

# THE TIMES



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## Journalists walk out of No 10 briefing after rivals barred

**Matthew Moore** Media Correspondent

Political journalists boycotted a Downing Street briefing in protest yesterday after reporters from certain titles were banned from attending.

The BBC's Laura Kuenssberg, ITV's Robert Peston and the political editors of national newspapers were among those who walked out of the briefing in

solidarity with excluded rivals. Lee Cain, the prime minister's director of communications, had refused access to representatives of publications including *The Daily Mirror*, HuffPost, *The Independent* and the *i* newspaper.

The dispute came as the government continued to boycott *Today* on BBC Radio 4 and ITV's *Good Morning Britain*. Journalists who arrived for the

briefing were told to line up on one side of the Downing Street entrance hall while a security officer checked them off against a list from the press office.

Those on the list were asked to cross over, one by one, to the other side of the room. Those remaining were told to leave. When reporters protested at being excluded, Mr Cain came down to repeat the message. "Those invited to

the briefing can stay. Everyone else, I'm afraid, will have to leave," he said.

*The Times*, which had been invited to the briefing, was among those excluded when the newspaper did not send the journalist who had received the invitation. All the journalists, including those originally invited, left. Michelle Stanistreet, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said: "Johnson's

government must stop this paranoia and engage with all the press, not just their favourites." A No 10 source said that David Frost, the prime minister's Europe adviser, had been due to speak to "senior, specialist members of the lobby" — a so-called "inner lobby". The source said that eight or nine organisations from "across the political spectrum" were invited to the briefing.

# Jihadist told inmates he wanted to murder an MP

● I'll 'do something real', said Amman in prison ● Indefinite jail sentences planned for terrorists

**Sean O'Neill, Matthew Bradley**  
**Richard Ford, Fariha Karim**

The terrorist who stabbed two people in a busy shopping street had been released from prison despite telling fellow inmates that he wanted to murder an MP and intended to "do something real".

Sudesh Amman, 20, was released from Belmarsh jail ten days before he was shot dead by police surveillance officers during a knife attack in Streatham, south London, on Sunday.

A former prisoner who spent time with Amman in the high-security prison told *The Times* last night that he was a volatile and outspoken extremist who once mocked up an Islamic State-style execution with his cellmate.

He said: "The guy was definitely insane and he never hid his intentions, so it's crazy how he even got out of jail." The source said that Amman wanted to copy the murder of Jo Cox and told him "the only way to get these filthy kafirs [non-believers] out of Syria is to take out MPs like that white guy did with the lady in 2016".

The former prisoner was surprised to hear on Sunday that Amman had been shot after stealing a knife and lashing out at shoppers. "He said he was bigger than that, he wanted to do something real, something organised like the [IRA] used to do," he said.

Terrorists will be jailed indefinitely and only released if approved by a specialist parole board under plans being considered by the government. A Whitehall review of terrorist sentencing will also consider a reintroduction of control orders to curtail extremist behaviour.

After three successive terrorist attacks directly linked to the prison system — the Streatham attack, the London Bridge murders in November and an assault on prison staff at White-moor jail last month — the government also announced emergency laws to end automatic early release for terrorist



Sudesh Amman, pictured as a teenager, was said to have mocked up an Islamic State-style execution while in jail. "He never hid his intentions," an ex-inmate said

offenders. Ministers hope that the emergency legislation will be passed before the parliamentary recess on February 13 amid concerns that under the present system a number of terrorists will be released before the end of the month. Dozens of convicted Islamist extremists are due to be released from jail this year.

Robert Buckland, the justice secretary, told parliament that terrorist prisoners would serve at least two thirds of their jail terms before the Parole Board would consider their release. Mr Buckland said that because of "an unprecedented situation of severe gravity" the new measures would apply to serving prisoners as well as those yet to be sentenced.

"We cannot have the situation, as we saw tragically in yesterday's case, where an offender — a known risk to innocent members of the public — is released early by automatic process of law without any oversight by the Parole Board," he said. "We will be doing everything we can to protect the public. That is our primary duty."

Security sources said they had been aware that Amman was a danger to the public when he was freed on January 23 and sent to live in a bail hostel in Streatham. "The fact he was under armed surveillance shows how concerned we were. No one thought he was a reformed character," one source said.

The authorities were powerless to stop his release because all prisoners sentenced to four years or less are released automatically at the halfway point even if there are concerns about their behaviour. Amman was freed after serving half his sentence of three years and four months for disseminating terrorist material.

Investigations into the attacker continued yesterday, with police searching his bail hostel and a property in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, where a former associate lived. No arrests have been made. Three people injured in the

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Universities pay students thousands to delay degrees

**Sam Hall**

Universities have offered students thousands of pounds to take a gap year because too many have accepted places.

Russell Group universities including Nottingham and Exeter have made the offers after taking on more students than places available.

Last year Nottingham University offered 260 medical course applicants £2,000 to defer their studies for a year, while 59 graduate entry nursing applicants were offered £1,000. Five of the medical applicants accepted although none of those planning to study nursing agreed, freedom of information requests by *The Times* have shown.

Last year Exeter University offered 40 applicants for its master of science applied psychology course a "guaranteed" first choice of accommodation, as well as £1,000 towards the cost, if they delayed starting by a year. Exeter offered 183 psychology applicants their first choice of accommodation in 2016 if they agreed to delay their start, five of whom accepted. None took up last year's offer.

Manchester University offered incentives worth £1,000 to 190 management course applicants in 2018 to delay by a year. One registered in 2019. Five years earlier it made a similar offer to 70 midwifery students.

Imperial College London offered medical applicants the chance to take part in a "paid-for eight-month project in the UK or overseas" if they delayed their entry from 2014 to 2015. Last year the University of Sunderland gave ten paramedic applicants £4,000 each to defer entry from April to September.

While there is a shortage of doctors and nurses in the NHS, universities that train them have strict limits on how many can study at one time owing to funding levels and the number of supervisors needed per student.

The increase in tuition fees to £9,250 in 2017, as well as the end of a cap on numbers, means that universities

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My children prefer 1964 Mary Poppins to my version, reveals Emily Blunt

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"Mad Mike" Hoare, the accountant who inspired the film The Wild Geese

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BACK TO BASICS

England play their first one-day international since epic World Cup win

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Boris Johnson is in danger of learning the wrong lessons from Lady Thatcher's approach to Europe

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Safety cutbacks on smart road

Motorway chiefs failed to install extra safety measures on a stretch of smart motorway after concluding that it would have added up to 2 per cent to the bill. Two men were hit by a lorry on the "smart" section of the M1 last June. **Page 4**

Maitlis stalker is jailed again

A man who stalked Emily Maitlis for two decades has been sentenced to three years in jail for trying to breach a restraining order for the 12th time. Edward Vines tried to write letters to the presenter's mother from prison. **Page 5**

Death toll from outbreak rises

Cases of coronavirus around the world are doubling every five days, the health secretary Matt Hancock warned. The number of deaths caused by the epidemic surpassed those killed by Sars in China, rising by 64 to 425. **Page 10**

Mayor invokes spirit of Obama

Pete Buttigieg urged Iowa to "make history one more time" in the Democratic caucuses. The 38-year-old ex-city mayor invoked the state's choice of Barack Obama in 2008 as voting started for the party's presidential nomination. **Page 26**

Fear of tariffs weakens pound

Sterling suffered its worst day in seven weeks after Boris Johnson said he would swap tariffs for sovereignty if Brussels insisted that Britain followed EU rules. Economists warned of further trade talk uncertainty. **Page 33**

Stones future at City in doubt

Pep Guardiola, the Manchester City manager, wants to sign two centre backs this summer after the club failed to bring in a replacement for Vincent Kompany. The move casts fresh doubt over the future of John Stones. **Page 64**

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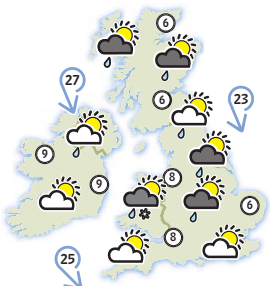
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THE WEATHER



Sunny spells across the country with the chance of showers, particularly in the east. **Full forecast, page 52**

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# Johnson rejects fears about US food as 'mumbo jumbo'

Francis Elliott Political Editor

Boris Johnson championed American food and called for an end to "mumbo jumbo" and paranoia in a change of tone before Brexit trade talks.

The prime minister said that "pretty well-nourished" Americans disproved "hysterical fears" over the quality of agricultural produce from the US.

He insisted that Britain would be "governed by science" as the country negotiated a new trade deal following its exit from the EU.

On the subject of chlorinated chicken, Mr Johnson said he "totally understood" the concerns, but said: "It's not a hygiene issue, it's an animal welfare issue." Chemical washes are seen by many as a "quick fix" for birds that have been raised in unhygienic conditions. The EU says there is no need to chlorinate chicken that has been properly produced. Mr Johnson had previously said that the UK would continue to ban its import after Brexit.

Yesterday, however, he was keen to promote other American foodstuffs in an intervention likely to have been

agreed with Washington in advance. He said that "naïve and juvenile anti-Americans" should "grow up" as he set out his commitment to free trade in his first speech since the UK left the EU.

Last week Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, warned Britain against using concerns over food safety as a "ruse" to protect its farming interests from competition. President Trump has said that the UK and US could strike a "massive" trade deal, which has the potential to be "far bigger and more lucrative" than any deal with the EU.

In Greenwich, southeast London, the prime minister said: "We will get going with our friends in America and I share the optimism of President Trump. And I say to all the naïve and juvenile anti-Americans in this country if there are any — there seem to be some — I say grow up and get a grip. The US already buys one fifth of everything we export."

He accepted there would be "difficulties" but insisted that the NHS would not be on the table. "And no, we will not accept any diminution in food hygiene or animal welfare standards. But I must say to the America bashers in this coun-

try, if there are any, in doing free trade deals we will be governed by science and not by mumbo jumbo because the potential is enormous," he said.

Asked what he considered "mumbo jumbo" about fears over US food, he replied: "I look at Americans and they look pretty well-nourished to me...let's take some of the paranoia out of this."

The UK is seeking to strike trade deals with countries around the world, including the US, during an 11-month transition period after Brexit.

Mr Pompeo said that he accepted agricultural issues would be "difficult" and "political" in the coming negotiations and pointed out that farmers were "constituents" of Mr Trump.

"We need to make sure we don't use food safety as a ruse to try and protect a particular industry," he said.

"And then we need to have hard conversations about the places we have opportunities to give and take and then deliver on outcomes that benefit the agricultural sector and most importantly, consumers who are going to be the net beneficiaries of these really good deals." **Competing visions, pages 12-13**

## Another delay to universal credit raises bill by £500m

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

The rollout of universal credit has been delayed by another nine months at a cost of £500 million, ministers have acknowledged.

The government's central welfare reform is running seven years late and will not now be completed during this parliament. Ministers insisted that the delay was the result of a stronger labour market, with more people staying in work rather than needing to claim benefits.

Universal credit is a fundamental overhaul of £60 billion of welfare payments, combining six benefits into one to simplify the system and boost incentives to work. However, it has been beset by delays because its introduction coincided with repeated cuts to working-age benefits. Originally due to be completed by 2017, this had slipped to December 2023. The deadline has now been pushed back to September 2024.

At a board meeting in September, Neil Couling, the programme's director-general, was filmed arguing for the delay for a BBC series, *Universal Credit: Inside the Welfare State*, to be broadcast tonight. "I feel very strongly that in trying to make an assessment here we

should put the claimants' interests here first," he said. "This will be difficult for me with ministers, this will be difficult for me with a whole host of people outside. In government we have had some good discussions, but they will not be easy either. The alternative would make me feel very uncomfortable."

About 900,000 fewer claimants than expected have switched from older benefits to universal credit, costing £500 million in income protection payments to smooth the transition.

Karl Handscomb, senior economic analyst at the Resolution Foundation think tank, said: "Delays to universal credit are far from uncommon, and getting the rollout right is more important than delivering it on time. But it is still the case that six million families will be on UC by the end of the parliament, so further extending the rollout schedule shouldn't allow ministers to lose sight of the need to make vital improvements to how UC operates."

Will Quince, minister for welfare delivery, said: "It is right that we revisit our forecasts and plan, and re-plan accordingly, ensuring that the process is working well for people on benefits. Claimants will not lose money due to this forecasting change."

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students paid to defer courses

compete ferociously for students. With students allowed to apply to five universities at a time, admissions departments have to make far more offers than they can accept, knowing that many will be turned down.

Angela Rayner, Labour's shadow education secretary, said that it was "a sign of both our broken funding model, and our admissions process, that universities are spending valuable resources on paying students to stay away".

Students have raised concerns about the level of universities' spending on recruitment rather than on teaching and academic research. Claire Sosisenki Smith, vice-president of the National Union of Students, said: "Universities should ensure that when they

recruit a student they have the resources to provide for them."

A spokesman for the University of Exeter said: "This is an extremely rare occurrence and we have only offered an incentive to defer twice in five years on two individual courses, resulting in five students deferring out of approximately 40,000 entrants." A University of Manchester spokesman said: "Occasionally we do seek to balance numbers with existing offer holders through offering options to defer entry. It is the student's choice to defer or not."

The University of Sunderland said that the incentives were "not due to oversubscription, but rather a temporary change in circumstance of available work placements, which form part of the programme. As a goodwill gesture the university offered financial help to the ten students involved." The

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jihadist 'wanted to murder MP'

incident are recovering. A man in his 40s who was in a life-threatening condition remains in hospital but his condition has improved. A woman in her 50s, a teacher at St Bede's Catholic Infant and Nursery school, has been discharged from hospital after treatment and a woman in her 20s who was hit by flying glass when police opened fire has also been allowed home.

Amman's mother, Haleema Faraz Khan, told Sky News that her son had been a "nice polite boy" before he was radicalised online. She said that his views had become even more hardline during his imprisonment at Belmarsh. "Before he went to prison he was not that religious. After he came out he was really religious." Mrs Khan said that she spoke to her son hours before the attack.

Amman was jailed 14 months ago for the possession of Islamic State recruitment material as well as manuals containing instructions about knife fighting.

The former prisoner who was in jail with Amman claimed that he had access to a USB stick circulating in the prison containing lectures by the extremist cleric Abdullah al-Faisal, who was deported from Britain in 2007 after serving a prison term.

**Son 'driven to hatred', pages 6-9**  
**Melanie Phillips, page 22**  
**Leading article, page 25**

University of Nottingham did not respond to a request for comment.

A Department for Education spokesman said: "Universities should ensure that their practices are fair and transparent for students. We have given the regulator strong powers to take action where this is not the case."

● Hundreds of thousands of students face disruption this month after lecturers announced 14 days of strikes affecting 74 universities. The University and College Union, which about two thirds of lecturers are members of, warned that it was ready to hold a further round of strikes if pension disputes and terms of employment are not settled. It staged eight days of strikes at 60 universities at the end of last year but has included 14 more campuses. Lectures, seminars and end of exams will be impacted.

**Leading article, page 25**



# Super-rich City trader suspended for 'stealing from staff canteen'

Katherine Griffiths  
Louisa Clarence-Smith

Any economist will tell you that there is no such thing as a free lunch, but it appears such wisdom is not universally understood in the City: a high-flying trader has been suspended from his job at an investment bank amid claims that he stole food from the staff canteen.

Paras Shah is no longer reporting for work at Citigroup after the dispute about his behaviour, according to the *Financial Times*. A source said he had defended his actions and given a justification for them, but Mr Shah did not respond to a request for comment last night.

Another banker said of the Citigroup canteen: "I can easily tell you there is nothing worth stealing there."

