.

"People show incredible solidarity," writes

Ponomarenko, who points out that 100,000 of his fellow citizens have joined the Territorial Defence Force, the Ukrainian home guard-style organisation. Women were in the front line of the Stalingrad defences, especially the anti-aircraft and anti-tank batteries, 75,000 of them having undergone military training, and the same is true in Kyiv today, with women taking up arms and manufacturing petrol bombs.

JUST as Russia is battling for air superiority today over Ukraine, so the Germans held the skies over Stalingrad in 1942 through a Luftwaffe force of more than 1,100 aircraft.

But air power did not translate into victory because the decisive fighting was on the streets. Contesting every building, operating in small units of between five and ten soldiers from well-protected strongpoints, and bolstered by reinforcements from across the river Volga, the Russians put up a fierce defence.

One brilliant sniper, Vasily Zaytsev, was responsible for no fewer than 225 kills.

The Russians' heroism was encapsulated in the extraordinary rearguard action led by

Yakov Pavlov, whose platoon captured a four-storey building from the German army and held it for the next two months. Pavlov and his men installed machine guns at every window, placed an anti-tank gun on the roof, surrounded the property with barbed wire and landmines, and smashed holes in the walls to create interior walkways.

Amid such bravery, the horrors endured by Stalingrad's civilians were appalling, as shells rained down and food ran out. Valentina Savelyeva, who was five years old at the time of the battle, remembered having to eat clay from the banks of the Volga to survive.

Such a drastic measure did not help her brother, who died of hunger and cold.

Many families lived in improvised bunkers, but these could be dangerous, as Valentina's own neighbours discovered when they were asphyxiated by a deadly air strike.

"I'll never forget the moment when the bodies were dug out," she recalled.

"There was a girl a little older than me. She had clumps of hair in her hands that she had torn out in desperation as she choked to death."

Nazi ruthlessness was not enough to overwhelm the defenders.

Even when the Germans occupied the majority of Stalingrad, they were never secure in the face of the Soviet Union's guer-

rilla tactics, which they dubbed "Rattenkrieg" – or "rat warfare".

A major Soviet counter-offensive in late November led to the encirclement of Paulus's troops, who now found themselves under siege.

They fought on but, as their supplies ran out, the end was inevitable.

Alexander Werth, a war correspondent embedded with the advancing Soviets, described the scene in one burnt-out German stronghold that fell. Skeletons of horses littered the ground, while in a yard a German soldier squatted over a filthy cesspool, his face "a mixture of suffering and idiot-like incomprehension".

Against a nearby wall were piled "the yellow corpses of skinny Germans" and in the basement were 200 more soldiers "dying of frostbite and hunger".

By the time of the Nazis' surrender in February 1943, their total casualties – killed, wounded or captured – at Stalingrad, along with those of their Allies, were estimated to be perhaps as high as 870,000.

But the Soviets also paid a monstrous price for their heroic triumph, with a total of 1.12 million casualties. Given such past bloodshed, it would be an inhuman tragedy if today's Russian aggressors were to turn Kyiv into another Stalingrad.

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge: for the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30

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

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

Beginner	48	+33	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+14	x3	+15	÷7	-4	x4	YOUR ANSWERS
Intermediate	245	80% OF THIS	+152	5/6 OF THIS	-134	÷12	+123	7/8 OF THIS	+228	
Advanced	629	+31	7/12 OF THIS	+148	REVERSE THE DIGITS	INCREASE BY 60%	-247	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	x6	

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Monday:
Is Britain right to open its homes to Ukrainian refugees?
YES: 67%
NO: 33%

SUDOKU

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

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

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurry. For today's solution call:

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MORE PUZZLES - PULLOUT YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

EUROMILLIONS

1 2 12 19 26 2 8

THUNDERBALL

16 18 23 26 30 3

MONDAY, MARCH 14

SET FOR LIFE

4 5 10 40 44 4

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

LOTTERY

7 13 21 23 39 44 16

THUNDERBALL

5 12 25 30 35 10

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

2 9 17 37 48 19

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

3 5 21 30 36 33

The society benefiting from all draws in the month ending March 31, 2022, is Northern Health Equality CIC T/A HL North East & Cumbria

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Street party... Cllr Robbins, with cake, at protest

Second birthday bash for stalled roadworks

LONG-SUFFERING residents had a dig at over-running road works by holding a birthday party to mark the scheme's second anniversary.

They bought a cake and birthday banner to mark the milestone, after taking the hump at endless delays. Disgruntled drivers joined residents in Swindon, Wilts, to protest at a lack of progress on site.

They say despite the work dragging on for two years, they still don't know when it will end. While the

By **Ed Cullinane**

road remains open, barriers and cones are still up, bus stops are unfinished and problems persist – including a street sign spelt incorrectly. Protest organiser Cllr Jim Robbins said: "The repeated failures of the council to complete roadworks on time has very serious and real issues for residents."

Swindon council said it understood locals' frustrations but the delays were out of its control.

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Your Money

Edited by Harvey Jones
email: harveyjones@express.co.uk

Picture: GETTY



HIDDEN COSTS: Unseen faults, such as issues with utilities, can land a homebuyer with a huge bill

Avoid buyer's remorse by paying for in-depth report

THE property market may be red-hot at the moment but buyers need to keep their cool, as every year tens of thousands end up buying a problem-ridden home.

Last year almost 20,000 homebuyers regretted their move, typically after spending a fortune sorting out problems they missed, according to a new report by GoCompare.com Home Insurance.

Of these, more than two thirds did not buy a homebuyer report, which offers more detail than a standard mortgage survey, and many regretted their choice later.

GoCompare's property expert Ceri McMillan said that a home is probably the biggest purchase you will ever make: "It's critical that you're happy with the condition of the house before you buy it."

She said a homebuyer report provides a full review of your

prospective property, highlighting any problematic defects and minimising the chances of unearthing any unwelcome deficiencies after you've moved in.

"These usually start at around £400 but can cost more depending on the property's value," McMillan added.

While this is an extra expense at an already costly time, it could spare you from wasting thousands on an unsuitable house.

"Some mortgage lenders may require that such a report be carried out as part of the approval process," McMillan said.

A condition report is slightly cheaper at around £380 but will still identify any urgent risks and defects, making it a good choice for new-builds, McMillan said: "Others should consider a full structural survey. These can cost over £600 but are particularly helpful for older houses."

Russia invasion blows big hole in UK pensions

WAR in Ukraine is hammering the UK's retirement savings by wiping more than £25,000 off the average pension pot this year.

Savers who have left their nest egg exposed to the stock market have seen its value fall sharply since January, new figures show.

More than 22 million defined contribution workplace pensions are exposed to the stock market's fortunes, as well as millions of personal pensions.

This will hit workers who are saving for the future and pensioners who have left their savings invested via drawdown.

It will not affect those who have bought an annuity for retirement or those who have a defined benefit final salary workplace pension.

Figures from Interactive Investor show its average customer with a self-invested personal pension (Sipp) had £221,713 at the start of this year, but that has now crashed to just £196,109.

That's a drop of £25,604, with losses accelerating after Russia invaded Ukraine, said Interactive

By **Harvey Jones**

Investor head of pensions and savings Becky O'Connor,

While the war was the main trigger for the crash, other factors have played a part.

She added: "Rising inflation and interest rates, and the removal of central banker stimulus, have also turned sentiment negative."

O'Connor said you do not have to be invested in Russia to lose out. She said: "Pension investments are exposed to the general global uncertainty caused by the war."

However, most pensions include a diversified mix of assets, including cash, bonds, property and gold, which should reduce some risk.

Although stock market volatility looks set to continue, O'Connor urged investors to resist the temptation to panic.

Selling after a crash will lock in your losses, she said: "If you don't need to sell now and can wait to draw an income, you are likely to be rewarded by a recovery in values, when it

comes." This year's crash might come as a shock to younger investors, but they have much longer to recover from a short-term crash and should stay invested for the long-term.

Pension and Isa investors need nerves of steel right now, said Jason Hollands, managing director at investment platform Bestinvest.

"They should avoid making major changes to portfolios when markets are lurching around aggressively and not to sell unless they really need to access their savings soon," Hollands said.

Nervous investors can still make use of this year's £20,000 tax-free Isa allowance before the deadline at midnight on April 5. He said: "You can put cash into an investment platform before the deadline, then invest it in shares later when you feel more comfortable."

Hollands added: "A sensible strategy is to drip feed money into the markets over a period of time as this helps smooth out the impact of short-term gyrations."

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End of year tax checklist

THE financial year ends on April 5 and you could potentially save thousands by paying tax correctly and using all your allowances.

There is no time to waste, said George Thomas, wealth planner at Succession Wealth. He has drawn up a checklist to make sure you are covering all the bases, so check if any apply to you.

Check your PAYE tax code: If you are still working, your tax code tells your employer how much should be deducted from your salary each time you get paid. If you have multiple

By **Harvey Jones**

employers or pension providers, you may get more than one tax code. Thomas said: "If you're on the wrong one, you could be paying HM Revenue & Customs more than you ought to be. Or you risk getting penalised if paying too little."

Claim the marriage allowance: If one spouse or civil partner pays standard rate income tax and the other does not, the higher earner can transfer £1,260 of their personal allowance and cut their tax bill by up

Picture: GETTY



CLAIM: Marriage allowance

to £250. Claims can be backdated for a maximum four years, potentially giving £1,220 in total tax relief.

Use your Isa allowances: You can invest up to £20,000 in an Isa before midnight on April 5, and take your returns free of income tax and capital gains tax. Thomas said: "You can also contribute up to £9,000 into a junior Isa on behalf of a child or grandchild."

Claim pension tax relief: Every adult can invest up to £40,000 in a pension each tax year, known as annual allowance, and earn tax relief on contributions. You cannot invest more than your salary, so if you earn £30,000, that is your allowance.

It means £100 of pension only costs a basic rate 20 per cent taxpayer £80, falling to just £60 for a higher rate 40 per cent taxpayer. "You can 'carry forward' allowance you have not used in the previous three years, but again, cannot invest more than you earn."

If you have already started to take money out of your pension, beware the Money Purchase Annual Allowance, which shrinks the amount you can invest to just £4,000 a year.

Use savings allowances: Basic rate

taxpayers can earn £1,000 a year in savings interest before paying income tax, while higher-rate taxpayers can earn £500. Everyone can take £2,000 of dividends free of tax. Married couples and civil partners could save tax by making use of these allowances.

Use any capital losses: Everyone can make capital gains totalling £12,300 this year, without paying tax on it. If you have made more, see if you can offset any losses against your gains, to reduce your capital gains tax bill.

Write a will and review it: If you die without making a will, your assets will be divided between your relatives according to the intestacy rules, rather than your personal choice.

You could leave some of your estate to charity: If you leave at least 10 per cent of your net estate to charities, inheritance tax on the remainder falls from 40 to 36 per cent. Making gifts to loved ones before April 5 can also cut your IHT exposure.

Thomas added: "Wills and estate planning can be very complex areas, so consider taking professional advice to understand what's right for you."

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Patients' life-changer

A NEW super comfortable and secure bag developed by UK manufacturer Trio Healthcare is set to liberate the many thousands who struggle daily with the consequences of digestive or urinary surgery.

Trio's Genii for ostomates – those who have an opening (or stoma) for the discharge of body wastes – is made of its breathable silicone, a world first patented material.

With more than 102,000 patients in the UK alone, the meditech specialist's innovation is focused on being a game-changer in a sector where progress has lagged, despite some 45 per cent suffering side-effects.

The open Genii bag has just launched and will be followed by a closed version in April, with both available from the NHS and Amazon.

Production is at Trio's base in Skipton, North Yorkshire, where expansion with a second unit, complete with £1million of new tooling developed by a UK engineering firm, will double capacity.

Following US patent approval the company has also opened up an office in New Jersey, joining those in Singapore and Dubai.

Trio's technology replaces traditional pouch solutions that attach



Maisha Frost

well to the body but, because they are not breathable, repel moisture that needs to escape.

This can cause tremendous mental and physical problems for patients through bag leaks and disintegration, as well as skin damage and allergies.

These are triggered when pouches have to be changed, a process normally happening at least twice a day.

Chairman and majority co-investor Richard Anderson, a wound care business expert, bought in three years ago after seeing the potential.

He views the innovations as a long-overdue win for patients and for the NHS through cost savings.

"Our stoma accessories and bags are highly secure, but gentle, easier to



WORLD FIRST: Breathable silicone. Left, Anderson

remove and longer lasting," he explains. "Those living with an ostomy today aren't prepared to put up with inadequate products. There are more than one million people globally who want to live full lives."

"Our Genii bags are tailored to life now. They match different skin tones and shapes, they compare price-wise, but require fewer changes."

Trio's breathable silicone formulation was invented in 2006 by founder Lloyd Pearce. This resulted initially in breathable bag attachments which have gone on to win Queen's Awards

For Enterprise and have attracted millions of pounds of funding.

The company now employs 50 and investors include US backer SWK Holdings and working capital support from HSBC.

Turnover is forecast to top £54million by 2024 and collaboration discussions regarding other wound care applications are under way.

"We translate real science into commercial success," adds Anderson, who is aiming to make Trio the north's first meditech unicorn.

● trioostomycare.com



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- Features; Super neutral colour comfortable 5cm thick cushions which are also water resistant the furniture is also stackable making it easy to store away

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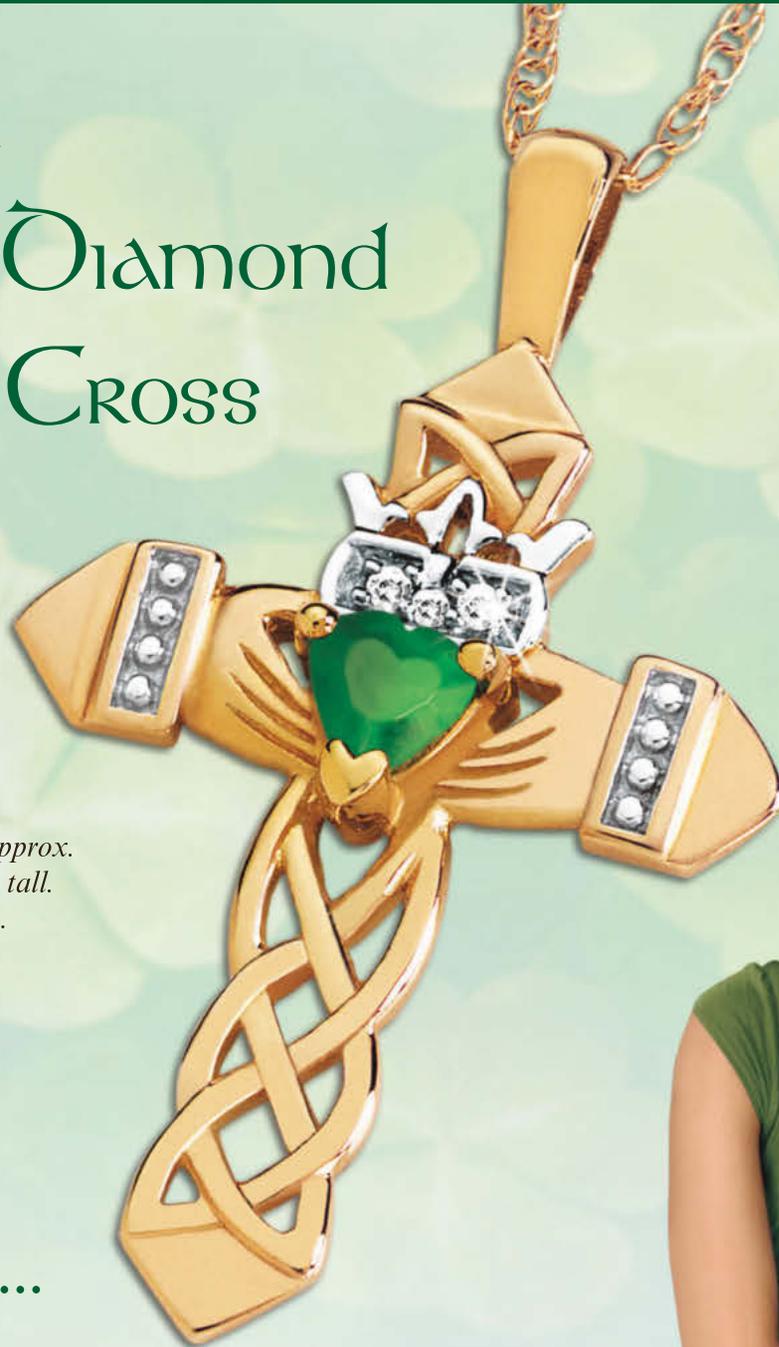
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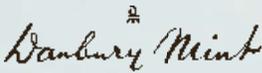


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Charity begins at homes

RARELY does a night of TV-watching go by without me feeling as though I've learnt something important. For example, up until now I've had no idea whether Claudia Winkleman has ever visited the homes of Judge Rob Rinder, Dragons' Den's Deborah Meaden, Claire from Steps or ex-boxing champion Ricky Hatton. Had you forced me to hazard a guess – although why you'd have wanted to do that, heaven only knows – I'd have probably plumped for a "no". But that would've been based purely on gut instinct. Now, on the other hand, I can



Mike Ward
previews
tonight's TV

say for sure that she hasn't. Claudia Winkleman can't possibly have visited any of these people's homes. And who do I have to thank for this magnificent morsel of knowledge? Why, Comic Relief, of course.

You see, Claudia is one of the celebrities appearing on **THIS IS MY HOUSE FOR RED NOSE**

DAY (BBC1, 8pm), a special charity edition of the Stacey Dooley show that's a lot like Through The Keyhole but not quite enough like it for the makers of Through The Keyhole to get shirty about that.

Along with her fellow guests – Harry Hill, Nina Wadia and Chris Eubank – Claudia has to figure out whether the house they're getting a peek inside belongs to Ricky, Rob, Deborah or Claire.

Each of those four is claiming to be its owner, and it's up to Claudia and the other guest guessers to, er, guess who's telling the truth.

So you see, if any of those guessers were already familiar with

the property in question – if they'd been there, say, for dinner with Deborah or for one of Ricky's Tupperware parties – then the whole game would be ruined, fun-wise, and this show tonight would be over in five minutes flat.

Imagine how disappointing that would be.

Elsewhere, ITV's sitcom **KATE & KOJI** makes a welcome return (9pm).

Kate, you may recall, is Brenda Blethyn's character, who runs a seaside café, while Koji (played now by Okorie Chukwu) is an asylum-seeking doctor who's become a regular.

This is one of those sitcoms that

revels in its old-fashioned format and feel, shamelessly banging out one gag after another, giving not a hoot about characters' back stories or any of that nonsense.

There's a live audience, the simplest of sets, and a runtime of less than 25 minutes.

That's not to say it lacks ambition. As you'd expect from writing duo Guy Jenkin and Andy Hamilton, whose credits include 90s newsroom comedy Drop The Dead Donkey, a sizeable chunk of the gags have a topical tone.

Or as topical as today's relentless news cycle permits.

Tonight's set of cracks about Covid already feel oddly nostalgic.

PICKS OF THE DAY



Arts: Interior Design Masters, BBC1, 9pm

In this week's episode, the hopeful participants are sent off to Wotton House, a country estate hotel in the Surrey Hills, where they must each transform one of the nine bedrooms to create a space that reflects their signature style, but with an eccentric British twist. The designers relish the task, embracing their own ideas of British eccentricity, although some of the candidates take a more liberal approach, which leads to a mixed bag of results. Funnyman Alan Carr follows their progress, while helping head judge Michelle Ogundehin (left, with Carr) to scope out the rooms is guest judge Guy Oliver, who has designed the interiors for some of the best-known hotels in London.



Reality: Council House Swap, C5, 9pm

Insightful documentary about UK tenants in social housing looking to exchange their homes. The programme follows individuals and families on their journey as they search high and low for their dream properties. In the opening episode of this six-part series, mum-of-four Beth (left) wants to trade Mitcham in Surrey with somewhere more remote and soon has interest from three potential swappers in Hertfordshire and West Sussex. But will she manage to seal a deal?



Nature: Secret Life Of Farm Animals, BBC4, 8pm

Documentary examining the behaviour of farm animals, testing their intelligence, discovering unlikely relationships and uncovering an unseen side to them. The first show focuses on sheep, following 12 weeks in the life of a lamb on a Welsh hill farm, and revealing them to be highly sociable with an ability to recognise human faces. Other animals featured include a goose looking for company and a piglet that thinks it's a cow.

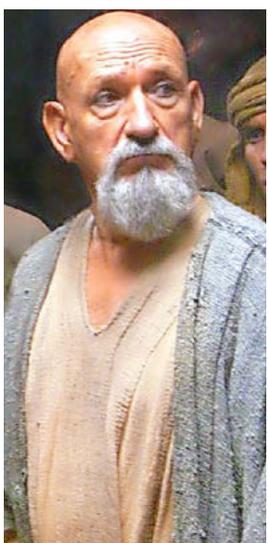


Property: Kirstie And Phil's Love It Or List It, C4, 8pm

Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer (both above) look back at their favourite properties and offer tips to help viewers make the most of their homes. As well talking to some of the families that previously appeared on the show, the duo focus on the layout dilemmas that many now face. Tonight, they tackle future-proofing, as two families take on tricky renovations with the aim of making their homes work for the long-term.

Film: Exodus: Gods And Kings, Film4, 6pm

Biblical epic directed and produced by Ridley Scott, who brought us Alien, Blade Runner, The Martian and Thelma & Louise. It's 1300 BC and after learning of his Hebrew slave heritage Moses is banished from Egypt by King Ramses. After being spoken to by God, defiant leader Moses attempts to free the 600,000 slaves and begins a quest to lead his people to the Promised Land. This 2014 adventure film stars Ben Kingsley (right), Christian Bale and Joel Edgerton.



DID YOU KNOW? Claudia Winkleman's half-sister from her father's second marriage is actress Sophie Winkleman, who is married to Lord Frederick Windsor, son of the Queen's cousin, Prince Michael of Kent.

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Today's TV previews are on the previous page

film ratings

- ★★★★★ Brilliant
- ★★★★ Very Good
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Average
- ★ Bad
- (R) Repeat

BBC One

- 6.00am Breakfast** News headlines.
- 9.15 Morning Live** Magazine.
- 10.00 Crimewatch Live** Appeals.
- 10.45 Caught Red Handed** A car thief comes face to face with the vehicle's owner. (R)
- 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer** Properties in Wallasey, Ilkeston and Salford. (R)
- 12.15pm Bargain Hunt** Members of rock bands the Darkness and Feeder compete. (R)
- 1.00 BBC News at One; Weather**
- 1.30 Regional News; Weather**
- 1.45 Doctors** A struggling Emma makes a bad impression.
- 2.15 Shakespeare & Hathaway - Private Investigators** Lu and Frank must clear the Queen's name. (R)
- 3.00 Escape to the Country** A home in Buckinghamshire.
- 3.45 The Repair Shop** The artisans work on Victorian lamps and a jewellery box.
- 4.30 Bridge of Lies** Gameshow.
- 5.15 Pointless** Quiz show.
- 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather**
- 6.30 Regional News; Weather**

BBC Two

- 6.30am Escape to the Country** (R)
- 7.15 The Repair Shop** (R)
- 8.00 Sign Zone: Gardeners' World** Planting trees. (R)
- 9.00 BBC News** Double bill.
- 10.00 BBC News** Headlines.
- 11.15 Politics Live** Reports.
- 1.00pm Ready Steady Cook** (R)
- 1.45 Eggheads** Quiz show. (R)
- 2.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is** Eric Knowles faces Chuko Ojiri at an auction in Colchester. (R)
- 3.00 The Heights** Lottie explains her response to Ryan. (R)
- 3.30 Murder, Mystery and My Family** Sasha Wass and Jeremy Dein re-investigate the killing of a German woman. (R)
- 4.15 The Real Marigold Hotel** Henry revisits the cricket ground where he made his last overseas broadcast. (R)
- 5.15 Flog It!** Revisiting some of the locations from the series. (R)
- 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games** With Jen Brister, Kelvin Fletcher and Ian Moore.
- 6.30 Lightning** Comedian Zoe Lyons hosts the quick-fire quiz.

ITV

- 6.00am Good Morning Britain** Morning magazine featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs, plus lifestyle features.
- 9.00 Lorraine** Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
- 10.00 This Morning** A mix of celebrity chat, features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather.
- 12.30pm ITV News; Weather**
- 12.40 Regional News; Weather**
- 12.50 LIVE ITV Racing: Cheltenham Festival** Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present the second day of the prestigious festival, including feature race the 3.30 Champion Chase, plus races at 1.30, 2.10, 2.50 and 4.10.
- 4.30 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals** Compilation of some of the most dramatic endgames from the quiz show hosted by Ben Shephard.
- 5.00 The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents as contestants Jill, James, Malcolm and Kat work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.00am Countdown** (R)
- 6.40 Cheers** Double bill. (R)
- 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** Triple bill of the sitcom. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier** Triple bill. (R)
- 10.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** A Baltimore restaurant needs help. (R)
- 11.25 Channel 4 News Summary**
- 11.30 Coast vs Country** (R)
- 12.30pm Steph's Packed Lunch**
- 2.10 Countdown** Gameshow.
- 3.00 A Place in the Sun** Scarlett Douglas helps a couple to find a new home in Valencia. (R)
- 4.00 A New Life in the Sun** A couple of bike lovers launch a new business in Spain. (R)
- 5.00 Four in a Bed** A visit to the Greyhound Hotel in Cromford, Derbyshire.
- 5.30 Fame in the Family** The diners guess who is related to Neil 'Razor' Ruddock.
- 6.00 The Simpsons** Homer is humiliated by a wild bear. (R)
- 6.30 Hollyoaks** Zara and Tony prepare for their debate, but could a blast from the past ruin things for Zara. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00am Milkshake!** Children's TV.
- 9.15 Jeremy Vine** Discussion.
- 12.15pm George Clarke's Build a New Life in the Country** Relocating to Scotland. (R)
- 1.10 5 News at Lunchtime**
- 1.15 Home and Away** Mia has the brilliant idea of getting married to Ari in prison.
- 1.45 Neighbours** See 6.00pm.
- 2.15 FILM A Stranger in My Home** (2020, 12) Premiere. A man hires a woman to house-sit for him, but she ends up posing as his new girlfriend with no intentions of leaving. Thriller, starring Anna Marie Dobbins. ★★★
- 4.00 Filthy House SOS** Richard and Brennan come to the aid of a father in Keighley. (R)
- 5.00 5 News at 5** Headlines.
- 6.00 Neighbours** Amy is still waiting for an answer from Ned, but his tryst with Harlow weighs on him. (R)
- 6.30 Eggheads** Jeremy Vine asks the questions as Uddingston pub quiz team the Windmill Regulars take on the experts.



8.30pm, THE REPAIR SHOP: Jay Blades



9pm, GREAT BRITISH MENU: Andi Oliver



8pm, CORONATION STREET: Michael Bailey



10pm, NAKED ATTRACTION: Anna Richardson



7pm, THE GADGET SHOW: Georgie Barrat and Jon Bentley

7

- 7.00 The One Show** With Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas.
- 7.30 EastEnders** Keegan is frustrated with himself for not picking up on Gray's abuse, Mitch tries to find somewhere to stay and Tommy suspects the thief is close to home.

- 7.00 Doctors** A struggling Emma makes a bad impression with someone important and Jimmi reaches out to Asif. (R)
- 7.30 Rick Stein's Cornwall** The chef champions the food, history, music, art and culture of the county. (R)

- 6.00 Regional News; Weather** The latest regional reports.
- 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather**
- 7.30 Emmerdale** Dawn is under immense pressure, Manpreet puts on a brave face, and a vulnerable Amelia is left embarrassed.

- 7.00 Channel 4 News** The latest news headlines, featuring in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

- 7.00 The Gadget Show** Georgie Barrat and Jon Bentley go head to head to find out if a soundbar can cut it against speakers dotted around the room for the ultimate surround-sound experience; 5 News Update

8

- 8.00 This Is My House for Red Nose Day** With Claudia Winkleman, Chris Eubank, Harry Hill and Nina Wadia.
- 8.30 The Repair Shop** Jay Blades and the team restore more family heirlooms and treasured items to their former glory.

- 8.00 Your Body Uncovered with Kate Garraway** Kate meets a singer who has been delaying treatment for a thyroid nodule for fear it may damage her voice, and a woman who has been plagued by agonising gallstone attacks.

- 8.00 Coronation Street** Abi anxiously awaits the outcome of her baby's operation, Amy is thwarted in her efforts to spend time with Jacob, Michael confronts Grace, and Adam gets drunk and chats up a girl to blot out his misery.

- 8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer meet supply teacher Sue and builder Roy in Poole, Dorset, who cannot agree whether to sell their four-bedroom chalet bungalow or renovate instead. (R)

- 8.00 Police Interceptors** Dan Machin and Jim Campin manage to track down a suspected drunk driver, who runs at Jim holding a knife and Dan is left with no choice but to use his Taser on him; 5 News Update

9

- 9.00 Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr** The contestants are sent to Wotton House, a grand hotel in the Surrey Hills, where they must each make over one of the nine bedrooms on a theme of British eccentricity.

- 9.00 Great British Menu** The chefs from the South West compete. For mains, one chef takes inspiration from Radio 4's Desert Island Discs, and another pays homage to William and Kate's Wedding. Presented by Andi Oliver.

- 9.00 NEW Kate & Koji** Kate is set to be rewarded for her work during the pandemic, but she discovers Councillor Bone is going to present the award.
- 9.30 Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad** The actor and his son hit the road. (R)

- 9.00 Michael Mosley: Who Made Britain Fat?** Documentary in which journalist Michael Mosley delves into why politicians seem powerless to reverse – or even halt – the steep rise in the number of Brits living with obesity.

- 9.00 NEW Council House Swap** Documentary about tenants in social housing across the UK looking to exchange homes. In the first edition, mum-of-four Beth wants to trade Mitcham in Surrey with somewhere more rural.

10

- 10.00 BBC News at Ten**
- 10.25 Regional News; Weather**
- 10.35 Mood** Sasha thinks she has found a best friend in Carly and her life is on the up – until she makes a decision she never thought she would. Drama, with Nicole Lecky. (R)

- 10.00 The Office** The staff are in a charitable mood on Red Nose Day, with Gareth hopping everywhere, quiet accountant Keith doing his best Ali G impersonation and Dawn selling kisses for a pound. (R)
- 10.30 Newsnight** With Kirsty Wark.

- 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather**
- 10.30 Regional News; Weather**
- 10.45 Peston** Political magazine show, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures. Including updates from key players throughout the show.

- 10.00 Naked Attraction** A 28-year-old nature lover and a 48-year-old building boss each choose a date after seeing what their potential partners have to offer on a purely physical level. Hosted by Anna Richardson.

- 10.00 FILM Rambo: Last Blood** (2019, 18) Premiere. John Rambo must confront his past and unearth his ruthless combat skills to exact revenge in one final mission. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone. ★★★

11

- 11.25 Tom Daley's Hell of a Homecoming** The Olympic diver takes on an endurance challenge as he rows, cycles, swims and runs his way from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford to his home town of Plymouth. (R)

- 11.15 Unspun World with John Simpson** The BBC's world affairs editor reflects on the week's global news stories.
- 11.40 Rock Till We Drop** Rehearsals intensify so that the bands can perfect the tracks they have learnt so far. (R)

- 11.40 Paul Sinha's TV Showdown** Rachel Riley, Stacey Dooley, Nihal Arthanayake and Jon Richardson join team captains Fay Ripley and Rob Beckett on the comedy quiz show, as comedian Paul Sinha tests the panellists' TV knowledge. (R)

- 11.05 Sex Actually with Alice Levine** Alice explores the world of bondage, domination and sadomasochism, meeting people whose appetite to play with power and pain is about much more than just whips, chains and latex. (R)

- 11.45 FILM Rise of the Footsoldier 4: Marbella** (2019, 18) Fresh out of prison, a former nightclub owner heads to Marbella to seek revenge against the man who put him away. Action comedy, starring Craig Fairbrass. ★★★

12 midnight

- 12.25am The Graham Norton Show.** The second of two compilations of highlights from the recent series, featuring a host of stars including Adele, Kenneth Branagh, Ant and Dec and Andrew Garfield. (R) **1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.20-6.00am** BBC News. Headlines.