Mr Shah, 31, moved from HSBC to Citigroup in 2017, joining the trading department. The following year he was promoted to the position of head of high-yield credit trading for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

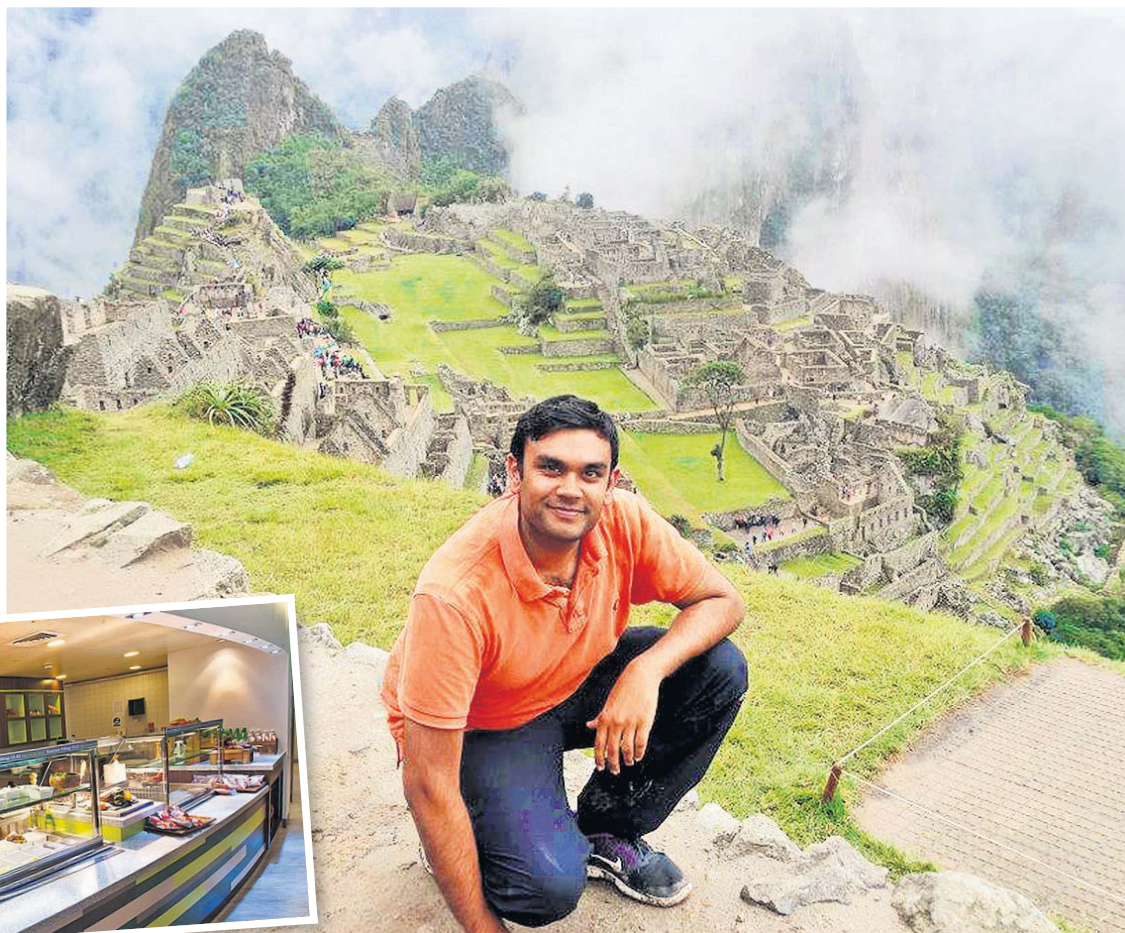
The job involves selling companies' risky debt to investors and is well remunerated. Successful traders in this area are usually among the highest-paid people at banks, earning more than a million pounds in salary and bonuses in a good year.

According to Mr Shah's LinkedIn biography, he attended the Latymer School, a selective state school in north London, before receiving an economics degree from the University of Bath. From there he joined HSBC, first as an analyst in its rates trading division before being promoted to trader. He worked at HSBC for six years.

Mr Shah's Facebook page suggests he has a taste for exotic holidays, having visited Petra in Jordan and Machu Picchu in Peru. He also seems keen on table tennis.

As a trader, Mr Shah does not fall under the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) senior managers' regime, which has set requirements about the fit and proper behaviour of staff. However, he would have to pass due diligence tests for any new employer, which are required by the City regulator.

Citigroup, based in New York, is one



Paras Shah took exotic holidays and mixed with celebrities such as the tennis star Goran Ivanisevic. Left: a Citigroup canteen

## Bigger losses

- Bruno Iksil, nicknamed the London whale, incurred \$6 billion of losses for JP Morgan Chase in 2012 through bullish trading.
- In 2011 the Swiss bank UBS was left with a \$2 billion loss after the rogue trader Kwaku Aboboli made a series of disastrous bets.
- Jérôme Kerviel, a 31-year-old trader, cost Société Générale \$7.2 billion, the largest trading loss in history at that time, in 2008.
- Brian Hunter, a trader who worked for Amaranth Advisors, a US hedge fund, lost \$6 billion on bets in the natural gas market in 2006.
- John Rusnak, a rogue trader at Allied Irish Banks, lost \$750 million in trades from 2001-02.

of the world's largest banks, with a presence in 98 countries spanning high street and investment banking. Canary Wharf in London is the European hub for its investment bank.

Citigroup posted almost \$20 billion in profits for 2019 and revenues of \$74 billion. The results were driven by a good performance from its consumer lending and its bonds trading businesses in the last three months of the year.

In the aftermath of the financial crisis banks have had to meet far higher standards over the personal conduct of employees, with even small misdemeanours sanctioned. In 2014 the FCA banned an asset manager from BlackRock from working in the City after it emerged that he was one of

the UK's biggest train-fare dodgers. Jonathan Burrows was alleged to have saved himself £43,000 by not paying the correct fare for his commute, although he disputed the amount.

Mr Burrows said in a statement at the time: "While I respect the FCA's decision today, I also regret it, coming as it did after a 20-year career in the City that was without blemish."

Last year the Japanese bank Mizuho fired a London banker for taking a chain guard off a colleague's bike. Marius Caracota brought an unsuccessful lawsuit against Mizuho, claiming that he thought the item belonged to him, and asserting that the bank was trying to get rid of him.

Citigroup declined to comment.



## Sons of the Georgian gentry were snowflakes

Mark Bridge History Correspondent

The self-absorbed "snowflake" who feels unsafe and needy despite being among society's most privileged is nothing new, a study suggests.

Academics say the younger sons of the Georgian and Victorian landed gentry faced so much emotional turmoil from having to make their own way in the world that they suffered from anxiety.

Their analysis of 734 letters of 1700-1900 indicates that the men, who were expected to fend for themselves in a "masculine" fashion while their elder brothers stood to inherit large estates, poured their hearts out in emotive notes to relatives seeking sympathy and support.

Younger sons were helped into careers in fields such as commerce, the law, the Church or the army, but told parents and siblings they were "fearful" and "helpless" when confronted with doubts or setbacks.

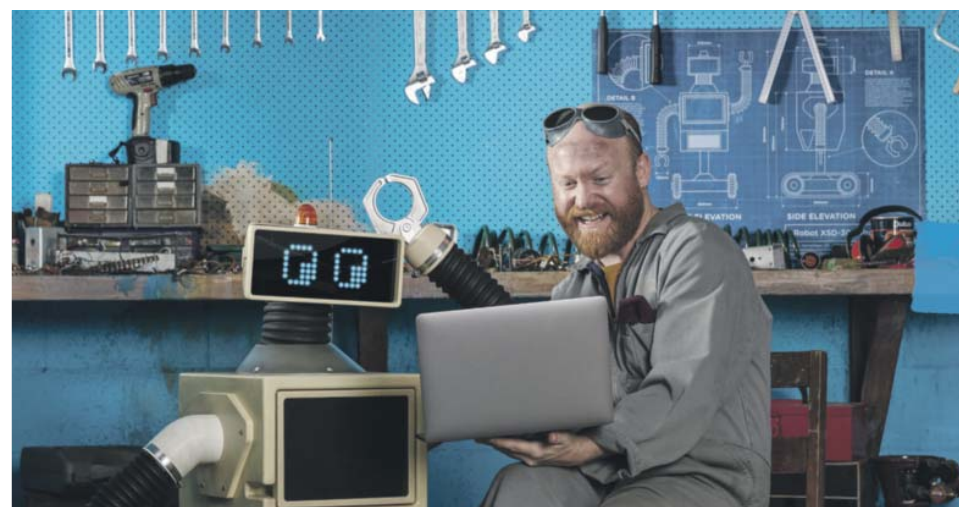
One, not atypically, described himself as "the most unhappy Man alive" while another signed off dramatically as "Your Unhappy Son".

In a paper in *The Historical Journal*, Henry French of the University of Exeter and Mark Rothery of the University of Northampton, said "concerted pressure" on younger sons to acquire the characteristics of "personal, masculine autonomy" began at public school. Following younger sons from 11 families into their mid-20s through their letters, they said "this goal appeared to be always slightly out of reach."

Among the particular bugbears of younger sons were social isolation and the fact that they lacked the resources to contemplate marriage till later in life, the authors said.

In 1876, John Parker, a second son, was in such financial straits while at Sandhurst that he wrote to his mother: "I lie awake at night thinking & scheming how to mend my affairs, but I see nothing before me but a hopeless blank. The little ambition I once had has almost disappeared, and my life is all a dream from which I strive hard to awake but cannot."

The historians said that Parker's complaints can be seen in a different light with the benefit of hindsight. He not only went on to inherit the family's Browsholme estate, but his son later wrote to him saying that he had been fortunate to start as a second son, as it had given him "absolute freedom" to go into the army.



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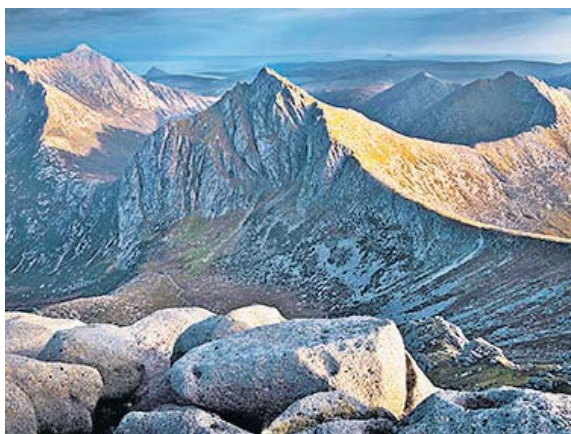
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## News



**World visions** Images of a salty lake turned pink by bacteria on Bonaire island, off Venezuela, Alaska, top left, and the Isle of Arran feature in the latest International Landscape Photographer of the Year book

# Extra lay-bys on smart motorways ‘too costly’

**Graeme Paton** Transport Correspondent

Motorway chiefs failed to install additional safety measures on a stretch of smart motorway after concluding that it would have added up to 2 per cent to the bill, *The Times* has learnt.

An analysis of a ten-mile section of the M1 where the hard shoulder has been removed found that changes would have led to “potentially significant increases” in costs with only marginal safety benefits.

The report acknowledged that the “primary goals” of the smart motorway scheme were cutting congestion and helping traffic flow, and not “improving safety” beyond a normal motorway.

The stretch between junction 32 and 35a in South Yorkshire has been the focus of anger after two men were killed last June. Jason Mercer, 44, and Alexandru Murgeanu, 22, had pulled over after a minor collision and were hit by a lorry.

Last week Mr Mercer’s widow threatened to sue Highways England for corporate manslaughter, saying that bosses at the government-funded company had “failed in their duty of care”.

Three other people have been killed since September 2018 on a neighbouring stretch of smart motorway.

*The Times* has seen a report into the possible addition of extra lay-bys on the section of the M1 near Sheffield.

The smart motorway scheme turns the hard shoulder into a permanent vehicle lane to increase capacity. It has emergency refuge areas up to 1.55 miles apart, variable speed limits to manage traffic and full CCTV coverage.

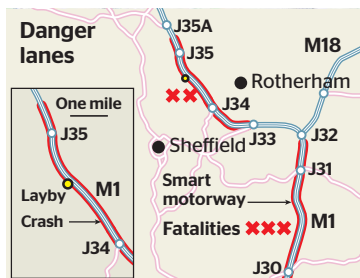
The report, dated December 2012, considered increasing the number of lay-bys from eight to 14. Maximum spacing between the lay-bys would have been cut to less than 1.3 miles with refuge areas an average of 0.8 miles apart. This would have cost between £1 million and £2 million, the report said, suggest-

## Case study

**J**ason Mercer and Alexandru Murgeanu were killed when they were hit by an 18-tonne lorry on a smart motorway (Graeme Paton writes). The two men had been involved in a minor shunt on the northbound M1 between junctions 34 and 35 near Sheffield on June 7 last year. They had pulled over

to the slow inside lane to exchange details but because the hard shoulder had been converted into an extra vehicle lane were unable to fully move off. It was said that they were a mile away from the nearest emergency refuge. Under the system, CCTV operators who spot stationary vehicles can close the lane with a red X on

an overhead gantry. Lawyers acting for Mr Mercer’s widow, Claire, say the lane was not closed for six minutes. In this time Mr Mercer and Mr Murgeanu were crushed to death. There were three other deaths in two accidents to the south, between junctions 30 and 31, in September 2018 and March last year.



ing an increase in the final £106.1 million project bill of less than 2 per cent.

However, the report published by the Highways Agency — the precursor to Highways England — said that a “number of design challenges have been identified as a result of reducing the spacing of refuge areas”. This included “potentially significant increases in cost” and “significant delays to [the] programme”. It also said that reducing spacing only “results in a small net decrease in risk to road users”.

It said that reducing the spacing brought only a small decrease in risk.

Edmund King, president of the AA, said: “It seems incongruous that for a mere 1 to 2 per cent increase in cost of the scheme that six extra emergency refuge areas were rejected. What price can you put on safety? The families of those who have died on this stretch will obviously question whether those extra emergency refuge areas would have given the drivers a better chance of getting out of live lanes.”

The revelation comes amid criticism of smart motorways, which have been significantly expanded in recent years to cover 200 miles of motorway.

Last week, the head of the Police Federation branded smart motorways a “death trap”. Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, has halted the opening of more, pending a safety review.

A Highways England spokesman said: “The transport secretary has asked the Department for Transport to carry out, at pace, an evidence stocktake to gather the facts about smart motorway safety. We are committed to safety and are supporting the department in its work on this.”

# New petrol and diesel cars banned from 2035

**THE TIMES**  
**CLEAN AIR**  
**FOR ALL**



**Graeme Paton**

A ban on selling new petrol and diesel cars will be brought forward by five years to improve air quality, the prime minister will announce today.

Boris Johnson will say that the sale of new combustion engine cars and vans will end in 2035 rather than 2040. Restrictions could be introduced even sooner if a “faster transition is feasible”, the government indicated. New hybrids with an engine and battery will also be banned subject to consultation.

The government insisted that it would work with the motor industry to hasten the introduction of zero-emission vehicles, including wholly electric and hydrogen-powered cars.

The announcement comes amid concerns that the transition to cleaner vehicles is still too slow despite a sharp rise in electric car sales recently.

Latest industry figures show that 37,850 battery electric cars were sold in the UK last year, more than double the number of 2018. However, they still made up only 1.6 per cent of new cars sales and 0.2 per cent of vehicles.

Mr Johnson’s pledge will be made at an event in central London to launch the next United Nations climate conference. The COP26 conference will be held in Glasgow in November.

Mr Johnson said: “There can be no greater responsibility than protecting our planet, and no mission that a global Britain is prouder to serve. 2020 must be the year we turn the tide on global warming. It will be the year when we choose a cleaner, greener future for all.”

Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, said: “Last year alone, a fully electric car was sold every 15 minutes. We

want to go further than ever before. That’s why we are bringing forward our target to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars to tackle climate change and reduce emissions.”

The government is expected to launch a consultation into an earlier ban on combustion engine cars in the coming months. However, motoring groups criticised the “incredibly challenging” shift, which is made amid a shortage of new electric cars in the UK. Customers for some vehicles can wait up to 12 months for delivery.

The groups also criticised the proposed ban on the sale of hybrids which outsell pure electric cars. Edmund King, president of the AA, said: “We must question whether we will have a sufficient supply of a full cross section of zero-emissions vehicles in less than fifteen years.”

He added: “Manufacturers are also spending billions on developing state-of-the-art hybrids which are zero emissions for many journeys but these will also be excluded from sale. This seems a very backward step that could backfire by encouraging drivers to hold on to older more polluting vehicles.”

However, Mike Childs, head of policy at Friends of the Earth, said that the new target was not ambitious enough. “The government is right to accelerate the phase-out of petrol and diesel cars to curb air pollution but the ban should start in 2030, not 2035. A new 2035 target will leave the UK in the slow-lane of the electric car revolution.”