- 12.40am Sign Zone: Extraordinary Portraits.** Celebrated portrait artists create likenesses of members of the public. (R) **1.10 Sign Zone: Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy.** From Naples and the Amalfi Coast. (R) **1.55 Sign Zone: Great Coastal Railway Journeys** (R) **2.25-6.30am** This Is BBC Two

- 12.25am Home Shopping 3.00 Bling.** Gok Wan meets Simone and Mara, who have a very special commission for Nikki on the Make counter, while Emma visits David on the Fix counter in the hope he will make her husband's day. (R) **3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05-6.00am** Tipping Point (R)

- 12.10am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (R) **1.05 24 Hours in A&E** (R) **2.00 The Simpsons** (R) **2.25 FILM Area 51** (2015, 15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Reid Warner. ★★★ **4.00 Location, Location, Location** (R) **4.55 George Clarke's Old House, New Home** (R) **5.50-6.00am** Find It, Fix It, Flog It

- 1.20am The 21.co.uk Live Casino Show 3.20 The Queen's Guards: A Year In Service.** Rehearsals for the Queen's birthday parade. (R) **4.10 Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink.** Documentary. (R) **5.00 Wildlife SOS** (R) **5.20 House Doctor** (R) **5.45 Peppa Pig** (R) **5.50-6.00am** Pip and Posy (R)

ITV2 Freeview 6

6.00am Dress to Impress **7.00** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **8.00** You've Been Framed! Unstoppable! **9.00** SecretCrush **10.00** Dress to Impress **11.00** Love Bites **12.00noon** Supermarket Sweep **1.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars **2.00** Rolling in It **3.00** The Ellen DeGeneres Show **4.00** The Masked Singer US **5.00** You've Been Framed! & Fabulous!

6.00 **Celebrity Catchphrase** Tony Bellew, Kelly Osbourne and Dan Walker guess the phrases hidden in animated clues.

7.00 **Superstore** Double bill. Dina asks for a demotion; Cheyenne goes into labour.

8.00 **Bob's Burgers** Double bill. Louise gets her bunny ears stolen by a bully; the kids decide to go trick-or-treating.

9.00 **Family Guy** Five episodes.

11.30 **American Dad!** Animated comedy.

12.00m't **American Dad!** **12.25** **Bob's Burgers.** Comedy. **1.25** **Superstore** **2.20** **Hey Tracey!** **3.10** **Unwind** with ITV **3.30-6.00am** **Teleshopping**

Dave Freeview 19

6.00am **Teleshopping** **7.10** **Sin City Motors** **8.00** **Timber Kings** **9.00** **Storage Hunters UK** **10.00** **Top Gear** **11.00** **World's Most Dangerous Roads** **12.00noon** **Red Bull Soapbox Race** **1.00** **Border Force: America's Gatekeepers** **2.00** **World's Most Dangerous Roads** **3.00** **Rick Stein's Secret France** **4.00** **Red Bull Soapbox Race** **5.00** **Rick Stein's Secret France**

6.00 **Taskmaster** Gameshow.

7.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games**

7.40 **Room 101** With Claudia Winkleman.

8.20 **Would I Lie to You?** With Claudia Winkleman and Clive Anderson.

9.00 **QI** Sandi Toksvig quizzes the panel.

10.00 **Outsiders** It's the Outsiders' last day living together in the wild.

11.00 **Have I Got a Bit More 2019 News for You** Extended compilation.

12.00m't **Hypothetical.** Comedy game show. **12.40** **QI** **1.20** **Would I Lie to You?** **2.00** **Live at the Apollo** **2.45** **This Country** **4.00-6.00am** **Teleshopping**

E4 Freeview 13

6.00am **Hollyoaks** **7.00** **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** **9.00** **Married at First Sight Australia** **10.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **11.00** **Young Sheldon** **12.00noon** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **1.00** **The Big Bang Theory: four episodes** **3.00** **Young Sheldon** **4.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **5.00** **The Big Bang Theory: double bill**

6.00 **The Big Bang Theory** Double bill.

7.00 **Hollyoaks** A protest turns sour.

7.30 **Married at First Sight Australia** The newlyweds start their honeymoons.

9.00 **Teen First Dates** Patrick from Portsmouth, is set up on a date with Olly.

10.00 **Celebrity Gogglebox** Hostile Planet, Big Brother: Best Shows Ever and EastEnders are appraised.

11.05 **Gogglebox** TV opinions.

12.10am **First Dates** **1.15** **Married at First Sight Australia** **2.45** **Teen First Dates** **3.40** **Below Deck: Mediterranean** **4.30** **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** **5.20-6.00am** **Mike & Molly**

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: **1.30-1.45pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **9.00-10.00** **NEW** Hidden. A farmer's body is found in a remote river. **10.25** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30** BBC Wales Live **11.05** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr **12.05am** Mood **12.50** Tom Daley's Hell of a Homecoming **1.55-6.00am** BBC News

MERIDIAN As ITV except: **12.40-12.50pm** ITV News Meridian **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian

CENTRAL As ITV except: **12.40-12.50pm** ITV News Central **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central

ITV WALES As ITV except: **12.40-12.50pm** ITV News Cymru Wales **6.00-6.30** ITV News Wales **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales

WEST As ITV except: **12.40-12.50pm** ITV News West Country. Headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

ANGLIA As ITV except: **12.40-12.50pm** ITV News Anglia **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia

ITVBe Freeview 28

7.00am **The Real Housewives of Cheshire** **8.00** **Buying and Selling** **9.00** **LittleBe** **12.00noon** **Best Cake Wins** **12.30** **The Real Housewives of Potomac** **1.25** **The Real Housewives of Cheshire** **2.25** **The Only Way Is Essex** **3.10** **Little Women: LA** **4.05** **The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills** **5.00** **The Real Housewives of Orange County.** Vicki and Kelly argue again.

6.00 **Masters of Flip** An old farmhouse.

7.00 **Buying and Selling** A retired couple.

8.00 **Dinner Date** Shakir from Liverpool is given five menus from five potential dates.

9.00 **Botched: Most Outrageous Patients** **9.30** **Botched: Most Outrageous Rejects** **10.00** **Botched** Terry Dubrow helps a fitness model achieve her dream.

11.00 **Bridezillas** Shannon is unhappy with her bridesmaid dresses.

11.55 **The Only Way Is Essex** Mario and Little Chris try to save their friendship.

12.45am **Unwind** with ITV. Daily escape. **1.00-7.00am** **Teleshopping**

Drama Freeview 20

6.00am **Teleshopping** **7.00** **Brush Strokes** **7.40** **Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** **8.35** **The Bill** **9.35** **Classic Holby City** **10.55** **Classic Casualty** **12.00noon** **The Bill** **1.00** **Classic EastEnders** **2.15** **Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** **3.20** **Lovejoy** **4.20** **Peak Practice** **5.20** **Brush Strokes**

6.00 **Are You Being Served?** Sitcom.

6.40 **Last of the Summer Wine** Double bill.

8.00 **The Last Detective** Davies investigates the murder of a former soldier, but finding anybody within his old artillery regiment willing to give information proves a difficult task.

9.40 **New Tricks** The team reinvestigates a murder and discovers new evidence that casts doubt on the guilty verdict passed on the man executed for the crime.

11.00 **Silent Witness** The chief suspect of a murder gives himself up, leaving an unconvinced Sam to prove his innocence.

1.15am **Kavanagh QC** **2.45** **Monarch of the Glen** **4.00-6.00am** **Teleshopping**

More4 Freeview 18

8.55am **A Place in the Sun** **10.35** **Find It, Fix It, Flog It** **12.35pm** **Heir Hunters** **1.35** **Four in a Bed** **4.15** **The Hotel Fixers** **4.50** **Find It, Fix It, Flog It** **5.55** **Car S.O.S**

6.55 **Escape to the Chateau: DIY** Erin and JB launch their chateau business by opening it up to the locals.

7.55 **Devon and Cornwall** Jess Harris and Charlotte Whyte welcome diners aboard their floating restaurant.

9.00 **Secrets of the Royal Gardens** The gardens of private royal houses across Britain, including Sandringham Estate.

10.00 **Catching a Killer** Thames Valley Police's investigation into the disappearance of 31-year-old Natalie Hemming in 2016, following the case through to the arrest and conclusion.

11.50 **24 Hours in A&E** A 23-year-old builder is rushed in after an accident.

12.55am **Secrets of the Royal Gardens** **1.55** **Location, Location, Location** **3.00-3.45am** **Food Unwrapped**

BBC3 Freeview 23

7.00pm **MasterChef Australia** Contestants go up against their own professional guest chefs.

7.55 **The Catch Up** The day's news.

8.00 **Computer Says No** Daniel Henry dives into the world of algorithms and computer-automated hiring.

8.50 **Becoming - Nathan Drake** Tom Holland reveals all about taking on the iconic character in Uncharted.

9.10 **Gassed Up** Rapper Mist takes on entrepreneur Spencer Matthews.

10.00 **The Fast and the Farmer-ish** Teams from Northern Ireland and Scotland compete in this semi-final.

11.00 **This Country** A one-off special investigating the fallout from Kerry Mucklowe's criminal activity.

11.45 **Tonight with Target** With D Double E, Stylo G and Joy Crookes.

12.35am **Gassed Up** **1.20** **The Fast and the Farmer-ish** **2.20** **Tonight with Target** **3.10-4.00am** **This Country**

BBC4 Freeview 9

7.00pm **Fred Dibnah's World of Steam, Steel and Stone** The steeplejack's love of restoring engines and chimneys.

7.30 **Canal Boat Diaries** The Victorian village of Saltaire.

8.00 **Secret Life of Farm Animals** The behaviour of farm animals, beginning by focusing on sheep.

9.00 **Princess Margaret: The Rebel Royal** Part one of two. Documentary profile of the Queen's sister.

10.00 **Undercover OAP: The Mole Agent - Storyville** The story of an 83-year-old who went undercover in a Chilean nursing home.

11.25 **Takaya: Lone Wolf** Following seven years in the life of a lone wolf.

12.25am **Canal Boat Diaries** **12.55** **Fred Dibnah's World of Steam, Steel and Stone** **1.25** **Secret Life of Farm Animals** **2.25-3.25am** **Princess Margaret: The Rebel Royal**

5 USA Freeview 21

6.00am **TJC** **9.00** **NCIS** **11.55** **Entertainment News** **12.00noon** **Law & Order** **1.55** **Entertainment News** **2.00** **Law & Order** **3.55** **Entertainment News** **4.00** **Law & Order. Drama.**

6.00 **NCIS** Triple bill. The team investigates when a fellow agent's burnt body is discovered; Gibbs is held captive by Paloma Reynosa; the team gets close to tracking down a Mexican drug kingpin.

9.00 **Crossing Lines** The team is called out to Lausanne in Switzerland to handle a hostage situation.

10.00 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** Triple bill. A businessman is stabbed; a girl's body is found outside a church; a woman's body is found at an industrial laundry.

12.55am **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** **1.50** **Private Eyes** **3.35** **999: Criminals Caught on Camera** **4.00-6.00am** **Teleshopping**



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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE ICC Women's World Cup England v India. Coverage of the group match from Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand.
8.05 LIVE Test Cricket Pakistan v Australia. Day five of the second Test in Karachi.
12.30pm Sky Sports News. Latest headlines.
5.30 LIVE Bundesliga FSV Mainz 05 v Borussia Dortmund (kick-off 5.30pm). Coverage of the German top-flight clash from Opel Arena.
7.30 LIVE Premier League Arsenal v Liverpool (kick-off 8.15pm). Coverage of the top-flight clash from Emirates Stadium, as both sides face each other looking for three vital points. The visitors are still breathing down Manchester City's necks after an impressive run of form. The home side are still in the hunt for important points as they try and finish in the top four for the first time since 2016.
11.00 Duel: Hamilton v Verstappen. The rivalry.
1.00-6.00am LIVE ICC Women's World Cup New Zealand v South Africa. From Seddon Park.

SKY SPORTS WORLD CUP

6.00am LIVE ICC Women's World Cup England v India. Coverage of the group match from Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand.
8.05 LIVE Test Cricket Pakistan v Australia. Coverage of day five of the second Test in the three-match series, which takes place in Karachi.
12.30pm ICC Women's World Cup **3.30** Women's World T20 Classics **3.45** My Icon. Charlotte Edwards. **4.00** ICC Women's World Cup **7.00** Test Cricket **8.00** ICC Women's World Cup **9.00** ICC Women's World Cup **10.00** Best of the Women's World T20 **10.15** Best of the ICC Women's World Cup **10.30** ICC Women's World Cup **11.30** Test Cricket. Pakistan v Australia.
12.30-6.00am LIVE ICC Women's World Cup New Zealand v South Africa. Coverage of the group match from Seddon Park in Hamilton.

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am Football's Greatest Players **6.30** Football Countdowns **7.00** Football Years **7.30** EFL Greatest Games **8.15** SPFL Greatest Games **9.00** Bundesliga Highlights Show **10.00** EFL Highlights **10.30** SPFL Greatest Games **11.00** EFL Cup Retro **1.00pm** Retro L1 **10** **15** **3.00** Championship Season Review **15/16** **4.00** EFL Play Off Finals C'Ship 08/09 **5.00** EFL Highlights. Barnsley v Bristol City. **5.15** MLS **5.20** **LIVE** Bundesliga FSV Mainz 05 v Borussia Dortmund (kick-off 5.30pm). From Opel Arena.
7.30 LIVE EFL Millwall v Huddersfield Town (kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage from The Den.
10.15 EFL Goals **10.45** EFL Highlights **12.00m't** Retro C'Ship 00 **2.00** Championship Season Review **13/14** **3.00** EFL Cup Retro **16** **4.00** EFL Cup Final **17** **5.00** EFL Cup Final **18** **5.30-6.00am** Best Championship Goals 2017/18

BT SPORT 1

6.00am Premier League Review **7.00** Inside AFL **7.30** The Aussie Rules Show. With Ollie Geale.
8.00 LIVE AFL Melbourne Demons v Western Bulldogs (Bounce-up 8.10am). From Melbourne.
11.00 Test Cricket Highlights. West Indies v England.
1.00pm LIVE Test Cricket West Indies v England. Coverage of the first day of the second Test.
10.00 WWE NXT. highlights. **11.45** WWE NXT UK **12.45am** WWE Raw **1.45** AFL **3.45** BT Sport Goals Reload **4.00-6.00am** BT Sport Fight Night

BT SPORT 2

6.00am WWE Monday Night Raw. Highlights.
8.30 LIVE Isuzu UTE A-League Adelaide United v Western Sydney Wanderers (Kick-off 8.35am).
10.30 Premier League Reload **10.45** BT Sport Goals Reload **11.00** Fishing: On the Bank **12.00noon** A-League Highlights **1.00** Rugby Tonight **1.45** V8 Supercars Highlights **3.45** Premier League Reload **4.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **5.00** WWE Raw Highlights **6.00** BT Sport Reload **6.30** ESPN FC **7.00** **LIVE** UEFA Champions League Lille v Chelsea (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the last-16 second-leg tie from Stade Pierre-Maury.
10.30 UEFA Champions League Tonight **11.30** The Football's On **12.30am** Serie A - Full Impact **1.00** Vanarama National League **2.30** BT Sport Reload **3.00** Fishing: On the Bank **3.30** Fishing: On the Bank **4.00** UFC Unleashed **5.00-6.00am** Ligue 1 Highlights

EUROSPORT 1

6.00am Motocross World Championship **6.30** Bennetts British Superbikes **6.45** Alpine Skiing **8.45** **LIVE** Alpine Skiing The World Cup meeting from Courchevel, the men's downhill event.
10.15 **LIVE** Alpine Skiing Coverage from France, featuring the women's downhill event.
11.30 **LIVE** Cycling: Nokere Koerse Coverage of the women's one-day race held in Flanders that sees riders travel 125.9km from Deinze to Nokere.
12.45pm Cycling: Paris-Nice. Stage eight.
1.50 **LIVE** Cycling: Milano-Torino All the action from the 103rd staging of the annual one-day race, which is the oldest Italian cycling event.
3.30 **LIVE** Cycling: Nokere Koerse Coverage of the men's one-day race held in Flanders.
4.30 Alpine Skiing **6.30** The Cycling Show **7.00** Cycling: Milan-Torino **8.00** Cycling: Nokere Koerse **9.00** Cycling: Nokere Koerse **10.00** Alpine Skiing **11.00** Alpine Skiing **12.00m't** Cycling: Nokere Koerse **2.00** Alpine Skiing **4.00-6.00am** Cycling: Nokere Koerse

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Man About the House **9.40** A Touch of Frost **11.50** Heartbeat **2.00pm** Classic Emmerdale **3.00** Classic Coronation Street **4.05** Midsomer Murders **6.00** Heartbeat **8.00** Maigret - Dead Man **10.00** Law & Order: UK **11.00** Scott & Bailey **12.00m't** A Touch of Frost **2.05-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Best of the 70s **6.10** Cadfael **7.35** Dempsey and Makepeace **8.25** The Protectors **9.00** **LIVE** ITV Racing: The Opening Show **10.05** Great Racehorses **10.25** River Monsters **10.55** Made in Britain **11.55** The Champions **12.55pm** Cadfael **2.35** Dempsey and Makepeace **3.40** The Professionals **4.45** Minder **5.50** Made in Britain **6.55** The Chase Celebrity Special **8.00** The Great British Treasure Hunt **9.00** **FILM** Bullitt (1968/15) ★★★★★ **11.20** **FILM** Collateral (2004/15) ★★★★★ **1.45** Dempsey and Makepeace **2.45-3.00am** Unwind with ITV

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Last Man Standing **8.20** Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law **9.10** Filthy House SOS **10.10** Judge Judy **12.00noon** Traffic Cops **2.00** Police Interceptors **5.00** Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Babies 24/7: The Maternity Ward **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** 999: Critical Condition **10.00** Ambulance: Code Red **11.00** A&E After Dark **12.00m't** Skin A&E **1.00** Don't Tell the Doctor **2.00** Sex Pod **3.05** Judge Judy **3.50-4.00am** Entertainment News on 5

REALLY Freeview 17

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV **8.00** Homes Under the Hammer **10.00** Antiques Road Trip **12.00noon** Money for Nothing **1.00** A Place in the Sun **2.00** Animal Cops Phoenix **4.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees **5.00** Ambulance **6.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **7.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** It's Me or the Dog UK **10.00** Dr Pimple Popper **11.00** Ghost Adventures **1.00am** Kindred Spirits **2.00** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Animal Cops Phoenix

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am 999: Criminals Caught on Camera **9.30** Traffic Cops **11.30** Florida's Mega Sinkholes **12.30pm** **FILM** The Yellow Mountain (1954/PG) ★★ **2.10** **FILM** Dawn at Socorro (1954/PG) ★★ **4.00** Sinkholes: Buried Underground **5.00** Traffic Cops **7.00** Police Interceptors **9.00** Treadstone **10.00** **FILM** The Way of the Gun (2000/18) ★★★★★ **12.25am** Fights, Camera, Action! **2.25** Hijacked **3.25-5.00am** Car Crash TV

SKY ARTS Freeview 11

6.00am Arts Uncovered **6.10** The Barber of Seville **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Discovering: Karl Malden **11.00** Discovering: Guns N' Roses **11.30** Discovering: Foo Fighters **12.00noon** Cezanne: Portraits of a Life **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Discovering: Anthony Hopkins **3.00** Rodin: In His Time **4.00** Boswell & Johnson's Scottish Road Trip **5.00** Tales of the



Live Test Cricket BT Sport 1, 1pm
 The second Test in the three-match series between the West Indies and England gets under way at the Kensington Oval in Barbados. Ben Stokes (left) will hope to get the visitors off to a solid start.

Unexpected **6.00** Discovering: Faye Dunaway **7.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2018 **8.00** Discovering: Audrey Hepburn **9.00** **FILM** Audrey (2020/PG) ★★★★★ **10.55** The Directors **11.55** The Undiscovered Peter Sellers **12.55am** **FILM** The Painter and the Thief (2020) **2.55** Charles Dickens and Hans Christian Andersen: Urban Myths **3.20** Joan Collins: Urban Myths **4.15** The South Bank Show **5.10-6.00am** The Art of Architecture

GOLD

7.35am Chef! **8.10** dinnerladies **8.50** Hi-de-Hil **9.25** Last of the Summer Wine **10.45** The Green Green Grass **11.25** Dad's Army **12.40pm** Chef! **1.20** Hi-de-Hil **2.00** Desmond's **2.35** The Green Green Grass **3.20** Fawly Towers **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine **5.20** dinnerladies **6.00** Desmond's **6.35** Hi-de-Hil **7.15** The Green Green Grass **8.00** Dad's Army **9.20** The Good Life **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.40** Not Going Out **11.20** Peep Show **12.30am** French and Saunders **1.10** Chef! **1.50** Men Behaving Badly **2.25** Not Going Out **3.00-4.00am** Peep Show

YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.00am Antiques Roadshow **8.00** Forbidden History **9.00** Abandoned Engineering **11.00** Himalaya with Michael Palin **12.00noon** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Abandoned Engineering **4.00** The Buildings That Fought Hitler **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Brazil **7.00** Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** The Architecture The Railways Built **9.00** Hornby: A Model World **10.00** Full Steam Ahead **11.00** Bangers and Cash **12.00m't** Abandoned Engineering **1.00-3.00am** Antiques Roadshow

ALIBI

7.10am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Unforgettable **10.00** Major Crimes **11.00** Rizzoli & Isles **12.00noon** Hudson & Rex **1.00** Father Brown **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** Unforgettable **5.00** Major Crimes **6.00** Hudson & Rex **7.00** Rizzoli & Isles **8.00** Father Brown **9.00** Pretty Hard Cases **10.00** Deception **11.00** Rizzoli & Isles **12.00m't** Why Women Kill **1.00** Evil **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Stargate SG-1 **8.00** Arrow **9.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **10.00** The Flash **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 **2.00** S.W.A.T **3.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **4.00** Arrow **5.00** The Flash **6.00** Stargate SG-1 **8.00** There's Something About Movies **9.00** SEAL Team **10.00** Dating

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz **7.00am** Greg James **10.32** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Scott Mills **3.32** Vick and Jordan **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's Future Sounds with Clara Amfo **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Jack Saunders **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Benji B **1.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **2.00** The Radio 1 Interview **2.15** Radio 1 Playlists **2.32** Legends Fall in the Making **3.00** Radio 1's Rap Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Dance **5.00-7.00am** Arielle Free

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz **6.30am** The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **5.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whitley **9.00** The Folk Show with Kate Rusby **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** In Concert: The Zac Brown Band **4.00-6.30am** Vanessa Feltz

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz **6.30am** Breakfast **9.00** Essential Classics **12.00noon** Composer of the Week: Debussy **1.00** Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert **2.00** Afternoon Concert **4.00** Choral Evensong **5.00** In Tune **7.00** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **10.00** Free Thinking **10.45** The Essay: Multitudes **11.00** Night Tracks **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE

Maureen & Friends Radio 4, 11.30am
 She's still a regular on Coronation Street, but Maureen Lipman has nevertheless found the time to write and star in this show, the first of two performances recorded in front of a studio audience. It features a poem about the past two years, character sketches and an awards ceremony.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz, LW 198kHz **6.00am** Today **8.31** (LW) Parliament **9.00** The Anatomy of Kindness **9.30** Witness **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Making History: The Storytellers Who Shaped the Past **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.20** Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Farming Today **5.58-6.00am** Tweet

No Filter **10.30** Frayed **11.30** Harlan Coben's The Five **1.30am** Road Wars **2.00** Resident Alien **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T **5.00-6.00am** Stop, Search, Seize

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am The British **8.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **9.00** The Newsroom **10.05** The Sopranos **12.25pm** Game of Thrones **1.30** Babylon Berlin **3.30** Ray Donovan **5.45** The Sopranos: double bill **7.55** Game of Thrones **9.00** Yellowjackets: double bill **11.10** Six Feet Under **2.25am** Banshee **3.30** In Treatment **4.00-6.00am** The British

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** Air Ambulance ER **11.00** Law & Order **12.00noon** Bull **1.00** Blue Bloods **3.00** Private Eyes **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Border Security: Australia's Front Line **5.30** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Air Ambulance ER **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Bull. A former client appeals his conviction. **10.00** Transplant **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **12.00m't** The Rookie **2.00** Blue Bloods **3.00** Law & Order **4.00** Bull **5.00-6.00am** Brit Cops: Law & Disorder

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Parks and Recreation **9.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **10.00** Will & Grace **11.30** The Office (US) **12.00noon** The Mindy Project **1.00** Miracle Workers **2.00** A.P. Bio **3.00** Modern Family **4.00** Will & Grace **5.00** The Office (US) **5.30** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **6.30** Will & Grace **8.00** Parks and Recreation **9.00** Code 404 **10.00** **NEW** **10.30** Yonderland: double bill **11.30** Sex and the City **12.45am** The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon **1.45** The Late Late Show with James Corden **2.45** SMILF **4.00** Sick of It **4.30-5.00am** Everybody Hates Chris

DISCOVERY

6.00am Wheeler Dealers **7.00** Deadliest Catch **8.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **9.00** Alaska: The Last Frontier **10.00** Combat Dealers **11.00** Wheeler Dealers **12.00noon** Railroad Alaska **1.00** Gold Rush: White Water **3.00** Rise of the Machines **4.00** Building Off the Grid **5.00** Wheeler Dealers **6.00** Fast N' Loud **7.00** Outback Truckers **8.00** Gold Divers: double bill **10.00** Moonshiners **11.00** Gold Rush **12.00m't** Moonshiners **1.00** Gold Divers **3.00** Moonshiners **4.00** Fast N' Loud **4.50** Wheeler Dealers **5.40-6.00am** How It's Made

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Secrets of the Pyramids **9.00** Time Scanners **10.00** Ancient X Files **11.00** Secrets of the Spanish Armada: Drain the Oceans **12.00noon** Inside the SS **1.00** World War II: The Apocalypse **2.00** Nazi Megastructures **3.00** Air Crash Investigation **5.00** To Catch a Smuggler **6.00** Car S.O.S **8.00** **NEW** Colossal Machines. Space exploration. **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Car S.O.S **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Alaska: The Next Generation **1.00** Ice Road Rescue: Highway Havoc! **2.00** Lawless Island **3.00** Dinosaurs from the Deep: Drain the Ocean **4.00-5.00am** Drain the Oceans: Lost Worlds of the Mediterranean

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Border River (1954/U) Western, with Joel McCrea and Yvonne De Carlo. ★★ ★★
12.40pm Donovan's Reef (1963/U) Comedy drama, starring John Wayne. ★★ ★★
2.50 Gunsmoke (1953/U) Western, starring Audie Murphy and Paul Kelly. ★★
4.25 The Tall T (1957/PG) Western, starring Randolph Scott and Richard Boone. ★★ ★★ ★★
6.00 Exodus: Gods and Kings (2014/12) Biblical epic, starring Christian Bale. ★★ ★★
9.00 Red (2010/12) Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman. ★★ ★★
11.15 Foresight Sci-fi drama, starring Donna Banya and Anna-Maria Nabirye.
11.35 Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994/15) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell. ★★ ★★ ★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.55am Pii's Adventures (2021/U) See 5.20am for details. ★★ ★★ ★★
8.45 The Desperate Hour (2021/12) See 4.30pm for details. ★★ ★★
10.25 Old Henry (2021/15) Western, starring Tim Blake Nelson and Scott Haze. ★★ ★★ ★★
12.15pm Kimi (2022/15) See 8.00pm. ★★ ★★
2.00 Fast & Furious 9 (2021/12) See 9.45pm for details. ★★ ★★
4.30 The Desperate Hour (2021/12) Thriller, with Naomi Watts and Colton Hobbie. ★★ ★★
6.10 North Hollywood (2021/15) Comedy drama, starring Ryder McLaughlin. ★★ ★★
8.00 Kimi (2022/15) Crime thriller, starring Zoe Kravitz and Devin Ratray. ★★ ★★
9.45 Fast & Furious 9 (2021/12) Action, starring Vin Diesel and John Cena. ★★ ★★
12.25am Malignant (2021/18) Horror, starring Annabelle Wallis and Maddie Hasson. ★★ ★★ ★★
2.30 North Hollywood (2021/15) See 6.10pm for details. ★★ ★★
4.20 Sky Cinema Preview **5.20-7.10am** Pii's Adventures (2021/U) Animated adventure, with the voices of Eleanor Noble and Wyatt Bowen. ★★ ★★ ★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

5.45pm Milk (2008/15) Biopic of politician Harvey Milk, with Sean Penn. ★★ ★★ ★★
8.00 Enemy at the Gates (2001/15) Second World War drama, starring Jude Law. ★★ ★★
10.15 GoodFellas (1990/18) Crime drama, starring Ray Liotta and Joe Pesci. ★★ ★★ ★★
12.45am St Elmo's Fire (1985/15) Coming-of-age drama, starring Rob Lowe. ★★ ★★
2.45 Once Upon a River (2019/15) Drama, starring Kenadi DelaCerna. ★★ ★★
4.20-6.35am The Man Who Killed Don Quixote (2018/15) Comedy drama, starring Adam Driver and Jonathan Pryce. ★★ ★★ ★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

5.00pm Hop (2011/U) Part-animated comedy, with James Marsden and Russell Brand. ★★ ★★
6.40 Peter Rabbit (2018/PG) Family comedy, with the voice of James Corden. ★★ ★★
8.20 Peter Rabbit 2 (2021/U) Animated adventure sequel, starring Rose Byrne and Domhnall Gleeson. ★★ ★★
10.00 Casper (1995/PG) Supernatural family comedy, starring Christina Ricci. ★★ ★★ ★★
11.50 Muppets from Space (1999/U) Family comedy, with F Murray Abraham. ★★ ★★ ★★
1.30am The Muppets Take Manhattan (1984/U) Puppet comedy, starring Liza Minnelli and Joan Rivers. ★★ ★★ ★★
3.15 The Amazing Mr Blunden (1972/U) Children's fantasy, starring Laurence Naismith, Lynne Frederick and Diana Dors. ★★ ★★
5.05-6.55am Fairytale: A True Story (1997/U) Fact-based drama, starring Florence Hoath, Elizabeth Earl and Paul McGann. ★★ ★★ ★★

TCM

4.25pm Murder Most Foul (1964/U) Agatha Christie mystery, with Margaret Rutherford, Ron Moody and Charles Tingwell. ★★ ★★
6.40 The Goonies (1985/12) Family adventure, with Sean Astin and Corey Feldman. ★★ ★★ ★★
9.00 V for Vendetta (2005/15) Futuristic action thriller, with Natalie Portman. ★★ ★★
11.45 Full Metal Jacket (1987/15) Vietnam War drama, with Matthew Modine. ★★ ★★ ★★
2.10-4.00am Casablanca (1942/U) Romantic drama, starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Claude Rains. ★★ ★★ ★★

GREAT! MOVIES

4.35pm The Swimmer (1968/PG) Drama, starring Burt Lancaster. ★★ ★★ ★★
6.30 Legends of the Fall (1994/15) Period drama, starring Anthony Hopkins. ★★ ★★ ★★
9.00 Joe (2013/15) An ex-convict develops a paternal bond with a teenager working for him and seeks to protect him from his violent father. Drama, with Nicolas Cage. ★★ ★★ ★★
11.20 Dog Eat Dog (2016/18) Thriller,

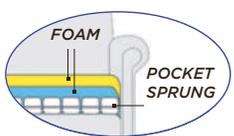


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Stop the sabre rattling as conflict will be a disaster

THE moment Nato enters Ukraine we are at war with Russia and bombs far, far worse than anything in the Second World War will rain down on this country.

I grew up during that war, hiding in cellars and shelters, with rations, no petrol and no holidays abroad.

Half of this country couldn't cope with lockdown, panic buying as soon as a shortage was announced. We have become too soft. War will come soon enough should Vladimir Putin invade a Nato country so don't start wishing it on us now.

James Bradley,
Rawcliffe, E Yorks

Britain should be leading world in Ukrainian skies

WILL we continue to stand by, as we did for too long before the outbreak of the Second World War, or will we lead the world and be the first to offer to provide air cover over the Ukraine?

Rev Jonathan Martin,
Poole, Dorset

Yet another example of us taking the easy option

SO RIOT police go to a Russian's mansion to eject squatters yet we can't go to the aid of Ukrainians when Russia invades their country.

It's always the same, easy action by the authorities.

Ron McCartney,
Hildenborough, Kent

Checks are needed to keep refugees out of danger

WHILE I agree that we must offer sanctuary, I am concerned about the offer of £350 a month to anyone able to house Ukrainians ("Thousands offer to house refugees in UK", March 15).

As those fleeing are mainly women and children, are rigorous checks to ensure their safety going to be carried out?

Lodging vulnerable women and children in "spare rooms" leaves them open to exploitation.

Ted Cockerill,
Morpeth, Northumb

A scheme that will have fraudsters rubbing hands

LOAND behold, the Government has come up with yet another scheme which is just up the fraudsters' avenue.

Has Chancellor Rishi Sunak not learnt anything?

Is this going to be policed by the same useless civil servants who lost the country billions of pounds in bogus furlough payments?

God knows we do need to help the Ukrainians escape a madman but there must be a better way.

Derek Lawton,
Northallerton, N Yorks

Aim directly at Putin and Kremlin if he targets Nato

I AGREE with Leo McKinstry ("Putin hasn't gone mad, he's always been a monster", March 14).

With his youthful days behind him he has now added extreme jealousy of the success of younger

Letter of the day

Picture: GETTY



ACTION: West must fight fire with fire before it's too late

A world war would have no winners

HOW much longer will the West allow Ukrainians to suffer the wrath of a madman, fighting a war that, other than Vladimir Putin, no one wants ("Horrors of war moved me to make mercy dash", March 15)?

He does not personally suffer the consequences of sanctions, neither do the super-rich oligarchs who, as we speak, are hiding their yachts out of reach.

Is now the time to call his bluff, fight fire with fire and frighten the life out of this despot before he inevitably escalates the war into Poland and other Nato allies, creating a world war that has no winners, only losers?

It's time to cut the head off the snake before it is too late.

Chris Jarrett,
Rochdale, Gtr Manchester

people and leaders like President Zelensky to his despotic behaviour.

This is not a people's war it is his alone, against all that the modern world, including Russian people, holds dear.

I hope that if a Nato country is targeted, the response would be directly at him and the Kremlin so that he would be wiped out.

Valerie Silver,
Basingstoke, Hants

Let fans buy tickets and use money to help victims

LET Chelsea sell tickets to their matches so that supporters don't lose out ("End game in battle for the Bridge", March 15).

Then why not donate all of the receipts to the Ukrainians, a double whammy against Vladimir Putin and his cronies?

Sue Whitelock,
Bramley, S Yorks

A solution is on doorstep and not in Saudi Arabia

NEVER mind getting Saudi Arabia to expand oil production, we should be ordering the reopening of the fracking wells ("Boris' mission to lower fuel prices", March 15).

Using British natural gas would immediately cut off the need for supplies from Russia and, with the

building of new nuclear power stations, could give us stable energy for the foreseeable future.

Net zero is a pipe dream which should be shelved for better times.

Barrie Warren,
Bury, Lancs

Modern bobbies are not a patch on predecessors

JAMES Whale has a point ("Scruffy coppers just aren't fit for the job", March 14).

As the father of a retired policewoman, I recall visiting her when she was tutoring at a police training college and noticing her gleaming shoes and creases in her shirt you could have shaved with.

Where has it all gone wrong?

Colin Clifford,
Benfleet, Essex

Neighbours a wishy-washy soap that's lost the plot

I DOUBT James Whale has seen many episodes in recent times, because this is no longer the happy show he appears to remember, with fun storylines and typical Aussie banter ("Neighbours we can't bear to lose", March 14).

The scriptwriters appear to have no idea about what makes a good story and keep coming up with stuff that is miserable, predictable, boring

and unsuitable for a teatime soap with children watching.

Apart from a few old stalwarts the acting is simply amateurish.

Jan Pederson,
Sheffield

Richard is so out of tune with reality of radio plays

I DISAGREE with Richard Madeley regarding his criticism of radio plays (March 12).

I am a regular listener to them on Radio 4 Extra and I am transported to a world that fires the imagination and makes me laugh and cry, so real do they become.

I have to say that on many occasions they are superior to TV plays and every word can also be heard clearly.

Caryl Ross,
Nantwich, Cheshire

First rut is the deepest for pothole champ Rod

WELL done to Rod Stewart for taking things into his own hands and filling in the potholes in the road near his house ("Hot Rod's still top of the pots", March 15).

If takes it up as a career could he come to Brentwood, where I work, and fill in all the chasms.

Lynne English,
Wickford, Essex

HAVE WE STOPPED DRESSING SMARTLY SINCE LOCKDOWN?

Yes I LOVE a man in a suit but unicorns are more common since the start of the pandemic ("Forget suits...it's all about sports bras", March 15).

To be honest, formal attire was on its way out long before lockdown but that was the final nail in the coffin.

Remember ties? My dad used to have a dozen hanging up on the inside of the wardrobe door but my husband has one, which is black and reserved for funerals.

It's a symptom of a society where people can't be bothered to make a good impression.

Jayne Potter,
Lincoln

No ANYONE who thinks people don't like to dress to impress these days should look in my son's wardrobe.

He doesn't own a single suit but then why should he, when they are probably the most uncomfortable things to wear in an office?

He spends his money

on expensive smart and casual clothes and, coupled with a £35 haircut, he looks a million dollars.

He has great pride in his personal appearance and even looks good when he is working from home. Times have changed for the better.

Adrian Wilkinson,
Ipswich, Suffolk

TODAY: Wednesday
 March 16, 2022

ON THIS DAY



105 years ago (1917)

We reported the news from Petrograd, Russia, now St Petersburg, that Tsar Nicholas II – a cousin of Britain's King George V – had been forced to abdicate after the Bolshevik revolution.

The Tsar, Tsarina Alix and their five children were later imprisoned in Siberia before being executed on July 17, 1918. Their remains were exhumed and reinterred in a ceremony on July 17, 1998.

69 years ago (1953)

Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito became the first communist head of state to visit Britain.

He arrived by sea and his ship was escorted up the River Thames to Westminster where he was greeted by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

34 years ago (1988)

Saddam Hussein launched an illegal chemical attack on the Kurdish city of Halabja, killing between 3,200 and 5,000 civilians.

Iraqi planes dropped mustard gas, the nerve agents sarin, tabun and VX and cyanide in what remains the world's deadliest chemical weapons attack on a civilian population.

BIRTHDAYS



Southampton striker **Theo Walcott** is 33. He is the youngest player to net a hat-trick for England.



Actress **Sophie Hunter** is 44. She is wed to **Benedict Cumberbatch**.



Actress **Isabelle Huppert** is 69. She often plays nasty roles.



Rapper **Flavor Flav** is 63. He often wears a giant clock necklace.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

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BRADFORD 105-107 Manningham Lane, B01 3BN	01274 390962	DERBY Derwent St. DE1 2ED	01332 290 931	LEICESTER 69 Melton Rd. LE4 6PN	0116 261 0688	NORWICH 282a Heigham St. NR2 4LZ	01603 766402	SWANSEA 13-15 Ryhope Rd. Grangeton	0191 510 8773
BRIGHTON 123 Lewes Rd, BN2 3QB	01173 915999	DONCASTER Wheatley Hall Road	01302 245 999	LINCOLN Unit 5, The Pelham Centre, LN5 8HG	01522 543 036	NORTHAMPTON Beckett Retail Park, St James' Mill Road	01604 267840	TWICKENHAM 83-85 Heath Rd.TW1 4AW	020 8892 9117
BRISTOL 1-3 Church Rd, Lawrence Hill, BS5 9JJ	0117 935 1060	DUNDEE 24-26 Trades Lane, DD1 3ET	01392 225 140	LIVERPOOL 80-88 London Rd. L3 5NF	0151 709 4484	NOTTINGHAM 211 Lower Parliament St.	0115 956 1811	WARRINGTON Unit 3, Hawley's Trade Pk.	01925 630 937
BURTON UPON TRENT 12a Lichfield St, DE14 30Z	01223 322 675	EDINBURGH 163-171 Piersfield Terrace	0131 659 5919	LONDON CATFORD 289/291 Southend Lane SE6 3ND	0208 695 5584	PETERBOROUGH 417 Lincoln Rd. Millfield	01752 254050	WIGAN 2 Harrison Street, WNS 9AU	01942 323 785
CAMBRIDGE 181-183 Histon Road, CB4 3HL	01228 591666	EXETER 16 Trusham Rd, Marsh Barton Trading Estate	029 2046 5424	GATESHEAD 50 Lobley Hill Rd. NE8 4XA	020 8858 8284	PLYMOUTH 58-64 Embankment Rd. PL4 9HY	01202 717913	WOLVERHAMPTON Parkfield Rd. Bilston	01902 494186
CARDIFF 44-46 City Rd. CF24 3DN	01242 514 402	GLASGOW 280 Gt Western Rd. G4 9EJ	0141 332 9231	LONDON Unit 1, 326 Dunstable Rd, LU4 8JS	01582 728 063	PRESTON 53 Blackpool Rd. PR2 6BU	01772 703263	WORCESTER 48a Upper Tything, WR1 1JZ	01905 723451
CARLISLE 85 London Rd. CA1 2LG	01206 762831	GLOUCESTER 221A Barton St. GL1 4HY	01452 417 948	LAUDSTONE 57 Upper Stone St. ME15 6HE	01622 769 572	SHEFFIELD 453 London Rd. Heeley, S2 4HJ	0114 258 0831		
CHELtenham 84 Fairview Road, Cheltenham		GRIMSBY Ellis Way, DN32 9BD	01472 354435	MANCHESTER ALTRINCHAM 71 Manchester Rd. Altrincham	0161 9412 666				
CHESTER 43-45 St. James Street, CH1 3EY									
COLCHESTER 4 North Station Rd. CO1 1RE									

024 7622 4227	HULL 8-10 Holderness Rd. HUG 1EG	01482 223161	MANCHESTER CENTRAL 209 Bury New Rd, M8 8DU	0161 241 1851	SIDCUP 13 Blackfen Parade, Blackfen Rd	0208 3042069
020 8763 0640	ILFORD 746-748 Eastern Ave. IG2 7HU	0208 518 4286	MANCHESTER OPENSHAW Unit 5, Tower Mill, Ashton Old Rd	0161 2231676	SOUTHAMPTON 516-518 Portswood Rd.	023 8055 7788
01325 380 841	IPSWICH Unit 1, Commercial Rd, IP1 1UZ	01473 221253	MANFIELD 169 Chesterfield Rd. South	01623 6228160	SOUTHEND 1139-1141 London Rd. Leigh on Sea	0720 483 742
01304 373 434	LEEDS 227-229 Kirkestall Rd. LS4 2AS	0113 231 0400	MIDDLESBROUGH Mandale Triangle, Thornaby	01642 677881	STOKE-ON-TRENT 382-396 Waterloo Rd. Hanley	01782 287321
01332 290 931	LEICESTER 69 Melton Rd. LE4 6PN	0116 261 0688	NORWICH 282a Heigham St. NR2 4LZ	01603 766402	SWANSEA 13-15 Ryhope Rd. Grangeton	0191 510 8773
01302 245 999	LINCOLN Unit 5, The Pelham Centre, LN5 8HG	01522 543 036	NORTHAMPTON Beckett Retail Park, St James' Mill Road	01604 267840	TWICKENHAM 83-85 Heath Rd.TW1 4AW	020 8892 9117
01392 225 140	LIVERPOOL 80-88 London Rd. L3 5NF	0151 709 4484	NOTTINGHAM 211 Lower Parliament St.	0115 956 1811	WARRINGTON Unit 3, Hawley's Trade Pk.	01925 630 937
0131 659 5919	LONDON CATFORD 289/291 Southend Lane SE6 3ND	0208 695 5584	PETERBOROUGH 417 Lincoln Rd. Millfield	01752 254050	WIGAN 2 Harrison Street, WNS 9AU	01942 323 785
01392 256 744	LONDON 6 Kendal Parade, Edmonton N18	020 8803 0861	PLYMOUTH 58-64 Embankment Rd. PL4 9HY	01202 717913	WOLVERHAMPTON Parkfield Rd. Bilston	01902 494186
0191 493 2520	LONDON 503-507 Lea Bridge Rd. Leyton, E10	020 8558 8284	PRESTON 53 Blackpool Rd. PR2 6BU	01772 703263	WORCESTER 48a Upper Tything, WR1 1JZ	01905 723451
0141 332 9231	LONDON Unit 1, 326 Dunstable Rd, LU4 8JS	01582 728 063				
01452 417 948	LAUDSTONE 57 Upper Stone St. ME15 6HE	01622 769 572				
01472 354435	MANCHESTER ALTRINCHAM 71 Manchester Rd. Altrincham	0161 9412 666				

CALVIN AND HOBBS Bill Watterson



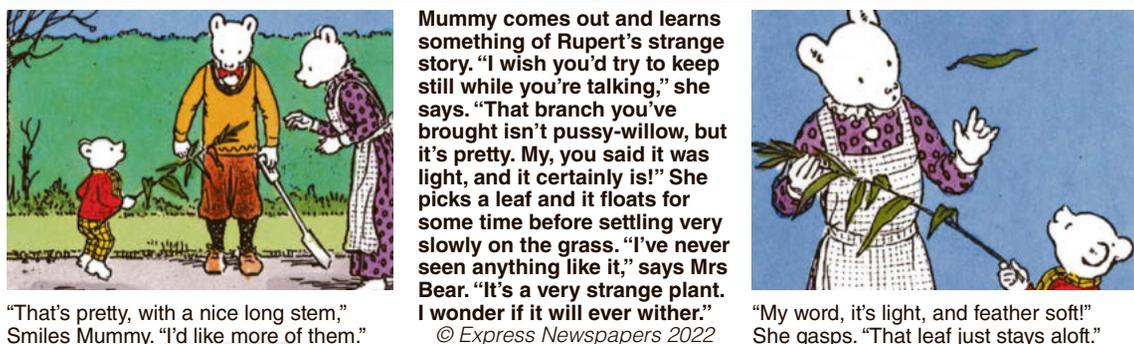
DILBERT Scott Adams



FAITH, HOPE AND SUE Lisa Wild



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Garlic Wood Rum and raisin pancakes

Totally different to our traditional pancakes, these Austrian versions are tasty enough to be served at a dinner party. Serves 4.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsps raisins
- 2 tbsps rum**
- 4 egg yolks
- 50g sugar**
- 1 pinch of salt
- 500ml milk**
- a drop of vanilla extract
- 150g plain flour, sieved**
- 5 egg whites
- 60g melted butter, divided**
- icing sugar

METHOD

- 1) Add the rum and raisins to a bowl and soak for 30 minutes before draining.
- 2) Whisk the egg yolks, sugar and salt until pale yellow and fluffy. Stir in the milk and vanilla extract before gradually stirring in the flour. Stir in the raisins.
- 3) Whisk the egg whites until they are very stiff and fold into the pancake batter.
- 4) Heat a tablespoon of the butter over a low heat in a deep pan (about 20cm across) and pour in half of the batter.
- 5) Heat for 4 minutes until the batter has risen and the underside is lightly browned.
- 6) Remove from the pan, add another tbsps of butter to the pan, flip the pancake and then cook the other side for 4 minutes.
- 7) Repeat with the rest of the batter.
- 8) Break the cooked pancakes into 6-8 pieces and then fry again in the remaining butter for about 2 minutes. Then serve dusted with icing and some stewed fruit, if desired.



ALAN'S TIP OF THE DAY: Sow early varieties of peas and broad beans in trays in an unheated greenhouse, for plants ready to go outside in roughly four weeks. If conditions outside permit and soil has been prepared, sow radish, spring onions, lettuce, spinach and rocket.

Russell Grant



Britain's celebrity astrologer

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

You aren't hiding your feelings but there's someone who is hiding the truth from you. You're surprised by how easily someone has swept an issue under the carpet. A matter is not being dealt with and you will do your best to figure out why.

0905 789 3701**

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23

Your patience will be pushed to its limit. You can't understand why a housemate wants to stir up conflict. You aren't in the mood to argue. One of your greatest strengths is the ability to maintain harmony, even when others are irritable.

0905 789 3707**

Taurus Apr 21 - May 21

Social activities and situations will be pleasant enough. People will inspire you as they talk about their interests and share their hopes. You have goals of your own and listening to a friend's aims will help you conquer your limitations.

0905 789 3702**

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

A legal issue has been causing you a lot of stress. In addition to this, there has been an array of problems discovered. You will be closely following developments on a news story because this will affect your life or community in some way.

0905 789 3708**

Gemini May 22 - June 21

You like to feel you can rely on your intuitive responses. At the same time, you always question what you experience and will take an analytical view. By being aware of your thoughts, you can walk in the realm of imagination and practicality.

0905 789 3703**

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

A relative is spending cash with no thought of tomorrow. Family disputes over money mar your day. Do you intend to travel? If so, be careful who you tell your plans to as someone will invite themselves along when you'd prefer to be alone.

0905 789 3709**

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Cancer June 22 - July 23

You will be asked to share your views but someone will question why you feel this way and wonder why you can't agree with them. There are times when it is sensible to keep ideas to yourself, even when you're being asked to share them.

0905 789 3704**

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

You aren't happy with a team effort. People are in too much of a hurry and details are being ignored. Unless you're in charge, keep criticism to yourself. Providing you're doing the work to the best of your ability, your conscience is clear.

0905 789 3710**

Leo July 24 - Aug 23

It's a good time to set up a savings plan. You instinctively know the best way to grow your money. A legal or financial issue will go better than expected. You knew it wasn't going to be easy but it will be a relief when it is finally resolved.

0905 789 3705**

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

In work and social matters it could pay off if you refuse to follow the crowd. Advice will be given but you should make important decisions independently. This may mean taking a risk and putting your original ideas ahead of new ones.

0905 789 3711**

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

A group is doing some great work refurbishing donated items and getting them to those in need. A different challenge altogether is presented. You may be asked to join a committee to look at new issues and decide the best approach.

0905 789 3706**

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

You've always been sensitive and it will hurt your feelings when a friend or workmate makes remarks about you. What upsets you is that you felt comfortable enough with them to reveal some of your vulnerabilities. You will wish you hadn't.

0905 789 3712**

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A safer sleeping environment

The Dormeo Memory Classic Mattress offers the best balance of next generation, pressure relieving materials, wrapped in a luxurious Florentine stitched cover.

Carbon fibres are woven directly into the cover to create a healthy barrier against dust, ensuring a hygienic sleep surface. The cover is also infused with Sanitized® protection for the ultimate in anti-bacterial, antimicrobial, anti-dust mite shielding.

NASA designed just for you!

The pressure relieving memory material – originally designed for NASA – moulds to every contour of your body for restful, supportive sleep all night long. It cleverly senses your body weight and temperature, and memorises it! The memory foam then responds to the position and shape of your body, and makes any necessary adjustments to meet your body's needs.

Dormeo's in-house researchers have worked tirelessly to develop this visco-elastic memory foam, to ensure the perfect combination of softness and support. It's not easy. The secret lies in discovering

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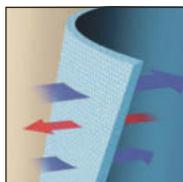
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Take a look at what's inside...



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Experience your new Dormeo mattress for a full 60 nights on your own bed. If you do not agree that it gives you the most refreshing, rejuvenating nights sleep, or you are unhappy in any way, simply return it to us in the same condition for a full refund of the purchase price, no questions asked. Terms & conditions apply.

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the right size molecules which will bounce back not just the first time you use it...but for years to come! This unique technology lets Dormeo offer a 15-year guarantee on their memory mattress range.

Comfort and support
 To help create the perfect environment for healthy, comfortable rest, the sleep experts at Dormeo have developed comfort enhancing materials.

For example, Ecocell® is a unique, next-generation supportive foam designed with permanent elasticity. Its unique cellular structure allows



"Will never go back to any other mattress... always recommend to family and friends."



"Easy to order, arrived quickly...had the best nights sleep ever since!"



"Really good value for money. Would defo buy another one when needed :)"

the material to breathe to create the perfect sleeping temperature. Plus, the elasticity of Ecocell® foam reduces the painful pressure points that can cause you to toss and turn during the night.

Hygienic sleep protection

Comfort and hygiene are standard features on all Dormeo mattresses. Special anti-bacterial, anti-dust mite and anti-fungal Sanitized® protection guarantees a hygienic sleeping environment. It also helps prevent fungi growth – a common irritant for asthma sufferers.

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constant circulation, allowing you to sleep comfortably at the right temperature all through the night.

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Dormeo's Comfort Guarantee lets you experience the Memory Classic Mattress on your own bed risk-free for 60 nights! For details, or to place an order, call Dormeo's sleep experts for free on 0800 882 4793. Or explore the full Dormeo range online at www.dormeo.co.uk.

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By Deborah Stone

Flipping spring is here

IT'S no coincidence that National Bed Month comes at the start of spring cleaning season, so now is the time to vacuum, spot clean and turn your mattress – if only because it could make it last longer.

The UK throws away seven million mattresses a year and most end up in landfill or incineration says North London Waste Authority, which has tips on mattress care at its website, nlwa.gov.uk, starting with investing in good quality.

Buying a vacuum-packed mattress in a box off the internet is quick and easy but if you don't understand what you're buying it could be a short-term solution.

In a real shop you can ask questions and test out a mattress. John Lewis & Partners even has a free virtual sleep appointment scheme, where you can spend 45 minutes with an expert.

It has upgraded its Classic Collection wool mattresses to provide more support and pressure relief for sleepers, using wool from British farmers that supply Waitrose.

Luxury wool sleep retailer Woolroom uses UK wool, too, for its handmade mattresses and has recently launched the world's first washable organic wool bedding.

It's worth knowing that fleece wool has natural temperature-regulating properties and needs no chemicals to make it fire retardant.

Bensons for Beds also has new climate control mattresses with SensICE fabric on one side to keep sleepers cool and a "teddy-bear fabric" on the other side with a wool layer.

All you have to do is flip it.



Furniture Village's Emma Select Helix Firm Mattress in King Size, £899 (furniturevillage.co.uk)

Bensons For Beds Slumberland Eco Solutions 2200 double mattress, £749.99 (0808 144 6160; bensonsforbeds.co.uk)



LOLA seersucker duvet cover by JYSK, £36.99 (jysk.com.mt)



John Lewis Classic sustainable Waitrose wool 1000 pocket spring mattress, king size, £749 (johnlewis.com)



Woolroom organic wool washable bedding, from £189.99 (01780 461217; thewoolroom.com)

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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	7175.7	▼	-17.8
FTSE 250	20257.7	▼	-213.6
FTSE ALL SHARE	3999.1	▼	-15.8
Shares Traded	4661.5 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE

BAE Systems	732½	+8%
BP	361	+4½
BT Group	178	+2¾
Centrica	78½	+1½
GlaxoSmithKline	1570	+9½
Int Consolidated Airlines	138¼	+1½
National Grid	1155½	+32¼
Royal Mail	363½	+3%
Sainsbury (J)	258½	+¾
Shell	1940	+13¼
Tesco	278½	+1½
Vodafone Group	122	+¼
Whitbread	2678	+30

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE

Abrdn	196¼	-1¼
AstraZeneca	9383	-13
Aviva	414¼	-3¼
Barclays	168¼	-1¾
HSBC Holdings	479¾	-9¾
Lloyds Banking Group	47½	-¼
Marks & Spencer Group	162	-3½
NATWEST GROUP PLC	215¼	-2½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	92¼	-1½
Saga	244½	-2½
Unilever	3381½	-41½

WORLD MARKETS

WALL STREET	33,544.3	▲	+599.1
TOKYO	25346.5	▲	+38.6
HONG KONG	18415.1	▼	-1116.6
GERMANY	13917.3	▼	-11.8
FRANCE	6355.0	▼	-14.9

STERLING VALUE

Dollar	1.304	▲	+0.003
Yen	154.274	▲	+0.561
Euro	1.192	▲	+0.004

DOLLAR VALUE

Dollar/Yen	118.352	▲	+0.1557
Dollar/Euro	0.914	▲	+0.0007

COMMODITIES

GOLD(\$)	▼	1922.40
KRUGERRAND(£)	▼	1477.80
SILVER(pence)	▲	1927.98
BRENT CRUDE(\$)	▼	100.75

OTHER INDICATORS

Base rate	0.50%
Halifax mortgage rate	3.99%
Retail Price Index	+7.8% (CPI +5.5%)
House price Index	+10.8%
Unemployment	1,374,000

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China	7.71 renminbi
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Eurozone	1.16 euro
Hong Kong	9.59 dollar
Hungary	411.60 forint
Israel	4.01 shekel
Japan	146.17 yen
Mexico	25.56 peso
New Zealand	1.86 dollar
Norway	11.28 krone
Poland	5.30 zloty
Russia	173.07 ruble
Saudi Arabia	4.63 riyal
South Africa	18.80 rand
Sweden	11.86 krona
Switzerland	1.18 franc
Thailand	41.07 baht
Turkey	16.79 lira
United States	1.28 dollar

Surge in companies going under...and 'worse to come'

MORE than 1,500 businesses went under last month in England and Wales, double the amount for the same time last year, official data shows.

The Insolvency Service said the number of registered company insolvencies was 1,515 in February, compared to 685 for the same month last year and 1,346 pre-pandemic.

The surge was driven by 1,329 Creditors' Voluntary Liquidations, more than double the number in February 2021, and 40 per cent higher than in February 2020.

CVLs are where directors of a distressed business voluntarily put it into liquidation in order to pay off its debts.

Additionally, 109 of the corporate insolvencies in February were administrations, which is 95 per cent higher than the same month in 2021, while compulsory liquidations shot up 124 per cent.

Christina Fitzgerald, vice president of insolvency and restructuring trade body R3, warned that the level of insolvencies could get even worse, given rising energy costs and the impending removal of Government coronavirus protections for companies against creditors.

She said: "Consumer spending has

By **Geoff Ho**

declined and consumer confidence is low as people worry about the economy and their own financial position, with inflation now a real problem for firms and individuals alike. This situation is unlikely to improve any time soon given the impact the war in Ukraine will have on energy costs.

"In addition to this, the restrictions on using winding up petitions are coming to an end later this month – something which could see an increase in creditors turning to legal action to recover unpaid debts."

Martin McTague, the Federation of Small Businesses chairman, agreed and said Chancellor Rishi Sunak needs to provide more help to businesses in his Spring Statement next week.

"All eyes now are on the forthcoming Spring Statement," he said.

"With national insurance rises due to ratchet up the pressure on firms, and with energy, fuel, input and operating costs spiralling and with inflation at its highest level for four decades, small businesses need all the help they can get."



HELP NEEDED:
 Martin McTague

BENTLEY PURRS INTO RECORD PROFIT



ROAD KING: The Continental GT Mulliner Convertible was popular

BENTLEY has posted record operating profits of £327.2million for 2021, more than double its previous highest, thanks to increased demand for its hybrid cars.

The luxury car marque said its profits for last year were more than 18 times higher than in 2020.

Its turnover rose 38.8 per cent to a record £2.4billion, while it also delivered 14,659 vehicles in 2021, a 31 per cent increase on the previous all-time high of 11,206 it

achieved the previous year. Bentley's Speed and Mulliner models were also popular with its customers.

Chairman Adrian Hallmark said: "These results, achieved against a continued backdrop of economic uncertainty, represent a major achievement."

The company is investing £2.5billion at its Crewe factory. It plans to build one new electric model every year starting in 2025, as it changes its showroom range.

10,000 Currys staff get wage hike

ELECTRICAL retailer Currys will raise the pay of around 10,000 workers to at least £10 per hour, its second hike in a year.

Paula Coughlan, Currys' chief people officer, said it would help staff cope with the increased cost of living. The 5.2 per cent pay rise will

come into force in August and its workers within London will see their minimum rate move up to £11.05 an hour.

The announcement comes 10 months after it increased its base pay to match the real living wage of £9.90.

DFS profits hit by rising costs

SOFAS specialist DFS's half year pre-tax profits collapsed because of rising costs of raw materials, storage and shipping. Figures were down 71.5 per cent to £21.6million.

Its results were also impacted by a sales boom during Covid lockdowns easing off. Revenues for the six

months to December 27 fell 2.1 per cent to £561.1million.

But profits and revenues (35.8 per cent and 15 per cent respectively) are ahead of pre-pandemic levels.

Elsewhere, online grocer Ocado is to build automated warehouses for Polish supermarket group Auchan.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	1271	-5	1503½	1138½	GlaxoSmithKline	1570#	+9½	1707¾	1266	Mondi	1427	-39½	2068	1309
A.B. Foods	1724	-42½	2494	1626½	Glencore	460¼	-21¼	511¼	268¾	National Grid	1155½	+32¼	1155½	829
Abrdn	196¼	-1¼	302¼	179	Halma	2362	-55	3216	2217	NatWest Group	215¼	-2½	253½	185¾
Admiral Group	2576	-77	3688	2439	Hargreaves Lansdown	1016½#	-35	1772	995½	Next	6240	-42	8426	5770
Airtel Africa	143	+½	160	71½	Hikma	2035	-1	2690	1825	Ocado	1188	-6	2236	1105
Anglo American	3674½	-24	3968	2470½	HSBC Holdings	479¾#	-9¾	567¼	359¾	Pearson	826¼	+65¾	869½	571¾
Antofagasta	1531	-25	1925	1227	Imperial Brands	1558#	+7½	1818½	1420½	Pershing Square Hold	2690#	+35	3115	2465
Ashtead Group	5276	+204	6450	4237	Infoma	568¾	+18½	620	464½	Persimmon	2228#	-64	3238	2120
AstraZeneca	9383#	+13	9444	6978	InterContinental Htl.	4971	+63	5336	4399	Phoenix Group	620½	-11½	759¾	581¾
Auto Trader	645¼	+1½	741¾	543½	Intermediate Cap.Grp	1594	-10½	2379	1385	Polymetal Intl.	129¾	-38½	1729	92
Avast	645½	+1¾	648½	439¾	Intertek Group	4963	-55	6198	4735	Prudential	1000	-44	1585½	976
Aveva Group	2464	-62	4220	2365	Intl Consolidated Airlines	138¼	+1½	217¾	116¼	Reckitt Benckiser	5797	+101	6801	5391
Aviva	414¼	-3¼	445½	371	ITV	84¾	+1¼	132½	73½	RELX	2189	+56	2424	1734½
B&M Europ Value Ret	555½	-3¼	644	525½	JD Sports	141¾	-2¾	234	131½	Rentokil Initial	485½	-1¼	636¼	444½
BAE Systems	732½	+8¾	754½	488¼	Kingfisher	277¾	-6¼	376½	261½	Rightmove	633¾	+3½	800½	555¾
Barclays	168¼#	-1¾	217	151½	Land Securities	750½#	-10¾	813¼	653¼	Rio Tinto	5210#	-89	6658	4375½
Barratt Development	548½	-12¼	794¾	531¼	Legal & General	261	-4	307¾	239	Rolls-Royce Group	92¼	-1½	147½	87
Berkley Grp Hldgs	3843	+97	5372¾	3670	Lloyds Banking Grp	47½	-¼	55¼	41	Royal Mail	363½	+3¾	606½	339½
BP	361#	+4½	417¼	278½	London Stock Ex.	7664	-5¼	8282	6370	Sage Group	672	-1	85¾	579½
British Amer.Tob	3086½	+61	3439	2512½	M&G	224	-3¼	248½	178¼	Sainsbury (J)	258½	+¾	340	235
British Land	502¾	-4	556½	463	Meggitt	760	+¼	839¼	397	Schroders	3085	-7	3871	2817
BT Group	178	+2¾	205½	135¼	Melrose	125¾	-½	190¼	109¼	Scottish Mortgage	878¾	+2¼	1543½	834½
Bunzl	2800	-18	2969	2242						SEGR0	1300	-4½	1436½	903
Burberry Group	1591½	-2½	2264	1546						Severn Trent	2918	+60	2984	2222
Coca-Cola HBC	1597½	-40½	2784	1460½						Shell	1940#	+13¼	2061½	1833½
Compass Group	1655½	+1	1820½	1407½						Smith & Nephew	1205	-7	1592½	1179
CRH	3284#	+37	4002	2936						Smiths Group	1443	-8½	1661	1355½
Croda International	7056	+40	10410	6184						Smurfit Kappa	3257	-55	4305	2920
DCC	5660	-92	6614	5500						Spirax-Sarco	12145	-210	17135	10985
Dechra Pharmaceuticals	4046#	-52	5405	3382						SSE	1677	+19½	1704½	1386
Diageo	3455½#	+2	4103½	2979						St James's Place	1331	-45	1731½	1180
DS Smith	318½	-6½	462¼	295¼						Standard Chartered	471½#	-19½	580¾	410
Electrocomponents	990	-3	1255	868						Taylor Wimpey	136½	-3¼	191¾	128
Entain	1548½	+17	2377	1392½						Tesco	278½	+1½	303½	219¾
Evraz	811									Unilever	3381½#	-41½	4360	3328
Experian Group	2909	+22	3667	2425						United Utilities	1083½	+22	1130	883½
Ferguson	10950	-720	13305	8564						Vodafone Group	122	+¼	142½	107
Fltner Entert.	8832	+106	16915	8000						Whitbread	2678	+30	3545	2436
Fresnillo	700½	-21	986¾	622½						WPP Group	1007	+7	1224	904¾



MARKET REPORT

RUSSIA was the common factor between three of the four biggest fallers in the market yesterday, with **Raven Property** group being the main loser, down 32.8 per cent to just 3.8p per share.

Just behind the Russian warehouses owner was gold miner **Petropavlovsk**, which fell 26.7 per cent to 2.2p. **Polymetal** slid 22.9 per cent to 127p. The share prices of Russian companies and those operating there have collapsed since the invasion of Ukraine.

FTSE 100 education group **Pearson** was the second highest climber of the day, up 8.7 per cent to 827.4p per share thanks to bid interest from private equity group Apollo. The highest climber was consultant **RPS**, up 10.4 per cent to 105.4p.

Markets sagged, with the FTSE down 0.3 per cent to 7,175.7, while the FTSE mid-market FTSE 250 slid one per cent to 20,257.7.