● The British aviation industry has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050, despite aiming to carry 70 per cent more passengers. A plan to be published today by Sustainable Aviation, an alliance including airlines and airports, called for investment in greener fuels, better engines and schemes such as planting trees to offset emissions. However, Greenpeace said the plan was “greenwashing” for not trying to reduce demand.



# Maitlis stalker jailed for 'never ending' mania

Emma Yeomans

A man who stalked Emily Maitlis for two decades has been sentenced to three years in prison for trying to breach a restraining order for the 12th time, prompting the judge to say that he saw "no sight of this ever ending".

Last year Edward Vines, 49, tried to send two letters to Maitlis's mother, saying that he was in love with the BBC *Two Newsnight* journalist and was distressed because she had ceased contact with him. Vines was serving a 45-month sentence when he wrote the letters, which were intercepted by prison staff.

Vines, who met Maitlis at Cambridge University in 1989, was first convicted of harassing her in 2002 and was made the subject of a restraining order in 2009.

Yesterday Nottingham crown court was told that Vines claimed to have been "troubled" by Maitlis's treatment of him at Cambridge and said she had lied about him during a previous trial.

Vines, who is in HMP Nottingham, pleaded guilty to attempting to breach the order between May 7 and May 16. Judge Stuart Rafferty, QC, described his behaviour as a "life-long obsession" and said there was "no sight of this ever

ending". Sentencing Vines, he said: "You are convinced that you are in love with her and, no doubt, you think she is in love with you. I am afraid I have to sentence you on the basis that you are a long way from any reality dawning on you. If you love Emily Maitlis as you say you do... you have a very strange way of showing it, because you have made her life, in many ways, a misery."

Concluding his remarks, Judge Rafferty said that Maitlis had been "forever looking over her shoulder" because of Vines. "If you keep breaching the order, all the court can do is lock you up."

Until Vines stopped "being the unrequited 19-year-old that you were at the start of all of this, nothing will ever change", the judge added.

Maitlis previously received an apology from the government, after Vines was able to continue writing to her from jail and from bail hostels. In 2018 Judge Peter Ross demanded a written explanation from the probation service and HMP Bullingdon of how Vines had continued offending from jail.

"It was something that should never have got through, but it is extraordinary to think that a stalker behind bars for corresponding can then carry on corresponding," Maitlis told BBC Radio 5 in 2018.

She likened the decades of harassment to having a chronic illness. "It just makes you jumpy — and that's stressful and it's tiring and it's time-consuming. Your head is

somewhere else and you're having to think about things that are just ludicrous, like how do you get in and out of your front door."

Vines had a mental illness, she said, and she feared that he would never leave her alone.

Ian Way, for the prosecution, said that Maitlis had not been approached for a victim impact statement because it "compounds the distress".

Since Vines had been given a restraining order, which extended to Maitlis's family members, he had "persistently and systematically breached the order", Mr Way said.

He added that Vines had sent letters



Edward Vines: described by the judge as acting like an "unrequited 19-year-old"

ters, Mr Way said: "He was despairing over the situation between Emily and himself, and he did not feel his rights as a defendant were being respected — and until then he would not abide by the order."

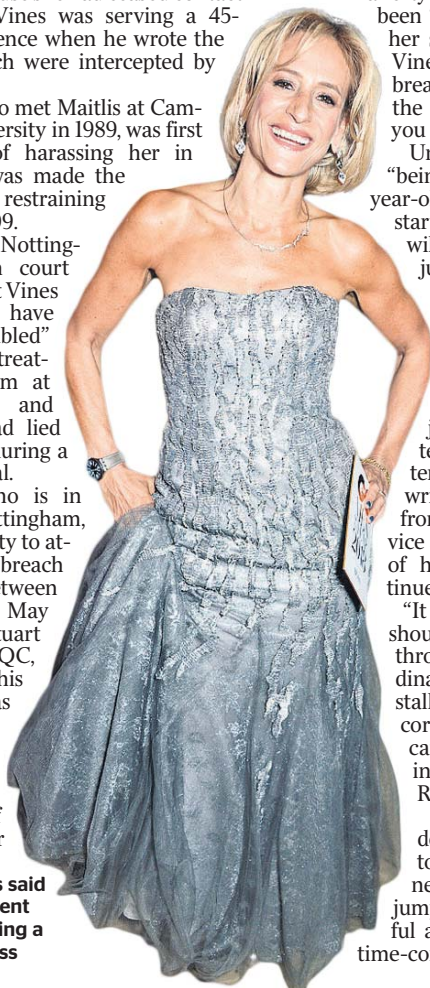
"He was troubled by Emily's treatment of him whilst at university. He said he was in love with her and he was distressed when she ceased all contact with him. He also stated that she lied about him and that he had not had his say."

Stefan Fox, in mitigation for Vines, said: "There was very little possibility that the letter would have left Nottingham prison."

and emails to Maitlis via the BBC, the *Newsnight* programme and her mother. On one occasion he had also telephoned Marion Maitlis, the journalist's mother.

Summarising the contents of the let-

Emily Maitlis said the harassment was like having a chronic illness



## Keep calm and challenge male gropers, actress says

Matthew Moore Media Correspondent

Feminists should "talk to the enemy" and explain to lecherous men why their behaviour is inappropriate, the actress Dame Harriet Walter has said.

Walter, 69, said that men would never understand why their actions were harmful unless women educated them.

Until recently, even men who adopted a "right-on position as a male feminist" did not put themselves in the shoes of women who were harassed, she added.

"The ground shift is going to make things very much easier to correct," the actress told the *Radio Times*, in reference to the #MeToo movement.

"They need talking to about why things are wrong. Like: 'It's not that you touch me on the leg, but it's the fact that you're in a position of power. And I didn't ask you to, and you invaded my space.' Or: 'Can I put my hand on your knee instead? And how would you feel about it if I did?'"

She added: "Being uncalm doesn't help, because that person won't ever understand what they did wrong. And won't ever dare to ask. I think everyone should work towards a climate where you can really sit and listen. I'm talking about an ideal world, but I do think it's within reach. I just think that the debate these days is so scary and loud and judg-

mental. How can anybody learn anything about anybody else if they are too scared to engage?"

Walter is known for her long association with the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as TV roles in *Law & Order: UK*, *Downton Abbey* and *The Crown*, in which she played Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine.

Her foul-mouthed, hard-drinking character in the new Sky Atlantic



Dame Harriet Walter says that women need to educate men

drama *The End* appears unsympathetic to the plight of her grandchild, who is transitioning from a girl to a boy. Walter said that she was reluctant to comment on the row over whether people should have the right to "self-identify" their gender. However, she urged both camps to tone down their rhetoric and seek a compromise. "What is difficult is the judgmentalness on both sides. The high temperature of the debate makes it really hard to have a proper conversation and know what people on both sides are trying to say."

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## News Terror attack

# He was a kind, lovely boy driven

Ben Ellery, David Brown, Fariha Karim, Duncan Gardham

The mother of the man who stabbed two people in south London has said he was a “nice, polite boy” who was driven to attack by his time in prison.

Haleema Khan, 41, said she had no idea what her son Sudesh Amman was planning when she spoke to him only hours before he struck in Streatham.

However, she said that she had a “feeling” her son was involved when she saw the attack on the news. Her fears were confirmed when she saw video of him lying on the ground, and finally when officers visited her home later on Sunday to say he was dead.

“I can’t believe this has happened to my son,” she said. “He was a lovely boy. I was very close to him. He was a polite, kind, lovely boy. He was always smiling. I’m so upset. He was only 20 years old.”

The last time she saw Amman was on Thursday at the bail hostel he had been staying at after his release from HMP Belmarsh on January 23. He had been jailed for three years and four months in December 2018 after admitting six charges of possessing a document containing terrorist information, and seven of disseminating a terrorist publication. He had posted on a family WhatsApp group a link to *Inspire*, the al-Qaeda magazine.

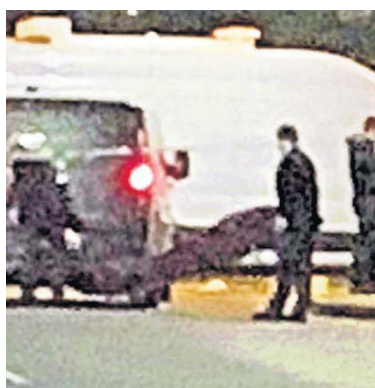
The “La Familia” group included his brothers who were aged 15, 13 and 11 at the time, and members of the family from Sri Lanka. Amman was living with his mother and five brothers in Harrow, northwest London, at the time, in a home with peeling paint and metal bunk beds.

Photographs posted to the WhatsApp group showed his younger brothers in their bedroom with a black Isis flag, posing with BB guns, and sitting around a table using the Isis one-fingered salute. In one message he told them “radicalising is not wasting time”.

His home life was described in court as “chaotic”. His mother brought up the boys on her own after their father, a heavy drinker, met another woman and returned to Sri Lanka. Social services had been involved, with Amman at the centre of the problem, one source said.

Amman was studying science and maths at the College of North West London in Willesden. But he was convicted of possessing an offensive weapon, understood to have been a broken bottle, and possession of cannabis in May and June 2017, when he was 17, and given referral orders.

Mrs Khan said Amman “wasn’t even a very devoted Muslim” and had “got into all this on the internet”. Despite the fact that he had been sentenced for



Police searching the London street where officers shot dead Sudesh Amman on Sunday. He had spoken of his readiness for violent action on a jihadist blog

owning and distributing terrorist magazines, it had been “when he went to prison [that] something happened to him”, she told Sky News.

“He became more religious inside prison. That’s where I think he became radicalised. He was watching and listening to things online which brainwashed him.”

It is not known whether Amman had taken part in the deradicalisation courses that are conducted at HMP Belmarsh.

Mrs Khan, who moved to Luton before her son’s release, said that he had asked for “your mutton biryani” during one of their last conversations. “I regularly took food to him at the hostel, and on Thursday I asked him what he wanted,” she told MailOnline. He said he wanted a “mutton biryani ... so I cooked one and took it over to him”.

She added that she was trying to talk to lawyers, police and the Home Office to get his body released.

One source described Amman as “a bit odd” and “self-destructive” and said that he would probably have become involved in drugs and crime if he had not taken to terrorism. His path to extremism had been influenced by a male family friend, the source said, as well as by looking at online material.

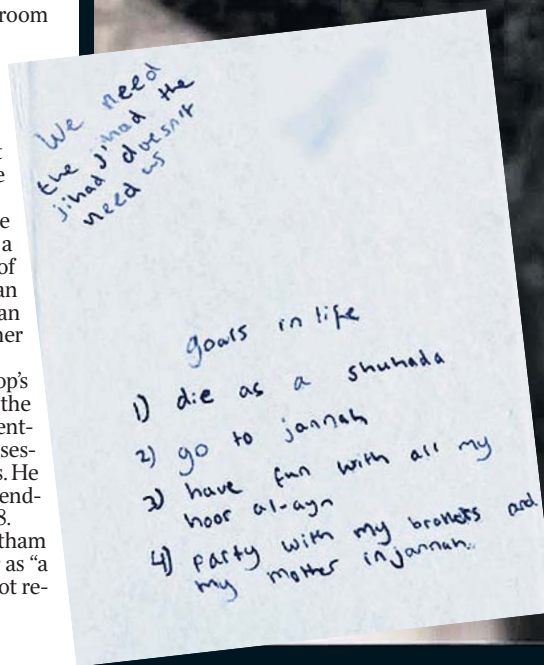
In May 2018 Amman was arrested on suspicion of terrorist offences after a Dutch blogger had the previous month drawn police’s attention to extremist material he had posted in a chat room on the messaging app Telegram. Mark Van Den Berg said that Amman had named himself “Strangertotheworld” and “Abu Malik”, and had indicated that he would rather play the violent video game *Call of Duty* “in real life than virtual”.

Amman was arrested alongside Rezwan Khan, who is now 20, and a 19-year-old woman on suspicion of terrorist offences. Whereas Amman was charged, Khan and the woman were released without further action.

Khan, whose home in Bishop’s Stortford was raided yesterday by the Metropolitan Police, was subsequently charged and convicted of possession with intent to supply cannabis. He was sentenced to six months, suspended for 18 months, in October 2018.

Yesterday Isis claimed the Streatham attack, describing the perpetrator as “a fighter of Islamic State”, but did not refer to Amman by name.

Melanie Phillips, page 22  
Leading article, page 25



## Girlfriend was told to behead parents

David Brown

The former girlfriend of the Streatham terror attacker said yesterday that she had lived in constant fear of him after he urged her to behead her parents.

The woman, now in her twenties, said that Sudesh Amman would fantasise about killing non-Muslims with knives and carefully plotted the attack that he carried out on Sunday.

Amman, 20, was shot dead by undercover police officers after stabbing a woman and a man.

His ex-girlfriend said that she had felt trapped in the year-long relationship with the college student from Harrow, northwest London, before he was arrested in May 2018.

“He never hurt me physically, but emotionally and psychologically he did,” she said. The woman said that she had

been “shaking, traumatised, horrified” when she heard that he had been killed in Streatham, south London.

She told ITV News: “I just want to move on and have a normal life and I felt like I was starting to but now it feels like I’m reliving it all, reliving the nightmare.”

She said that even though the relationship was years ago, she still felt the urge to look over her shoulder. “I just live in fear,” she said. “It shouldn’t be like this but it’s given me some closure that I don’t feel trapped in a situation any more. It’s really opened my eyes — you think you know a person, but you don’t.”

Amman’s sentencing hearing at the Old Bailey in December 2018 was told that he had talked to his girlfriend about pledging allegiance to Islamic State and slaughtering non-Muslims with a sharp knife and said that she

should kill her “kuffar [infidel] parents”.

He also sent her an al-Qaeda bomb-making guide called “Make a bomb in the kitchen of your mom”. Weeks before his arrest, he copied her into a message that read: “Take a knife, molotov, or a car at night and attack the tourists (crusaders), police and soldiers of taghut [idolatry], or Western Embassies in every country.”

She said she had not been told that Amman had been released from prison two weeks ago, having served half his sentence.

She added: “The authorities really need to focus on rehabilitation. Offenders like this, with that sort of ideology, if they’re not rehabilitated properly before they’re released, or the penalties are increased, then this will just happen again. My tears and heart are with the innocent people affected.”

## Online jihadi materials let him spread hate in family

Duncan Gardham

Sudesh Mamoor Faraz Amman was 18 when he yawned his way through the Old Bailey hearing at which he pleaded guilty to 13 terrorism offences.

Mr Justice Lucraft, QC, told him that he was facing a custodial sentence of “some length”, but it did not seem to bother Amman.

A probation report was ordered, but Amman refused to co-operate and he reappeared six weeks later for sen-

cing, claiming his “full credit” for pleading guilty and a little extra for his age.

Wearing glasses, a black prayer cap and a long black tunic, he refused to stand for the judge and sat through the proceedings with his mouth half-open.

When he was jailed for three years and four months, for downloading terrorism documents and sharing them online, he smiled and waved to his mother and brother in the public gallery as he was taken to the cells.

He had already served seven months on remand and would be released halfway through his sentence, meaning he would be out in just over a year. Sources say he was already causing concern in jail and his behaviour never improved.

On January 14, 2018, he posted an image of text attributed to the preacher Abdullah el-Faisal, an influence on the July 7 bombers, who was jailed for inciting terrorism.

He had also downloaded a book by Dhiren Barot, a senior al-Qaeda operative who is serving a life sentence for



# to hatred in prison, says mother

## Scariest graduate of a jail system that fails to cope



Sudesh Amman giving the Islamic State one-fingered salute and a list of his goals in life, which included dying as a martyr (shuhada). Below, as a small boy in Harrow, northwest London, where he lived with his mother and brothers



Matthew Bradley, Sean O'Neill

Sudesh Amman was a “strange and unpredictable” young man given to violent mood swings and outbursts of jihadist zealotry when in Belmarsh prison, a former inmate said last night. “I’ve served time with a lot of convicted terrorists, but this guy was definitely the scariest — his eyes had no life in them,” the ex-prisoner said.

Amman did not seem to care who he offended as he boasted of his intention to carry out an attack upon his release.

“He would call everybody ‘fuslms’ [fake Muslims] because they talked a lot about jihad and committing attacks but they never did anything about it, just a load of chat,” the ex-prisoner added.

“For his age, considering who he was around — murderers and gang-leaders — he was confident and unapologetic.