The All Share dropped 15.8 points 0.4 per cent to 3,999.1.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1276	-28	3582	916
Babcock International	341½	+2½	380¼	228½
BAE Systems	732½	+8¼	754¼	488¼
Chemring Group	337½#	+1	338	256
Meggitt	760	+¼	839¼	397
QinetiQ Group	307¼	-1½	356	243
Rolls-Royce Group	92¼	-1½	147½	87
Senior	123¼	-5½	181	102
Ultra Electronics	3180	-10	3370	2002
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	625	-25	772	512
Banks				
Barclays	168½#	-1¾	217	151½
Bo Santander	255	+6¾	300½	214½
Clo Brothers	1077	-131	1663	1071
CYBG	165¾	-11¼	218	160¼
HSBC Holdings	479¾#	-9¾	567¼	359¾
Investec	439¾	-¾	457¼	209¾
Lloyds Banking Grp	47½	-¼	55¼	41
Metro Bank	83¼	-1¼	133	79¼
NatWest Group	215¼	-2½	253½	185¾
Standard Chartered	471½#	-19½	580¾	410
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	492½	-8½	582	466
Britvic	761½	-4½	1006	741
Coca-Cola HBC	1597½	-40½	2784	1460½
Diageo	3455½#	+2	4103½	2979
Chemicals				
Carolo	26	+2½	68¾	22½
Croda International	7056	+40	10410	6184
Elementis	116	+½	161¾	98¾
Johnson Matthey	1850	-39	3300	1721
Synthomer	286½	-2¾	564	152¾
Treatt	1015#	+35	1315	900
Victrex	1878	-37	2706	1777
Construction & Materials				
Baifour Beatty	258½	-3¼	322¾	215½
Clarke T.	146	-5	183	103½
CRH	3284#	+37	4002	2936
Daighlight	295	-17½	380	243
Galliford Try	186¾#	+1¾	206¼	120½
Gleeson (MJ)	624#	+6	900	618
Keller Group	800	-8	1028	706
Kier Group	86	-1½	133	74½
Kingspan Grp	7239½	-174¼	8978	5688¾
Marshalls	624½	-10½	845	573½
Morgan Sindall	2285	+20	2685	1670
Severfield-Rowen	65¾	+¼	82½	63½
Smart (J) & Co.	161½	161½	122½	
Tyman	330½	-8	507	306½
Electricity				
Drax Group	701½	+12	720½	393¾
SSE	1677	+19½	1704½	1386
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	797	-21	1262	640
Halma	2362	-55	3216	2217
Morgan Crucible	308½	-6½	412½	280½
Oxford Instruments	2025	+25	2680	1730
Renishaw	3900#	-94	6565	3768
Spectris	2580	-95	4083	2458
TT Electronics	200	-3	290	185
XP Power	3495	-80	5690	3435
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen All Asia	602½	-2½	820	589½
Aberdeen Asian Sml	245½#	-10%	303	245½
Aberforth Sml Co	1274	-16	1612	1180
Acom Income				
Advance Devlp Fund	552	-18	738	535½
Albion Tech & Gen. VCT	77	78	64¼	
Albion VCT	49	70	47½	
Alliance Trust	934#	+2	1078	901
Artemis Alpha	332½	+10½	458	322
Aurora Inv.Tst.	228½	-½	250	205
AVI Global Tst	183¾	-¼	1110	172
Baillie Gifford Japan	775	+4	1118	759
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip.	160¾	+¾	268	156½
Bankers Inv.Tst.	104½	+¾	125	98½
Baronsmead VCT.2	65½	81½	65½	
BH Macro GBP	3770	-30	3960	3240
Biotech Growth Trust	882	-14	1530	872
BlackRock Mining	712	-26	771	502
Blue Planet Intl Tst.	16	30	13½	
BlueCrest AllBlue	239	-10	280½	236¼
Bluehoney AIM VCT2	37	37	33	
British Assets Tst.	99¾#	-1	103½	93
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1000#	+12	1130	890
Caledonia Inv.	3675	+20	4100	2630
City Natural Res.Yld.	186¾	-12¾	199½	128¾
City of London	393	-1	417	373½
Dunedin Ent.IT.	464#	-1	507	342
Dunedin Income	282	-3½	334	263
Edin Wwide Inv	197¼	-4¼	363½	195
Edin.Drgn.Tst.	414	-11	536	403¼
Edin.Inv.Tst.	615	-3	657	574
Edin.US Tracker	279	-3	292½	246½
Elderstreet VCT	58	58½	43½	
Electra Private Eq.	38½	670	36	
European Ass Tst.	1077½	-½	150½	100
F&C Cap&Inc	294½#	-1½	343½	281
F&C Inv Tst.	815	+3	946	779
F&C Smaller Cos	148½	-¾	175½	142½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1167½	+2½	1525	1140

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Fidelity Asian	407	-12	506	406¼
Fidelity European	286	-3½	345	267½
Fidelity Japanese	165¼	+2	261	160¼
Fidelity Special	279	-1	315	258
Finsbury Gwth&In.	794	+1	930	756
ForeSight Tech.VCT.	74	76½	57½	
Garmore Euro.	137	-½	168¼	127
Genesis E.M.F.	629	-16	947	619
Graphite Ent.	1188	-6	1314	984
Hansa Tst 'A'	188	236	188	
Hansa Tst Plc.	190½	-½	242	186
Henderson Euro.Tst.	122	-1	156	113
Henderson Far Est.	283	+3	337½	274½
Henderson High Inc.	164½	-½	183½	153½
Henderson Opp Tst.	1192½#	-15	1602½	1100
Herald Inv.Tst.	1780	-22	2630	1634
HGC Capital Tst.	414½	+7¼	444	308½
HSBC Infrastructure	172#	-1½	178¼	160
Impax Env.Mkt.	440	583	396	
Int.Biotech.Tst.	639	-2	789	601
International Public.	166½	-½	174¼	156
Invesco Asia	315½	-3	398	298
Invesco Perp UK	498½#	-2½	660	463
JPM American	720	+5	777	593
JPM Asian	349½	-8½	512	339¼
JPM Claverhouse	693	5	785	640
JPM Elect Man Gwth	960#	-5	1110	935
JPM Emerg Mkt.	102¼#	+1	139	98½
JPM Euro Sml Co	413	-1	582	374½
JPM Global Emerging	125#	-½	152	121
JPM Indian	751	-10	857	673
JPM Japanese	485½	-2½	729	465½
JPM Mid Cap	1035	-10	1565	954
JPM Overseas IT	435#	-4	470	403
JPM Smaller Co	298	-4½	472½	275
JPM US Sml Co	389½	-4	472	375½
Jupiter Euro.	701	-7	891	650
JZ Capital Partners	102½	-¼	127½	78
Keystone Inv.Tst.	224	+1	363	211
Law Debenture	776#	-6	830	703
Lowland Invest Co	123	-1¼	144½	114½
Majedie Inv.	189¾	-1	252½	180
Manchester&Lon.	418½	626	409½	
Martin Currie Prftio Tst.	313½	-3	433	304
Matrix Inc & Gwth 4	93½	99½	77	
Maven Income And Growth VCT 45	45	45	41	
Mercantile Inv Tst.	215	-2½	291	195½
Merchants Tst.	540#	-2	587	492½
Mid Wynd Int.	752	860	705	
Midas Inc&Gwth Tst.	176¼#	-½	195	171½
Monks Inv.Tst.	1010	+4	1472	979¾
Montanaro Euro Tst.	148	-2	225½	134¼
Montanaro Uk.	119½	+1½	182½	111
Murray Inc.Tst.	826#	+2	952	770
Murray Int.Tst.	1182	+4	1230	1076
New India	563	660	500	
New Star Inv.Tst.	131	-2	146	124
North Atl.Smlr.Tst.	3775	+50	4990	3680
Northern 2 VCT	65	70½	60½	
Northern Venture	68¾	77¾	65	
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	26½	27½	20	
Oxford Tech VCT	27½	27½	27½	
Pacific Assets	305	+3	371½	291
Pacific Horizon	623	-13	948	600
Pantheon Int.	302	-1½	351	254
Pershing Square Hold	2690#	+35	3115	2465
Polar Cap.Tech	2092	+12	2750	2010
RCM Technology Trust	248	370	240	
RIT Capital Partners	2565	-5	2765	2330
Ruffer Investment	309#	-2	316	281½
Schroder Asia	498	-7	641	485½
Schroder Inc.	298	-7	319½	281
Schroder Japan	193	+4	231	187½
Schroder UK	176½	-1½	255	166½
Schroder UK M&S	560	-2	796	514
Scottish American	476#	+3	543	446½
Scottish Inv.Tst.	868	-1	919	731
Scottish Mortgage	878¾	+2¾	1543½	834½
Shires Inc.	248½	+1	287½	233
Shires Smlr.Co	284	399	279	
Small Comp Div.Tst.	168	240	166½	
SPARK VCT	22	23	20	
Standard Life Equity	351#	-1	382	324
Standard Life UK Sml	569#	-6	784	529
SVM UK Emerging	86½	115½	86½	
Temple Bar	1076#	-6	1272	1008
Templeton Emrg.	140½	-1¼	208	137¼
The European Inv.Tst	101½	-¾	169¾	93
Throgmorton Tst.	702#	-10	1042	638
TR Euro.Growth	149	-2	192	134
TR Prop. IT.	448	-10	510	383
Caffyns	550	600	345	
Troy Inc & Growth Trust	72¾	+¼	82½	70¼
Value & Income	223½	-2	257	204
Witan Inv Trust	221#	-2	257	208½
Witan Pacific	272½	-7½	510	257½
Wwide Healthcare	3075	+20	3910	2960
Financial Services				
3i Group	1271	-5	1503½	1138½
3i Infrastructure	350	+5	362½	290
Abdn.	196¼	-1¼	302¼	179
Ashmore Group	227¼#	-9¼	419	221¼
Brewin Dolphin	289	-7	406	266
City of London Group	56½	-3	76	46½
Guinness Peat Group	71½	-2½	79¾	56
Hargreaves Lansdown	1016½#	-35	1772	995½
IG Group	783	-4	952½	717
Intermediate Cap.Grp	1594	-10½	2379	1385

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
International Pers Fin.	113	-1¾	155½	90
IP Group	89¼	-1	155¼	79
Jupiter Fund Man.	199	-1½	299½	178¼
Liontrust Asset Man	1162	-42	2485	1090
London Stock Ex.	7664	-54	8282	6370
Lonfin	38#	41½	34½	
M&G	224	-3¼	248½	178¼
Man Group	204½	-3½	242½	151½
Paragon Group	466¾	-10	617½	427¼
Provident Financial	271½	-6	381½	184
Rathbone Brothers	1640	-22	2065	1518
S & U.	2300	-10	2950	2140
Schroders	3085	-7	3871	2817
Schroders NV	1796	-24	2735	1732
St James's Place	1331	-45	1731½	1180
Tullett Prebon	111	-20	257	108
Walker Crips Group	29	-1½	36½	25½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	143	+½	160	71½
BT Group	178	+2¾	205½	135¼
Telecom Plus	1438	-18	1612	1010
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	2371	+46	3416	2060
Ocado	1188	-6	2236	1105
Sainsbury (J)	258½	+¾	340	235

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Kenmare Res.	442	-9	480	390
London & Ass.Prop	16	11½	10½	
Petra Diamonds	108	-4	185	60½
Petropavlovsk	2¼	-¾	27¾	1¼
PolyMetal Intl.	129¾	-38½	1729	92
Rio Tinto	5210#	-89	6658	4375½
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	122	+¼	142½	107
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1480	+5	1940	1205
Rights & Iss.Inc	2260#	-25	2790	2180
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group	2576	-77	3688	2439
Beazley Group	396#	-37½	504	294½
Direct Line Insurance	270	-4¼	322¼	251
Hiscox	905¼	-31	987½	770
Homeserve	646½	-21½	1212	608½
Lancashire	372	-30	725	346½
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	361#	+4½	417¼	278½
Cain Energy	191	-½	222¼	125½
Enquest	23¼	-1	27¼	15¼
Gulf Keystone Pet.	205½	+1½	242½	143
Premier Oil	393¼	-1¼	612¼	310
Shell	1940#	+13¼	2061½	1833½
Soo International	28	-1½	31¼	19
Tullow Oil	47¼	-2	65	40¼
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				



STENSON: Challenge

Skipper Stenson to bring humour

By Neil Squires

HENRIK STENSON has promised to bring a splash of colour to Europe after being charged with the task of winning back the Ryder Cup in Rome next year.

The Swede, who has signed a loyalty pact after flirting with the breakaway Saudi rebel tour, was unveiled as Europe's captain for the contest against USA at Marco Simone Golf Club in 18 months' time. Stenson, 45, says his quirky sense of humour will be part of the package for his team.

"They're going to get Henrik," he said.

"I don't see myself changing too much.

"In terms of the humour side of things, that's just in my nature. I've been able to bring it to the Ryder Cup in the past - I don't know if the green wig at the K Club is evidence enough - but I'm never too far away from laughter. We want to have a good atmosphere and a few jokes isn't going to hurt anyone."

Lee Westwood had been favourite to succeed Padraig Harrington as captain but pulled out of the running in November to try to make it to Rome as a player and break Sir Nick Faldo's appearance record.

Luke Donald also had his backers but lost out to Stenson after an interview process last week. It is a tough challenge after Europe were thrashed 19-9 by the Americans at Whistling Straits last September but they have a proud home record, having not lost on their own soil since 1993.

"The American side played a lot better golf than we did - we were outplayed by a better team," said Stenson.

"We have done a big debrief, which will help us. I'm going to get the strongest team possible assembled and we're going to come back stronger at Marco Simone in 2023."

'Disrespectful' Root should have shaken hands sooner

EXCLUSIVE

From Dean Wilson in Barbados

JASON HOLDER agrees with Carlos Brathwaite that England were "disrespectful" for not shaking hands earlier in the drawn first Test.

Although West Indies were just four wickets down and with Holder and Nkrumah Bonner well set to see out the draw, Joe Root refused to call time on his bowlers inside the final hour. Instead the England captain waited until there were five balls left and it was a mathematical impossibility that the tourists could win the game on a docile Antigua pitch.

Speaking as a pundit on BT Sport, Windies all-rounder Brathwaite said: "If I were [skipper] Kraigg Brathwaite or any of the other senior players in that dressing room I would have found it a bit disrespectful that in the last hour.

"Would England have done that if it was an Ashes Test or against India, New Zealand or Pakistan? I think the answer is no, so why have they done it against us?"

And in comments that will add spice ahead of today's second Test in Bridgetown, Holder is right behind that assessment. "I definitely know what Carlos said and I would be wrong if I probably didn't agree with him," he said.

"I thought they went on way too long. I thought from the last hour I told Bonner if we batted for five overs they would probably call it, but I was surprised they went on that long.

"Joe was well within his rights to stretch it that long, and in a sense I didn't mind because it gave the English team more overs in their legs. They had to toil a lot longer."

If the row serves to motivate the West Indies players at their traditional fortress of the Kensington Oval, then Brathwaite may just have played his part from the UK. Ahead of the 2015 tour, the Windies were described as "mediocre" by the then chairman of the ECB, Colin Graves. That came back to bite as the home side won

HOLDER BACKS CARLOS CLAIM

by five wickets on the same ground in Barbados to level the series.

But Root insisted he would employ the same tactic if he gets the chance this week. "I've seen those comments and I think it was slightly unfair," he said. "I have respect for every team we play against and we want to give ourselves every opportunity to win the game.

"I think he mentioned we wouldn't have done that against Australia. Well we did do that against Australia at Lord's [in 2019] - we will always try to give ourselves the best opportunity to go and win every Test match. It was a nice opportunity for Jack Leach to take four or five wickets, so you can open up wounds for the rest of the series as well."

●BT Sport is broadcasting England's tour of the West Indies. Watch the action from the second Test exclusively live on BT Sport 1 from 1pm today. Visit btsport.com/cricket



Saqib is handed debut to replace Wood

From Dean Wilson in Barbados

SAQIB MAHMOOD will make his Test debut in Barbados today as a replacement for the injured Mark Wood.

It is the only change from the side from the first Test, with Ollie Robinson not ready to return following his back spasms at the start of the tour.

While it is virtually impossible to replace what Wood offers, Mahmood is the most like-for-like substitute, with his pace and skiddy trajectory. The Lancashire fast bowler is also a handy

practitioner of reverse swing, which could be a big asset on another flat-looking pitch at the Kensington Oval. Mahmood, 25, has played in seven ODIs and 12 Twenty20s but now gets his chance in the longer format.

"We are going to miss Woody and his point of difference," said skipper Joe Root. "But Saqib is a great option to have up our sleeve. He's very mature for

a guy who hasn't played a huge amount of international cricket.

"We've made a strong point about having real clarity on what you are going to bring to the team when you come into it - and he's been very impressive.

"He's got a slightly different trajectory and will give us something different. Clearly he has good control, especially if the ball moves with reverse swing, so he offers a huge amount."



Hamilton back on track after debacle in desert and

By Simon Cass

new campaign roars off the start line.

Topping the drama of the previous year will take some doing. But with a fresh set of radical regulations, Hamilton, left, is relishing the challenge of once again trying to surpass

Michael Schumacher's title haul - and taking the fight to world champion Max Verstappen.

"It would mean everything to win an eighth title," said the Mercedes driver ahead of his 16th campaign on the grid.

"It is impossible to know what the future holds and what it would feel like, but doing

something that no one else has done would be mind-blowing."

Hamilton, 37, toyed with retirement after Red Bull's Verstappen, right, took advantage of a late safety car - and a hotly contested referee's call by the now sacked Michael Masi - to beat his British rival to the title at the season finale. But

Main picture: JASON CAIRNDUFF

ABOUT TIME... Jason Holder shakes hands with England's Joe Root as first Test is drawn

Would England have done that in the Ashes?



BABAR AZAM'S unbeaten century kept Pakistan alive to frustrate Australia's bid for victory in the second Test in Karachi.

As Pakistan chased a record victory target of 506, Babar combined with opener Abdullah Shafique in a 171-run unbroken partnership, spread over nearly 60 overs, for the third wicket. He finished day four on 102 with Pakistan on 192-2, still 314 behind their target and needing something extraordinary today to deny Australia a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

WORLD OF SPORT



Dina's on right track

DINA ASHER-SMITH says she is now a "stronger athlete" and will race in May's Birmingham Diamond League ahead of defending her world and European titles later this summer.

The British sprinter's hopes of glory at Tokyo 2020 were ruined by injury, although she did claim a bronze in the 4x100m relay. She



ASHER-SMITH

ATHLETICS

said: "Last year was full of emotional ups and downs, but I think I'm a stronger athlete now."

"I'm looking forward to returning to Birmingham for the first time since 2019 and to kick-start my season in the best possible way – happy and with great home support."

RUGBY LGE

WIGAN have paid tribute to former star David Stephenson, who has died aged 63.

Stephenson won 12 trophies in the 1980s with Wigan, whose director Kris Radlinski said: "He appeared such a cool guy who inspired many kids to play the sport."

WIGAN'S Kaide Ellis has been given a five-match ban for punching during Saturday's defeat by Catalan Dragons.

HOW THEY LINE UP

WEST INDIES:

Brathwaite (c), Campbell, Bonner, Blackwood, Mayers, Brooks, Da Silva (wk), Holder, Roach, Seales, Permaul.

ENGLAND:

Lees, Crawley, Root (c), Lawrence, Stokes, Bairstow, Foakes (wk), Woakes, Overton, Mahmood, Leach.

UMPIRES: G Brathwaite, J Wilson (both West Indies).

START: 2pm, BT Sport.

with Overton 'too risky'

Seamer Robinson is coming back to fitness but was considered "too much of a risk", having struggled with the same issue in Australia.

The knock-on effect of a bowling attack that is not fully fit is the amount of work that gets handed out to Ben Stokes, who had a long spell out of the game last year.

And England want to protect their talismanic all-rounder if they can. "We are going to have to be smart with Ben,"

added Root. "We were backed into a little bit of a corner last week with how things unfolded."

"But with Ben you tell him he can't do something and he does everything he can to prove you wrong."

"He's a leader, he wants to affect the game and you're desperate to win a Test match."

"He looked very threatening for large periods last week but you want to manage that as best you can."

eyeing his eighth title

Hamilton now says the bitter disappointment was a learning experience, as he sets about seeking revenge for the debacle in the desert.

He said: "Abu Dhabi was a difficult period. I had to unplug. I really needed the time to re-centre, refocus. I feel the healthiest, the fittest I

have ever been and the most focused, too. My work ethic is better than ever.

"I still love what I do. I am grateful I have still got that hunger. I know exactly what I want and I know how to get there."





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SERIAL Grand Slam winner Shaun Edwards has warned England that the days of France falling for their mind games are over.

The teams clash on Saturday with France just 80 minutes from a first Six Nations title and clean sweep since 2010.

'Le Crunch' has a history of provocation, and England head coach Eddie Jones this week told the unbeaten leaders the pressure of playing for a Grand Slam will be unlike anything they have known.

He took it a step further, instructing his team to make that "live in their head" even more by playing with such "intensity and ferociousness" it knocks France backwards.

But Les Bleus' defence coach, who won three Grand Slams in his 11-year stint with Wales, said: "We're a professional outfit, very well organised on the pitch and off it. The one thing we've improved a lot is our discipline."

"It's France versus England, so you would expect physicality, wouldn't you? We aim to play it hard but we aim to play it fair,

By Alex Spink

within the rules. England are a world-class team who I thought were absolutely outstanding with 14 players against Ireland.

"Any team with Ellis Genge and Maro Itoje is going to be formidable. We know we're in for a battle royal.

"Add to that this is France's biggest match since the 2011 World Cup final, a chance to win a trophy for the first time in 12 years. Of course there's pressure, but if you're playing at this level and you can't take pressure, let's be honest, you're in the wrong place."

Asked if playing before an expectant Stade de France crowd was to their advantage or not, Edwards said: "Put it this way, all four times I won the Six Nations with Wales the deciding game was in Cardiff. It's good to be at home. You have to enjoy the spotlight, relish the heat, welcome the attention. A day like this is what you play rugby for."

England have dropped wing Max Malins and hooker Jamie Blamire from the squad beaten by Ireland.

LEICESTER have been fined £309,841.06 but avoided a points deduction after a Premiership Rugby investigation found they had failed to comply with salary cap regulations.

It was discovered the league leaders had an arrangement whereby a third-party company made payments to image rights companies of Tigers players.

Payments over four seasons from 2016-17 to 2019-20 should have been part of their salary cap, but were not disclosed.

Leicester, who accepted the outcome, avoided greater sanction due to the salary cap being exceeded by less than the 'overrun' limit, from £325,000 to £350,000 each season.

Their highest 'overrun' was £147,750 in 2016-17.

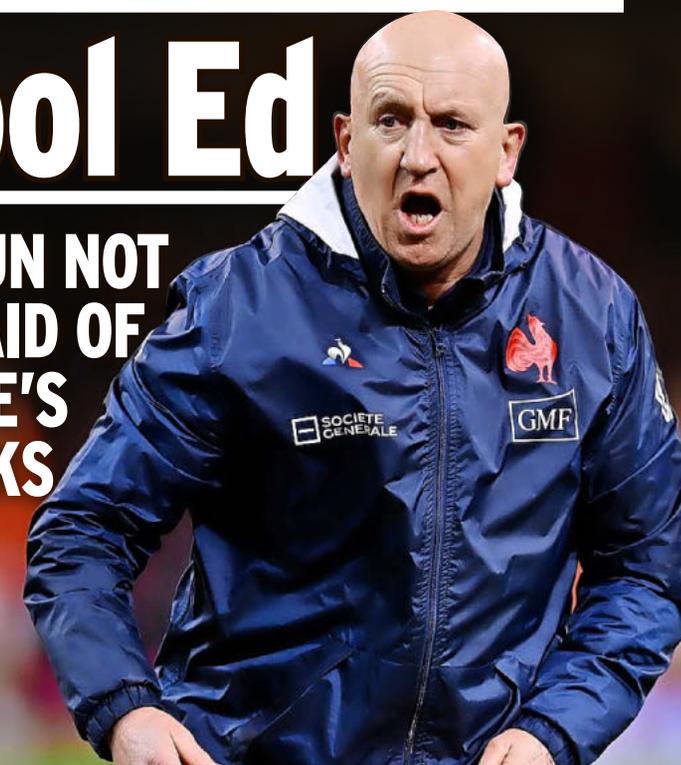
France have

cool Ed

SHAUN NOT AFRAID OF EDDIE'S TRICKS

A BORN WINNER

Edwards knows what it takes to seal a Grand Slam, having won three before



'Incredible' Jones back in side

ALUN WYN JONES has been thrown straight back into Wales' starting line-up against Italy on Saturday - despite playing no rugby for four-and-a-half months.

The 36-year-old, who has agreed a contract extension to take him through until next year's World Cup, will win his 150th cap for Wales after another improbable return to fitness. Jones, right, confounded the medics by

By Neil Squires

returning from a shoulder injury to join the British & Irish Lions tour to South Africa last summer and has done the same again to oust Will Rowlands.

"I know he has been out for a while but he has done incredible things to get his body back fit - which he did in the summer," said Dan Biggar, who will continue as captain as he earns his 100th Wales cap.



CALLUM BEST

PERFECT POSE: Robinson scores the winner in style



WEST BROM 1
FULHAM 0

By James Nursey

CALLUM ROBINSON struck to give West Brom a shock but deserved win over runaway leaders Fulham.

The visitors slid to a second league loss of 2022 as Steve Bruce's side continued to gel.

The Cottagers still look good for promotion with a healthy advantage of 11 points over second-placed Bournemouth.

But the Baggies have not given up joining them as they bid to gatecrash the play-offs.

Albion should have led at the break after a dominant half and got an ovation at the interval.

But they had to wait until the 63rd minute to finally beat inspired keeper Marek Rodak.

Albion, who came from 2-0 down to draw against

Robinson floors Cottagers as Bruce revival continues

Huddersfield in their last game, maintained the momentum from that comeback as Robinson and Karlan Grant had early efforts.

Darnell Furlong also tested Fulham with long throws.

Rodak was called into action in the 28th minute to punch away Grant's dipping effort.

Albion then appealed for a penalty when Harrison Reed caught Alex Mowatt contesting a high ball but referee Kevin Friend waved away the appeals. The hosts continued in

the ascendancy and Grant went even closer in the 34th minute.

This time he broke clear down the middle, shrugged off Tim Ream and hammered a low right-foot shot which Rodak did well to save with his feet.

Slovakia international Rodak, was called upon again soon after as he palmed away Robinson's left-foot shot.

Albion were unlucky once more before the break, when Reed poked

Conor Townsend's cross on to his own post.

It was the first time in three years

that Fulham did not have a shot on target in the first half.

The Cottagers did improve after the break when Fabio Carvalho curled a low right-foot shot past the post from outside the box.

But Bruce's men prevailed after Grant seized on a loose pass from Fulham defender Antonee Robinson to release Callum Robinson to score his seventh goal of the season with a low angled finish.

It was no less than Albion deserved and could yet set Bruce's side up for a late promotion push, with games against Bristol City and Birmingham to come.

WEST BROM (3-5-2): Johnstone 7; Ajayi 7; Bartley 7; Clarke 7; Furlong 8; Gardner-Hickman 8; Livermore 6; Mowatt 6 (Molunby 87); Townsend 7; Robinson 8 (Carroll 77); Grant 7 (Diangana 84). **Goal:** Robinson 63.

FULHAM (4-2-3-1): Rodak 8; Williams 6 (Muniz Carvalho 81); Adarabioyo 6; Ream 6; Robinson 4; Reed 6 (Cairney 72); Chalobah 6; Wilson 6; Carvalho 6; De Cordova-Reid 6 (Cavaleiro 72); Mitrovic 6.

WEST BROM v FULHAM

36	POSSESSION %	64
5	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
1	SHOTS OFF TARGET	7
3	BLOCKED SHOTS	0
8	CORNERS	8
7	FOULS	7
1	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	0

Source: Opta



YATES: Has just signed new contract

Yates is pulling up trees for Forest

NOTTINGHAM Forest's man of the moment Ryan Yates has been tipped to deliver in the club's biggest week of the season.

Steve Cooper's side are aiming to bolster their push for the top six after one defeat in 10 Championship games.

They also have a first FA Cup quarter-final in 26 years when Liverpool visit on Sunday.

Midfielder Yates struck from range in the weekend win against Reading and aims to net

NOTTM FOREST v QPR 7.45PM for the fourth successive game in tonight's visit by promotion rivals QPR.

The academy graduate has signed an improved contract at the City Ground until 2025.

Head coach Cooper said: "Ryan is in a good place. He has been integral and will be integral going forwards."

"The tougher the game and the tougher the situation, the better version of Ryan Yates you see. He won't back down

from anything. I like challenging him, pushing him and praising him because he takes it all in his stride.

"He has a lot of work to do as well but I am happy saying that because I know how committed he is to doing it and getting better."

Forest have been rocked by injuries to wing-back Max Lowe and Steve Cook, who are both out for six weeks.

Cook picked up an ankle injury in the closing stages of the win

over Reading and must sit out a crunch spell. But Cooper could still stick with a three-man defence and wing-backs by dropping Yates back.

QPR manager Mark Warburton is relishing his City Ground return, having managed Forest in 2017.

He said: "It will be a nice playing surface, a packed stadium and I look forward to it."

"We need to prepare well and meet the challenge."

JAMES NURSEY



SURGE: Dolan lifts Blackburn

Survival booster for Royals family

TOM INCE got his dad out of jail with a late equaliser at Bournemouth to boost Reading's survival hopes with a 1-1 draw.

Interim manager Paul Ince had been jeered by his own supporters with chants of "You don't know what you're doing" just minutes after hauling off star striker Lucas Joao.

Dominic Solanke, below, bagged his 22nd goal of the season in the eighth minute.

Ryan Christie wasted two good chances to put the game to bed.

Reading created little until Ince jnr smashed in from the edge of the area seven minutes from time.

The Royals are though only two points above the drop zone after Barnsley claimed a potentially priceless 2-0 victory against Bristol City at a raucous Oakwell.

Carlton Morris rifled in a 10th-minute opener before Poland defender Michal Helik added a second 11

ROUND-UP

minutes later. Relegation rivals Derby slipped back after Bradley Dack helped engineer Blackburn's stirring comeback to claim a 3-1 victory which ended their slump.

Dack came on at half-time and set up Rovers' crucial second goal to lift them up to fourth.

Defeat was tough on Derby, who led on 28 minutes via Ravel Morrison.

But Rovers hit back after the break through Scott Wharton,

Tyrhys Dolan and Sam Gallagher.

Middlesbrough climbed back into the play-off places with a 2-0 win at struggling Birmingham.

The visitors went ahead on 23 minutes when Aaron Connolly's shot went in off Birmingham defender Nico Gordon's shins.

After Paddy McNair missed a 51st minute penalty, the impressive Folarin Balogun curled in the second from 20 yards.



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THOSE WERE THE DAYS

ON THIS DATE IN SPORTING HISTORY

- 1872:** A crowd of 2,000 at the Kennington Oval saw Wanderers striker Morton Betts score in a 1-0 win against Royal Engineers in the first FA Cup final.
- 1991:** Simon Hodgkinson kicked five goals for England against France, taking his tally to a Five Nations championship record of 60 points for the season.
- 2001:** George Graham was dismissed as Tottenham manager after a meeting with new executive vice-chairman David Buchler.
- 2004:** Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan took his 500th Test wicket, bowling Australia's Michael Kasprowicz in Kandy.
- 2012:** India batter Sachin Tendulkar scored a record 100th international century, against Bangladesh.

- Who top-scored with an unbeaten 100 for India in the second innings of the third-Test defeat by South Africa in Cape Town in January?
- For which EFL Championship club did former Rangers winger Brandon Barker sign last month?
- Which former Hull FC and Hull KR rugby league coach died in February aged 91?
- Which Austrian skier won gold medals for Giant Slalom and Super-G at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano?
- Which American tennis player did Pete Sampras beat in the final to win his first Wimbledon title in 1993?
- Which Czech decathlete was the first to break 9,000 points?
- Which Jersey-born golfer is credited with creating an overlapping grip that bears his name?
- Which Canadian city hosted the 1954 Commonwealth Games?
- What race at Cheltenham did Istabraq win in 1998, 1999 and 2000?
- Who did Steve Davis beat in the 1981 final to win the first of his six World Snooker Championships?

10 to tackle
RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Rishabh Pant, 2 Reading, 3 Johnny Whiteley MBE, 4 Hermann Maier, 5 Jim Courier, 6 Roman Sebrie, 7 Harry Vardon, 8 Vancouver, 9 Champion Hurdle, 10 Doug Mountray.

IRON

Klopp hails 'tough cookie' Salah for his durability

ARSENAL V LIVERPOOL 8.15PM By David Maddock

RELIABLE: Salah has only missed nine league games at Liverpool

MO SALAH is not just a superstar, he is almost superhuman in the number of games he plays despite being kicked all over the pitch.

That is the message from Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, who believes his Egyptian king is an iron man in his ability to keep playing, despite the brutal attention he receives from defenders.

The German claimed it is "madness" how few fouls Salah is given, despite having the most number of attacking touches of any player in the Premier League. But he keeps coming back for more.

Since he arrived at Anfield in 2017, the Egyptian has played in an incredible 171 of a possible 180 Liverpool Premier League games, missing matches only occasionally while he was on Africa Cup of Nations duty, or struck with concussion and Covid.

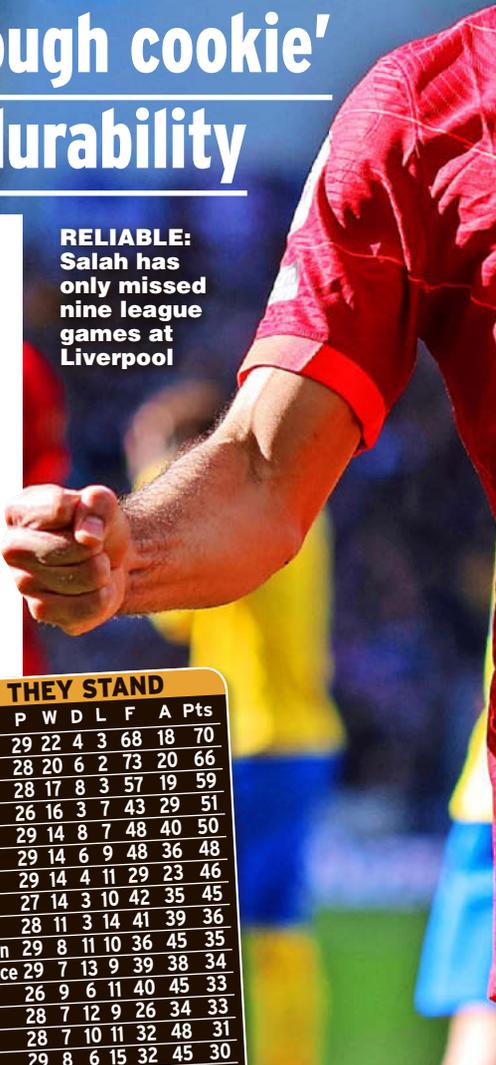
Despite yet another game last Saturday at Brighton where he was left with "serious swelling and pain" after being kicked on the foot, he seems certain to play at Arsenal tonight.

"It is not only luck - he was probably in since 9am yesterday... very professional and desperate to play each game," Klopp said of his player's resilience.

"The nine games [he missed], I probably left him out once or twice and that's really hard for him. He tries to be on the pitch in training and games if somehow possible.

"It is not possible to do miracles, it is sports science as well. He worked on his body.

"Mo has the right attitude, right mindset and right body for it as well. He is a tough cookie." Since he arrived



HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	29	22	4	3	68	18	70
Liverpool	28	20	6	2	73	20	66
Chelsea	28	17	8	3	57	19	59
Arsenal	26	16	3	7	43	29	51
Man Utd	29	14	8	7	48	40	50
West Ham	29	14	6	9	48	36	48
Wolves	29	14	4	11	29	23	46
Tottenham	27	14	3	10	42	35	45
Aston Villa	28	11	3	14	41	39	36
Southampton	29	8	11	10	36	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	7	13	9	39	38	34
Leicester	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Brighton	28	7	12	9	26	34	33
Newcastle	28	7	10	11	32	48	31
Brentford	29	8	6	15	32	45	30
Leeds	29	6	8	15	31	65	26
Everton	26	6	4	16	28	47	22
Watford	29	6	4	19	29	55	22
Burnley	27	3	12	12	22	38	21
Norwich	29	4	5	20	18	63	17

at Liverpool, Salah is the forward in the Premier League

with the most attacking touches in and around the penalty area. But incredibly, he is given the least number of fouls by referees of all forwards of his nature in the league, despite being in the most take-on situations.

Jack Grealish has the most fouls, around five per game, but on average over the past three seasons Salah does not even get one per game. Last season, it was two fouls for every three matches.

And Klopp believes that is a "crazy" statistic that referees must explain.

It's not just Kane future at stake says Conte

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9-Feb-23	Crown	£2,099
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8-Apr-23	Crown	£2,319

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MAN MO

Mind the gap - Arteta says Gunners have a way to go

MIKEL ARTETA says Arsenal are still far from where he wants them to be despite enjoying the best spell of his two-year reign at the club.

The Gunners face Liverpool on the back of five straight top-flight wins and the chance

By John Cross

in terms of what we are looking for. But I focus on that gap. And that gap is still big.

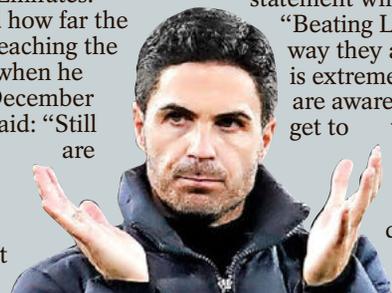
“We have to make things quicker, sharper. We can be more adaptable, we can be much more unpredictable, we can have much more flexibility and we can be much more consistent throughout games to maintain that level.

“We have unity now. Everybody is aligned with the same purpose, with the same level of passion to achieve what we want to do. One of the main factors has been the Emirates and our supporters.”

Arteta is looking for a statement win tonight. He said: “Beating Liverpool with the way they are playing today is extremely difficult and we are aware of that. But we get to the game with the belief and understanding of doing what we can do, the game is there for the taking.”

to get into the top four this season. But manager Arteta warned they are a long way from being the finished article, even though he is proud of the way the players have adapted to a culture change at the Emirates.

When asked how far the team is from reaching the targets he set when he took over in December 2019, Arteta said: “Still far. I think we are much closer than we were, and probably the closest that we have been



“When you compare Mo to other strikers it is crazy how low the number of fouls given to him is. It is madness,” said Klopp.

“He has the most touches in and around the box and there is no foul. Interesting. That is a fact.

“I cannot explain it. You must ask the referees. I honestly don't know. We constantly think he gets fouled and then he gets confronted with someone calling him a diver and it is an absolute shame. We don't get even close to the number of free-kicks we should get.”

ARSENAL (probable): Ramsdale; Cedric, White, Gabriel, Tierney; Partey, Xhaka; Saka, Odegaard, Martinelli; Lacazette.

LIVERPOOL (probable): Alisson; Alexander-Arnold, Konate, Van Dijk, Robertson; Keita, Fabinho, Thiago; Salah, Jota, Mane.

NO WORRIES ON CONTRACT TALKS

FROM BACK PAGE
any player and, for sure, not Mo of that. No chance.

“This season everyone is completely committed and then we'll talk about the rest - future, immediate, further.

“Mo is not a guy for that, not at all.

“If I don't line him up then his mood goes down. That is possible, but not against the team or whatever.”

Salah's agent appeared to rock the boat last week, with

what seemed like a mocking tweet immediately after Klopp, below, had suggested in his press conference that Liverpool “cannot do much more” with their offer.

Klopp has often reacted strongly to any dissent which seems to undermine the group, but he was adamant he did not read the tweet from Ramy Abbas Issa - a line of seven crying with laughter emojis.

And he said: “Maybe he is in a good mood. It's all fine, I don't know about any kind of reaction or stuff like this. That's not what I'm concerned about.”

Salah, who has helped Liverpool win the Premier League, Champions League and Carabao Cup since joining in 2017, looks likely to play at Arsenal, despite picking up a painful injury in the 2-0 win at Brighton on Saturday.



ANTONIO CONTE warned it is not just the future of Harry Kane that hangs on Tottenham finishing in the top four this season - but other key players as well.

And the Spurs head coach demanded more from his stars, such as Kane, left, and strike partner Heung-Min Son, to grab that crucial top-four place.

Spurs visit Brighton tonight in the middle of a run of spectacular inconsistency.

Conte's team have won three and lost four of their past seven league games, which has left them six points behind bitter rivals Arsenal in fourth

BRIGHTON V TOTENHAM 7.30PM By Tony Banks

place, with 11 games to play. Manchester United are considering a summer bid for Kane, who turns 29 in July and will have two years left on his contract.

Tottenham hope the presence of Conte, who the England captain has said he enjoys working with, will persuade him to stay.

But Conte, above, said: “We need to finish in the best position possible for everybody - not only for

Harry. It's important for our ambition. For the club, for me, for players like Kane.

“We have no guarantees Harry will be here, because now it is not important to speak about the future. The present is more important.”

But, Conte added: “If we hope to fight until the end, this is the moment I have to ask a lot of the big players. Of Harry, Hugo Lloris and Son. These players have to lead.”

Graham Potter is prepared to accept criticism and

shoulder the blame for Brighton's slump in the form. The Seagulls have lost their past five matches to slip into mid-table after a strong start to the campaign.

Head coach Potter said: “There will be people out there that are negative towards me and I understand that.

“The responsibility is mine in terms of performance, team selection and tactics.”

BRIGHTON (probable): Sanchez; Lamptey, Veltman, Dunk, Cucurella; Bissouma, Moder; March, Gross, Trossard; Maupay.

TOTTENHAM (probable): Lloris; Romero, Dier, Davies; Doherty, Bentancur, Hojbjerg, Reguilon; Kulusevski, Son; Kane.



SPORT IN BRIEF

UEFA Champions Lge Round of 16 Second Leg
AJAX (0).....0 BENFICA (0).....1
Nunez 77
Agg: 2-3; SL Benfica win 3-2 on aggregate.

MAN UTD (0).....0 AT MADRID (1).....1
Renan Lodi 41
Agg: 1-2; Club Atletico de Madrid win 2-1 on aggregate.

Sky Bet Championship BOURNEMOUTH (1).....1 READING (0).....1
Ince 83
BARNLEY (2).....2 BRISTOL C (0).....0
Morris 10 Att: 11,322
Helik 21

BIRMINGHAM (0).....0 MIDDLESBRO (1).....2
Connolly 23 Balogun 62
BLACKBURN (0).....3 DERBY (1).....1
Wharton 53 Morrison 28 Dolan 59 Att: 12,406
Gallagher 90

WEST BROM (0).....1 FULHAM (0).....0
Robinson 63

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	37	23	8	6	90	32	77
Bournemouth	35	19	9	7	56	31	66
Huddersfield	37	17	12	8	51	38	63
Blackburn	38	17	10	11	49	38	61
QPR	36	17	8	11	52	42	59
Middlesbro	37	17	8	12	48	40	59
Sheff Utd	36	16	9	11	50	40	57
Luton	36	16	9	11	49	41	57
Nottm Forest	35	15	10	10	50	34	55
Coventry	36	15	9	12	48	43	54
Millwall	36	14	12	10	37	34	54
West Brom	37	14	11	12	40	34	53
Blackpool	36	14	9	13	42	41	51
Preston	37	12	15	10	40	40	51
Stoke	36	12	10	14	45	42	46
Swansea	35	12	8	15	38	50	44
Cardiff	37	12	7	18	43	55	43
Bristol City	38	12	7	19	47	67	43
Birmingham	38	10	11	17	42	58	41
Hull	37	10	8	19	30	41	38
Reading	37	10	6	21	43	73	30
Barnsley	37	6	10	21	28	52	28
Derby	38	11	12	15	37	44	24
Peterborough	36	5	8	23	27	72	23

Sky Bet League One CHARLTON (1).....1 GILLINGHAM (0).....0
Gilbey 40
CREWE (0).....0 WIGAN (1).....2
Magennis 43 Keane 53 Att: 5,310

PLYMOUTH (0).....1 PORTSMOUTH (0).....0
Hardie 65
ROTHERHAM (2).....2 LINCOLN C (0).....1
Wiles 11 Hopper 81 Ogbene 13 Att: 9,575

SHEFF WED (0).....1 ACCRINGTON (0).....1
Paterson 66 Johnson 83 (og) Att: 20,688

SHRWSBURY (1).....5 MORECAMBE (0).....0
Udoh 44, 65 Leahy 47 (pen), 51 Bowman 70 Att: 5,804

WYCOMBE (0).....1 FLEETWOOD (0).....0
McCarthy 90 Att: 3,391

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rotherham	38	24	8	6	64	22	80
Wigan	36	23	7	6	62	33	76
MK Dons	38	21	10	7	63	38	73
Oxford Utd	38	20	8	10	73	48	68
Plymouth	37	20	8	9	60	39	68
Sunderland	38	19	9	10	66	48	66
Sheff Wed	37	18	11	8	60	41	65
Wycombe	38	18	11	9	62	47	65
Ipswich	38	16	12	10	57	39	60
Portsmouth	37	16	10	11	53	39	58
Bolton	38	16	7	15	59	49	55
Accrington	37	14	8	15	47	59	50
Cheltenham	37	11	14	12	52	60	47
Burton Albion	38	13	8	17	48	58	47
Cambridge	37	11	12	14	46	58	45
Charlton	37	12	7	18	43	49	43
Shrewsbury	38	10	12	16	37	37	42
Lincoln City	37	11	8	18	43	51	41
Fleetwood	37	7	12	18	50	67	33
AFC Wimbledon	37	6	15	16	39	58	33
Gillingham	38	7	12	19	29	59	33
Morecambe	38	7	11	20	46	75	32
Doncaster	38	8	5	25	28	73	29
Crewe	38	6	7	25	30	70	25

Sky Bet League Two Forest Green.....36 19 12 5 65 32 69
Northampton.....37 18 9 10 45 32 63
Newport City.....37 17 11 9 40 46 62
Tranmere.....37 18 8 11 43 32 62
Exeter.....35 16 13 6 52 35 61
Swindon.....37 17 10 10 61 45 61
Bristol Rovers.....37 17 9 11 52 42 60
Sutton Utd.....36 16 9 11 54 42 57
Port Vale.....35 15 11 9 53 35 56
Mansfield.....34 16 8 10 47 40 56
Salford City.....35 13 11 11 39 32 50
Hartlepool.....36 13 9 14 36 46 48
Bradford.....37 11 13 13 42 45 46
Walsall.....37 12 10 15 40 48 46
Crawley Town.....36 12 9 15 44 52 45
Harrogate Tn.....36 11 10 15 52 57 43
Rochdale.....35 8 16 11 40 46 40
Carlisle.....36 10 10 16 31 49 40
Colchester.....37 9 12 16 36 51 39
Leyton Orient.....35 7 16 12 43 37 37
Barrow.....36 8 13 15 32 41 37
Stevenage.....37 7 13 17 33 58 34
Oldham.....35 7 10 18 35 54 31
Scunthorpe.....37 4 12 21 25 63 24
BRISTOL R (0).....1 COLCHESTER (0).....0
E Anderson 49 Att: 7,314

CARLISLE (0).....1 NEWPORT (1).....2
Patrick 80 Demetriou 15 Att: 4,445 Azzaz 65

EXETER (2).....2 CRAWLEY TN (1).....1
Dieng 31, 44 Appiah 45 Att: 4,042

FOREST GRN (1).....1 L ORIENT (0).....1
Stevens 10 Sotiriou 67

HARTLEPOOL (0).....0 BRADFORD (0).....2
Foulds 70 Songo'o 76 Att: 5,106

PORT VALE (1).....3 MANSFIELD (1).....1
Wilson 33 Oates 22 Harratt 76, 88 Att: 5,233

ROCHDALE (1).....1 SALFORD CITY (0).....1
Lund 66 Att: 2,041

SCUNTHORPE (0).....0 BARROW (1).....1
Rooney 44 Att: 2,009

STEVENAGE (0).....1 NTHAMPTON (1).....2
Lines 82 McGowan 18 Pinnock 50 Att: 2,362

SWINDON (1).....2 SUTTON UTD (1).....1
Davison 14 Kizzi 28 McKirdy 49 Att: 8,243

TRANMERE (0).....2 HARRGATE (0).....0
Warrington 49 Att: 5,437
Hemmings 65 (pen)

WALSALL (1).....2 OLDHAM (1).....1
Osadebe 33 Sutton 21 Wilkinson 73 Att: 4,339

Vanarama National Lge BARNET (1).....1 BOREHAM W (0).....0
Mason-Clarke 13

FC HALIFAX (0).....1 BROMLEY (0).....0
Summerfield 64 Att: 1,693

SOUTHEND (0).....0 DAG & RED (2).....3
Atkinson 5 (og) Morias 28 Robinson 67 Att: 7,542

STOCKPORT (1).....3 NOTTS CO (0).....0
Madden 28, 71 Crankshaw 48 Att: 7,951

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport City	32	22	4	6	65	27	70
Chesterfield	33	17	4	12	59	33	63
FC Halifax	31	19	6	6	48	23	63
Wrexham	31	18	7	6	56	30	61
Boreham Wood	30	16	9	5	40	22	57
Salford Moors	31	15	10	6	52	32	55
Grimsby	32	17	4	11	48	31	55
Notts County	32	15	9	8	57	40	54
Dag & Red	32	16	4	12	59	41	52
Bromley	30	15	7	8	45	34	52
Torquay	32	13	8	11	48	46	47
Southend	32	12	12	12	55	44	44
Altrincham	33	11	7	15	52	54	40
Yeovil	32	10	9	13	28	35	39
Wealdstone	32	10	8	14	36	48	38
Barnet	32	10	8	14	41	56	38
Woking	33	11	4	18	44	48	37
Eastleigh	32	10	7	15	33	39	37
Maidenhead	32	9	8	15	35	55	35
Aldershot	31	8	7	16	33	50	31
Weymouth	33	5	7	21	32	64	22
King's Lynn Town	32	4	6	22	29	62	18
Dover	32	1	5	26	23	74	4

North: AFC Fylde 1 AFC Telford 1, Guiseley 3 Blyth Spartans 1, Spennymoor Town 0 Kidderminster 0, York 0 Curzon Ashton 0, Alfreton Town 1 Boston Utd 1. **South:** Bath City 1 Slough 1, Billerica 2 St Albans 1, Braintree Town 1 Ebbsfleet United 0, Concord Rangers 1, Tonbridge Angels 1, Dartford 2

Chelmsford 1, Eastbourne Borough 3 Dorking Wanderers 2, Hampton & Richmond 2 Welling 1, Maidstone Utd 2 Dulwich 0.

cinch Scottish League Two COWDENBETH (1).....1 FORFAR (1).....2
Mullen 36 Thomson 13 Munro 84 Att: 246

CRICKET 2ND TEST (Karachi, day 4 close): Australia 556-9dec (189 overs); Khawaja 160, Carey 93, Smith 72 & 97-2dec (22.3 overs). **Pakistan** 148 (53 overs) & 192-2 (82 overs); Babar Azam 102no, Abdullah Shafique 71no.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP - Gp Stage (Wellington): West Indies 131 (45.5 overs, Taylor 50); **Australia** 132-3 (30.2 overs, Haynes 83). **Australia (2pts)** win by 7 wkts.

TENNIS ATP & WTA BNP PARIBAS OPEN (Indian Wells, California, United States of America) - Men's Singles 3rd rnd: (6) M Berrettini (Ita) bt (30) L George Harris (Rsa) 6-4 7-5, M Kecmanovic (Ser) bt B Van de Zandschulp (Ned) 7-6 (7-3) 7-5.

Women's Singles 4th rnd: (24) S Halep (Rom) bt (26) S Cirstea (Rom) 6-1 6-4, P Martic (Cro) bt (28) L Samsonova (Rus) 7-6 (8-6) 6-4.

TODAY'S DIARY (7.45pm unless stated)
UEFA Champions Lge Round of 16 Second Leg Juventus (1) v Villarreal (1) (8pm).....
Lille (0) v Chelsea (2) (8pm).....

Boro blast 'pathetic' Blues request

FROM BACK PAGE

money has fuelled Chelsea's success.

"If they were to beat us in the FA Cup, with no fans there, what would that do to the integrity of the competition? Are they going to play all their Premier League games behind closed doors too? This is pathetic by Chelsea."

Gibson, right, then launched a much more personal attack on chairman Bruce Buck.

He said: "Where is the intellect of Bruce Buck, the chairman of Chelsea, who has been an apologist for his owner? Abramovich has been kicked

out of football and Bruce Buck should be kicked out of football, too."

An official statement from Middlesbrough added: "Given the reasons for these sanctions, for Chelsea to seek to invoke sporting 'integrity' as a reason for the game being played behind closed doors is ironic in the extreme."

About 600 Chelsea fans who bought tickets before the March 10 cut-off are expected to travel – with the players set to join them on a 10-hour round

trip by bus. Travel expenses have been restricted to £20,000 for away games, but head coach Thomas Tuchel feels that is not enough even to cover the basics.

"It isn't about luxury and bling-bling," Tuchel said. "This is just a professional level."

Meanwhile, UEFA have insisted Chelsea's Champions League tie in Lille tonight will "as it stands go ahead as scheduled" despite reports in France suggesting new EU sanctions on Abramovich could put it in doubt.



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A CALM VOICE IN THE STORM

Thomas showing a Tuch of class as Stamford Bridge ambassador

ASIDE from a few empty platitudes by technical director Petr Cech on Sunday, Thomas Tuchel has been a lone voice throughout the current Chelsea crisis.

But when it was put to him, ahead of the club's bid to carry on regardless into the last eight of the Champions League, he admitted he would not have it any other way.

And depending on which owners win the takeover battle after Friday's bidding deadline, it could be the making of him as one of the undisputed managerial giants.

"Did I have a choice to be an ambassador? No, I did not have a choice to take this role," Tuchel said.

"Do I need it? No, but it's more or less day-by-day. It's like this in England that not a lot of people in sports are talking at a football club. It's a structure I really

LILLE (0) V CHELSEA (2)
8PM, BT SPORT
By **Matthew Dunn**

appreciate. We talk inside and, of course, we have people who are in charge in different roles with different responsibilities.

"But, to the outside, it's more or less me that talks. Was it always comfortable? No, but I think it's necessary. I don't think too much about it.

"I try to be honest, give you insight, provide you with information, but more or less from a sporting side and a coach's heart.

"This is what you can rely on. I am more than happy if things calm down and we can speak about football more than ever." At Paris Saint-Germain the public rows were

Neco's 'horrible' time

NECO WILLIAMS is hoping to take a step nearer the World Cup today, despite revealing online trolls made him want to stay at home.

The on-loan Fulham full-back is set to be named in Wales' squad to play Austria in their World Cup play-off semi-final in Cardiff on March 24. If victorious, they will go on to meet

By **James Nursey**

Scotland or Ukraine. Williams, who is in line to win his 18th cap, said: "The first time I got abused on Twitter for one of my performances, I didn't want to be around anyone.

"I went to my house and stayed there on my own. Everything was horrible. I felt angry."



WILLIAMS: Criticised

Main picture: DARREN WALSH

PRIZED ASSET

Chelsea's new owners should try to forge a strong bond with boss Tuchel



with sporting director Leonardo, a spat which became so poisonous that Tuchel was fired one Christmas Eve.

Before that, initial success at Borussia Dortmund turned sour after chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke described his German coach as a "difficult person".

Things came to a head after Watzke agreed with UEFA to play a 2017 Champions League quarter-final one day after the team bus had been bombed – and Tuchel left soon after.

Since the start, despite stepping into the legendary boots of Frank Lampard, the chemistry at Stamford Bridge has just seemed right.

The first time Tuchel met Roman Abramovich was after winning the Champions League last May.

But any new owners would be well advised to forge a stronger bond with what is turning out to be their prized

asset – perhaps give him more support away from the football.

Tuchel, though, added: "Before we discuss a new owner, a new owner needs to arrive, a new owner needs to be approved and allowed to own the football club.

"Then we can discuss whether it's necessary to talk about it. Maybe, again, I'm not the right person because there is a process how you become an owner in this league.

"Of course, like I said after the last game, everybody relies on the reliability of the process and the values which are behind the decisions, allowances and commitment to own and run a club."

Right now, by trusting to his instincts, Tuchel is steering Chelsea through potential calamity to calmer waters and maybe even continued success.



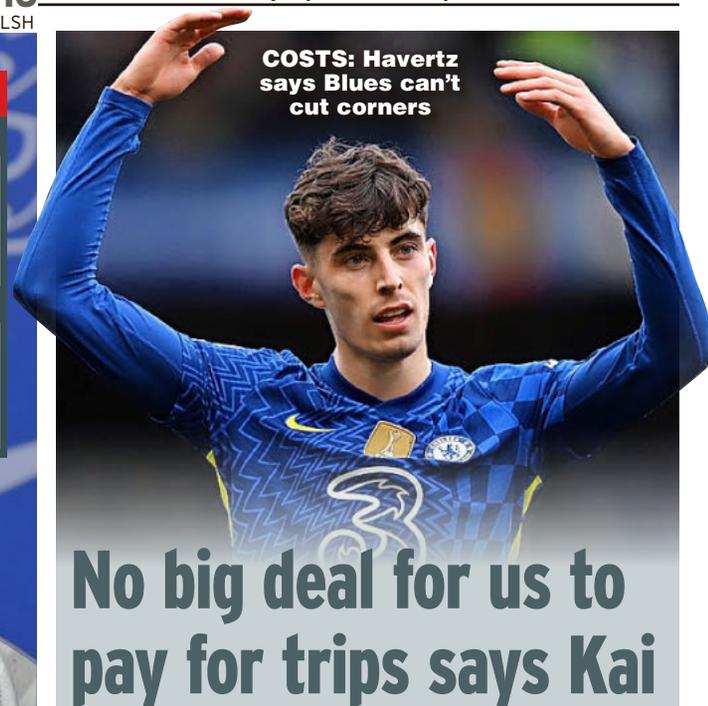
PSG FALLOUT: Leonardo was behind Tuchel Xmas Eve axe

HOW THEY LINE UP**LILLE (4-2-3-1)**

Jardim; Celik, Fonte, Botman, Djalo; Xeka, Andre; Bamba, Ben Arfa, Weah; David.

CHELSEA (3-4-3)

Mendy; Chalobah, Rudiger, Christensen; Azpilicueta, Kovacic, Kante, Alonso; Ziyech, Havertz, Mount.



COSTS: Havertz says Blues can't cut corners

No big deal for us to pay for trips says Kai

KAI HAVERTZ says the Chelsea squad would be prepared to pay their own way to games if it meant arriving in a professional manner ready to play.

The players have flown out for today's Champions League clash in Lille after travel arrangements were already booked before sanctions were brought against owner Roman Abramovich on March 10.

But with a £20,000 cap on future away trips in place, Havertz feels the squad would chip in rather than cut corners.

"I would pay, it's not a problem," he said. "That's not a big deal for us.

"For us to come to the games, that's the most

By **Matthew Dunn**

important thing. There are a lot of harder things in the world than us having to take the bus or plane to an away game."

The in-form striker admits the pressure is on the players but also called for some perspective.

"The best we can do at the moment is to play good football, try to give the fans a smile during this situation," added Havertz.

"There are a lot of bigger things happening right now than us playing football.

"You see the images [in Ukraine] and you think it's not possible things like this can happen."

Abramovich chants 'not so important'

THOMAS TUCHEL has rounded on Boris Johnson, suggesting that the Prime Minister has bigger concerns than whether Chelsea fans sing for Roman Abramovich.

Tuchel had already condemned his supporters for interrupting the tribute to Ukraine by calling out the sanctioned Russian owner's name at Burnley.

Then, on Monday, the PM's spokesman called out the "inappropriate behaviour" of fans backing Abramovich.

But asked about it ahead of Chelsea's Champions

League trip to Lille, Tuchel said: "I don't know if, in these times, it is the most important discussion to have in Parliament.

"I don't know if fan chants being discussed in Parliament means that we have to worry about the priorities of this Government.

"We have far more urgent things to discuss and handle."

Meanwhile, the Court of Arbitration for Sport has upheld the decision to ban Russian teams in UEFA competitions.

MATTHEW DUNN

SPOTIFY BREAK NOU GROUND

BARCELONA have agreed a "long term" sponsorship deal with streaming service Spotify which includes naming rights for their Camp Nou home.

From July 1, Spotify's name will appear on the front of both the men's and women's team shirts and training kits.

Barca's iconic stadium will be rebranded as Spotify Camp Nou – the first time the famous arena has carried a sponsor's name. Club

president Joan Laporta hailed the arrangement as "a pioneering alliance".

He added: "This partnership will allow us to continue to bring the club closer to its fans and make them feel even more part of the Barca family."

The deal has been approved by the club's board and is subject to ratification at an Extraordinary Delegates Members Assembly on April 3.



ERIKSEN: Friendlies

Miracle man Eriksen back in Danish squad

CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN has been recalled to the Denmark squad for the first time since suffering a heart attack at Euro 2020.

Eriksen has not played for his country since a cardiac arrest during the match against Finland in Copenhagen last June, and undergoing life-saving treatment on the pitch.

But yesterday the midfielder, who has 109 caps

By **Alex Richards**

and 36 goals for Denmark, was named in the 23-man squad for friendlies with Holland and Serbia at the end of this month.

The ex-Tottenham star, 30, has made an impressive return to action in the Premier League since joining Brentford in January. Denmark manager Kasper Hjulmand said: "I expect Christian to be a

deciding factor for our team. I did not expect him to play right now. Realistically, I thought he would be ready by the summer.

"Christian is with the squad because he is the best in that position. He's in a really good physical shape.

"I saw him against Burnley on Saturday where he was the best player out there. He is a player who thinks faster than most."

De Gea still a safe pair of hands in a team lost in fog

FOR David de Gea last night was personal.

The United goalkeeper emerged from the Atletico academy to play for the first team as an 18-year-old and spent seven years in Madrid before his move to Manchester United. He has been a long time gone, but first love cuts the deepest.

One of Atletico's nicknames is Los Colchoneros, which translates as the Mattress Makers. De Gea would have dearly loved a clean sheet against them last night.

Sadly, there haven't been too many of those for United this season – eight in all competitions – but that has been no fault of de Gea's. He has been a beacon of light in a foggy confusion of a campaign for the club.

This was a seminal game for United in the context of a messy Premier League season and it felt like it from the atmosphere generated inside Old Trafford.

In need of a lick of paint the old place may be, but on nights like these it still feels pretty special.

The noisy travelling fans from the Spanish capital added to the volume and the sense of occasion with the sides locked together from the first leg and a Champions League quarter-final spot on the line. It was a night for a hero.

De Gea made his application for the role early on with a flying save high to his right to palm away Rodrigo

BEACON OF HOPE: De Gea did his bit in a lost cause

By Neil Squires
Chief Sports Reporter

De Paul's long-range drive. It was a thing of beauty for the Stretford End to appreciate.

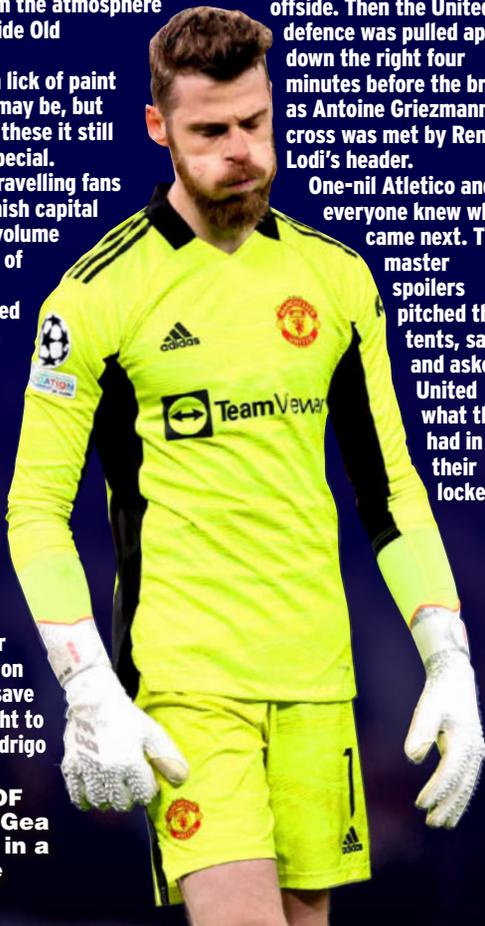
As a shot-stopper he has few peers. If only his distribution hit the same mark. The early clearance from outside his box which glanced off Joao Felix could have gone anywhere.

The shank to the feet of De Paul seven minutes after the break, having been played into a cul-de-sac by Harry Maguire, required a face-saving sprawl to his left.

With Atletico content to absorb and hit United on the break, De Gea's brief was often of the watching variety but the visitors carried a threat nonetheless.

They had hit the United net once already through Felix, only to have the goal ruled out for offside. Then the United defence was pulled apart down the right four minutes before the break as Antoine Griezmann's cross was met by Renan Lodi's header.

One-nil Atletico and everyone knew what came next. The master spoilers pitched their tents, sat in and asked United what they had in their locker.



REDS MUST

MANCHESTER UNITED 0

ATLETICO MADRID 1

ATLETICO WIN 2-1 ON AGG

By Gideon Brooks

CONFIRMATION just a day before this game that a rebuild was being planned at Old Trafford, quite possibly from the ground up, could not have been better timed.