“He would speak his mind, often Islamist rhetoric, and if it hurt feelings, it hurt feelings. The brothers [other jihadist prisoners] appreciated how genuine he was, so they would protect him from the consequences of his big mouth. It was funny to me I guess, this noodle-armed kid berating these guys serving life-sentences for double murders.”

The ex-inmate, a Muslim convert jailed for drugs and violence offences, said he had adopted a jihadist persona inside to protect himself.

He described a situation inside high-security jails where jihadist prisoners coerced other inmates into pledging allegiance to extremist organisations and threatened those who refused.

The Streatham attack, in which two people suffered knife injuries, is the third successive terrorist incident with a direct link to the prison system.

Usman Khan, 28, who murdered two people at Fishmongers’ Hall, beside London Bridge, last November, was released early having taken part in deradicalisation courses and pretended to have given up extremism. He was attending a prisoner rehabilitation and education event when he launched his knife attack, killing Jack Merritt, 25,

and Saskia Jones, 23, before being shot dead by police. Last month police said an assault on staff in Whitemoor jail by inmates armed with bladed weapons was being treated as a terrorist attack.

One of the alleged attackers in that incident was Bruthom Ziamani, 24, who was jailed in 2015 after police arrested him in possession of a large knife as he set out to try and behead a soldier and copy the murder of Lee Rigby.

The Times revealed in December that during 2016 Ziamani, a follower of the hate preacher Anjem Choudary, was among extremists at Woodhill jail near Milton Keynes who organised self-style sharia courts, dealt out beatings and circulated banned literature.

A prisoner using the name Jack described how he was radicalised over three months by a small group who had pledged allegiance to Islamic State. He said that prisoners celebrated terrorist attacks and shared ideas for others.

Some of the most hardline jihadists, Jack said, were men who had converted to a warped version of Islam inside prison having had no religious affiliation beforehand. One was a murderer and drug addict, the other a convicted robber who received a further sentence for attacking prison officers.

Sadiq Khan, mayor of London, warned yesterday that prisons had become “warehouses where people are radicalised or learn from a university of crime rather than being rehabilitated and punished”.

In 2016 a review by Ian Acheson, a former prison governor, called for urgent measures to tackle the “growing problem [of Islamist extremism] within prisons”. He concluded that “cultural sensitivity among [prison] staff towards Muslim prisoners has extended beyond the basic requirements of faith observance and could inhibit the effective confrontation of extremist views”.

His report recommended a series of reforms but many were never implemented. Sir Bob Neill MP called in the Commons yesterday for the remaining Acheson proposals to be acted on.

plotting attacks on hotels in central London, and grew up near Amman.

When police raided his home they found a combat knife, an Isis flag and a notebook in which he wrote that his “goals in life” were: “Die as a shuhada” [martyr] and “go to jannah” [paradise].

They found he had sent Isis recruitment material to a Whatsapp group that included his three younger brothers, and told one of them he wanted to “blow myself up.” The videos, titled “For the Sake of Allah”, “Let’s go for Jihad” and “The Islamic State, My Revenge”, showed prisoners being burnt alive by Isis fighters and children at beheadings.

Amman had also downloaded manuals showing how to kill people, including one called “Blood Brazilian Knife-Fighting Techniques”. The 79-page document included instructions on inflicting damage with various types of knives and improvised weapons, including how to target the vital organs of an opponent in order to inflict “quick loss of consciousness and death”.

## Glimpses of hope in tackling radicalism abroad

Catherine Philp  
Diplomatic Correspondent

When Gordon Brown travelled to the Gulf in 2008 to discuss the global economic crisis, he visited a complex outside Riyadh and shook hands with two former al-Qaeda members.

The encounter was one of the many visits by western leaders to the Mohammed bin Nayef Counselling and Care Centre, a former resort and the showpiece of Saudi Arabia’s deradicalisation programme for terrorists.

Saudi Arabia boasts of being a global leader in deradicalisation, citing an 80-90 per cent success rate, based on recidivism rates. However, experts question whether such figures are a true metric of success — the most violent offenders have never been released.

And despite the Saudi efforts to sell

its success overseas, deradicalisation there comes in a particular cultural and religious context — a fact that may have been lost on visiting foreigners anxious to import the model.

Those suspected of violence within the country itself are not eligible for the programme, only those who have travelled abroad to fight. Saudi clerics leading the programme tell them not that they are wrong to want to wage jihad against the infidel, only that they are wrong to do so without the permission of their king, who takes his religious authority from the clerical establishment. This model would be impossible to replicate in the secular West.

Deradicalisation centres have luxurious conjugal lodging where wives and children can visit to keep the convict connected to family. The swimming pools and other sporting facilities keep

inmates engaged. Parts of the model, minus the luxuries, were used by US forces in Iraq, but the emergence of the Islamic State from US prisons there cast doubt on its effectiveness outside Islamic authority.

Denmark had a well-developed programme for trying to prevent radicalisation and intervening to stop individuals joining extremist groups. But it took the departure of scores of Danes to fight in Syria for Denmark to launch a full deradicalisation programme. “Deradicalisation: Back on Track”, begun in 2016, has attracted attention for its softer approach towards offenders, grounded in reintegration.

It is based on three guiding principles: inclusion rather than stigmatisation; strong collaboration between the rehabilitation programme and external agencies in preparation for reintegra-

tion; and a science-based discipline called life psychology that addresses all forms of radicalisation, not just religious extremism. Because of that, it entails no theological discussion or reprogramming.

Prison inmates identified as extremist are placed in special units where they cannot exert influence over unradicalised inmates. They are placed in a mentorship scheme and a rehabilitation process that has been tailored for them, using resources drawn from the community: schools, healthcare and social services. Their participation in rehabilitation is a requirement for them to be considered for parole.

Its success rate has been difficult to determine and critics contend that rather than punish extremists, it coddles them — one of the few features it shares with the Saudi system.



## News Terror attack

# Bid to lock terrorists up as long as risk remains

Steven Swinford Deputy Political Editor  
Richard Ford Home Correspondent

All terrorists will be jailed indefinitely and released only under the instruction of a specialist parole board under plans being drawn up by ministers amid concern that some cannot be deradicalised.

The government has begun a review looking into a new form of "indeterminate sentence" under which terrorists will in effect be jailed for life, regardless of the severity of their offence.

They will be released only if an expert parole board, staffed by judges involved in sentencing terrorists, deems that they no longer pose a threat.

There are concerns that the threat posed by Sudesh Amman was not reflected in his custodial sentence of three years and four months for the possession and distribution of extremist material.

The move to jail terrorists indefinitely will be considered as part of the sentencing bill and counterterrorism bill, to be published this year.

After the second London Bridge terror attack, during the general election campaign, Boris Johnson said that some offenders were not "capable" of being rehabilitated and suggested they should be jailed for life. Ministers are



Robert Buckland said immediate action was needed

understood to be examining the issues around indeterminate sentences, previously introduced by Labour but scrapped by the coalition in 2012 after judges ruled that they breached human rights.

Under those sentences offenders served a minimum term set by a judge, after which they were entitled to apply to the Parole Board for release.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that jailing offenders indefinitely without proper access to rehabilitation was a breach of rights.

The government is also considering a new control order to restrict the movement of freed terrorists. The orders, which imposed virtual house arrest, were also scrapped under the coalition.

Robert Buckland, the justice secretary, announced yesterday that terrorists would no longer be automatically released from prison halfway through their sentences. Ministers are to introduce emergency legislation within days to give the Parole Board a key role in the release of all terrorist prisoners.

Ministers plan to push the legislation through parliament within two weeks. Under the present system a number of terrorists will be released before the end of the month.

Mr Buckland said the change would

apply to those already in jail, a move likely to prove controversial.

The legislation follows emergency meetings in Whitehall in the past 24 hours after Amman was shot dead by police having attacked two bystanders in Streatham High Road.

Mr Buckland told MPs that the "senseless and horrific attack" made the case for immediate action overwhelming. "We cannot have the situation, as we saw tragically in yesterday's case, where an offender—a known risk to innocent members of the public—is released early by automatic process of law without any oversight by the Parole Board. We will be doing everything we can to protect the public, that is our primary duty."

Amman, who was jailed in December 2018 for possessing and distributing terrorist documents, was freed from Belmarsh prison in southeast London on January 23. He had been living at a bail hostel near the scene of the attack and was under close surveillance by the security authorities after warnings from inside the prison about his extreme Islamist beliefs.

There are about 220 terrorists in jail who would previously have been eligible for automatic early release, but who under the plans will have their release approved by the Parole Board. Most are serving sentences of four years or less. Members of the board will consider whether they can be released at the two-thirds point with no terrorist offender released before the end of their custodial sentence without its agreement.

Mr Buckland added: "The underlying principle has to be that offenders will no longer be released early automatically and that any release before the end of their sentence will be dependent on risk assessment by the Parole Board. We face an unprecedented situation of severe gravity and, as such, it demands that the government responds immediately and that this legislation will therefore also apply to serving prisoners."

The anti-terrorism watchdog warned that making the legislation retroactive would lead to a huge legal fight.

Jonathan Hall, QC, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*: "If you are simply changing the way sentences are implemented it may be lawful. I would expect there would be a big legal battle about it, but it is not impossible."

Other lawyers did not think it would breach the European Convention of Human Rights. Tony Fisher, former chairman of the Law Society's human rights committee and partner at Fisher Jones Greenwood, said: "The European Court of Human Rights has on a number of occasions ruled that changes in the execution of a criminal sentence after it has been passed does not necessarily violate the rights of the defendant under the convention."

## THE SURVEILLANCE UNIT



Undercover counterterrorism police officers on foot swiftly draw their concealed pistols and shoot Amman

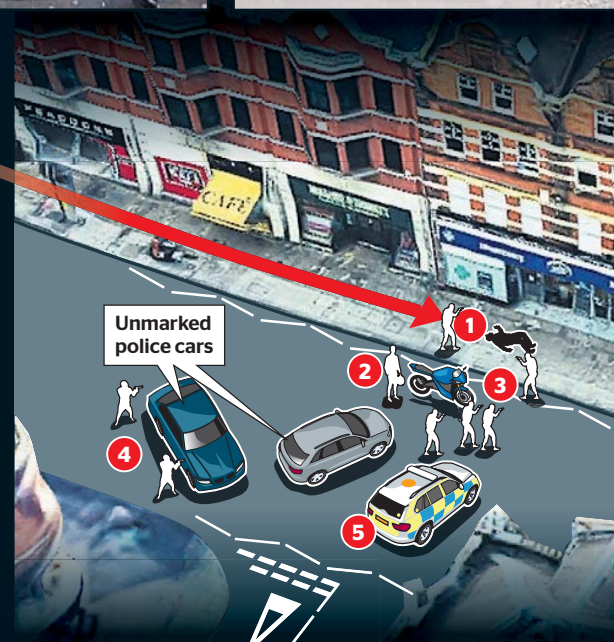
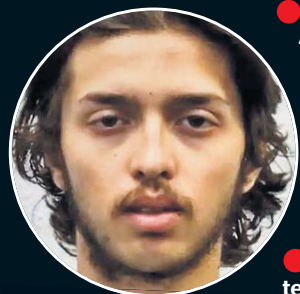


### What happened before the attack

● **Sunday Feb 2** Sudesh Amman, 20, leaves his bail hostel in Streatham shortly after 1.20pm and heads to the high street, already wearing the fake suicide vest he has put together using silver canisters

● A covert surveillance team consisting of undercover officers on foot and using vehicles have eyes on him at all times

● **1.56pm** He suddenly enters a convenience store, snatches a knife from beside the counter and runs into the street, stabbing a man and a woman



## Experts prepare for copycat attacks

David Brown, Duncan Gardham

Dozens of convicted Islamist extremists are due to be released from jail this year including terrorists who planned to use knives in plots with striking similarities to the Streatham attack.

Counterterrorism police and the security services have been preparing for the release of about 40 convicted terrorists over the next 12 months.

Releases could be halted under plans announced yesterday by Robert Buckland, the justice secretary, for emergency legislation that could require terrorists to serve two thirds of their sentences before being considered for parole.

Terrorists jailed for less than four years are normally automatically released after serving half their sentence while those with longer punishments can be required to serve the full term.

A Home Office report in December revealed that 41 prisoners convicted of terrorism offences had been released during the 12 months to September last year. There were 224 people still in cus-

tody for terrorism-related offences, with three quarters categorised as holding "Islamist extremist views".

Rajan Basra, a researcher at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation, said that the recent attacks by extremists freed on licence or still in prison showed "their time in prison has not reduced their commitment to the jihadist cause".

"The risk now is that the recent attacks will generate their own momentum, encouraging other jihadists to carry out attacks of their own," he said.

"They've all followed the same methods, using knives while wearing fake suicide vests, so they involve very little preparation time, appear spontaneous, and can be difficult to anticipate."

### "BOY X": DUE OUT THIS MONTH

Britain's youngest terrorist was 14 when he was arrested at his home in Blackburn for plotting to murder police officers in Australia in 2015. He was jailed for life with a minimum of five years and granted lifelong anonymity by a high court judge.

### MOHAMMED GHANI: NEXT MONTH

The "armchair extremist" was found with copies of an online al-Qaeda magazine having carried out searches on members of the royal family at his home in north London. He was jailed for two years and four months.

### MOHAMMED ZAHIR KHAN: NEXT MONTH

A Sunderland shopkeeper who tweeted support for Islamic State and called for "death to Shias" was jailed for four and a half years in 2018 for terror offences.

### ATIQ AHMED: NEXT MONTH

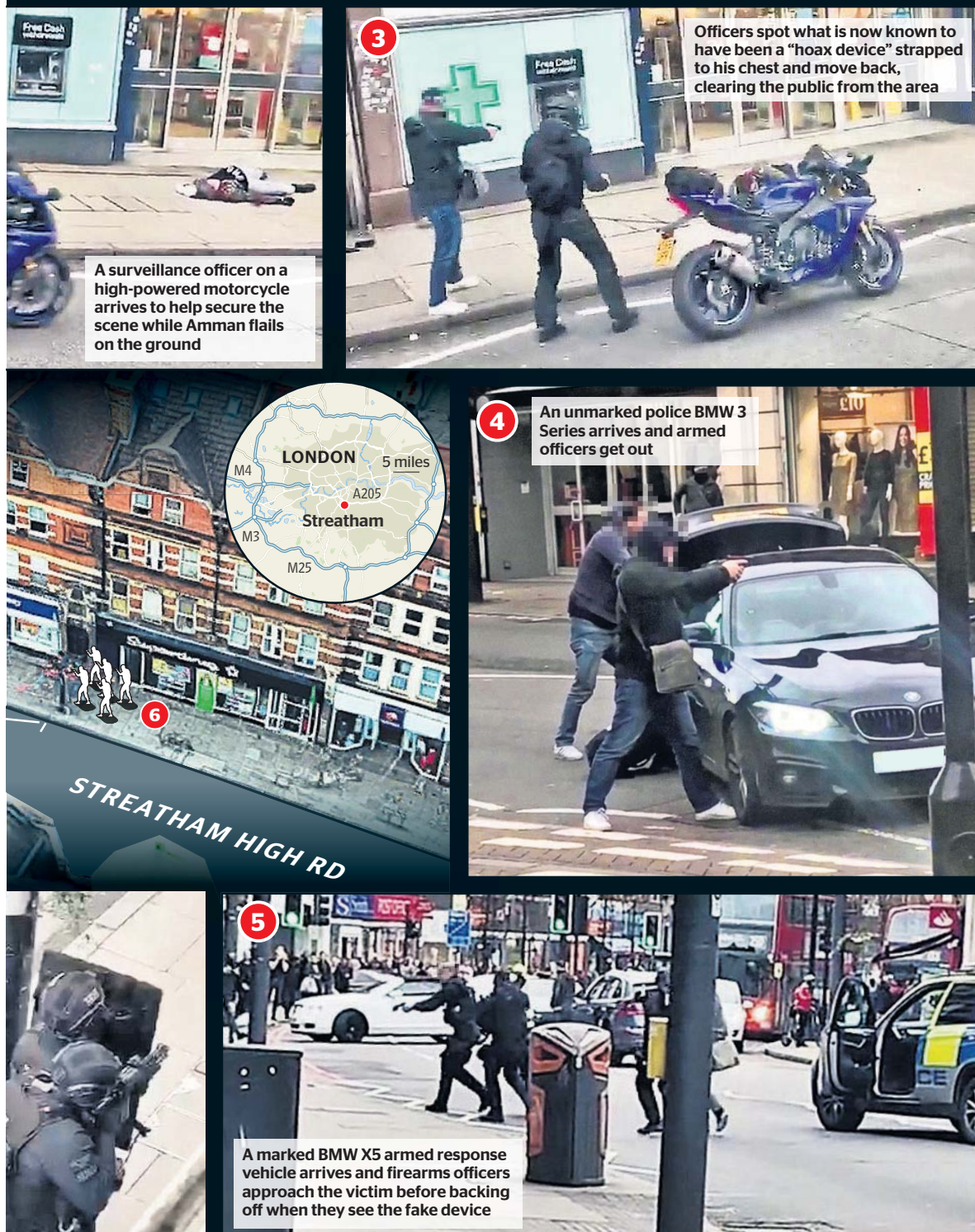
The Islamist from Oldham has been convicted three times for terrorism offences. He was first jailed for two years and six months over terrorist material. After his release he received a suspended sentence after telling a school teacher they were an "infidel". In 2018 he was jailed over possession of terrorist material.