After this defeat at the hands of Atletico Madrid, which left Manchester United's season clinging on to hope with fingernails alone, a reconstruction starting from scratch might just be the most suitable plan of action.

Renan Lodi's first-half header was the difference between two

Time to start from scratch as United crash out of Europe

evenly-matched teams and ended United's involvement in the Champions League.

Of more concern is that their dwindling hopes of a top-four Premier League finish mean nights like this may not be back any time soon.

Interim manager Ralf Rangnick has insisted they will not give up with 27 points to play for – and he is right not to. But not only are the odds stacked against them, he will have his work

cut out in lifting his squad, half of whom may now be eyeing the exit door.

When the dust settles on this, United may reflect that the last 16 is about where they are as a side relative to the best.

Rangnick had perhaps acknowledged as much, calling for Old Trafford to turn up the heat and the volume.

He got his wish with a bright and aggressive opening in front of a

Nunez nets to stun Ajax

ERIK TEN HAG's prospects as Manchester United's next potential manager took a major knock as his Ajax side were turfed out of the Champions League.

Ten Hag, highly fancied at Old Trafford to take over as permanent manager in the summer, saw his team fall to Darwin Nunez's header 12 minutes from time in Amsterdam.

The Dutch side had only themselves to blame as they dominated the game but could not take their chances. Benfica defended heroically and then

AJAX 0 BENFICA 1
BENFICA WIN 3-2 ON AGG

struck out of the blue when Alejandro Grimaldo swung in a free-kick and Nunez got in front of Ajax goalkeeper Andre Onana to head home.

The visitors were pinned inside their own penalty area for most of the game. But Steven Berghuis volleyed over, Jurrien Timber and Brazilian winger Antony both missed and Ryan Gravenberch was denied by Benfica keeper Odisseas Vlachodimos.

TONY BANKS



HEADS WE WIN:
Lodi scores the
decisive goal



**OBLAK
BEAUTY**
Atletico
keeper
saves from
Elanga,
above, and
frustrates
Ronaldo



BUILD BETTER

terrific atmosphere into which the game tumbled into life.

Inside the first quarter of an hour Anthony Elanga twice went close to adding to his goal from the first leg, heading just over in a robust challenge with goalkeeper Jan Oblak and then glancing Bruno Fernandes's square pass straight into the fortunate Oblak's head at the near post from three yards out.

It was not one-way traffic either, Rodrigo De Paul bringing a fine diving save from David De Gea on 16 minutes.

If United enjoyed the majority of possession, Atletico carried a threat on the counter-attack and Rangnick's men were given a warning just after the half-hour

mark, with a sweeping move from Koke to Marcos Llorente on the overlap taking out Alex Telles, and his square ball slotted home by Joao Felix. Fortunately for United, Llorente had strayed just offside in the build-up.

But just before half-time Atletico had the ball in the net again and this time it stood.

United were aggrieved that Elanga had a charge down the right flank checked by Reinaldo, only to see the appeal waved away correctly by the referee.

From the breakdown, Atletico broke quickly upfield, getting the ball to Felix just in front of Telles at left-back. A neat back-heel wrong-footed United's set defence,

Antoine Griezmann lofted a cross to the back post and Lodi nodded in unmarked.

It was a blow to concede so close to half-time but United pressed again, Fernandes firing another shot from outside the box that needed a solid block from Oblak.

And they came out firing at the start of the second half, Elanga played in for a run on goal by Fernandes but sending his shot narrowly wide.

Rangnick threw on all his best substitutes on the hour mark – Paul Pogba, Marcus Rashford, Nemanja Matic and then Edinson Cavani.

And they pressed and pressed late on, Raphael Varane going close with a header from Telles free-kick.



FACING DEFEAT: Strain shows as Rangnick looks on

RATINGS

BY GIDEON BROOKS

[express.co.uk/sport](https://www.express.co.uk/sport)

MAN UTD (4-2-3-1)

De Gea	7
Dalot	7
Varane	7
Maguire	6
Telles	6
McTominay	7
Fred	8
Elanga	7
Fernandes	6
Sancho	6
Ronaldo	6

SUBS

Matic (McTominay 67)	7
Rashford (Elanga 67)	7
Pogba (Fernandes 67)	7
Cavani (Fred 75)	7
Mata (Maguire 84)	7

ATLETICO (3-5-2)

Oblak	7
Gimenez	6
Savic	6
Reinaldo	6
Llorente	6
De Paul	6
Herrera	6
Koke	8
Lodi (GOAL 41)	7
Felix	7
Griezmann	7

SUBS

Kondogbia (Koke 80)	7
Correa (Griezmann 90)	7
Sequeira (Felipe 90)	7



MAN OF THE MATCH

KOKE – Pulled the strings in midfield for Atletico

MAN UTD v ATLETICO

58	POSSESSION %	42
5	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
6	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
1	BLOCKED SHOTS	1
5	CORNERS	2
14	FOULS	12
2	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	0

Source: Opta

FORM GUIDE...

Man Utd	LWLD D
Atletico	WWW D

[express.co.uk/sport](https://www.express.co.uk/sport)

DAILY EXPRESS SPORT

express.co.uk/sport

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MO WORRIES? NO WAY

JURGEN KLOPP says there is "no chance" Mo Salah will allow his contract dispute to disrupt Liverpool's Quadruple bid.

And the Reds manager insisted talks are ongoing and "how they should be" with the Egyptian superstar, despite suggestions from the player's agent to the

ARSENAL V LIVERPOOL 8.15PM
By **David Maddock**

contrary. Asked whether he would need to speak to the player and his agent about concerns the negotiations could overshadow Liverpool's season, Klopp said: "No, I don't have to remind
TURN TO PAGE 55, COLUMN 2

CHELSEA'S CUP GAFFE

By **Matthew Dunn**

CHELSEA were forced into an embarrassing climbdown last night after Middlesbrough labelled attempts to get Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final played behind closed doors as "pathetic".

The FA confirmed Chelsea had "agreed to remove its request" after claiming the ban on selling tickets to their own fans as part of sanctions against Roman Abramovich would damage the "integrity" of the competition.

But it came too late to stop a spat between the sides, with Boro chairman Steve Gibson particularly angry. He said: "Sporting integrity and Chelsea do not belong in the same sentence. For 19 years corrupt

TURN TO PAGE 56, COLUMN 1

MAN UTD **0** **1** **ATL MADRID**
ATLETICO WIN 2-1 ON AGGREGATE

RED AND BURIED

OVER AND SHOUT: United players complain to referee after Atletico's goal

United trophy drought drags on after flop



MANCHESTER UNITED'S trophy drought will extend into a sixth season after Atletico Madrid sent them tumbling out of the Champions League last night.

A 41st-minute header by Renan Lodi, right, gave Diego Simeone's streetwise scrappers a win at Old Trafford to earn a place in the quarter-finals. And the home fans, who thought United should have had a free-kick in the

By **Neil Squires** Chief Sports Reporter

build-up, showed their frustration by hurling missiles at Atletico boss Diego Simeone as he ran down the tunnel at the end.

With their Champions League hopes over, United are now only left chasing fourth place in the Premier League, but even that is looking increasingly beyond them.

MATCH REPORT: PAGES 58-59



EXCLUSIVE: ROOT GUILTY OF DISRESPECT - HOLDER

2ND TEST PREVIEW: P50-51

A TUCH OF CLASS IN A CRISIS

LILLE V CHELSEA:
PAGES 56-57



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ABCDEFGHIJKL PQRS *TUW1234WBDS

Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

DIFFICULT

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

Extra clues:
0901 322 5609

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
				8								
9								10				
11												
												12
13		14						15				
						16						
	17										18	
19												
20							21					
22												23

ACROSS

- 1. Moist (4)
- 3. Erupt (5,3)
- 9. Do (7)
- 10. Messenger (5)
- 11. Lop-sided (12)
- 13. Sinning (6)
- 15. Mourn (6)
- 17. Association (12)
- 20. Fragrance (5)
- 21. Bother (7)
- 22. Scatter (8)
- 23. Departed (4)

DOWN

- 1. Corrupt (8)
- 2. Cheerful (5)
- 4. Distant (6)
- 5. Betterment (12)
- 6. Neutralise (7)
- 7. Playthings (4)
- 8. Proportionate (12)
- 12. Humble (8)
- 14. Computes (7)
- 16. Gap (6)
- 18. Illustrious (5)
- 19. Attack (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: 18 mins
Good: 14 mins Excellent: 10 mins

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. **Solution tomorrow**

D E I K L N O R R

SMALL CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6		7
				8				
9						10		
11								12
13		14						
				15			16	
17						18		
19								
	20							

ACROSS

- 1 Praise highly (8)
- 8 Soft felt hat (6)
- 9 One on a computer (4)
- 10 Lucy __, Kill Bill actress (3)
- 11 Blunt weapon (6)
- 13 With sincere intentions (2,7)
- 15 Guard's round (6)
- 17 Donkey (3)
- 18 Fleshy part of the ear (4)
- 19 Topics (6)
- 20 Adhesive dressings (8)

DOWN

- 1 Cue detail (anag.) (9)
- 2 Not celebrated (6)
- 3 Told fibs (4)
- 4 Produces, creates (9)
- 5 Revered person (4)
- 6 Figure out (5)
- 7 Perfect (9)

DOWN

- 12 Weather map line (6)
- 14 Artist's stand (5)
- 15 Cougar (4)
- 16 Loose flowing garment (4)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:

0907 181 2582

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO

		10		12			43	31			24	9
10						8					15	
4						14					6	
7						3					10	
						12					15	
						25						
						14						
						17					11	7
						18					6	
9						7					8	
13						13					6	

Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence - across and down - must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

- 7 and 18** Alan Parker film starring Mickey Rourke and Robert De Niro (5,5)
- 8** Island off the coast of La Rochelle, France (3,2,2)
- 9** Kenneth, Best Actor in a Leading Role and Best Director Oscar nominee for 1989's Henry V (7)
- 10** Ancient measure based on the length of the forearm (5)
- 12** Athletic event also known as the hop, step and jump (6,4)
- 15** 1929 novel by Dashiell Hammett (3,7)
- 18** See 7
- 19** Doris, author of the 1971 novel Briefing For A Descent Into Hell (7)
- 21** In American football, the area behind the goals that the ball must cross for a touchdown to be awarded (3,4)
- 22** Robert, US actor whose television roles included Dan Tanna in the series Vega\$ (5)

- 5** 'The ---', 1959 Margery Sharp novel featuring the mice Miss Bianca and Bernard (8)
- 6** Silvery-grey element whose symbol is Tb (7)
- 11 and 16** 1998 novel by Sarah Waters (7,3,6)
- 13** 'The --- --- ---', 1909 children's story by L Frank Baum (4,2,2)
- 14** Gareth, Wales rugby union scrum half who played 53 consecutive internationals from 1967-78 (7)
- 16** See 11
- 17** Unit of fluid measure equal to one sixtieth of a drachm (5)
- 20** Terrestrial gastropod mollusc having an absent or reduced shell (4)

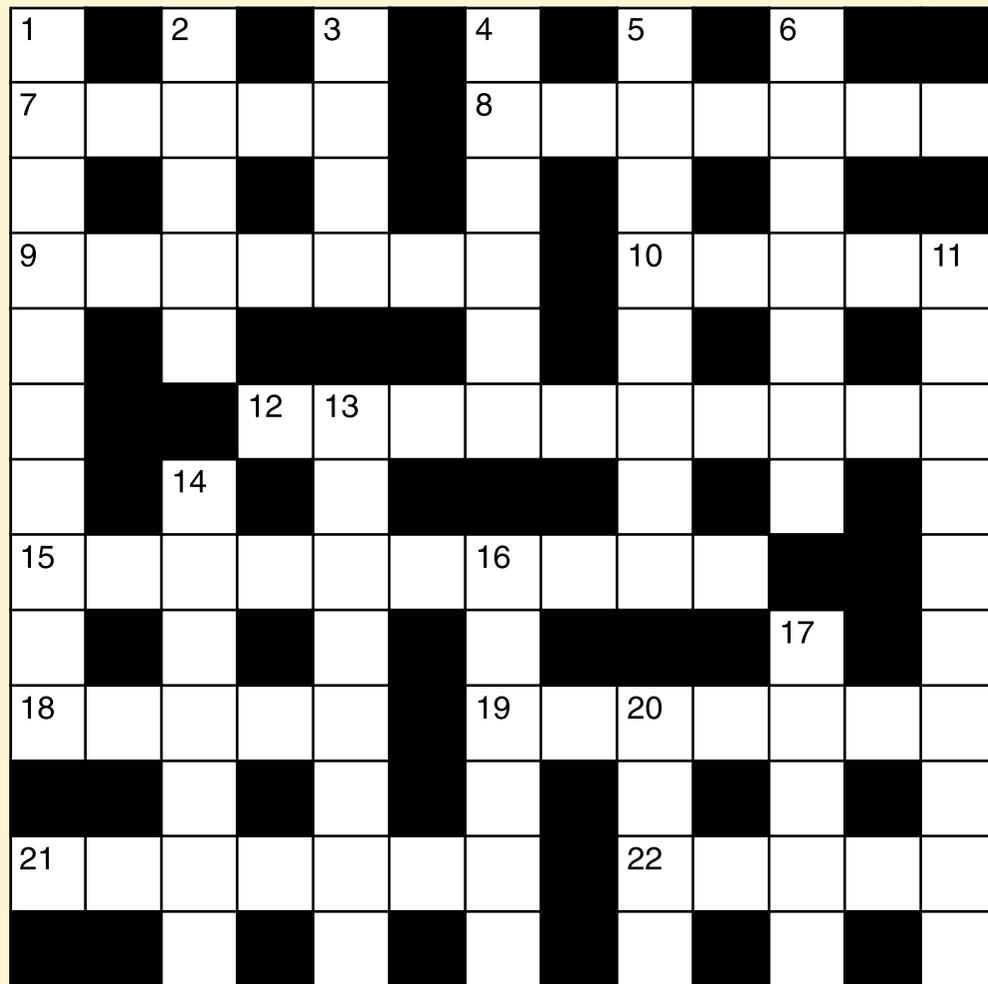
Solution tomorrow

DOWN

- 1** Structure designed by John Nash that was moved in 1851 to Hyde Park in London (6,4)
- 2** Samantha, Best Actress in a Leading Role Oscar nominee for The Collector (5)
- 3** Small wingless blood-sucking insect noted for its power of leaping (4)
- 4** Chesspiece that can only move diagonally (6)

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or
the full solution

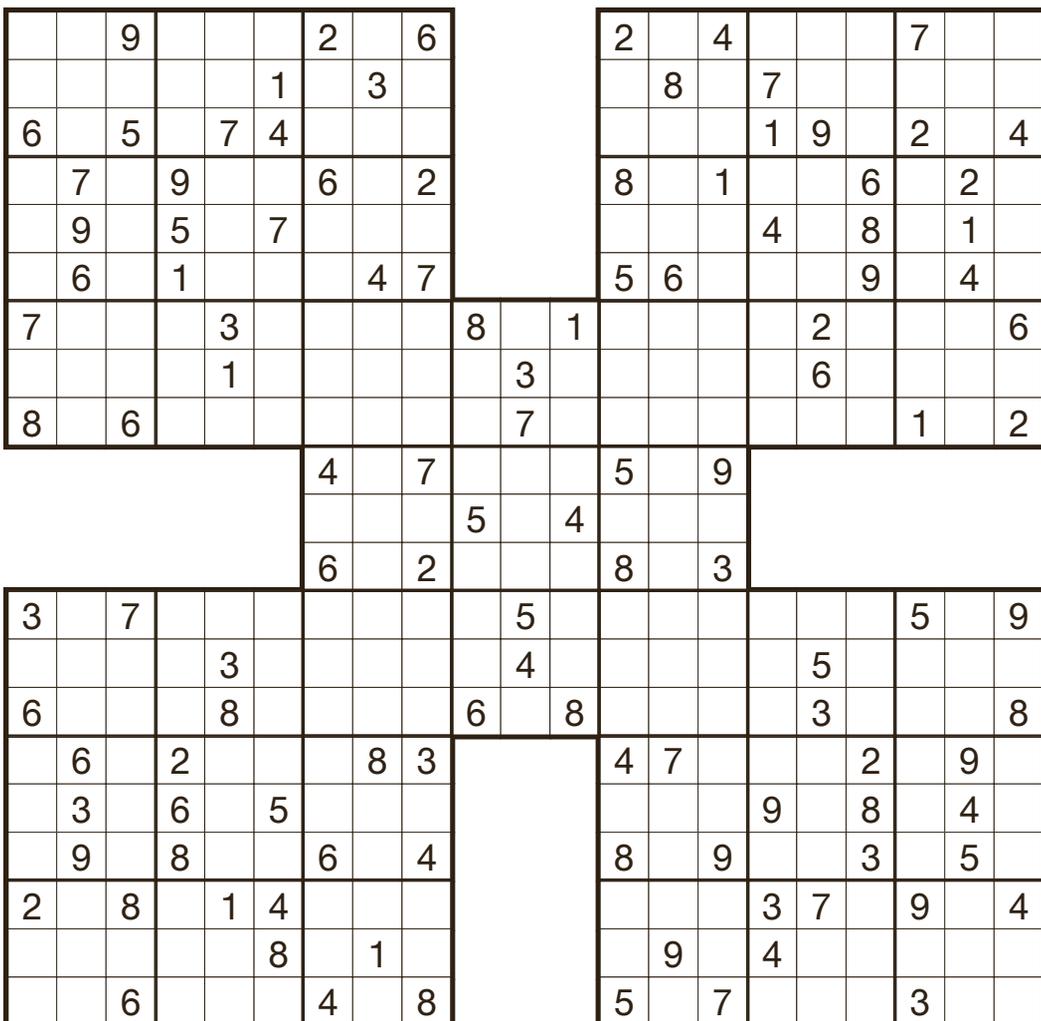
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SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow



WORD BUILDER

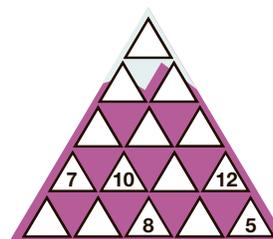
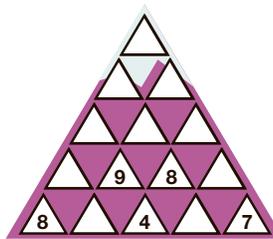
Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

Solution tomorrow

- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
- 1 Rodent
 - 2 Wagon
 - 3 Vestige
 - 4 Row
 - 5 Squeaking noise
 - 6 Garden implement
 - 7 Hearing organ

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?

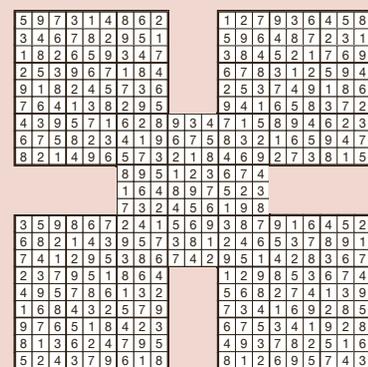


Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

- Across:**
7 Asgard;
8 Nutria;
10 Lesotho;
11 Pieta;
12 Bail;
13 Beach;
17 Dover;
18 Jena;
22 Chaff;
23 Grendel;
24 Titian;
25 Mohair.
Down:
1 Wallaby;
2 Agustin;
3 Frith;
4 Suspect;
5 Ariel;
6 Sagan;
9 Sovereign;
14 Dorfman;
15 Feldman;
16 Calleri;
19 Scott;
20 Marty;
21 Besom.

SAMURAI SUDOKU



SMALL CROSSWORD

- Across:** **2** Harbours, **9** Elliot, **10** Told, **11** Love, **13** Sonic, **14** Newsagent, **16** Alien, **19** Tutu, **20** Heat, **21** Overdo, **22** Remnants.
Down: **1** Detonator, **3** Allow, **4** Ride, **5** Bossa nova, **6** Upon, **7** Ravine, **8** Spectator, **12** Deluge, **15** Exert, **17** Item, **18** When.



ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow

WORDSEARCH

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

CANADA

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

- BEAR ● BEAVER ● FIRST NATIONS ● GOOSE
- GREAT LAKES ● ICE HOCKEY ● INUIT
- KAYAK ● LACROSSE ● MAPLE LEAF
- MONTREAL ● MOUNTIES ● OTTAWA
- PROVINCE ● ROCKIES ● SYRUP
- TERRITORY ● TORONTO

Sign of an old wound	Poke	Protest (to)	Computer in '2001: A Space Odyssey'	Dance	Towards dry land
Type of beetle			Plant louse	Cooked pastry	
River crossing	Hospital ward for critical patients (abbr.)	Louis-Dreyfus, pictured actor			Field borders
			Non-conformer	Resound	
Academic	Whiskey grain	One of the Seven Dwarfs	Shed a tear	Pronoun for a ship	Ship's prison
				Commanded	
Fresh-water fish	Pleasant	Hurry	Exclude	Tip one's hat	151 in old Rome
			Shabby	Set of principles	Norwegian capital
				Due time (abbr.)	
Atom centres	Forearm bone	Casual chat (4,6)			Pride
		Pull		Victorian 1837-1901	Places
					R in the NATO alphabet
Currency of Romania		Children's game			1+2+3+4
					Ed. comedian
Jagger, pictured	Posterior		Idiots	The Devil, informally (3,4)	At the summit
		Christmas show			Golf peg
					Word that can go before annum or capita
		Revise text	Part of an atoll		Grizzly, e.g.
				Plaything	Vegetables
					Mar
Needle-case	Be victorious			Uncanny	
			Anger		Maine's country
Fateful days, for Caesar	Spasm			Interleaves	
					3:00, on a compass
			Greek island		Negative



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 6 Laundry; 7 Vogue; 9 Stray; 10 Liberty; 12 Destructive; 14 Discourtesy; 18 Correct; 19 Droll; 21 Realm; 22 Cunning.
Down: 1 Hasty; 2 Insane; 3 Let; 4 Covert; 5 Furtive; 8 Situate; 11 Staunch; 13 Disobey; 15 Circle; 16 Spring; 17 Fling; 20 Out.

WORDSEARCH

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

ARROW-WORD

E	B	C	T	T
R	I	N	S	E
M	C	C	L	A
S	P	O	R	T
E	R	A	M	I
D	E	M	I	O
E	B	L	U	N
O	I	L	L	S
V	N	E	W	E
A	L	A	I	D
A	W	O	L	T
S	M	A	L	L
A	Y	E		

H A M S G O D I V A
 T A T J A S O N
 T A K E T O S
 D I O R A M A P U R E
 C R E T I N H E I R
 G E Y S E R V I S O R

SUDOKU EASY

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

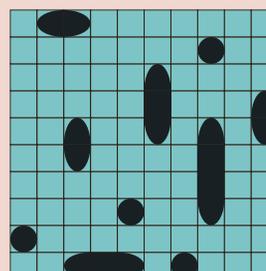
SUDOKU MEDIUM

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

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

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

BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

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

KEIJO

2	4	3	1
3	1	4	2
1	3	2	4
4	2	1	3

TARGET

CANDLELIT
 acid acne acted antic cadet call called candle CANDLELIT cane caned cant canted cedilla cell cent citadel cite cited clad clan clean cleat client dace dance decant deltaic dialect dice edict enact iced lace laced lance lanced lancet lectin lentic lilac nicad nice talc

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Allegory, Entree, Anyway, Piquant, Thumb, Oboe, Fox, Urn, Just, Title, Enforce, Bronze, Snivel (clue), Kindness.
Down: Tactless, Lunch, Forfeit, Gearbox, Calk, Produce, Yeti, Uttered, Treason, Lazes, Estrange.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 1, 5, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 29, 32, 33, 38, 39.
Across: White, Magic, Rebus, Scallywag, Vex, Debug, Isle, Lynx, Jerky, Axe, Quiescent, Savoy, Seize, Chips.
Down: Whereas, Duvet, Dew, Tussle, Askew, Measurement, Amply, Kitsch, Fly, Vital, Noxious.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: GIFTS
Down: PARTY

SUMMIT UP

74 and 80

WORD BUILDER

Her, Here, Sheer, Sphere, Peers, Seep, See

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WITH

William HILL

CHELTENHAM

Festival

2022



Honeysuckle
scores a
second
Champion
Hurdle success

**HONEY
BUNCH:**
Rachael
Blackmore
urges
Honeysuckle
up the
Cheltenham
hill after the
last flight

IN FULL BLOOM

INSIDE

REPORT: PAGES 6-7

THE SCOUT'S TOP TIPS
Today's best bets: p2-3

RUNNERS AND RIDERS
Colours & cards: p4-5

HENDO LEADS THE WAY
British fightback: p6-7

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CHELTENHAM 2022 IN ASSOCIATION WITH *William HILL* DAY 2 THE SCOUT'S TOP TIPS

HAVING FUN:
Funambule
Sivola boasts
six chase
victories



SHISH LIST
Shishkin is unbeaten over fences and is aiming for a third win at the Festival



CHAMPION CHASE TRENDS

The facts and stats that lead to victory in today's big race

AGE
Ten of the last 12 Champion Chase winners were aged between eight and nine.

PRICE
Four of the last 12 favorites won, while nine winners were in the top three in the betting.

LAST RUN
Seven out of the last 12 winners won on their previous run before the race, nine winners ran within the last 53 days and six winners ran in the Clarence House Chase at Ascot on their last run - four of the six won and one was placed.

PREVIOUS COURSE FORM
All 12 previous winners had at least one run at Cheltenham beforehand, and seven had a previous win at Cheltenham.

PREVIOUS DISTANCE FORM
All 12 previous winners had at least eight runs over 15-17 furlongs, 10 winners had at least six wins over 15-17 furlongs.

PREVIOUS CHASE FORM
All 12 previous winners had at least seven chase runs prior to the Festival, and all 12 had at least five previous chase wins.

RATING
Nine winners were rated 164 or higher.

GRADE ONE WINS
All 12 previous winners had at least one Grade One win.

SEASON FORM
11 out of 12 previous winners had at least two runs that same season, and 10 had at least one win that season.

NEXT CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL RUN
Six out of 12 winners ran in the race again - one won and two were placed.



ALLEN KEY:
Envoi Allen has won six Grade Ones

WIN FOR

GOING Good to soft**WEATHER** Heavy rain and a gentle breeze. Temp: 10C**TV & RADIO** 5 races on ITV: 1.30-4.10. All races on Racing TV & Radio Five Live/Five Live Sports Extra. First 4 races on talkSPORT

POUR MOI?
Chacun Pour Soi is Willie Mullins' preferred choice



Henderson's star has the class to win a race to savour

By **The Scout** (Chris Goulding)

SHISHKIN has everything in his favour to make it a third successive victory at the Cheltenham Festival by capturing today's Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase.

The winner of the Supreme Hurdle two years ago and last year's Arkle Chase at the Festival, SHISHKIN (3.00, nap, ITV) has yet to be beaten in his seven outings over fences.

This talented individual showed his undisputed superior class when chinning Energumene at Ascot in the Clarence Huse Chase where he overcame some indifferent jumping and a dislike for going right-handed.

Connections of Energumene admitted they would struggle to turn the tables at Cheltenham where Shishkin is clearly in his element.

To add another plus, the gelding's trainer Nicky Henderson has won today's prize a record-equalling six times, along with Paul Nicholls and Tom Dreaper.

Willie Mullins, the trainer of Energumene, believes he has a better prospect in Chacun Pour Soi, third behind Put The Kettle On in last year's race.

But on that occasion Chacun Pour Soi gave the impression that he failed to get up the hill.

And now aged 10 it will be a tough call for the gelding to give his trainer a much-desired first success in this Grade One. At 25-1 Envoi Allen is very much the forgotten horse. Last



ENER-GISE:
Energumene was beaten by Shishkin last time they met

year he was sent off the 4-9 favourite to take the Marsh Chase at the Festival when he fell at the fourth fence. But he suggested he is now on the way back when successful at Leopardstown on his recent start in December.

It is also worth remembering that he has twice won at the Festival, in the Champion Bumper and the Ballymore Hurdle.

The gloss has certainly come off Put The Kettle On. After the mare's lack-lustre performances this term connections have decided to put on cheekpieces for the first time.

Nube Negra, the runner-up in last year's contest, also has failed to inspire confidence despite beating Politologue, the 2020 winner, at Cheltenham in November.

Regardless how Politologue performs it will be the grey's final curtain call as connections have decided to retire this popular 11-year-old.

After winning a Grade Two on his recent outing at Newbury, this looks a step too far for the Venetia Williams-trained Funambule Sivola.

Also, there is concern about the well-being of the trainer's runners.

Fortune favours the Brave in the Brown Advisory

CHAMPION trainer Paul Nicholls, a notable absentee from the winner's enclosure at last year's Festival, can make up for that disappointment by celebrating with Bravemansgame in the Brown Advisory Novices' Chase.

Nicholls has made no secret of how highly he rates BRAVEMANSGAME (2.10, nb, ITV), the impressive winner of all of his four races over fences.

He had a simple task on his latest outing when slamming Pats Fancy at Newbury last month but a more informative guide to his ability was on his penultimate run when beating Ahoy Senior at Kempton.

Ahoy Senior highlighted that form when cruising to victory on his next outing at Wetherby last month.

Of the Irish runners, Capodanno represents the biggest threat having chased home the smart Bob Olinger at PuncHESTOWN in January.

Willie Mullins, responsible for Capodanno, can kick off the meeting in style by taking the Ballymore Hurdle with SIR GERHARD (1.30, ITV).

The winner of last season's Champion Bumper has impressed in his two hurdle races, winning twice at Leopardstown.

Impressive Ascot winner GOOD RISK AT ALL (2.50,

By **The Scout**
(Chris Goulding)



SMART: Sir Gerhard

ITV) has the ability to defy his 10lb rise in the weights.

He came home with more than stone in hand on that occasion and his trainer, Sam Thomas suggested at the time the gelding is still well-handicapped.

With ground conditions in his favour, TIGER ROLL (4.10, ITV) is expected to sign off his remarkable career, that included two Grand National victories, by taking the Glenfarclas Chase for the third time.

This remarkable character, successful five times at the Festival, is absolutely flying in his homework according to his trainer Gordon Elliott.

The decision by the connections of EDITEUR DU GITE (4.50, treble) bypass the Champion Chase in favour of the Grand Annual Chase can be

rewarded. The gelding has an excellent record at the track where he has won both of his two starts in the manner of a progressive individual.

Admittedly he is now creeping up the weights, 8lb higher for his latest success, but further improvement is expected from the Gary Moore-trained eight-year-old.

Thyme White, trained by Nicholls, is the one to chase him home. The Ditcheat master is bullish about his chances.

Nicholls believes he is now weighted to turn the tables on Amarillo Sky (now 7lb worse off), who beat him at Newbury, as he was far from fully fit on that occasion.

The betting and the performances on the track suggest FACILE VEGA (5.30) has everything in his favour to give his trainer, Willie Mullins, a remarkable record 12 winners in the Champion Bumper.

However, the betting in this contest has not always been the informative guide for the Mullins runners.

In the past, they have landed the contest with their outsiders.

It makes sense to have a saver on the stable's other runners, James's Gate, Madmansgame, Redemption Day and Viva Devito.



BRAVEHEART:
Bravemansgame has been impressive in his four starts over fences

A DAY

CHELTENHAM 2022

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



RUNNERS A

1.30 BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (GRADE 1) **ITV**

1	L8-1L2	HAXO (21) 5 11 7	S O'Keefe	129
Runs: 5 Wins: 1(G) Places: 1 £8,203				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mrs J M Mullins				
2	5-71D2	HEMLOCK (22) 5 11 7	D J O'Keefe	131
Runs: 6 Wins: 1(G) Places: 2 £7,435				
Trainer: T Gibney (IRE) Owner: Alberta Capital Ltd				
3	1-312	I AM MAXIMUS (74) 6 11 7	N De Boinville	150
Runs: 4 Wins: 2(S,G,S) Places: 2 £19,126				
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Mr Claudio Michael Grech				
4	11-11	JOURNEY WITH ME (32) 6 11 7	Rachael Blackmore	143
Runs: 4 Wins: 4(S) Places: 2 £23,477				
Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: Robcour				
5	54022	SCARFACE (25) 5 11 7	B J Powell	137
Runs: 5 Wins: 2(S,G,S) Places: 2 £8,176				
Trainer: C Tizzard Owner: Taylor & O'Dwyer				
6	111-311	SIR GERHARD (38) 7 11 7	P Townend	★158
Runs: 7 Wins: 6(S,G,S) Places: 1 £140,848				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Cheveley Park Stud				
7	123-111	STAGE STAR (77) (D) 6 11 7	H Cobden	152
Runs: 6 Wins: 4(S,G,S,G) Places: 2 £53,760				
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Owners Group 044				
8	14-122	THREE STRIPE LIFE (38) 6 11 7	D N Russell	151
Runs: 5 Wins: 2(S) Places: 2 £55,761				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: K Haughey/laura Haughey/kieran T Byrne				
9	13-15	WHATDEAWANT (73) 6 11 7	D E Mullins	143
Runs: 4 Wins: 2(S) Places: 1 £22,265				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Sean & Bernadine Mulryan				

Forecast: 8-11 Sir Gerhard, 5 Three Stripe Life, 11-2 Journey With Me, 6 Stage Star, 14 I Am Maximus, 20 Whatdeawant, 66 Scarface, Haxo, 100 Hemlock.
2021: Bob Olinger 6-11-7, Rachael Blackmore 6-4 Fav (H De Bromhead), 7 ran.
GUIDE: The step up in trip has to be a slight concern for SIR GERHARD, but if he does stay then the son of Jeremy is going to be hard to beat judging by his impressive defeat of Three Stripe Life in a Grade 1 at Leopardstown (2m, yld-stf) last month. The aforementioned Three Stripe Life may get closer to the selection today as his pedigree suggests that he should relish the extra five furlongs. The unbeaten Journey With Me is another with valid form claims, while Whatdeawant could reward each-way support.