### MOHAMMED KHILJI: NEXT MONTH

The teenager from Brent, northwest London, shared clips in which soldiers



# Armed officers fear hitting a bystander



Sudesh Amman entered a shop on Sunday and within 60 seconds he was armed and unleashing bloodshed in Streatham High Road (John Simpson writes).

Sixty seconds later the surveillance officers moving unseen among the shoppers had fired the shots that killed him. Counterterrorism officers and MI5 agents had eyes on Amman, 20, from the moment he left his bail hostel and headed for the street just after 1.20pm. It is believed the team was unaware that he was wearing a fake suicide vest.

The surveillance officers, each with an earpiece and a microphone, were aiming to stay as close as they could without "showing out" — being spotted. From an operations room in the city, colleagues from the security services and the Met's counterterrorism command would have been keeping a vigilant eye on CCTV and any additional cameras.

In complex operations the operations room can consist of walls of screens, while audio headsets keep the team in contact with officers on the ground.

Such was the concern over Amman that a mobile armed surveillance team was deployed to monitor him. As many as two dozen officers would be on hand to maintain a

round-the-clock watch. Their primary objective is always to ensure public safety, but the team would have been studying him, checking who he might meet and where he might go with the aim of building a case against him.

Just before 2pm, Amman darted into a shop and stole a 10in ceramic-coated knife. He tore off the packaging and lunged at two members of the public. In an instant, the nearest two undercover officers drew their pistols and shot him, leaving him flailing on the ground.

Surveillance officers would have been aiming to be in the shop with him but one ex-counterterrorism officer said: "There's always a difficulty around 'choke points' such as small shops and cafés. You want to be in there to see what he's doing but you have to balance that against the risk he will realise he's being watched. The moment he goes in there we've also got to be thinking about alternative exits and where he might go."

He said that the officers would have had a split second to assess the risk of firing in such a busy area against the risk of more casualties.

"One massive factor they will have had to consider is that when you're using firearms if you miss where that bullet is going to go."

"It's not easy to hit a target at any sort of

distance with a handgun and even less easy to hit a target that's moving, so you're worrying about missing or the bullet hitting a bystander by accident," the officer added. One woman was struck by glass broken by a police bullet but suffered minor injuries.

As Amman's arms and legs thrashed on the pavement outside Boots, an officer put on a police-issue cap to reassure the public that he was an officer, while another pulled up on a blue motorcycle.

As Amman lay dying, more undercover officers were seen arriving in a black BMW 3 Series and drawing their pistols.

The team on foot would be supported by drivers who can pick them up and move them so that they are always ahead of their target. Those officers and agents often use simple disguises such as hats or glasses and tend to wear plain, simple clothes.

Amman would have been monitored in prison and his behaviour before his release days before the attack caused enough concern to warrant surveillance.

Officers will be disappointed that he injured two victims, and there will be concerns that he might have realised he was being watched, but the operation will no doubt have saved many lives.

## as 40 Islamists are due for release



Mohammed Ali Ahmed and Mina Dich were jailed for terror plans

were beheaded by Isis. He posed with a knife in front of an Isis flag and another photo had the message "going kaffur hunting". He was jailed for five years in June 2018.

### JAMSHED JAVEED: MARCH

Plotted to join Islamic State in Syria and was jailed for six years in 2015 for preparing acts of terrorism. The earliest he could be released is next month.

### MOHAMMED ALI AHMED: APRIL

The extremist was convicted of handing £3,000 to Mohamed Abrini, who was part of the gang behind the 2016 Brussels terror attacks on the city's airport and metro which killed 32 people. He was jailed for eight years for preparing acts of terror.

### FAHIM ADAM: MAY

After he crashed his car into a wall while texting, his mobile was found to contain Isis propaganda. Adam, 32, of Blackburn, was jailed for 30 months.

### ARAS HAMID: MAY

The Kurdish asylum seeker was living in Birmingham when he agreed to switch sides and join Islamic State in 2016. He was convicted of preparing acts of terrorism and was jailed for seven years.

### YAHYA RASHID: SEPTEMBER

The convicted terrorist, 23, who travelled to Syria, was jailed for a further 12 months in December last year after being found with a mobile phone in breach of the terms of his release.

### OMAR ASHFAQ: SEPTEMBER

Omar Ashfaq had planned a national operation to plant 250 memory sticks at mosques which included manuals on knife attacks for would-be terrorists. The fanatic, from Derby, was jailed for four-and-a-half years in May last year after admitting three charges of possession of terror documents.

### MOINUL ABEDIN: NOVEMBER

the UK's first al-Qaeda inspired terrorist, was jailed for 20 years in 2002 for intent to cause an explosion.

## With sufficient resources we can deradicalise extremists

### Nazir Afzal Comment

The latest atrocity once again shines a spotlight on the inadequacy of our deradicalisation and disengagement programmes, the resources required and whether we can ever reduce the risk of harm from released prisoners with terrorism-related convictions.

The focus on sentencing is something of a distraction. At some point, those with the least serious convictions will be released and, if they haven't been deradicalised, we will simply have delayed the virtually inevitable atrocities they will commit.

The view of most with inside knowledge of the prison system is that funding cuts have reduced the ability to manage this risk.

I have looked at what works and

most of the successes can be found in countries as diverse as Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Denmark.

The first thing you notice is that special divisions were created at some cost to undertake this work. Secondly, that the community is involved, including faith leaders. Thirdly, psychologists are at its core. Narcissism on an industrial scale needs treating. Fourthly, as with all criminal gangs, a social network of other extremists is important to them, so a new one has to be created for them that is substantially less toxic.

The process of radicalisation is undertaken by an army of extremists on each terrorist they create. So, the state's response has to be similarly resource-heavy. The events of Streatham and London Bridge will be repeated until we take a different approach, and even then it will take time.

● Nazir Afzal is the former chief crown prosecutor of northwest England



## News Coronavirus

# Final call for flights out of Wuhan

Tom Ball, Chris Smyth

Cases of coronavirus around the world are doubling every five days, the health secretary warned yesterday as the number of deaths caused by the epidemic surpassed those killed by Sars in China.

The official death toll rose by 64 to 425 in China, plus one in the Philippines — a 44-year-old man who was the first person outside China to die from the virus.

The number of confirmed cases in China is now 19,550 higher than the total recorded cases of the Sars virus that killed 349 people in mainland China and 800 people worldwide in 2002 and 2003.

Matt Hancock, the health secretary, told the Commons: "The number of cases is doubling around every five days and it is clear that the virus will be with us for at least some months to come. This is a marathon not a sprint."

He added that sequencing testing by Public Health England of the viral genome taken from two patients who fell ill in York suggested that the virus had not evolved over the past month, making it easier to treat.

The Foreign Office issued a final call for Britons wanting to leave Hubei province, where the virus first emerged in the city of Wuhan, saying that there would be flights this week but it could be their last chance to leave.

One British evacuee returning on a flight organised by the Foreign Office became ill on the plane and was separated from ten other Britons who were heading to a quarantine site on the Wirral. Anthony May-Smith, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, was met by an ambulance crew at RAF Brize Norton and taken to an NHS hospital in Oxford, where he was tested for the virus. Mr May-Smith, who had been visiting his girlfriend in Wuhan, developed a cough and a sore throat during the flight and moved away from other passengers for fear of infecting them.

He told Sky News: "There were people with babies on the flight and I obviously just didn't want to be anywhere near them. I feel fine now, I think it's probably the stress of getting back and being run down more than anything. I'm waiting for the test results to come back tomorrow."

The others on the flight went on to join the 83 people in isolation at Arrowse Park Hospital in Merseyside.

Michael Martin, a Briton, was initially told that he would not be able to bring his wife and baby son back to the UK because they were Chinese citizens. He said a British diplomat had intervened to ensure that they would be able to join him on the flight home.

He said that British officials did not pass his son's birth certificate on to Chinese staff for fear that they would not accept it. Instead they simply issued



Michael Martin and his wife on the flight. They were taken to Arrowse Park Hospital, where food donations arrived, below



him an emergency passport. Mr Martin, who has lived in Wuhan for nine years, said: "I was later told one of the FCO officers held back my son's birth certificate in case the Chinese officers wouldn't accept it. I am so thankful for this quick thinking."

"It was very stressful. It was a risk even taking my baby outside, but we were willing to try to get out of Wuhan."

Essential diplomatic staff remain in China but the Foreign Office has warned the estimated 30,000 Britons in the country that this could be their last chance to get out. "In the event that the situation deteriorates further, the ability of the British embassy and consulates to provide assistance to British nationals from within China may be limited," it said.

The British consulate in Wuhan has been closed and the Foreign Office began withdrawing staff and their families from China last Friday.

## Evacuee treated to a special birthday gift

Tom Ball

A quarantined evacuee from Wuhan, the city at the heart of the coronavirus outbreak, has had a birthday gift hand delivered to her by a council chief.

David Armstrong, an assistant chief executive of Wirral council, delivered the ring to Matt Raw who had ordered it for his wife, Ying, from an isolation unit in Arrowse Park Hospital.

Mr Raw, from Knutsford, Cheshire, his wife and mother were among 83 Britons who were evacuated from Wuhan on Friday.

Mr Armstrong picked up the birthday gift and brought it to the hospital where 94 people are being monitored for symptoms of the infection.

The couple also celebrated with

birthday cakes made by local people on the Wirral who have set up a community group to support them. Coronavirus Compassionate Wirral has amassed almost 1,000 volunteers since it was set up over the weekend. Slippers, cuddly toys, sweets and alcohol are being dropped off at the hospital in batches each day to keep up the spirits of those being kept in isolation in case they have contracted the virus.

Cheryl German, who was behind the initiative, said that she had delivered 40 boxes of items over the past three days. "People have been so generous. The charity room at the hospital is inundated with donations from people," Ms German, 53, an air stewardess, said.

Takeaway meals have been a popular request from the evacuees. The food

supplied by the hospital so far has been either dried or frozen but a special catering service will provide fresh food from today.

A 25-year-old British man who has remained in Wuhan claims to have contracted the virus two months ago and beat it with a "glass of hot whisky and honey".

Connor Reed, an English teacher who has lived in China for three years, told *The Sun*: "I was stunned when the doctors told me I was suffering from the virus. I thought I was going to die but I managed to beat it."

"I used the inhaler, which helped control the cough, and drank a hot whisky with honey until that ran out. It's an old-fashioned remedy but it seemed to do the trick."

## US is spreading panic, says China as Xi declares war on virus

Didi Tang Beijing

Beijing accused Washington of creating and spreading panic after it barred visitors who had been to China in the past 14 days.

"The US government has not offered any substantive assistance so far," said Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for the Chinese foreign ministry. "Instead, it was the first to evacuate its consulate employees out of Wuhan, the first to evacuate some of its embassy workers and the first to restrict Chinese citizens from entering its territory. It has set a very bad example," Ms Hua said.

Some countries, including Mongolia,

North Korea and Singapore, have banned entry of all Chinese visitors.

Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's chief executive, announced closures of four more ports of entry, after 3,000 health workers went on strike demanding that no one from the mainland should be allowed in. Three of the 13 ports will still be open, including the international airport. Ms Lam said that a complete lockdown would be impractical, but urged Hong Kong residents not to travel to virus-stricken areas.



President Xi, presiding over a special meeting of the top Communist Party body for the second time since the crisis started, said: "We have launched a people's war of prevention of the epidemic."

He told the politburo standing committee that those who neglected their duties would be punished. The committee called for improvements to the "national emergency management system" following "shortcomings

Carrie Lam shut down four more ports in Hong Kong

and difficulties exposed in the response to the epidemic," according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Wuhan, the city at the centre of the outbreak, has been locked down since January 23. Residents of Huangshi, a city of 2.7 million in Hubei province, have been ordered to stay in their homes before an attempt to disinfect the entire city. Trucks will spray disinfectant throughout the streets to sanitise public areas amid fears that the deadly virus is more resistant and infectious than previously thought.

The effectiveness of mass disinfection is unclear, but it follows reports that traces of the virus have been

shown to survive on doorknobs and can be present in human faeces, prompting authorities to urge the public to take extra measures to ensure their hands are clean.

In the eastern port of Wenzhou, which has recorded 291 coronavirus cases among its 9.2 million population, residents were told to stay at home except for grocery shopping trips every other day by a single family member.

Japan said that a passenger on a cruise ship tested positive for the virus after disembarking in Hong Kong. The *Diamond Princess*, run by Carnival, and with 2,666 guests and 1,045 crew on board, is to be quarantined.



## TMS

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And never  
a cross word

The *Times* Crossword turned 90 on Saturday. It will get a belated birthday present in October with the publication of *Jeeves and the Leap of Faith*, an homage to PG Wodehouse by Ben Schott, who tells me that *Times* Crossword clues run through his novel like *Pleasure and Beach* in a stick of rock. He was inspired by PGW's own zeal for cruciverbalising, not least his short story about George Mulliner and Susan Blake, two word-crossed lovers, in which George dexterously proposes: "Will you be my wife, married woman, matron, spouse, help-meet, consort, partner or better half?" To which Susan replies: "Yes, yea, ay, ay! Decidedly, unquestionably, indubitably, incontrovertibly, and past all dispute."

## MORSE CODE FOR 'THE END'

The seventh series of *Endeavour*, the *Inspector Morse* prequel, is about to start and Roger Allam, who plays Morse's boss, thinks it is almost time to close the casebook. "There should be one more series that wraps up our characters' stories before it jump-cuts to *Inspector Morse*," he tells *Radio*



*Times*. Allam's character, Fred Thursday, was never mentioned in the original and he is hoping that means he'll go out with a belter of a last storyline. "It would be nice to have a spectacular death," he says. "A happy ending wouldn't be great."

*The Luftwaffe have succeeded where Carter-Ruck often failed by halting press day at Private Eye. Staff at the magazine's Soho office were evicted yesterday after the discovery of an unexploded Second World War bomb near by. Tom Jamieson, one of their writers, remarks: "So much for not being able to blame Europe for everything any more."*

## BARNIER AVOIDS A RUCK

Michel Barnier refused to take up an invitation to gloat when asked on a French breakfast radio station whether he had enjoyed the rugby on Sunday. The EU's Mr Brexit, with an eye on future negotiations,

merely noted the England team's "commitment to fair play and obeying common rules". He must have missed the mass brawl sparked when Luke Cowan-Dickie elbowed the French captain in the ear.

*The Danes are less diplomatic. One of their leading journalists tweeted a joke doing the rounds in Copenhagen: Fisherman 1: "I caught a UK shrimp today." Fisherman 2: "How do you know it's from the UK?" Fisherman 1: "When I emptied the net it rose up and said 'I'm a lobster.'"*

## SHOULDN'T THROW STONES

A crack has developed in the rock-solid Tory harmony after two Wiltshire MPs argued over who represents the best prehistoric site. Danny Kruger, MP for Devizes, started it with a boast about Silbury Hill, "a mound of earth the size of a small Egyptian pyramid built, for reasons we will never know, on a bend of the A4 just outside Marlborough". This riled John Glen who said Silbury was "not bad but not a patch on Stonehenge", above, in his Salisbury seat. To this Kruger replied: "I see your Stonehenge and I raise you Avebury. Bigger, older, eerier." Of course, they call them neolithic monuments; to Jacob Rees-Mogg it's all just modern art.