2.10 BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE (GRADE 1) **ITV**

1	11-0121	AHOY SENOR (39) (D,T) 7 11 4	D R Fox	168
Runs: 9 Wins: 5(S,G,S,G) Places: 1 £124,987				
Trainer: L Russell Owner: Mrs C Wymer & Mr Pjs Russell				
2	4-F21F2	BEACON EDGE (22) 8 11 4	S W Flanagan	167
Runs: 17 Wins: 6(S,G) Places: 4 £140,874				
Trainer: N Meade (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud				
3	32-1111	BRAVEMANSGAME (32) (D) 7 11 4	H Cobden	★174
Runs: 13 Wins: 8(S,G,S,G) Places: 3 £170,411				
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: John Dance And Bryan Drew				
4	34-112U	CAPODANNO (38) 6 11 4	M P Walsh	170
Runs: 9 Wins: 3(S) Places: 5 £57,901				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus				
5	13-11	DUSART (42) (D) 7 11 4	N De Boinville	153
Runs: 4 Wins: 3(G,S,G) Places: 1 £27,107				
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Mr R A Bartlett				
6	41-1221	FAROUK D'ALENE (22) (D) 7 11 4	D N Russell	164
Runs: 10 Wins: 7(S) Places: 2 £86,371				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud				
7	P-P2315	FURY ROAD (38) (D) 8 11 4	J W Kennedy	168
Runs: 19 Wins: 7(S,G) Places: 4 £206,232				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud				
8	12-1333	GAILLARD DU MESNIL (38) 6 11 4	P Townend	162
Runs: 14 Wins: 4(S,G,S) Places: 9 £191,988				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mrs J Donnelly				
9	16-1111	L'HOMME PRESSE (39) (C) 7 11 4	C Deutsch	171
Runs: 8 Wins: 5(S,G,S,G) Places: 1 £115,341				
Trainer: V Williams Owner: Dfa Racing (pink & Edwards)				
10	4-713R3	STREETS OF DOYEN (11) 8 11 4	S D Torrens	147
Runs: 21 Wins: 6(G,S,G) Places: 2 £64,929				
Trainer: J McConnell (IRE) Owner: Ms Caroline Ahearn				
11	1-21111	THREUNDERTHRUFIVE (60) (C&D) 7 11 4	A P Heskin	162
Runs: 12 Wins: 9(S,G,S,G) Places: 1 £129,662				
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: McNeill Family				

Forecast: 2 Bravemansgame, 10-3 L'Homme Presse, 5 Ahoy Senior, 8 Capodanno, 14 Gaillard Du Mesnil, Threunderthruive, Fury Road, Farouk D'Alene, 16 Others.
2021: Monkfish 7-11-4, Paul Townend 1-4 Fav (W P Mullins), 6 ran.
GUIDE: In an open race a chance can be taken with BEACON EDGE, who won the Drinmore at Fairyhouse (2m4f, gd) earlier in the season. The eight-year-old was fourth in the Stayers' Hurdle (3m, gd-stf) 12 months ago and plenty of promise can be taken from his second-placed finish behind Farouk D'Alene at Navan (3m, hvyl) last time. Bravemansgame is clearly the one to beat on form but it is a concern how lamely he finished in the Ballymore (2m5f, gd-stf) last season. L'Homme Presse has to be on the shortlist despite not being proven at the trip, while Ahoy Senior and Capodanno complete the shortlist.

2.50 CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (GRADE 3) **ITV**

1	L-232PP	THE BOSSSES OSCAR (53) 7 11 12	Mr R James(7)	156
Runs: 17 Wins: 3(S) Places: 10 £70,406				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Bective Stud				
2	2U3L32	ASHDALE BOB (22) 7 11 10	Jack Foley(3)	158
Runs: 14 Wins: 3(S) Places: 4 £77,645				
Trainer: J Harrington (IRE) Owner: Diarmuid Horgan				
3	LFIPL3	COMMANDER OF FLEET (22) (D) 8 11 10	S Fitzgerald(5)	157
Runs: 16 Wins: 6(G) Places: 2 £220,760				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud				
4	312B-24	MCFABULOUS (46) (D) 8 11 8	H Cobden	157
Runs: 15 Wins: 7(S,G,S,G) Places: 4 £151,183				
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Giraffa Racing				
5	1-12	SAINT FELICIEN (45) 5 11 7	R M Power	154
Runs: 3 Wins: 2(S) Places: 1 £31,326				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Robcour				
6	120-344	GRAND ROI (22) 6 11 7	D N Russell	158
Runs: 13 Wins: 4(S,G,S) Places: 1 £050,050				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Bective Stud				
7	2-12127	HANG IN THERE (151) (C) 8 11 6	J A Anderson(7)	159
Runs: 18 Wins: 4(S,G) Places: 4 £59,174				
Trainer: E Lavelle Owner: Tim Syder & Andrew Gemmell				
8	112-34U	THE SHUNTER (38) (C) 9 11 6	M P Walsh	157
Runs: 30 Wins: 5(S,G,S,G) Places: 8 £202,457				
Trainer: E Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus				
9	10-6132	GOWEL ROAD (54) (C&D) 6 11 3	S Twiston-Davies	157
Runs: 9 Wins: 3(S,G,S,G) Places: 2 £55,025				
Trainer: N Twiston-Davies Owner: Options O Syndicate				
10	21-214L	DALY TIGER (25) 9 11 3	E Walsh(3)	147
Runs: 21 Wins: 6(S,G) Places: 3 £135,287				
Trainer: N Meade (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud				
11	1250-F	GANAPATHI (320) 6 11 3	B J Cooper	143
Runs: 5 Wins: 1(S) Places: 1 £15,212				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mrs J Donnelly				
12	2-34622	CHRISTOPHER WOOD (25) 7 11 1	H Bannister	157
Runs: 19 Wins: 4(S,G,S) Places: 5 £79,481				
Trainer: V Williams Owner: Ms Sharon Kinsella				

THE SCOUT

1.30	Sir Gerhard	4.10	Tiger Roll
2.10	BRAVEMANSGAME (nb)	4.50	EDITEUR DU GITE
2.50	Good Risk At All	5.30	Facile Vega
3.30	SHISHKIN (nap)		

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13	317-095	DROP THE ANCHOR (38) 8 11 1	S D Torrens(3)	160
Runs: 20 Wins: 4(S) Places: 4 £139,681				
Trainer: P A Fahy (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus				
14	2-21L53	DANS LE VENT (39) 9 11 0	Isabel Williams(3)	158
Runs: 30 Wins: 5(S,F,G,S,G) Places: 11 £141,731				
Trainer: E Williams Owner: R J Garbarini Racing				
15	2-41221	UNEXPECTED PARTY (53) (D) 7 11 0	H Skelton	155
Runs: 6 Wins: 2(S,G,S) Places: 3 £28,675				
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: O'reilly MacLennan Tynan Carthy Shanah				
16	53-1233	GARRY CLERMONT (53) 7 11 0	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	161
Runs: 14 Wins: 5(S,G) Places: 5 £43,540				
Trainer: Jonjo O'Neill Owner: Mrs C Walsh				
17	53-4P36	CALL ME LORD (39) (C,D) 9 11 0	D Jacob	159
Runs: 26 Wins: 6(S,G,S,G) Places: 5 £289,947				
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Mr Simon Munir & Mr Isaac Souede				
18	21/200	FASTORSLOW (38) 6 10 13	D J O'Keefe	146
Runs: 5 Wins: 1(S) Places: 2 £32,761				
Trainer: M Brassill (IRE) Owner: Sean & Bernardine Mulryan				
19	14214	CAMPOND (122) (C) 6 10 12	A Coleman	156
Runs: 11 Wins: 4(G) Places: 6 £83,736				
Trainer: P Hobbs Owner: Mr John P McManus				
20	1128-12	INDIGO BREEZE (60) 6 10 12	J Gainford(3)	150
Runs: 6 Wins: 3(G,S) Places: 2 £17,742				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Mr T O'driscoll				
21	20-0570	CHAMPAGNE GOLD (38) 7 10 11	Rachael Blackmore	147
Runs: 12 Wins: 1 Places: 3 £30,591				
Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: Mr Barry Maloney				
22	F3PP30	TOP MOON (39) 7 10 11	R McLernon	145
Runs: 27 Wins: 3(S,G) Places: 7 £90,066				
Trainer: B Haslam Owner: Mr John P McManus				
23	5/01-006	MAZE RUNNER (39) 7 10 11	S O'Keefe	150
Runs: 9 Wins: 2 Places: 1 £62,217				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mrs J M Mullins				
24	39/71-0P	TRONADOR (229) 6 10 10	S Ewing(3)	152
Runs: 8 Wins: 2(G,S) Places: 1 £41,052				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Mr M Wasylucha				
25	P/2-1L1	FAIR FRONTIERES (32) (D) 7 10 9	D Bass	151
Runs: 5 Wins: 2(S,G,S) Places: 1 £10,091				
Trainer: K Bailey Owner: The Front Ears				
26	125527	MARS HARPER (53) 6 10 9	J W Kennedy	153
Runs: 15 Wins: 3(S,G) Places: 5 £40,441				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Pioneer Racing				
27	11-2221	GOOD RISK AT ALL (25) 6 10 9	RESERVE	★162
Runs: 7 Wins: 3(S,G,S) Places: 4 £58,184				
Trainer: S Thomas Owner: Walters Plant Hire Ltd				
28	L603PL	ASK DILLON (39) (C) 9 10 9	RESERVE	156
Runs: 25 Wins: 4(S,G,S,G) Places: 9 £63,388				
Trainer: F O'Brien Owner: 4 The Fun Partnership				

Forecast: 13-2 Saint Felicien, 15-2 Drop The Anchor, The Shunter, 8 Unexpected Party, 10 Campond, 12 Gowel Road, 14 Grand Roi, Indigo Breeze, Fastorslow, 16 Others.
2021: Heaven Help Us 7-10-9, Richard Condon(7) 33-1 (P Hennessy), 26 ran.
GUIDE: SAINT FELICIEN created a big impression when winning on his debut for these connections at Gowran Park (2m, yld) in November and he was far from disgraced on his most recent outing in a Grade 3 contest (2m, gd-yld) in January. The unexposed five-year-old should have more improvement left to come and the step up in trip should also help. Indigo Breeze is another unexposed Gordon Elliott representative who should not be underestimated. Campond ran well in the Greatwood here (2m, gd) in November and that form gives him a decent each-way chance, while McFabulous and Drop The Anchor are others to note.

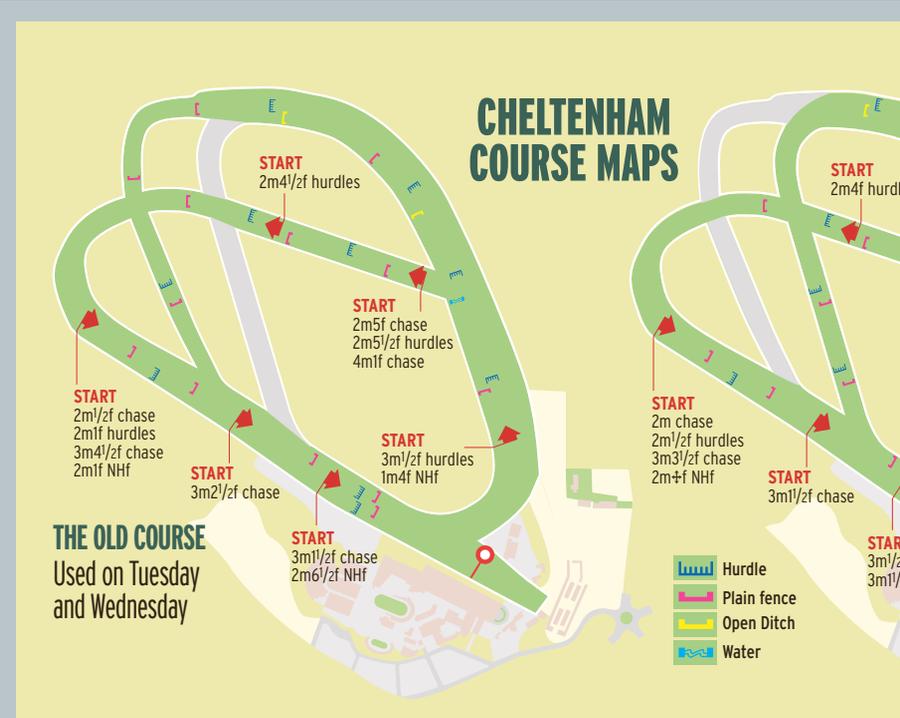
3.30 QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (GRD 1) **ITV**

1	113-1L1	CHACUN POUR SOI (38) (D) 10 11 10	Mr P W Mullins	185
Runs: 15 Wins: 9(S,F) Places: 3 £595,118				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mrs S Ricci				
2	111-112	ENERGUMENE (53) (D) 8 11 10	P Townend	186
Runs: 10 Wins: 8(S,G) Places: 1 £228,562				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Tony Bloom				
3	1F-P161	ENVOI ALLEN (79) 8 11 10	Rachael Blackmore	167
Runs: 17 Wins: 14(S,G) Places: 1 £450,974				
Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: Cheveley Park Stud				
4	12-2911	FUNAMBULE SIVOLA (32) (D) 7 11 10	C Deutsch	168
Runs: 17 Wins: 6(S,G,S,G) Places: 5 £135,450				
Trainer: V Williams Owner: My Racing Manager Friends				
5	2/12-314	NUBE NEGRA (102) (C&D) 8 11 10	H Skelton	175
Runs: 18 Wins: 6(S,G,S,G) Places: 5 £242,847				
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Mr T Spraggett				
6	51/124-2	POLITOLOGUE (122) (C&D) 11 11 10	H Cobden	168
Runs: 30 Wins: 12(S,G,S,G) Places: 5 £1,025,099				
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Mr J Hales				
7	1111-11	SHISHKIN (53) (C&D,F) 8 11 10	N De Boinville	★187
Runs: 14 Wins: 12(S,G,S,G) Places: 1 £395,237				
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Mrs J Donnelly				
8	1314-3L	PUT THE KETTLE ON (74) (C&D) 8 11 3	A Coleman	172
Runs: 19 Wins: 9(S,G,S,G) Places: 4 £411,710				
Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: One For Luck Racing Syndicate				

Forecast: 4-5 Shishkin, 7-2 Energumene, 5 Chacun Pour Soi, 12 Nube Negra, 20 Envoi Allen, Put The Kettle On, 33 Funambule Sivola, 50 Politologue.
2021: Put The Kettle On beat Nube Negra (second) when winning this 12 months ago (gd-stf) but both need to raise their game in order to trouble unbeaten chaser SHISHKIN. This exceptional eight-year-old gelding beat the reposing Energumene in a race for the ages at Ascot (2m1f, stf) in January and it is difficult to see how Willie Mullins' charge reverses the form, as everything seemed to go right for him at the Berkshire venue and he is unproven at Cheltenham, whereas Shishkin is a dual Cheltenham Festival winner.

4.10 GLENFARCLAS CHSE (CROSS COUNTRY CHASE) **ITV**

1	P8LU8L	ALPHA DES OBEAUX (31) 12 11 4	J McGarvey	92
Runs: 53 Wins: 7(F,S,G) Places: 14 £344,368				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud				
2	171L15	BACK ON THE LASH (96) (C&D) 8 11 4	S Bowen	148
Runs: 19 Wins: 8(S,G,S,G) Places: 2 £71,700				
Trainer: M Keighley Owner: Maughan, Redknapp, Ryan, Salters				
3	0233LP	BRAHMA BULL (48) 11 11 4	B Hayes	163
Runs: 22 Wins: 8(S,G) Places: 3 £165,711				
Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mrs S Ricci				
4	5U3-466	DELTA WORK (39) 9 11 4	J W Kennedy	★173
Runs: 26 Wins: 9(S,G) Places: 7 £566,780				
Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud				
5	4236-31	DIESSEL D'ALLIER (96) (C&D) 9 11 4	H Bannister	150
Runs: 25 Wins: 6(S,G,S) Places: 6 £109,314				
Trainer: R Bandy Owner: The French Link				
6	11/42-PP	EASYSLAND (25) (C&D) 8 11 4	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	154
Runs: 19 Wins: 8(S,G,S,G) Places: 1 £177,978				
Trainer: Jonjo O'Neill Owner: Mr John P McManus				



TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2017-22):** Harry Skelton 12% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2017-22):** N Henderson
 Grand Roi (cheek pieces), Champagne Gold (tongue strap), Garry Clermont (cheek pieces), Ganapathi (tongue strap), Fastorslow (tongue strap), 3.30 Envoi Allen (wind
 pieces), Dancing On My Own (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.30 Haxo, I Am Maximus, 2.50 Indigo Breeze, Mars Harper(hcp hdl), Saint Felicien, 4.10 Back On T
 Authorised Speed. **LONGEST TRAVELLER:** Sir Gerhard (1.30), Whatdeawant (1.30), Three Stripe Life (1.30), Journey With Me (1.30), Hemlock (1.30), St
 (2.10), Fury Road (2.10), Farouk D'Alene (2.10), Capodanno (2.10), Mars Harper (2.50), Drop The Anchor (2.50), Champagne Gold (2.50), Tronador (2.50), The Shun
 Oscar (2.50), Indigo Breeze (2.50), Commander Of Fleet (2.50), Maze Runner (2.50), Ashdale Bob (2.50), Daly Tiger (2.50), Fastorslow (2.50), Ganapathi (2.50), En
 Chacun Pour Soi (3.30), Midnight Maestro (4.10), Prengarde (4.10), Delta Work (4.10), Tiger Roll (4.10), Tout Est Permis (4.10), Poker Party (4.10), Shady Operato
 (4.10), Plan Of Attack (4.10), Embittered (4.50), Capuccimix (4.50), Possidon (4.50), Exit Pool (4.50), Dancing On My Own (4.50), Buddy Rich (4.50), A Wave Of
 Joyeux Machin (5.30), Music Drive (5.30), Madmansgame (5.30), Viva Devito (5.30), Redemption Day (5.30), James's Gate (5.30), Facile Vega (5.30), Seabank
 Mercy (5.30), Houlanbrordochais (5.30) Ireland; Ahoy Senior (2.10) 363 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.50 Top Moon from J P O'Brien in Ireland to B Haslam, Tronador fro
 from A Couetil in France to W P Mullins.

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4m chase

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EYE OF THE TIGER Tiger Roll signs off his racing career in today's Glenfarclas Chase



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7	1-42091	MIDNIGHT MAESTRO (31) 10 11 4	L Dempsey	149
	Runs: 31	Wins: 7(S,G,S,G)	Places: 5	£67,106
	Trainer: E Bolger (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus			
8	513-P00	MITCHOUKA (31) 8 11 4	K M Donoghue	115
	Runs: 33	Wins: 6(S)	Places: 6	£106,433
	Trainer: J Dreaper (IRE) Owner: C Jones			
9	8F7-043	PLAN OF ATTACK (96) 9 11 4	D J O'Keefe	147
	Runs: 25	Wins: 5(S,G)	Places: 8	£68,697
	Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: Mr A Halsall			
10	U143/OL	POKER PARTY (48) 10 11 4	Rachael Blackmore	115
	Runs: 23	Wins: 5(S,G)	Places: 4	£181,831
	Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: Robcour			
11	L6P2PL	POTTERS CORNER (18) 12 11 4	J Tudor	148
	Runs: 33	Wins: 7(S,G,S,G)	Places: 8	£226,373
	Trainer: Christian Williams Owner: All Stars Sports, Davies & Racehorse			
12	1-1110	PRENGARDE (17) 6 11 4	M P Walsh	145
	Runs: 11	Wins: 5(S)	Places: 1	£66,442
	Trainer: E Bolger (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus			
13	L091L2	SHADY OPERATOR (31) 9 11 4	Mr D O'Connor	153
	Runs: 26	Wins: 6(S,G)	Places: 7	£83,607
	Trainer: E Bolger (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus			
14	5116-73	STEP BACK (39) 12 11 4	N De Boynville	133
	Runs: 25	Wins: 8(G,S,G)	Places: 6	£146,359
	Trainer: M Bradstock Owner: Cracker and Smodge Partnership			
15	PL14-P0	TIGER ROLL (53) (C&D) 12 11 4	D N Russell	172
	Runs: 42	Wins: 13(S,G,S,G)	Places: 5	£1,418,810
	Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud			
16	FP-5903	TOUT EST PERMIS (31) 9 11 4	S W Flanagan	153
	Runs: 39	Wins: 5(S,G)	Places: 10	£178,190
	Trainer: N Meade (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud			

BLINKERS: Nos. 9, 15 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 14, 15, 16
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6, 13, 14

Forecast: 13-8 Tiger Roll, 6 Delta Work, 13-2 Prengarde, 8 Shady Operator, 10 Easysland, 12 Midnight Maestro, 14 Diesel D'Allier, Brahma Bull, 20 Others.

2021: Tiger Roll 11-11-4, Keith Donoghue 9-2 (Mrs D Foster), 13 ran.

GUIDE: TIGER ROLL, the people's champion, can bow out in style - lowering the curtain on what has been an exceptional racing career. Providing the ground stays on the better side of good, Gordon Elliott's dual Grand National winner and five-time Cheltenham Festival scorer will have been trained to the minute for this race and can repeat last year's effortless success (gd-sft). Easysland, now with Jonjo O'Neill, was no match for the great veteran 12 months ago but did beat him in 2020 (sft) by some 17 lengths, so has to be taken seriously. Tiger Roll's stable companion Delta Work, a five-time Grade 1 winner and previous Cheltenham Festival scorer, is a fascinating contender in this sphere.

4.50	HANDICAP CHASE (GRADE 3)	£70,338 (1) 1m 7f 199yds	(21)	
1	1-2432L	SKY PIRATE (32) (C&D) 9 11 12	N Scholfield	164
	Runs: 26	Wins: 6(S,G,S,G)	Places: 9	£156,845
	Trainer: Jonjo O'Neill Owner: Martin Tedham & Wasdell Properties Ltd			
2	3/113P-2	ANDY DUFRESNE (130) (D) 8 11 11	M P Walsh	161
	Runs: 11	Wins: 6(S,G,S)	Places: 3	£88,959
	Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus			
3	P11-U11	EDITEUR DU GITE (95) (C&D) 8 11 9	Joshua Moore	162
	Runs: 13	Wins: 5(G,S,G)	Places: 3	£119,811
	Trainer: G L Moore Owner: The Preston Family, Friends & T Jacobs			
4	5062F1	A WAVE OF THE SEA (39) 6 11 6	S Fitzgerald(5)	159
	Runs: 22	Wins: 6(S)	Places: 4	£236,545
	Trainer: J P O'Brien (IRE) Owner: Mr John P McManus			
5	211326	EXIT POLL (39) 8 11 5	S O'Keefe	157
	Runs: 20	Wins: 5(G)	Places: 5	£69,947
	Trainer: J Harrington (IRE) Owner: OMEGA Racing			
6	11-11L2	BEFORE MIDNIGHT (47) (C&D) 9 11 4	S Twiston-Davies	164
	Runs: 21	Wins: 7(S,A,G,S,G)	Places: 9	£128,844
	Trainer: S Thomas Owner: Walters Plant Hire & Potter Group			
7	1213LL	EMBITTERED (39) 8 11 1	B J Cooper	155
	Runs: 24	Wins: 4(G)	Places: 6	£106,166
	Trainer: J P O'Brien (IRE) Owner: Gigginstown House Stud			
8	222214	BUDDY RICH (109) 9 11 0	D N Russell	158
	Runs: 16	Wins: 3(G)	Places: 7	£41,762
	Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Mr John Keegan			
9	L/2-L211	ELIXIR DE NUTZ (33) 8 10 13	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	160
	Runs: 14	Wins: 6(S,G,S,G)	Places: 3	£94,521
	Trainer: C Tizzard Owner: Mr Terry Warner			
10	6412F1	AMARILLO SKY (24) (D) 6 10 13	B J Powell	163
	Runs: 13	Wins: 5(S,G,S,G)	Places: 1	£34,669
	Trainer: C Tizzard Owner: J P Romans & Taylor, O'dwyer			
11	416/1LF	DANCING ON MY OWN (31) 8 10 13	D J O'Keefe	154
	Runs: 11	Wins: 2(S)	Places: 2	£23,354
	Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: Sean & Bernadine Mulryan			

12	F2-31P3	IL RIDOTO (52) (D) 5 10 13	H Cobden	166
	Runs: 10	Wins: 3(G,S)	Places: 1	£53,266
	Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Giles, Hogarth, Mason & McGoff			
13	907-2U1	THYME WHITE (77) (D) 6 10 12	Bryony Frost	159
	Runs: 12	Wins: 3(S,G)	Places: 2	£47,716
	Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: The Stewart Family & Michael Blencowe			
14	4-43312	FRERO BANBOU (39) (D) 7 10 11	C Deutsch	167
	Runs: 15	Wins: 4(S,G,S,G)	Places: 6	£100,641
	Trainer: V Williams Owner: Mr P Davies			
15	2U1PUS	POSEIDON (31) 8 10 11	D E Mullins	158
	Runs: 24	Wins: 4(S,G)	Places: 6	£79,714
	Trainer: C Byrnes (IRE) Owner: Martin White			
16	L03-482	GUMBALL (84) (D) 8 10 10	P Brennan	165
	Runs: 25	Wins: 5(S,G,S,G)	Places: 7	£138,648
	Trainer: F O'Brien Owner: Mr Terry Warner			
17	76-91F8	CAPUCCIMIX (39) (D) 9 10 8	J Gainford(3)	165
	Runs: 16	Wins: 3(S,G)	Places: 2	£43,679
	Trainer: H De Bromhead (IRE) Owner: Robcour			
18	5-F31FL	FOR PLEASURE (32) 7 10 8	H Bannister	164
	Runs: 18	Wins: 5(S,G,S,G)	Places: 4	£55,247
	Trainer: A Hales Owner: Premier Plastering (uk) Limited			
19	42U111	HASANKEY (28) (D) 6 10 7	L Dobb(7)	160
	Runs: 19	Wins: 4(S)	Places: 5	£32,722
	Trainer: L Morgan Owner: The Hanky Panky Partnership			
20	P-92L23	GLOBAL CITIZEN (39) (D) 10 10 6	K Woods	-
	Runs: 23	Wins: 7(S,F,G,S,G)	Places: 4	£174,241
	Trainer: B Pauling Owner: The Megsons			
21	22-3L21	DESTINED TO SHINE (18) (D) 10 10 0	RESERVE	160
	Runs: 28	Wins: 6(S,G,S)	Places: 8	£53,690
	Trainer: Kerry Lee Owner: Campbell-mizen			

BLINKERS: No. 4 VISOR: No. 19 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 21 CHEEK PIECES: No. 16

Forecast: 6 Buddy Rich, 7 Embittered, 15-2 Amarillo Sky, 8 Thyme White, Andy Dufresne, 12 Frero Banbou, Editeur Du Gite, Dancing On My Own, 14 Others.

GUIDE: Editeur Du Gite looks interesting for trainer Gary Moore after winning here in November (2m, gd), and again in December (2m1f, gd-sft), but he does have an added 6lb from the handicapper now which is not ideal. Il Ridoto failed to handle the ground when third at Lingfield (2m, hv) but may do better here for the stable who have won this twice in the last six years, but ELIXIR DE NUTZ could surprise them all. Looking for his hat-trick after wins at Plumpton (2m4f, sft) and Kempton (2m2f, gd), he should be staying on up the straight better than most and may even try to make the running.

5.30	WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (NH FLAT)	(GRADE 1) £45,560 (1) 2m 87yds	(22)	
1	AIN'T NO SUNSHINE (26) (D) 6 11 5	D McMenamin	112	
	Runs: 1	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£2,723
	Trainer: K Dalgleish Owner: Middleham Park Racing Xx And Partner			
2	1-11	AMERICAN MIKE (88) (D) 5 11 5	Mr J Codd	135
	Runs: 3	Wins: 3(S,G)	Places: 2	£17,411
	Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Bective Stud			
3	2214	AUTHORISED SPEED (32) (D) 5 11 5	Joshua Moore	122
	Runs: 4	Wins: 1(G,S)	Places: 2	£8,338
	Trainer: G L Moore Owner: Gallagher Bloodstock Limited			
4	11	CALL ME HARRY (43) (D,T) 5 11 5	C O'Farrell	113
	Runs: 2	Wins: 2(A,G,S)	Places: 1	£5,337
	Trainer: I Jardine Owner: D & D Armstrong Ltd & Mr L Westwood			
5	22	CILLIANS CHARM (30) 5 11 5	Jonathan Moore	113
	Runs: 2	Wins: 1	Places: 2	£1,129
	Trainer: A McCann (IRE) Owner: Hasson Syndicate			
6	281L	ESPERTI (154) (D) 5 11 5	K Sexton	114
	Runs: 4	Wins: 1	Places: 1	£8,114
	Trainer: Peter Fahey (IRE) Owner: Direct Bloodstock Limited			
7	11	FACILE VEGA (39) (D) 5 11 5	Mr P W Mullins	139
	Runs: 2	Wins: 2(S)	Places: 1	£55,777
	Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Hammer & Trowel Syndicate			
8	37	GODOT (33) 5 11 5	B J Powell	106
	Runs: 2	Wins: 1	Places: 1	£439
	Trainer: A Irvine Owner: Taylor & O'Dwyer			
9	11	HOULANBATORDECHAI (136) (D) 5 11 5	Rachael Blackmore	133
	Runs: 2	Wins: 2(S,G)	Places: 1	£11,174
	Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mrs S Ricci			
10	1	JAMES'S GATE (31) (D) 5 11 5	S O'Keefe	119
	Runs: 1	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£5,294
	Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Sean & Bernadine Mulryan			
11	F21	JOYEUX MACHIN (53) (D) 5 11 5	B J Cooper	121
	Runs: 3	Wins: 1	Places: 1	£7,143
	Trainer: P Nolan (IRE) Owner: Rectory Road Holdings Limited/McCaul			
12	11	MADMANSGAME (22) (D) 5 11 5	D E Mullins	119
	Runs: 2	Wins: 2(S)	Places: 1	£5,042
	Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Dr S P Fitzgerald			
13	F-121	MUSIC DRIVE (17) 5 11 5	D N Russell	121
	Runs: 4	Wins: 2(S,G)	Places: 1	£8,445
	Trainer: G Elliott (IRE) Owner: Mr David Barnard			
14	23	OCEAN OF MERCY (144) 6 11 5	S Twiston-Davies	115
	Runs: 2	Wins: 1	Places: 2	£3,580
	Trainer: P Hennessy (IRE) Owner: Mr J Turner			
15	22-11	OUR JESTER (52) (D) 6 11 5	N De Boynville	121
	Runs: 4	Wins: 2(A,G)	Places: 2	£25,865
	Trainer: H Morrison Owner: Pangfield Racing V			
16	1	REDEMPTION DAY (78) (D) 5 11 5	P Townend	124
	Runs: 1	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£6,429
	Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Mr T O'driscoll			
17	1	SEABANK BISTRO (45) 5 11 5	B Hayes	123
	Runs: 1	Wins: 1	Places: 1	£5,294
	Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: Jodmart Construction Ltd			
18	52-431	SPANISH PRESENT (22) 6 11 5	S Bowen	112
	Runs: 5	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 2	£5,297
	Trainer: M Keighley Owner: David Maughan			
19	2-231	TOP DOG (32) (D) 5 11 5	T Bellamy	124
	Runs: 4	Wins: 1(G,S)	Places: 3	£19,904
	Trainer: E Lavelle Owner: Mr N Mustoe			
20	41	VIVA DEVITO (97) (D) 5 11 5	Mr D O'Connor	115
	Runs: 2	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£5,804
	Trainer: W P Mullins (IRE) Owner: C Jones			
21	111	POETIC MUSIC (74) (C) 4 10 2	P Brennan	124
	Runs: 3	Wins: 3(S,G,S,G)	Places: 1	£18,050
	Trainer: F O'Brien Owner: Mr Ismail El Magdoub			
22	12	ROSY REDRUM (32) 4 10 2	M Bastyan	123
	Runs: 2	Wins: 1(G,S)	Places: 1	£6,180
	Trainer: M Harris Owner: Mark & Maria Adams			

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 11, 13, 22 HOOD: Nos. 20, 22

Forecast: 5-4 Facile Vega, 5-2 American Mike, 11-2 Redemption Day, 12 James's Gate, 20 Our Jester, Madmansgame, Houlanbatordechais, 25 Rosy Redrum, Seabank Bistro, Music Drive, Viva Devito, 33 Others.