PATRICK KIDD

Légion d'honneur for  
D-Day paratrooper, 98

Valentine Low

A D-Day veteran had to be convinced by his granddaughter to accept France's highest order of merit because he did not believe that he was worthy.

Albert Evans, 98, who landed at Pegasus Bridge in a Horsa glider with the 6th Airborne Division, received the Légion d'honneur at his care home in Loughborough, Leicestershire, from the French honorary consul.

However, Lisa Meakin said that it had taken a lot of persuasion to get her grandfather to accept the medal. "He has always said 'I am not a hero. The heroes didn't come back,'" she said.

Mr Evans, who had switched from his role as an army driver to become a paratrooper to boost his pay, said: "All your mates who were standing by your side one minute were gone the next."

He was saluted by members of the Royal British Legion and the Parachute Association at a ceremony to honour his bravery. More than 6,000 D-Day veterans have been given the award.

He said his thoughts would always be with those who did not return from the war. "One minute we were blown up and the next minute you've lost your mates. They're gone and I'm here. It just doesn't add up to me. A lot of them were laid at your side. It was horrific," he told the BBC.

Ms Meakin, 48, said: "As a family, we are immensely proud of him. It has taken a lot of persuasion to get him to

accept this medal. He has been asked a lot of times by various different people over the years. He has always said no."

Eventually she persuaded him to accept it on behalf of those who did not come back. "I was talking to him [and] said, 'I would love you to have it. We think you deserve it. If that's how you truly feel, accept it on their behalf'."

She said it was "hard to hear" about his time in the war. "It makes you feel quite emotional that that's what he and many others went through, and that's what they did to liberate France and ultimately the rest of Europe."

Mr Evans, who was born in Liver-



Albert Evans was handed the medal at his care home in Loughborough

pool, was a driver with the Royal Army Service Corps when he volunteered for the Parachute Regiment, which brought a small pay rise. His role in the landing had been to pack explosives below Pegasus bridge so it could be blown up if the Germans counterattacked.

While in Normandy the vehicle he was travelling in came under fire and he was wounded. He rejoined his unit in the Ardennes on the advance into Germany, and took part in an airborne attack across the Rhine in March 1945.

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## News Politics

# PM and Barnier outline competing visions for a deal

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor  
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

Boris Johnson has declared that Britain does not need a trade deal with the EU as Brussels opened talks with a “red rag” demand for a final say over Britain’s industrial and competition policy.

The next phase of Brexit began in acrimony yesterday as the prime minister sought to turn Brussels’s own demands against it in pursuit of a Canada-style trade agreement.

Mr Johnson said the UK would emerge as a “campaigner for global free trade” at the same time as warning that he would rather accept tariffs than EU law. Britain would settle for no trade deal if the EU did not drop demands for Britain to remain aligned to EU laws and regulations, he said.

Michel Barnier, the EU’s chief negotiator, said that while these demands were provocative, the UK should have expected them. “There can’t be any surprise on the British side to hear that,” said Mr Barnier, referring to a political declaration on a future relationship agreed by Britain and the EU last year. “In that text, Boris Johnson and we both say we are keen to avoid any distortion of competition and any unfair competitive advantages. I can tell you he and his team paid attention to every word and comma in the text that commits us on both sides.”

While Mr Barnier’s draft negotiating mandate commits both sides to upholding existing “common standards” on the environment or workplace rights, a special clause on state aid and competition requires Britain to fully apply EU law.

Final arbitration in any dispute would rest with the European Court of Justice and the decisions of European judges would be binding. “What we’re looking for is consistency,” said Mr Barnier.

If agreed, the clause would mean Britain would effectively have to ask the EU’s permission to give a green light

## French protest at trawler ‘ban’

Will Humphries  
Southwest Correspondent

French fishermen are furious at a decision by Guernsey to effectively ban them from entering its waters after Brexit.

They have responded with a warning to Channel Islands captains to stay away from French ports.

Britain’s departure from the EU formally ends a blanket agreement allowing French fishermen access to British waters, although all current fishing rights remain the same during the transition period.

Guernsey, a British crown dependency, now says French boats need individual clearance to enter waters six to 12 miles off its coasts. But the procedure to process such requests is not in place, leaving French vessels effectively banned until paperwork is issued.

Pierro Le Cheminant, of Guernsey, who runs the 14-metre trawler *Amy Blue*, said he received a warning email from the Cherbourg market about the row. “It said it was not safe for us to go in there. French fishermen are up in arms,” he said. Dave Gillingham, chairman of the Alderney Fishermen’s Association, said: “They could blockade the port or set fire to our boats.”

Sonia Krimi, a member of the French parliament’s foreign affairs committee, condemned Guernsey’s “hasty and disrespectful decision”.

to mergers or before embarking on an investment programme in industry such as subsidies to the steel industry or the building of nuclear power stations.

Mr Johnson rejected the EU position out of hand. “There is no need in a free trade deal to accept EU rules on competition, subsidies or environment,” he said. After reciting a list of areas such as maternity leave and single-use plastics where British standards are higher than EU ones, he ridiculed the notion that Britain would demand that EU businesses pay tariffs to sell in Britain.

Setting out his objectives, Mr Johnson accepted he has traded full access to the single market to reclaim full control of the UK’s laws. He urged EU leaders to honour what he sees as their side of the bargain. He insisted: “I see no need to bind ourselves to an agreement with the EU. The UK is not a European power by treaty or by law but by irrevocable facts of history and geography.”

In a speech in the Painted Hall of the Royal Naval College in Greenwich, southeast London, Mr Johnson used a paean to Britain’s maritime and commercial past to declare: “We are re-emerging after decades of hibernation as a campaigner for global free trade.”

Mr Johnson refused to use the word “Brexit”, saying it was behind us and Britain’s relations with the EU had entered a new phase. However, he was immediately locked in a dispute with Brussels about concessions Britain must make in pursuit of a “Canada-style” deal — an arrangement in which 98 per cent of tariffs were removed between Ottawa and the EU.

As well as on competition, the EU will ask for ECJ oversight of any future security agreement that involves the sharing of data on crime suspects or the extradition of European nationals.

Rachel Sylvester, page 21  
Hugo Rifkind, page 23  
Letters, page 24

Pound sinks, page 33

# Johnson snubs captains of industry

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

The prime minister blackballed business groups from his keynote speech on the future of EU trade talks yesterday, accusing them of failing to prepare their members for the “reality” of post-Brexit Britain.

The CBI, the British Chambers of Commerce and the Institute for Directors were excluded from Boris Johnson’s speech to business leaders in Greenwich. His aides later accused the groups of “neglecting their duty to prepare their members” for the “realities” of a Canada-style free trade deal. They had been “wasting their time lobbying government to abandon the promises made to the British people”.

They added: “Business groups have a responsibility to their members that they are not fulfilling, and until they do, it is unlikely any conversations they wish to have with government will be productive. Individual businesses might consider if they are getting the best representation from the umbrella

groups which they are funding.” The move came despite what businesses described as “positive” talks last week with Michael Gove, who is in charge of Britain’s post-transition preparations.

Dominic Cummings, Mr Johnson’s chief adviser, has long had a fractious relationship with the groups, all of whom opposed the decision to leave the EU. Downing Street will be hoping that the broadside may encourage them to mute their criticism of the government’s strategy in what are likely to be difficult talks ahead.

Nissan, the second-largest car manufacturer in the country, said yesterday that its European operation would become unsustainable if the UK and Brussels failed to strike a tariff-free trade deal. The company employs about 7,000 workers at its Sunderland plant.

It denied reports that it was preparing to increase its British investment in the event of a no-trade-deal Brexit, saying that it might shut its UK operations, alongside facilities in Spain and France,

and relocate production to Japan. Last year Nissan announced that it would centralise production of its new electric X-Trail vehicle at its Kyushu hub rather than create a second facility in Europe.

A senior company source said that its integrated supply chain meant that barriers to trade between Britain and Europe made further consolidation much more likely. About two thirds of the components going to make Nissan vehicles at Sunderland are imported from the EU. Only a third originate in the UK. Should the UK and the EU end up imposing respective tariffs on the export of cars, this could increase costs by up to 10 per cent.

The statement was released after reports in the *Financial Times* suggested that Nissan had drawn up contingency plans to consolidate European operations in Sunderland. It suggested that the company could benefit from new duties on vehicles imported from the EU, giving Nissan’s UK-made models a competitive edge.

Robert Lea, page 35

# Quentin Letts

## Nymphs and cherubs inspire soaring rhetoric for a mercantile Albion

Political Sketch



Boris Johnson’s language in his free trade speech was baroque — remarkable even by his standards for its flurry of verbal flick-flacks — but that was nothing compared with the setting.

The Painted Hall at Greenwich is Britain’s answer to the Sistine Chapel, yet wilder, more sybaritic and patriotic than that. Bare-bottomed nymphs and cherubs flutter round symbols of British mercantile power. A Spanish galleon is in the clutches of the Royal Navy. William and Mary, sovereigns of independent Albion, accept an olive sprig from a curtseying opponent while William grinds his heel on tyranny.

Mr Johnson began by urging his mid-morning audience of ambassadors and business types to raise their eyes to the heavens and “this gorgeous and slightly bonkers scene that captures the spirit of the United Kingdom in the early 18th century”. It spoke of “supreme national self-confidence”. He did not quite point out that tyranny, as painted by Sir James Thornhill, bore an uncanny similarity to Louis XIV — to have done so might have pushed the French ambassador over the edge — but he did note the tools of trade shown in Thornhill’s work.

Behold “the anchors, cables, rudders, sails, oars, ensigns, power barrels, sextants, the compasses and the grappling irons,” he said. They represented a renaissance nation “on the slipway — this is the moment it all took off”. His voice was at first lost in the echoes of the hall. Some of us were twisting our heads as we tried to listen. The Marquess of Salisbury was having particular difficulty and was cupping his ear, almost bending it double, to pick up the wavelength. The PM started to speak slower. The hall had the acoustics of a cathedral.

In the front sat cabinet ministers such as Sajid Javid, Dominic Raab and Andrea Leadsom. Across the aisle were scores of diplomats, many of whom three winters ago listened, with increasing disbelief,

to Theresa May’s Lancaster House speech. My, what a different feel this event had. The venue played its part but so did the sheer zest of the writing. Where Mrs May had been orthodox, Mr Johnson was bold and frisky, pushing proprieties, bouncing on his toes. One moment he jested about America’s ban on haggis imports — “how do they survive?” — while the next he denounced those who waved trade tariffs “like cudgels, even in debates on foreign policy where frankly they have no place”. In one breath he laid out the origins of free trade from Adam Smith to David Ricardo and Richard Cobden. A breath later he was comparing Britain (or himself?) to Superman, about to “take off its Clark Kent spectacles and leap into the phone booth and emerge with its cloak flowing as the supercharged champion of the right of the populations of the earth to

buy and sell freely among each other”.

His tactic towards the White House was both to coax and chasten. With the US ambassador, Woody Johnson, in the second row, Boris declared: “I share the optimism of Donald Trump and I say to all the naive and juvenile anti-Americans in this country, grow up and get a grip.” This was immediately followed by a tilt against US trade barriers. Denunciation of “the punitive tariffs on Scotch whisky” brought a gurgle of agreement from the audience. He had hit a

nerve! The same approach was taken to the EU. First he was generous — lots of stuff about friendship and how we would not try to undermine EU standards. Yet then came steel: an assault on the continentals’ weakness for state aid and a deft threat to exports of, for some reason, Alfa-Romeos and gewürztraminer.

The diplomats swarmed round him at the end. They never did that with Mrs May. As I left the hall I swear I saw one of the mural nymphs, a lass as big as Jennifer Arcuri, give me a wink. Outside there must have been 50 ambassadorial limousines — all of them made in Germany.

Could there be a venue more packed with symbolism than the Painted Hall, where Boris Johnson set out his vision for Britain’s independent trading future? Inset, arriving back at No 10





# Fish, finance and felons: the issues

Oliver Wright, Bruno Waterfield

At first glance the red lines set out yesterday by Boris Johnson and Michel Barnier appear incompatible.

In London, Mr Johnson insisted that a trade deal would not be done if it meant following EU regulations. In Brussels, Mr Barnier, below, said following such rules was a precondition of any trade deal. Brexit may be “done”, but what happens next is far from resolved.

So what are the positions of the two sides? How far apart are they and which issues are likely to prove controversial?

## STATE AID AND COMPETITION POLICY

**What the EU wants:** That the UK continues to apply the EU's state aid and competition rules.

**What the UK wants:** The UK has refused and notes that it has used far less state aid than France, Germany or Italy.

**Conflict or compromise?** The UK has not ruled out state aid and competition provisions for a trade deal, but these would not be EU laws. Compromise could be found if the UK's competition authority is the main source of decisions and with joint arbitration of disputes.

**Combustibility rating:** 4/5

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND LABOUR PROTECTIONS

**What the EU wants:** That Britain follows existing EU environmental and labour laws.

**What the UK wants:** Again, it has no intention of, as Mr Johnson put it, “slashing” standards but does not want to follow EU rules.

**Conflict or compromise?**

The EU's trade deal with Canada (Ceta) could provide a template in these areas. It allows both sides freedom to set their own standards — as long as they don't distort trade between them. If one makes a complaint it is subject to binding arbitration.

**Combustibility rating:** 3/5

## FISHERIES

**What the EU wants:** Britain will be outside the common fisheries policy with the right to block foreign boats. The EU wants “existing reciprocal access to fishing waters and quota shares”.

**What the UK wants:** Britain wants the EU to recognise that it has taken back control of its fishing waters.

**Conflict or compromise?** It is hard to square the circle and the EU is relying on the government making a trade-off on a sector worth only 0.04 per cent of GDP to protect the rest of the economy. This assumption may undervalue the political symbolism of fishing in Britain.

**Combustibility rating:** 5/5

## ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

**What the EU wants:** That Europe's highest court can give a binding ruling on disputes between the EU and UK when they “raise a question of interpretation of Union law”.

**What the UK wants:** The government has ruled out any ECJ oversight.

**Conflict or compromise?** It is possible that the UK could concede that the ECJ has a role as long as it is not binding and does not mean accepting EU law.

**Combustibility rating:** 5/5

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE CO-OPERATION

**What the EU wants:** It says it wants “close law enforcement and judicial

co-operation” including access to DNA and fingerprint databases. However, it says that there would be an “automatic termination” of co-operation if the UK were to opt out of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) or repeal the Human Rights Act.

**What the UK wants:** The UK is also keen on security co-operation — but not necessarily on those terms.

**Conflict or compromise?** The ECHR could be a flashpoint. The Tory manifesto pledged to update the Human Rights Act to ensure there is a “proper balance between the rights of individuals” and the UK's national security. Previous Tory governments have also considered pulling out of the ECHR.

**Combustibility rating:** 4/5

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

**What the EU wants:** It will retain the unilateral right to decide whether UK-based financial firms can carry on trading in the bloc under what is known as an “equivalence” ruling that could be withdrawn with only 30 days' notice.

**What the UK wants:** It has accepted that the EU will never give UK firms the unqualified right to trade in the EU, but is calling for the EU to agree to a significantly extended notice.

**Conflict or compromise?** This is a really tricky issue. The EU knows how vital getting enhanced equivalence is to the UK given the importance of the financial services. It has not ruled it out — but will want concessions from Mr Johnson in areas such as fishing and standards in return.

**Combustibility rating:** 2/5

## DATA PROTECTION

**What the EU wants:** For the UK to continue to abide by the EU's data protection laws, known as GDPR. The EU has the unilateral power to block or restrict data flows to and from the UK from the end of the year if the European Commission deems British protections inadequate.

**What the UK wants:** The UK says it wants to develop “separate and independent” data protection rules but insists it will maintain current “high standards”.

**Conflict or compromise?** There would be significant disruption to the UK's tech sector — and many other areas — were the EU to ban data being sent to UK-based servers. For this reason, in the short term at least, the UK is likely to continue following EU rules.

**Combustibility rating:** 3/5

## GIBRALTAR

**What the EU wants:** The EU is insisting that the trade agreement does not include Gibraltar. This clause was inserted at the insistence of Spain, which has claimed sovereignty over the territory.

**What the UK wants:** The UK is insisting that Gibraltar, as a British overseas territory, is included in the deal but recognises that Spain, as with the other 26 EU governments, has a veto over a deal.