GUIDE: Sir Gerhard 6-11-5, Rachael Blackmore 85-40 (W P Mullins), 14 ran.

2021: Poetic Music gets 17lb from the geldings as a four-year-old filly and, after wins at Market Rasen (1m5f, gd), Newbury (1m5f, gd-sft) and here (1m6f, sft), she could get involved with the increased trip expected to suit. American Mike is not easily opposed after scoring easily at Down Royal (2m1f, sft) in October and Navan (2m, gd-yld) in December, but he may run into a superstar in FACILE VEGA. The winner of both his starts at Leopardstown in December (2m, sft) and February (2m, yld), he has quickened up well when asked to go and win his race, settling things almost instantly, and another bold showing looks assured.

YESTERDAY'S REPORTS: P6-7

CHELTENHAM 2022 IN ASSOCIATION WITH **William HILL** **RACHAEL BLACKMORE STEERS**

Record crowds enjoy Festival's first day

IAN RENTON, regional director for Jockey Club racecourses, hailed the crowd's return and a new opening day record of 68,567.

"It's wonderful to see the racegoers back and they've all arrived with a smile on their faces having missed last year," Renton, right, said.

"It's a lovely atmosphere. We think the crowd is between 68-69,000, a record crowd for the first day and they've enjoyed it.

"This place needs people, it didn't feel right last year. The atmosphere makes the Festival, that's

By Chris Goulding

no secret." It had been a long two years for many, with some admitting it was their first time racing in 24 months.

Racegoer Nigel Robson, who was forced to miss the meeting last year for the first time since 1989, said: "I haven't been racing since my last day here two years ago.

"Cheltenham is different to everywhere else, especially in March, and I didn't want to go somewhere else first and not feel that excitement.

"It's great to be back."



QUEEN OF

HONEYSUCKLE, hailed as the queen of Cheltenham, showed she is not ready to abdicate after making

it a second successive victory in the Unibet Champion Hurdle in the hands of Rachael Blackmore.

Unlike last year's race, played out in front of an empty house due to Covid restrictions, the roar from the crowd matched that of past legends who have



Chris GOULDING
REPORTS

been victorious at Prestbury Park.

Hats and newspapers were thrown in the air, fists were punched and three cheers were bellowed in the winner's enclosure.

"The reception we got was incredible, we missed them last

year," said Blackmore, who made history 12 months ago when becoming the first female jockey to capture the hurdling crown.

"It was incredible, to be honest. Walking back down there, I've never felt an atmosphere like that. There wasn't a moment's silence.

"People here - it's just an amazing crowd, amazing atmosphere. It's easy to say that when you're winning, but

it's a very special place and to hear those cheers was very special."

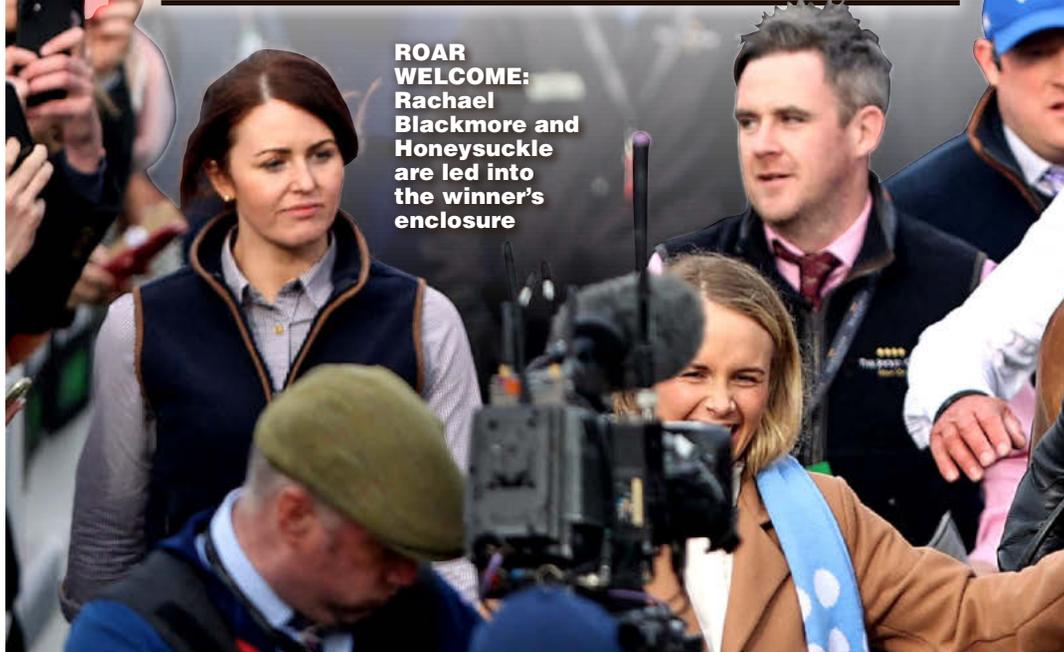
Epatante, winner of the race two years ago and third last year, finished second, with

Zanahiyr taking third place.



Honeysuckle's Champion Hurdle win receives a rapturous reception

ROAR WELCOME: Rachael Blackmore and Honeysuckle are led into the winner's enclosure



Hill climbs the heights



BRITAIN hit back on the opening day of the Festival after taking a clobbering at last year's meeting. The home team won four of the seven races yesterday - just one shy of their total over four days last year.

Constitution Hill kicked off the meeting in spectacular style when breaking the course record in the Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle for Nicky Henderson and Nico de Boinville.

The five-year-old streaked to a 22-length victory over his stablemate Jonbon after the pair were left to fight out the finish once long-time leader and joint-favourite Dysart Dynamo fell three out.

By Chris Goulding

Henderson said: "Jonbon is a very good horse - for Constitution Hill to do that to him is remarkable.

"Matt Chapman (ITV pundit) was begging me to put him in the Champion Hurdle this year, and he'll be telling me what a fool I was not to, won't he? We'll see - he's got his life in front of him."

Constitution Hill got a 2-1 quote from William Hill for next year's Champion Hurdle.

The Lambourn trainer and De Boinville doubled up with Marie's Rock in the Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle.

"We had four runners today and if you'd have told me this morning, I'd have had all four finishing in the first two - I'd have said it was going to be

HILL START: Constitution Hill jumps the last flight

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WONDER MARE TO A FAMOUS REPEAT VICTORY

HEARTS

Blackmore added: "Part of me was thinking, I should be more nervous here before the race, but I actually do have a lot of confidence in her. It would be weird if I didn't, because she's never let me down."

Winning trainer Henry de Bromhead shared Blackmore's delight about having crowds back to witness his remarkable mare.

Honeysuckle was extending her unbeaten record to 15 and yesterday made history as the first mare to win two Champion



PRIZE: Rachael Blackmore with the Champion Hurdle trophy

Hurdles. It is better than last year with the crowd here and Kenny (Alexander, the owner) and my family and everybody else," said De Bromhead.

"It's amazing. It is a never ending fairytale. I just really hoped that she could get that Cheltenham roar and it is fantastic that she has got it."

"She is incredible. I'm always trying to prepare myself for it to end but she just keeps winning. She has become the people's horse. It's no more than she deserves."



with Supreme ease

a very good day," he said. "In golf you're meant to play to your age, so when you're 66 you've got to go round in 66 and so on."

"I'm 71 so the first winner this week took me to that, and we've put one in the bank for next year just in case I don't last!"

Henderson, right, the most successful British trainer at the meeting, took his tally to 72 winners, and was enjoyed the fact the Brits had taken the early exchanges over the Irish.

After Alan King saddled Edwardstone to take the Arkle Challenge Trophy, in the hands of Tom Cannon, by four and a quarter lengths from the Irish pair of Gabynako and Blue Lord, Henderson gave him a

huge hug. Edwardstone was King's third success in the race and his first Festival winner in seven years, having last triumphed with Uxizandre in the 2015 Ryanair Chase.

Admittedly, the Ultima Chase winner Corach Rambler - brilliantly ridden by Derek Fox, who brought the eight-year-old with a well-timed late run to beat Gericault Roque by two and three-quarter lengths, is trained by Lucinda Russell in Scotland, but the Brits were happy to adopt him as one of their own.

This was obvious when he received a mighty cheer in the winner's enclosure.

The Irish added to their success with Honeysuckle when Brazil, ridden

by Mark Walsh, took the Boodles Hurdle for trainer Padraig Roche.

The gelding gave winning owner JP McManus, the most successful owner of all time at the Festival, his 68th winner at the fixture.

In contrast it was a first winner from his first runner at Cheltenham for Roche, who remarked: "It's unbelievable, I'm so lucky to have a horse like him."

"JP and his wife Noreen are very good friends with my mum and dad and for them to give me a horse like that was unbelievable."

"It's paid off so I'm absolutely over the moon."

Further Irish success was celebrated after Patrick Mullins steered Staffler to an effortless victory in the Ukraine Appeal NH Chase for his father Willie.



KEMPTON RTV

THE SCOUT	
6.00 Deciduous	7.30 Arousing
6.30 Hesperantha	8.00 Just In Time
7.00 Tricolore	8.30 Follow Your Heart

6.00 NOVICE STAKES 3YO

£3,510 (Class 5) 1m 2f 219yds (13 Dec)

- 6-1 DECIDUOUS (32) C Appleby 9.9 Harry Davies (7)
- 7-1 LOST OF LOVE (25) (F) R Hughes 9.9 David Egan
- 3-1 SEA GREY (67) A Balding 9.9 C Hutchinson (5)
- 13-6-1 SURREY MIST (40) G Baker 9.7 T Whelan
- 9-1 L73 CLIFFS OF FURY (33) T Kent 9.2 N Callan
- 4-1 INNER LIGHT (F) C Appleby 9.2 James Doyle
- 1-1 PLANXTY (25) J Gallagher 9.2 L Morris
- 2-1 SAINT PETER (47) S Kirk 9.2 L Keniry
- 12-0-0 SALVATOR MUNDI (156) J & T Gosden 9.2 R Havlin
- 10-10 TRUE ACCOLADE C Appleby 9.2 W Buick
- 11-1 YKIKAHOBBSIE (25) Joe Pouting 9.2 C Bishop
- 12-5-7 GOLD BELT (8) M Bell 8.11 C Shepherd
- 13-8-46 JALEA MOON (18) J Chapple-Hyam 8.11 R Tart

W-Factor: Cliffs Of Fury (23); Surrey Mist (82); Sea Grey (81).

SP FORECAST: 10-3 True Accolade, 4 Inner Light, 5 Deciduous, 11-2 Sea Grey, 6 Surrey Mist, 10 Lost Of Love, 12 Salvator Mundi, 16 Others.

6.30 MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE)

£3,780 (5) 1m (14)

- 5-1 INDIAN PEARL P Leech 4.10 W Carson
- 3-1 DWYFRAN (1013) S C Williams 5.9 M Ghani
- 12-1 IMAGEMAKER Dr J Scargill 4.9 J Egan
- 4-1 L/5 SAFE PASSAGE (18) D Pace 4.9 R Tart
- 9-1 ARWAAG (F) A Watson 3.8 11 Adam J McNamara
- 6-1 06 DOUBLE DARE YOU (25) C Cox 3.8 11 L Keniry
- 7-1 2 GUILIN (11) S P C Woods 3.8 11 James Doyle
- 8-1 9 OXYGEN THIEF (2) C Banham 3.8 11 J Haynes
- 9-1 93L PAOLO PANINI (19) T Ward 3.8 11 J Bryan
- 10-10 STEVENSON M Channon 3.8 11 C Bishop
- 11-1 7-5 HESPERANTHA (18) A Balding 3.8 6 D Probert
- 12-1 0L LANFEAR (86) Seamus Mullins 3.8 6 L Morris
- 13-14-1-6 ROCKADE (138) S Kirk 3.8 6 David Egan
- 14-1 TWILIGHT STEEL A Murphy 3.8 6 C Shepherd

TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 EYE COVERS: No. 4 HOOD: Nos. 1, 4.

W-Factor: Guilin (67); Hesperantha (60); Safe Passage (59).

SP FORECAST: 5-4 Guilin, 7-2 Arwaag, 4 Hesperantha, 10 Stevenson, 16 Twilight Steel, Rockade, 25 Others.

7.00 HANDICAP

£5,616 (4) 1m (11)

- 6-1 936- FANTASY BELIEVER (149) (C&D) E Walker 5.9 R Kingscote
- 5-1 72-7 TRICOLORE (21) M Botti 4.9 N Callan
- 11-1 SPIRIT OF THE BAY (182) (C&D) C Cox 4.9 5 H Crouch
- 2-1 5-37 BRAINS (26) (C&D) J Osborne 6.9 5 S Osborne (3)
- 8-1 03L- GRAIGNES (191) G Baker 6.9 5 T Whelan
- 1-1 74-3 ENOUGH ALREADY (49) (D) H Spiller 6.9 4 S Donohoe
- 3-1 LLL SEVENTH KINGDOM (21) J Osborne 4.9 2 N Currie
- 7-1 18-1 PROCLAIMER (21) (C&D,F,T) J Camacho 5.8 12 O McSweeney (5)
- 9-1 66-2 HANDEL (53) C Banham 4.8 11 J Haynes
- 10-1 4-1-3 STALEY HOME (28) (D) S Lyckett 5.8 9 J Gordon
- 11-1 044- BUXTED TOO (J103) J Williams 4.8 6 David Egan

BLINKERS: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

W-Factor: Proclaimer (97); Spirit Of The Bay (96); Tricolore (95).

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Proclaimer, 4 Spirit Of The Bay, 13-2 Brains, 7 Staley Home, 8 Fantasy Believer, 10 Graignes, Buxted Too, 12 Others.

7.30 UNIBET HANDICAP

£7,731 (3) 6f (12)

- 4-1 31-2 MOHAREB (28) (D) M Appleby 6.10 0 T Ladd (3)
- 6-1 600- YAZAMAN (195) R Cowell 4.9 7 Rossa Ryan
- 1-1 315- LITTLE BOY BLUE (249) (D) W G M Turner 7.9 7 L Browne (7)
- 8-1 3-21 AROUSING (7) (C&D,F) W Haggas 4.9 7 A Farragher (5)
- 5-1 81-7 COUNT OTTO (12) (C&D) A Perrett 7.9 6 J Haynes
- 5-1 41- SECRET HANDSHEIKH (157) (D) J Gallagher 4.9 2 N Callan
- 7-1 31-3 PRINCE OF ABINGTON (153) (D) J Chapple-Hyam 4.9 2 J Peate (7)
- 10-1 221 TYGER BAY (21) (C&D) C Allen 5.9 0 S M Levey
- 12-1 6-3 GOOD HUMOR (27) (C) S C Williams 5.8 10 C Shepherd
- 10-1 477 IDOPOLOGISE (11) (D) S Lyckett 5.8 9 D Probert
- 11-1 7-13 PUERTO DE VEGA (12) (D) S C Williams 4.8 9 M Ghani
- 12-2 294 BOBBY ON THE BEAT (13) (C&D) F McEntee 4.8 6 J Gordon

BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 6, 8 VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE: Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11.

W-Factor: Arousing (101); Good Humor (98); Idopologise (97).

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Arousing, 7-2 Puerto De Vega, 9-2 Tyger Bay, 12 Mohareb, Good Humor, 16 Idopologise, 20 Others.

8.00 HANDICAP

£7,731 (3) 1m 7f 218yds (8)

- 7-1 1-31 AUTHOR'S DREAM (36) (C&D) W Knight 9.9 11 M Ghani
- 2-1 35-2 MILITARY TWO STEP (30) (D,T) C & M Johnston 4.9 8 J Fanning
- 3-1 4-32 JUST IN TIME (36) (C) A King 4.9 8 D Probert
- 4-1 5-15 RESUMPTION (29) W Haggas 4.9 4 A Farragher (5)
- 5-1 51-4 HIGH WELLS (J534) (C&D) F O'Brien 4.9 3 R Horny
- 6-1 15-1 JUSTUS (67) I Williams 4.9 0 R Kingscote
- 7-1 22-3 RED ROYALIST (41) S Edmunds 8.9 0 J F Egan
- 8-1 41-2 CHASE THE DOLLAR (20) D Loughnane 4.9 0 R Ryan

VISOR: Nos. 1, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 6, 7.

W-F: Just In Time (95); Author's Dream (94); Resumption (93).

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Resumption, 11-4 Chase The Dollar, 5 Just In Time, Author's Dream, 8 Military Two Step, 10 Others.

8.30 HANDICAP

£5,616 (4) 7f (13)

- 1-1 111 DEMBE (7) (C&D) B Johnson 4.9 10 (5ex) Rossa Ryan
- 2-1 4-1-4 TWILIGHT HEIR (12) S Durack 4.9 7 S W Kelly
- 3-1 2-1 808- ZHUI FENG (215) (C&D) T Ward 9.9 7 R Kingscote
- 4-1 9-1 51-1 SIR TITAN (53) (C&D) A Carroll 8.9 6 David Egan
- 5-1 10-1 800- ENCOURAGED (248) J Fanshawe 4.9 0 D Probert
- 6-1 4-1-1 GOT NO DOLLARS (27) (C&D,F) S C Williams 4.8 12 M Ghani
- 7-1 311 THAPA VC (21) (C&D,F) M Rimell 4.9 3 G Rooke (3)
- 8-1 17-6 MAIN TARGET (27) (D) K P De Foy 4.9 2 J Mitchell
- 9-1 2-1 57-1 SAYIFYOUWILL (12) S Durack 4.9 7 R Horny
- 10-1 128- GOSNAY GOLD (171) (D) S Dow 4.9 1 L Morris
- 11-1 7-1 130- LOCKDOWN (168) (C) G Baker 4.9 1 T Whelan
- 12-1 23-6 JOHNNY REB (426) (C&D) R Teal 6.8 13 K Shoemaker
- 13-1 4-1-1 GOT NO DOLLARS (27) (C&D,F) S C Williams 4.8 12 M Ghani

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 6, 11, 13 HOOD: No. 11.

W-F: Got No Dollars (92); Follow Your Heart (91); Twilight Heir (90).

SP FORECAST: 4 Got No Dollars, 9-2 Dembe, 5 Thapa VC, Sayifyouwill, 10 Encouraged, Follow Your Heart, 14 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard, Right Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2017-22): David Probert 10% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2017-22): J & T Gosden 24% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 6:30 Arwaag (13), Indian Pearl (H), Safe Passage (eye shields, H), 7:00 Graignes (WS), Buxted Too (WS), 7:30 Prince Of Abington (V), BEATEN FAVOURITES: 6:30 Guilin, 7:30 Puerto De Vega (h), 8:00 Chase The Dollar (h), 8:00 High Wells (h), DRAW: No advantage. LONGEST TRAVELLER: Military Two Step (8:00) 245 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 6:30 Dwyfran from D Loughnane to S C Williams. Rockade from D Elsworth to S Kirk. 7:00 Enough Already from L Carter to H Spiller. Fantasy Believer from Hills to E Walker. Graignes from O'Neill in France to G Baker. 8:00 High Wells from G McPherson to F O'Brien. 8:30 Encouraged from K Man in Hong Kong to J Fanshawe. Follow Your Heart from S Hodgson to M Loughnane. Gosnay Gold from W Muir & C Grassick to S Dow. Johnny Reb from J Ferguson to R Teal.

C - Cheltenham		INDEX		Rathmacknee	
H - Huntingdon	Due A Win	N 7.45	Indian Pearl	K 6.30	H 3.50
K - Kempton	Dusart	C 2.10	Indigo Breeze	C 2.50	Red Allure
N - Newcastle	Dwyfran	K 6.30	Inferno Sacree	H 3.10	Red Royalist
	Easysland	C 4.10	Infiniti	H 3.10	Redemption Day
	Editeur Du Gite	C 4.50	Ingenio	H 5.05	Reine Fee
	Eilean Dubh	N 6.15	Inner Light	K 6.00	Resumption
	El Bello	N 7.15	Jalea Moon	K 6.00	Rio Silva
	Elixir De Nutz	C 4.50	James's Gate	C 5.30	Rizzardo
	Elkstone	H 1.50	Johnny Reb	K 8.30	Safe Passage
	Ember	C 4.50	Jolly Mank	H 1.50	Saint Felicien
	Encouraged	K 8.30	Jomont	N 5.45	Saint Peter
	Energumene	C 3.30	Journey With Me	C 1.30	Saligo Bay
	Enough Already	K 7.00	Joyeux Machin	C 5.30	Salvator Mundi
	Envoi Allen	C 3.30	Jungle Inthebungle	N 7.45	Saorla
	Esperiti	C 5.30	Just In Time	K 8.00	Sawpit Sienna
	Exit Poll	C 4.50	Justus	K 8.00	Sayifyouwill
	Extraordinary Man	H 3.50	Kingston King	H 1.50	Scarface
	Facile Vega	C 5.30	L'Homme Presse	C 2.10	Sea Grey
	Fair Frontieres	C 2.50	Landale	K 6.30	Seabank Bistro
	Fantasy Believer	K 7.00	Lanfeard	H 3.30	Secret Handsheikh
	Farouq D'Alene	C 2.10	Lary Nights	H 6.30	Seventh Kingdom
	Fastorslow	C 2.50	Leopolds Rock	N 5.14	Shady Operator
	Fircombe Hall	N 7.45	Leskinfere	H 4.30	She's Out Of Reach
	Fist Pumping Time	H 2.30	Liamarty Dreams	N 7.15	Shishkin
	Flyin' High	N 6.15	Little Boy Blue	K 7.30	Sir Gerhard
	Follow Your Heart	K 8.30	Lockdown	K 8.30	Sir Titan
	For Fitz Sake	H 1.50	Lopes Dancer	N 5.14	Sky Pirate
	For Pleasure	C 4.50	Lord Sparky	H 4.30	Spanish Present
	Frero Banbou	C 4.50	Lost Of Love	K 6.00	Sparkling Dawn
	Funambule Sivola	C 3.30	Madmansgame	C 5.30	Spells At Dawn
	Gallard Du Mesnil	C 2.10	Main Target	K 8.30	Spirit Of The Bay
	Ganapathi	C 2.50	Mars Harper	C 2.50	Stage Star
	Garry Clermont	C 2.50	Maykir	H 3.50	Star Shield
	Gentleman At Arms	H 1.15	Maze Runner	C 2.50	Stately Home
	Geordie Washington	H 4.30	McFabolous	C 2.50	Step Back
	Ghostly	N 5.14	Midnight Maestro	C 4.10	Stevenson
	Give Me A Cuddle	H 5.05	Military Two Step	K 8.00	Streets Of Doyen
	Global Citizen	C 4.50	Millies Mite	H 3.10	Style Council
	Global Fameglory	H 2.30	Million Reasons	N 7.45	Surrey Mist
	Glovely	N 6.45	Miss Calculation	N 7.15	Swapped
	Godot	C 5.30	Miss Delighted	H 2.30	Sword Beach
	Gold Belt	K 6.00	Miss Malarky	H 4.30	Systemic
	Good Humor	K 7.30	Mitchouka	C 4.10	T'Arason
	Good Risk At All	C 2.50	Mohareb	K 7.30	Tarnhelm
	Gosnay Gold	K 8.30	Moharaja	N 5.14	Tejano
	Got No Dollars	K 8.30	Mir Mccall	N 5.45	Thais Toir
	Global Road	C 2.50	Mus Drive	C 5.30	Thapa VC
	Graignes	K 7.00	Myboymax	N 5.14	The Bosses Oscar
	Grand Roi	C 2.50	Nube Negra	C 3.30	The Shunter
	Gullin	K 6.30	Ocean Of Mercy	C 5.30	The Spin King
	Gumball	C 4.50	On The River	N 7.15	Three Stripe Life
	Haas Boy	H 3.50	Our Jester	C 5.30	Threunderthruffie
	Handel	K 7.00	Outsmart	N 6.45	Thyme White
	Hang In There	C 2.50	Overougeorge	H 1.50	Tiger Roll
	Harry's Hottie	H 2.30	Oxygen Thief	K 6.30	Tiki Fire
	Hasankey	C 4.50	Pakie's Dream	H 1.50	Tilsworth Sammy
	Haxo	C 1.30	Pallas Dancer	N 5.45	Tommy
	Haykin	H 3.50	Paolo Panini	K 6.30	Top Dog
	Headingley	N 6.15	Parisian Blue	H 2.30	Top Moon
	Hellavaheart	N 6.45	Party Island	H 3.50	Torbellino
	Hello Sunshine	H 2.30	Pembroke	H 5.05	Torrent Des Mottes
	Hemlock	C 1.30	Plan Of Attack	C 4.10	Tout Est Permis
	Hesperantha	K 6.30	Planxty	K 6.00	Tricolore
	High Born Eagle	N 6.45	Poetic Music	C 5.30	Tronador
	High Wells	K 8.00	Poker Master	H 3.10	True Accolade
	Hoi An Beach	N 7.15	Poker Party	C 4.10	Twilight Heir
	Honest Oscar	H 1.15	Polilogue	C 3.30	Twilight Steel
	Houanbatordrechais	C 5.30	Poseidon	C 4.50	Tyger Bay
	Hunky	C 3.50	Potters Corner	C 4.10	Unexpected Party
	I Am Maximus	C 1.30	Pregarde	C 4.10	Viva Devito
	I Know How	N 7.45	Prince Of Abington	K 7.30	Watch Your Toes
	Idopologise	K 7.30	Proclaimer	K 7.00	Whatdeavant
	Idoapologise	K 7.30	Propelled	H 1.15	Whate Kitty
	Imagemaker	K 6.30	Put The Kettle On	C 3.30	Ykikahobbsie
	Imperial Command	N 6.15	Queen Of The Court	H 4.30	Zhuifeng

CHELTENHAM 2022 REST OF TODAY'S CARDS

BOOKIES AND PUNTERS SHARE SPOILS

THERE were contrasting results on day one of this year's Cheltenham Festival, with punters getting off to a flying start thanks to the victories of Constitution Hill and Edwardstone, and star mare Honeysuckle.

Rock, and most notably Brazil's last gasp defeat of hot favourite Gaelic Warrior in the Boodles Juvenile Hurdle. "It was a mixed bag of results from our point of view on day one of this year's Festival, with punters enjoying a great start thanks to

Constitution Hill and Edwardstone, while Honeysuckle is as reliable as a cash machine," said Coral's David Stevens. "Those three results were all costly for us, but we can't have too many complaints about the day as a whole."

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS West: STAGE STAR (1.30 Cheltenham) Scotland: AHoy SENOR (2.10 Cheltenham) Cotswolds: GOWEL ROAD (2.50 Cheltenham) Lambourn: SHISHKIN (3.30 Cheltenham)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS CHELTHENHAM: Good to soft 1.30-CONSTITUTION HILL (N De Boinville, 9-4 jt fav) 1; Jonbon (5-1) 2; Kilcruit (6-1) 3. 9 ran. 2/2A. (N Henderson; 9-4 jt fav Dysart Dynamo). Tote: £325; pl £140, £150, £160, exacta: £1180, tricast: £5623, trifecta: £7230, CSF: £1347.

5.14 PLAY 4 TO WIN AT BETWAY HANDICAP £2,970 (Class 6) 1m 4f 98yds (8 declared) 1 (6) 864-614 LOPES DANCER (15) (C&D) H Bethell 10 9-12... J Mason(3) 73

THE SCOUT 5.14 Autonomy 6.45 Saorla 5.45 Pallas Dancer 7.15 Alaskan Wind 6.15 Flyin' High 7.45 Red Allure

NEWCASTLE SSR 7.15 HANDICAP £3,510 (5) 7f 14yds (8) 1 (8) 231473- LIAMARTY DREAMS (152) (C&D) K Burke 9-8... C Lee 81

5.45 BETWAY HANDICAP £4,995 (4) 1m 2f 42yds (6) 1 (4) 22411-2 PALLAS DANCER (13) (C&D) B Ellison 5 9-12... B Robinson 88

6.15 HANDICAP £6,480 (3) 1m 5yds (6) 1 (6) 110-122 DIDEROT (31) (D,F) T J Ferguson 4 10-0... D Muscutt ★101

7.45 BETWAY INSIDER HANDICAP £2,970 (6) 6f (9) 1 (8) 43114- MILLION REASONS (12) (C&D) T P Evans 4 9-7... D Keenan 71

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Lopes Dancer, 9-2 Tommy R, 5 Autonomy, 11-2 Ghostly, 13-2 Mofarrest, 10 Leopolds Rock, 12 Zumaaty, 16 Myboymax.

6.45 MAIDEN STAKES £2,754 (6) 1m 5yds (7) 1 (7) 888-95L GLORYELLA (20) B Rothwell 6 9-9... K O'Neill 47

SP FORECAST: 2 El Bello, 9-2 Liamarty Dreams, 5 Definitive Force, 6 On The River, Miss Calculation, 10 Alaskan Wind, 12 Hoi An Beach, 33 Caracristi.

1.15 NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE) £4,084 (Class 4) 2m 4f 145yds (4 declared) 1 5122 GENTLEMAN AT ARMS (34) (C) S Edmunds 5 11-12... C Gethings ★135

3.10 HANDICAP HURDLE £4,030 (5) 1m 7f 171yds (12) 1 745488 MILLIES MITE (30) J Best & K Jewell 6 11-2

HUNTINGDON RTV THE SCOUT 1.15 Gentleman At Arms 3.50 Saligo Bay 1.50 Rizzardo 4.30 T'Arason 2.30 Tikki Fire 5.05 Swapped 2.10 Torbellino

1.50 HANDICAP CHASE £3,812 (5) 2m 3f 189yds (9) 1 L54115 RIZZARDO (34) (C&D) N Twiston-Davies 10 11-12

3.50 MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE) £5,445 (4) 1m 7f 171yds (11) 1 37-523L EXTRAORDINARY MAN (50) D Bridgwater 6 11-6

4.30 HANDICAP CHASE £4,684 (5) 2m 7f 129yds (12) 1 L21P23 LORD SPARKY (20) (C&D) Mrs C Bailey 8 12-4

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Joly Maker, 5 Pakie's Dream, 6 Anightinlambourn, For Fitz Sake, 7 Rizzardo, 10 Kingston King, Elkstone, 25 Torrent Des Mottes.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Pomeroy, 5-2 Saligo Bay, 5 Extraordinary Man, 6 Party Island, Haas Boy, 25 Au Jus, 40 Danita, 66 Others.

5.05 OPEN NH FLAT RACE (GBB RACE) £2,178 (5) 1m 7f 171yds (9) 1 812 SWAPPED (52) (D) N Henderson 5 11-10... J Bowen 110

2.30 MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE £4,030 (5) 2m 4f 154yds (15) 1 476-224 GLOBAL FAMEGLORY (33) D Skelton 6 12-0

3.30-HONEYSUCKLE (Rachael Blackmore, 8-11 fav) 1; Epatante (16-1) 2; Zannahyr (28-1) 3. 10 ran. 3/1A. (H De Boinville (IRE)). Tote: £173; pl £110, £270, £380, exacta: £1920, tricast: £17700, trifecta: £8540, CSF: £1201.

5.30-STATTLER (Mr P W Mullins, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Run Wild Fred (15-8 fav) 2; Vanillier (11-4) 3. 6 ran. 8/1, 22/1. (W Mullins (IRE)). Tote: £300; pl £150, £160, exacta: £620, trifecta: £1120, CSF: £604, Non-runner: Ontheropes.

3.10-BLUEBERRY VINE (B Hughes, 6-1) 1; Onenightintown (10-1) 2; Just Call Me Al (3-1 2nd fav) 3. 8 ran. 1/4, 9/4. (D McCain; 11-4 fav Soivegotachance). Tote: £740; pl £170, £280, £130, exacta: £6420, tricast: £21559, trifecta: £26950, CSF: £6146.

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) J O'Keefe 80% (3 wins and 1 places from 5 runners), R Bandy 75% (1/2/4), N Meade 73% (3/5/11), P Evans 67% (2/2/6), Peter Fahey 67% (1/3/6), N Twiston-Davies 58% (6/5/19), W P Mullins 57% (15/12/47), A Balding 54% (5/2/13), R Menzies 53% (4/6/19), A Murphy 50% (1/1/4), B Johnson 50% (1/1/4), G Elliott 50% (9/19/56), M & D Easterby 50% (1/3/8), M Harris 50% (5/3/16), M Keighley 50% (2/0/4), W Haggas 50% (2/0/4).

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