**Conflict or compromise?** Gibraltar will be an issue as it was in the original withdrawal agreement negotiations. However, neither side will want it to torpedo the entire negotiation.

**Combustibility rating:** 4/5





# BBC licence fee will rise to £157.50

Matthew Moore Media Correspondent

Households will have to pay £3 a year more for a television licence from April, it was announced yesterday, as an analysis showed that replacing the compulsory fee with a voluntary subscription would cost the BBC £1.6 billion a year.

Campaigners for the elderly said the price rise — from £154.50 to £157.50 a year — represented “yet another blow” to the 3.7 million over-75s who will soon be stripped of their free licences.

The licence fee is pegged to inflation until 2022 under the terms of the BBC’s royal charter. Confirmation of this

year’s rise comes at a time of intense debate over the future of the fee. Ministers will this week announce plans to decriminalise non-payment of the fee, costing the corporation an estimated £200 million a year in lost revenue, while Gary Lineker, the BBC’s highest-paid star, recently called for the mandatory charge to be made voluntary.

Julian Knight, the new Conservative chairman of the Commons culture select committee, pledged to establish an “unofficial royal commission” on the future of the corporation.

Boris Johnson also questioned the long-term future of the TV licence during the general election campaign last

December, saying he was “certainly looking at” whether a compulsory fee was still justified.

Critics of the BBC’s market dominance have suggested it could prosper as a Netflix-style subscription service, charging viewers who choose to watch its programmes. However, Enders Analysis, a media research service, calculated that any move to a voluntary licence fee would slash the BBC’s annual revenues, greatly diminishing how much it could spend on content.

A note seen by *The Times* says that, if the same percentage of British households subscribed to the BBC as American households subscribe to Netflix,

the corporation would generate £2.1 billion a year in revenues, down from the £3.7 billion it gets from the licence fee.

Enders also pointed out that Netflix and other streaming services were either loss-making or reliant on debt to fund new programmes. “With the content and tech budgets of other services, not to mention the aggressive, downward pricing pressure of new streaming products, a sustainable subscription-funded iPlayer would either be extremely modest, or almost impossible,” the analysts wrote.

Making the BBC subscription-only would also pose technical challenges, as services such as Freeview do not have the capability to restrict some viewers from accessing BBC channels.

An alternative plan would be to retain universal access to the BBC but make paying the licence fee optional, as proposed by Lineker. This could allow less well-off households to pay less, or nothing, potentially funded by asking wealthier viewers to contribute more.

Assuming that all households that receive income-related benefits decided not to buy a licence, the BBC would be left with a £537 million shortfall, requiring everyone else to cough up £25 more a year, Enders calculated.

From June, only over-75s who claim pension credit will be eligible for a free TV licence after the government refused to continue paying for them and the BBC said it could not afford to do so. Age UK urged the corporation to find a solution to save the universal benefit. Caroline Abrahams, a director of the charity, said: “A £3-a-year increase will be yet another blow to the hundreds of thousands of over-75s who will struggle to afford a TV licence.”

## Immunity for Grenfell firms backed by lawyers

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

Grenfell Tower contractors moved closer to winning immunity from prosecution yesterday as their request was backed “with some regret” by the inquiry’s top lawyer.

Richard Millett, QC, the lead counsel for the inquiry into the fire that killed 72 people in June 2017, said that he had recommended immunity in the public interest to prevent key witnesses from refusing to give evidence.

A lawyer for Harley Facades, the sub-contractor responsible for cladding on the tower block in west London, said last week that many scheduled witnesses planned to exercise their privilege from self-incrimination and refuse to answer questions as they could prejudice themselves in criminal cases.

They have asked Sir Martin Moore-Bick, the inquiry’s chairman, to write to the attorney-general, Geoffrey Cox, QC, to ask that their evidence is not used in any criminal proceedings.

He had to decide “whether the inquiry can properly fulfil its terms of reference if a significant number of witnesses claim privilege against self-incrimination and on that ground don’t answer questions”, he said.

Mr Millett, addressing the inquiry, was highly critical of the late timing of the witnesses’ request for immunity, saying it gave rise to suspicion that they were acting in bad faith. But regarding the evidence, he said: “Without it you will not get to the truth.”

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- 1 Language of the Koran (6)
- 2 Overwhelm with loud noise (6)
- 3 Architectural style (6)
- 4 Wild canine species (6)
- 5 Large upright stone (8)

A	A	A	A	A	B	C	C
C	D	E	E	F	G	H	H
I	I	I	J	K	L	L	M
N	N	O	O	O	R	T	T

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### Million miss tax cut-off

Almost one million people failed to complete tax returns on time and face immediate fines of £100. More than 11 million submitted their self-assessment from the 2018-19 tax year before Friday’s deadline and thousands left it to the final hour but 958,296 missed it. A partner’s death or a fire at your house are among accepted excuses, but not a bounced cheque or a failure to understand the system. Last year more than a million missed the deadline.

### Big tech transparency

Companies such as Google and Facebook should tell more about how they target users so new rules to counter data exploitation can be drawn up, the government’s Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation said. The body wants a regulator to be established with powers to force companies to grant researchers secure access to data.

### Fake doctor tried to kill

A failed medical student who pretended to be a doctor for seven years and tried to murder his wife and mother-in-law to stop his secret being exposed has been jailed for 28 years. Satya Thakor, 35, was convicted on three counts of attempted murder at Reading crown court. He spent his days at the local library rather than working, lying to his wife.

### Stewardesses sue BA

Three stewardesses who helped 170 passengers escape a British Airways plane on fire at Las Vegas airport in 2015 are suing the airline for negligence due to air crew not following procedure. Suely Goncalves-McLoughlin, Lynette Robinson and Marie Dyos won a ruling at Mayor’s and City of London court for the case to go to trial. BA denies all blame.

### £1,000-a-day road job

A council has employed a “potholes consultant” at a cost of £1,000 a day to help to improve the state of crumbling roads. Shropshire council has brought in the expert for five days a week for six months, for a fee of £130,000. The county had 3,500 highway defects but the standard of repair work was often “unproductive”. The council said the move would ensure better use of resources.



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# Burial plotters put Dickens in his place

The great author ended up at Poets' Corner to suit two ambitious men on the make, Sean O'Neill writes

Dickens devotees will gather at Westminster Abbey in June to mark the 150th anniversary of the great author's death by laying a wreath by the simple stone that marks his final resting place.

Poets' Corner is a place of pilgrimage for Dickensians but it is also the site of controversy. The writer had in fact wanted to be buried far from the centre of London, in a quiet grave near his country home in Gad's Hill Place, Kent.

The accepted explanation is that public pressure, driven by *The Times*, demanded that he be buried in a place befitting a national treasure. But now it seems that there was a plot to ensure that his grave became a shrine.

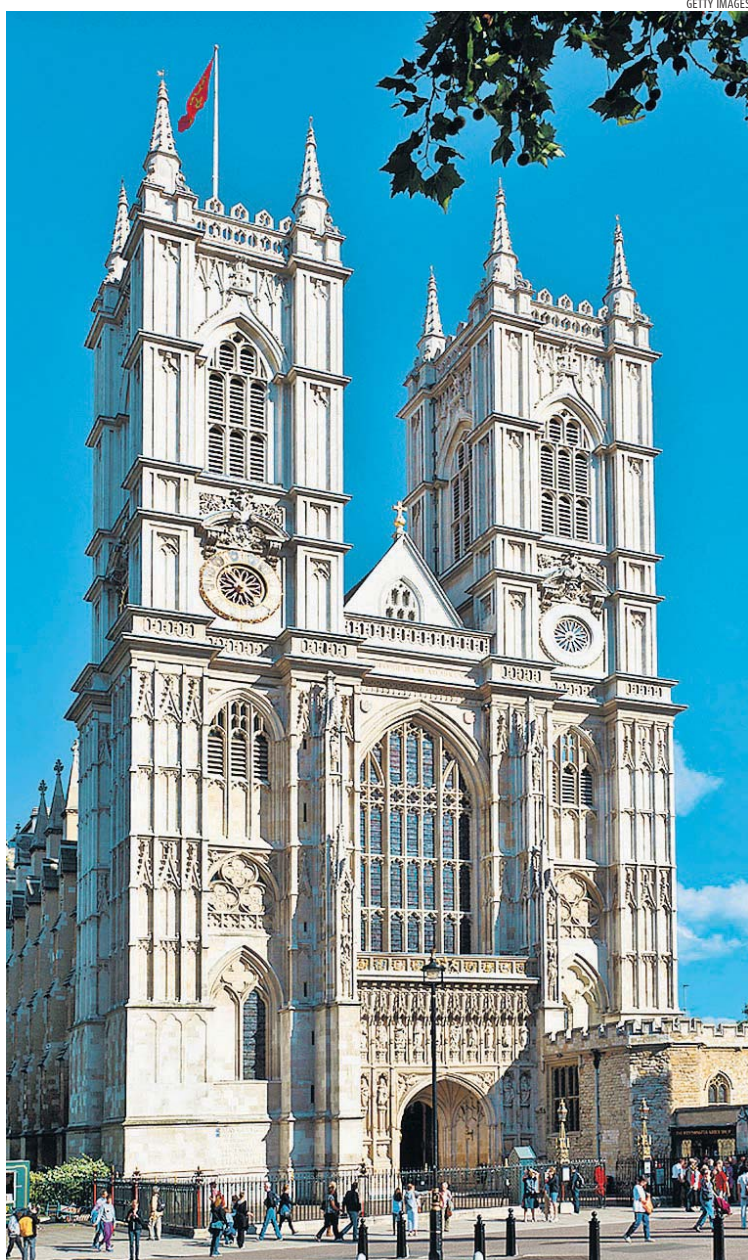
A scheme involving Dickens's best friend and biographer, John Forster, the dean of the abbey, Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, and this newspaper has been unearthed by Leon Litvack. After three years researching church archives, lost letters and museum records, the Dickens scholar has found evidence of "an act of institutionally sanctioned body-snatching".

Writing on *The Conversation*, an academic website, Professor Litvack, of Queen's University Belfast, says Forster and Stanley engineered the burial in Poets' Corner "to satisfy their personal aims". Interment at the abbey suited Forster's desire for a dramatic ending to his biography. Stanley, meanwhile, longed to add to the list of famous men whose funerals he had conducted, including Lord Palmerston and the explorer David Livingstone.

"Dickens wanted to be buried quietly in Kent, partly so his mistress Ellen Ternan could pay her respects without public fuss, but these two men had other ideas," says Professor Litvack. "He was placed in the abbey to inflate [their] egos and reputations. . . . [But it] helped turn Poets' Corner into a national shrine."

He stumbled upon the plot in 2016 when he was asked by an American library to decipher handwriting in a previously unseen letter from Stanley to his brother-in-law Frederick Locker on June 9, 1870, the day Dickens died aged 58. Stanley thanked Locker for introducing him to the author months earlier and declared himself "quite prepared to raise any proposals about the burial that may be made". An excited Locker forwarded the dean's letter to the author's son, Charley Dickens, saying: "I think it will explain itself."

Meanwhile in Kent, where most of



Dickens, below, lies at Westminster Abbey. Its dean, Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, below right, wanted another notable funeral. The writer wanted a quiet spot in Kent where Ellen Ternan, his mistress, could visit. Top right, Rochester castle



Dickens's ten children had gathered, Forster was making the funeral arrangements. Although well aware that Dickens had wanted to be buried "in the small graveyard under Rochester Castle wall or in the little churches of Cobham or Shorne", Forster insisted these were "closed" to further burials.

Professor Litvack says his research into church archives shows that Forster had been lying. All three cemeteries were open for new burials and there is no record of inquiries by Forster. Dick-

## Famous burials

**Richard III** Challenged by Henry VII, Richard, the last Plantagenet king, was killed at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. He was found buried in a Leicester car park in 2012.

**Oscar Wilde** His tomb, which is decorated by a naked flying angel, has been damaged by fans paying their respects with kisses. The statue's stone genitals were first covered by a fig leaf and then hacked off in 1961 by vandals.

**Salvador Dali** A Madrid court ruled that the artist's body be exhumed to settle a paternity case. A woman claimed she was Dali's daughter but had no DNA samples. They were unrelated, although an embalmer said that his famous moustache was still intact three decades



after the artist's death.

**Roald Dahl** The author was given what his granddaughter Sophie Dahl described as a "sort of Viking funeral". His coffin was filled with beloved possessions, including his favourite burgundy, snooker

cues, HB pencils and a circular power saw.

**Spike Milligan** The comedian has a Gaelic epitaph on his grave voted the nation's favourite. "Dúirt mé leat go raibh mé breoite," translates as "I told you I was ill".

ens's preferred alternative, if no country churchyard was available, had been Rochester Cathedral and a grave was prepared there for him.

On June 13, however, *The Times* intervened with a leader calling for Dickens to be buried at "the peculiar resting place of English literary genius", adding that "very few are more worthy than Charles Dickens of such a home".

Significantly, the article said that the dean was "not precluded from preferring a request that Dickens may be buried in the only tomb in England worthy of him". The newspaper was "sure" that Stanley was "as anxious as anyone" to add Dickens's name to the litany of greats buried at the abbey.

The dean, it has emerged, had a close connection to the newspaper. The brother-in-law he had lobbied about conducting the funeral had a brother — Arthur Locker — who was a regular *Times* book reviewer.

On the day the leader article was published,

Forster arrived with Dickens's son at the dean's door asking if the funeral could take place at the abbey. Stanley readily agreed.

The following morning the coffin was brought by special train to Charing Cross, and from there a hearse carried it to Dean's Yard in Westminster.

Shortly after 9.30am, Stanley led a simple service that, according to *The Times* of June 14, involved "no anthem, no chanted psalm, no hymn, not even an intoned response or 'Amen'".

The reporter said 14 mourners had attended but listed only 13 names — and there was no mention of Miss Ternan.

Forster and Stanley had observed Dickens's wish to be buried without fanfare. However, as Professor Litvack argues at length in a new book called *Reading Dickens Differently*, they also satisfied their own selfish ends.

"Two people who had intimate involvement in preserving [the author's] reputation for posterity were not doing so for altruistic reasons — there was something in it for each of them."

Leading article, page 25



## Oxford bans secretive dining club for failing diversity targets

Will Humphries

An exclusive and secretive Oxford University dining club has been thrown out of the college in which it was founded 175 years ago after students said it did not meet equality and diversity targets.

The Pythia Club, known as the P Club, has been banned from holding activities on Christ Church premises.

It was founded as an essay society in 1845 by a young Lord Dufferin, who spent two years at Christ Church before leaving without a degree and going on

to become a governor-general of Canada and a viceroy of India.

By the time Hugh Trevor-Roper, the historian, was a student member in the 1930s, it had become a secretive dining club that could be joined by invitation only. In 1937 he organised the biannual "P" dinner at the Café Royal in London.

The secrecy was shattered last year when *The Oxford Student*, the largest university newspaper, revealed that Professor Brian Young, who was responsible for Christ Church's academic matters, was running the dining club

and that the college's development office supported its activities in publicising P Club alumni dinners. The newspaper said the club was known to have held exclusive dinners in college.

With its cover blown, the club is understood to have tried to register with Christ Church, which would have legitimised its activities in the college. In response, a motion was passed by a students' committee meeting condemning the P Club as elitist and discouraging its registration as an official society.

*The Oxford Student* reported that an

open letter addressed to the college's academic heads was posted to a Facebook group last week, signed by numerous present and former members of the college's JCR, or junior common room, committee. It called the P Club an "intrinsically elitist institution, which undermines the college's access, in-reach, and equality objectives" and said it was "inextricably linked to cultural capital".

One student "felt self-conscious and inferior in a two-to-one tutorial in which both the tutor and other tutee

were known members of the P Club", the letter said.

The Christ Church JCR president said "it has been mutually decided by the censors [academic leaders] and relevant parties that no application for the P Club to register will be made".

Christ Church said that it required all clubs and societies using its name to be registered and approved. "Registration requires clubs and societies to abide by all college regulations and policies, including those related to equality and diversity."



SENIOR AIRCRAFTSMAN (SAC) JOSHUA DINES/PA; TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



**Low gear** The Queen watches a vertical landing by an F-35B Lightning yesterday during a visit to RAF Marham in Norfolk

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## Scientists create virus in the fight against superbugs

**Tom Whipple** Science Editor

An artificial “virus” has been designed to punch through the walls of bacteria and defeat infection, in an advance that scientists say could help to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

The rise of superbugs is a serious concern in the medical community as bacteria evolve to evade existing treatments faster than new antibiotics can be developed, threatening a nightmare scenario in which people die from previously treatable infections.

Now a team of British scientists has developed and tested a new approach. Rather than seeking out antibiotics that exist in nature, as has been the case with previous advances, they have designed one from the ground up, inspired by viruses.

“Viruses are geometric objects,” Maxim Ryadnov, from the National Physical Laboratory, said. “They are like solid cages built from tiny blocks glued together with an atomistic precision.” This precise shape determines their function. “We take that shape, strip off the viral proteins, and are left with a template.”

He and his colleagues have used this template as a scaffold on which to place building blocks based on those already used in the human immune system to recognise pathogens.

They designed these viruses to home in on bacteria. Cells in the body are neutrally charged, bacteria are negatively charged and these are positively charged, which is one way in which they seek out the bacteria.

Finally, they engineered a mirror image of the virus, meaning that the body’s own immune system could not see it. “This means they are almost invisible to the body, like a phantom that is drawn to bacteria.”

In a paper in the journal *ACS Nano* they have shown that these structures work to inflict “rapid and irreparable damage to bacterial cells” both in the

lab and when tested in wax moth larvae.

An added bonus is that the way the viruses launch an all-out attack means that they could well be harder for bacteria to evade. “A conventional antibiotic has only one target on the bacterium. Resistance requires changing just one gene and when that gene is changed the antibiotic is not effective. For these, bacteria would need to rebuild the entire genetic architecture.”

Sonia Contera, of Oxford University, said that the research was a great example of a trend for developing treatments to work at the atomic level. “The paper describes a wonderful combination of skills: understanding of protein structure and the physics of protein assembly, biology of bacteria and viruses, computational simulations and characterisation techniques from physics and biology,” said Professor Contera, author of *Nano Comes to Life*.

“This work shows clearly the future of medicine, getting inspiration from the strategies produced by evolution to overcome a medical problem and engineering a new version of those strategies at the nanoscale using techniques and expertise across disciplines.”

Glyn Edwards is chief executive of Summit Therapeutics, a pharmaceutical company that is also trying to engineer new antibiotics. He said that although it was early days the latest research was “an example of some of the really clever stuff going on in academia and small companies to find novel approaches to tackling bacterial infections. It should get round the current resistance mechanisms. The science is really innovative and clever.”

Dr Ryadnov said that it was possible that the viruses could be in human trials in three years. “It is extremely exciting,” he said. “The more people start looking at technology like this, the quicker we will be in a position to say whether these can replace antibiotics. The frustration is it’s very slow, whereas the resistance problem is now.”

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# Emma reborn as a heroine for our times

Film Kevin Maher

## Emma

In cinemas February 14

★★★★☆

Jane Austen's *Emma* is the Becher's Brook of literary adaptations. Not because it's dramatically complex or structurally convoluted. On the contrary, the story of a 21-year-old heiress who does some terrible 19th century matchmaking before realising the error of her ways is simplicity itself.

No, the problem with *Emma* is Emma. She's a tricky, whimsical flibbertigibbet whom Austen herself described, with somewhat perverse relish, as: "A heroine whom no one but myself will much like."

Previous screen adaptations have made her prim (BBC's Romola Garai version from 2009), vampish (ITV's Kate Beckinsale from 1996), and strangely smug (Gwyneth Paltrow, also from 96). It's a poisoned chalice turn that seems, with all its needy man worship, more out of step than ever with the impulses and ideas of modernity.

Enter the pop video director Autumn de Wilde, her screenwriter, the Booker Prize winning Eleanor Catton (she wrote *The Luminaries*) and, crucially, their lead actress, the rising star Anya Taylor-Joy. And, to paraphrase Rex Harrison in *My Fair Lady*, by George they've done it!

This Emma is a sad-eyed wonder who dwells in that fragile place between coquettish arrogance and bewildering vulnerability. Taylor-Joy, previously seen in *Peaky Blinders* and *Glass*, plays her with uncommon



Anya Taylor-Joy, right, stars as Austen's young matchmaker. Top left, Josh O'Connor and Tanya Reynolds as Mr and Mrs Elton

sympathy. She lives near the fictional Highbury village with her doting father, Mr Woodhouse (Bill Nighy), and, as the plot dictates, divides her time between sparring with her platonic banter buddy George Knightley (Johnny Flynn) and secretly orchestrating an unsuitable romance between a clueless vicar, Philip Elton (Josh O'Connor), and the teenage schoolgirl Harriet Smith (Mia Goth), all the while being charmed by a self-centred smoothie, Frank Churchill (Callum Turner).

The plot is not the thing (from their first scenes together, we know

that Emma and George are quite the pair), and De Wilde instead drenches the film in cinematic style, shooting the interiors of the Woodhouse home, Hartfield, like a candy-coated studio set from a Fred Astaire classic. Emma seems to boast more outfit changes (courtesy of the Oscar-winning costume designer Alexandra Byrne) than a Lady Gaga world tour — it's new scene, new dress (pink, white, yellow, black, lace, without lace, collar, without collar etc).

And the chemistry between Emma and George is nicely stoked, particularly in a heated dance

sequence that possibly nods to the famous "Laendler" scene from *The Sound of Music*.

Detractors will probably call it frothy and, ugh, "heteronormative", but there's also something very timely about the film. Emma, with all her preening, gossipy, self-love, is somehow the perfect Instagram-age heroine.

Her actions, in this adaptation, and with Taylor-Joy's characterisation, are not those of a giddy romantic obsessive but of an unapologetic, empowered woman. She is the Emma that we deserve.

# Boarding school head is sacked over texts to girls

Will Humphries, Nicola Woolcock

The headmaster of a boarding school who sent inappropriate text messages to girls asking about their sex lives has been sacked after complaints from parents.

Toby Belfield, 47, had previously threatened to expel pupils for having relationships but also sent them texts saying he would visit them at university "to check you are still an angel".

He described them as "naughty" and accused them of breaking his heart.

An inspection report last month described Ruthin School in Denbighshire, north Wales, as having serious safeguarding problems. Staff said that Mr Belfield had not been seen at the school since last term.

When *The Times* disclosed details of the text messages the school would not confirm if he had been suspended.

Yesterday the school, which was founded in 1284, announced that it had "decided to terminate Mr Belfield's employment with immediate effect".

Mr Belfield had told one girl: "Imagine if I found your new tattoo — I'd have to expel you." Another message said: "I'm not your principal any more so when we meet in Moscow you're a free lady." In another



The Times revealed details last month of the texts sent by Mr Belfield, below

exchange, Mr Belfield accused a girl of being "sexually provocative" with younger boys. He added: "I worry, definitely, about you and sexual behaviour. You might need my support and you shouldn't risk not having it ..."

Two years ago, Mr Belfield told pupils that he would not tolerate them forming romantic relationships. He threatened to give worse university references or even exclude any pupils caught breaking the rules.

It emerged last month that Care Inspectorate Wales had published a damning report into boarding provision at the school, which charges about £35,000 a year. The report, published after an unannounced inspection, said that children were at risk of harm and the

school was run by an "autocratic and controlling management".

The school's council of management said it had submitted an action plan to the Welsh government for approval, adding that Mr Belfield had not been carrying out his role since investigations began several months ago.

It said that it had terminated Mr Belfield's employment after hearing an independent review of his conduct on January 31.

The messages Mr Belfield sent to his teenage students had been circulating in the north Wales community before they were passed to officials. Sources said that they were sent to six girls.

One said: "Where is your love for your principal, it has vanished. So rude and cruel to me. Breaking my heart."

A person close to the school said that a safeguarding concern had been raised against Mr Belfield and alleged that he had emotionally manipulated pupils and sent inappropriate private messages. The person said that Mr Belfield was suspended during an earlier investigation but returned.

The school said: "We are determined to ensure that the children at Ruthin School, now and in the future, will be all the better cared for and safer as a result of the work which is being carried out between the school's council of management and the local Welsh education authorities."

# We made errors in Barrymore pool death inquiry, say police

Emma Yeomans

Police have offered a £20,000 reward as part of their investigation into the rape and murder of a man 19 years ago at a party hosted by Michael Barrymore.

Stuart Lubbock, 31, was found in the swimming pool at the television star's home in Essex in March 2001. Police said the eight other people at the party, including Mr Barrymore, remained under suspicion.

The death was initially treated as an accidental drowning, but a post-mortem examination revealed he had serious sexual injuries that police said had to be non-consensual. "I believe that Stuart was raped and murdered that night," Detective Chief Inspector Stephen Jennings, who is leading the investigation, said. "I also believe one of the partygoers was responsible."

Before a Channel 4 documentary into the death, which has remained unsolved for 19 years, Essex Police admitted mistakes were made early in the investigation and evidence was lost.

Two items, a pool thermometer and a door handle, which officers saw at the scene or which appear in photographs, went missing. Several people, including Mr Barrymore's agent, were allowed into the property, though Essex police said he was not a suspect at the time.

However, police have not ruled out the possibility that the items were taken away as part of a cover-up. They suspect the assault may have taken place in Mr Barrymore's jacuzzi, where the missing pool thermometer was seen.

Three people have previously been arrested in connection with the crime, including Mr Barrymore, but no charges were ever brought.

"One or more of those eight people were responsible for Stuart's death. One or more of them knows what happened," Mr Jennings said.

The Channel 4 documentary also includes the 999 call made from the party, in which a caller says: "A fella has drowned in the pool. We have got him out. There's a party going on and someone has just gone out and found him. I think the geezer's dead, mate."



Stuart Lubbock, 31, died in a pool at the Essex home of Michael Barrymore in March 2001

Mr Barrymore was one of the best-known faces on television before Mr Lubbock's death. After his arrest by Essex police he sued the force, arguing that it had ruined his career, but later dropped the claim.

The Channel 4 documentary, which will be shown at 9pm on Thursday, also features new material from the crime scene. Mr Lubbock's father, Terry, said he felt confident that his son's killer would be brought to justice after nearly two decades. "I don't feel as though I have moved," he said. "It's almost like it happened, not yesterday, but as though it happened just a little while ago."



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# Beyond the pail: Stone Age well is world's oldest wooden structure

Mark Bridge

A 7,300-year-old well unearthed by construction workers is the oldest wooden structure ever discovered, according to archaeologists who say it provides evidence of our Stone Age forebears' technical skill.

The well, consisting of four corner posts and rows of planks lining a square shaft, was found during work on a motorway near Ostrov in the Czech Republic. The oak timbers were in

excellent condition due to the waterlogged ground, with marks from the makers' stone tools visible.

Researchers used the tree rings visible in cut sections of the wood to date most of the timbers to between 5,259BC and 5,255BC — more than 2,600 years before the pyramids at Giza.

The archaeologists believe it is the oldest reliably dated wooden structure in the world. It is the second well of its kind known to date from before the Bronze Age. The other one, also in the

Czech Republic, dates from about 150 years later. Subsequent wells of the same pattern have been found from the Bronze Age onwards, continuing into the Roman and medieval periods.

Writing in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, the team from Czech and German universities, said the construction revealed "advanced technical know-how" with two grooves set at 90 degrees to each other cut into each of the corner posts to hold the lining planks. One of the posts dating from ten



Marks made by stone tools more than 7,000 years ago were left on the wood

years before the others may have been recycled from a previous structure, while a lining plank dating from the decades afterwards is probably evidence of repair. The timbers were cut using polished stone axes and adzes, they added.

Jaroslav Peška, of the Archaeological Centre of Olomouc, said: "We had no idea that the first farmers, who only had tools made of stone, bones, horns, or wood, were able to process the surface of felled trunks with such precision."



## Sister of the Titanic will be open to divers

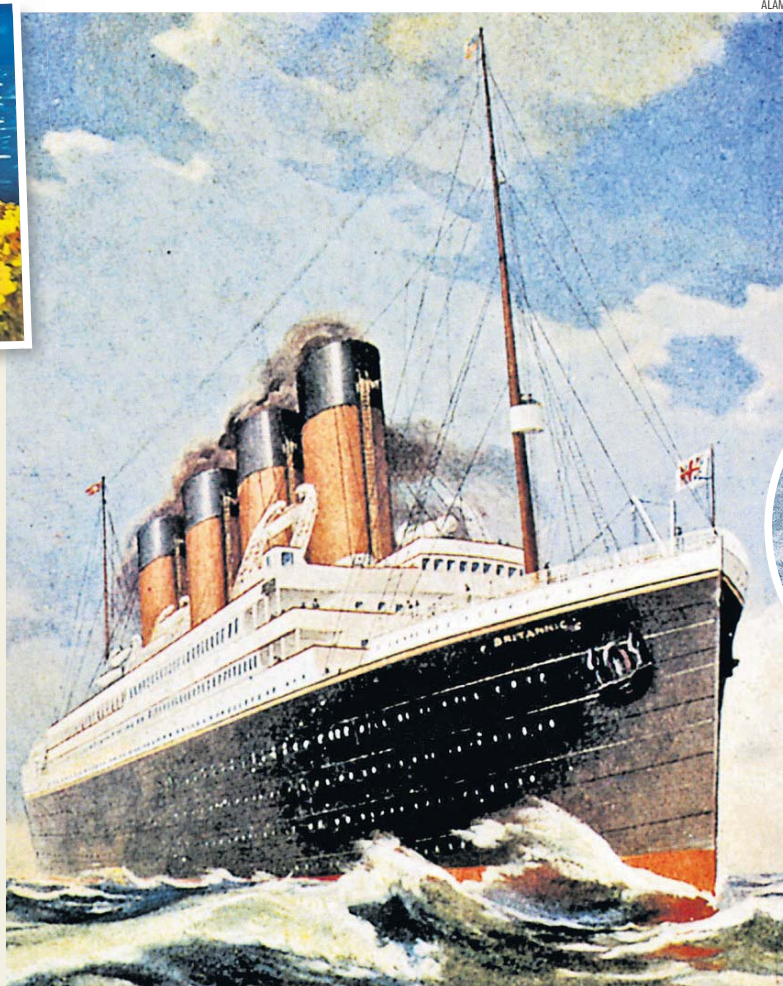
Divers will be able to visit the wreck of a sister ship of the *Titanic* under plans to ease restrictions on some of Europe's most coveted underwater wrecks (Anthee Carassava writes).

The *Britannic*, converted into a British hospital ship in the First World War and sunk by a mine in the Aegean, will be opened to recreational divers under Greek legislation to be voted on next month. Divers will be permitted to visit ships, submarines or planes

that sank in Greek waters between 1860 and 1970, relaxing rules that were designed to prevent looting.

The *Britannic* was one of three supposedly unsinkable Olympic-class ships built by Harland & Wolff for the White Star Line. After the *Titanic* sank, the *Britannic* was changed to add new safety features, which made her even larger. The *Olympic*, the third, retired in 1934.

Thirty lives were lost when the *Britannic* went down close to the island of Kea, after her lifeboats were dragged



The *Britannic* was made safer after the *Titanic* sank but lies off the Greek Island of Kea having struck a First World War mine. Near by is the wreck of a Junkers Ju 52



into the propellers as the captain tried to beach the vessel. It might not have sunk had some portholes not been opened to air its hospital wards. They let in water as the vessel listed. The *Britannic* was located in 1975 by Jacques Cousteau, the French marine explorer, and is thought to be the world's largest passenger ship

wreck. Although it lies at more than 100m, too deep for most scuba divers, it is within the range of experienced technical divers. The vessel sits on its side, largely in one piece. "Such initiatives can only facilitate innovative projects and add to the tourism industry," said Yannis Tzavelakos, a diving instructor who has long called for the *Britannic* to become part of an underwater park. "This time we need to see proof that designs like these will go through."

Near by is a Junkers Ju 52, a three-engine transport plane used by the Luftwaffe, lost in 1943 and said to be one of the best preserved aircraft wrecks in Greek waters.

# Denmark seizes mansion over £1.5bn fraud claim

Harry Shukman

Danish police have seized the central London mansion of a multimillionaire British businessman accused of defrauding Danish taxpayers of £1.5 billion.

A spokesman for Sanjay Shah, a former hedge fund boss, confirmed that his £14.7million property near Hyde Park had been expropriated. Mr Shah lives in Dubai.

Yesterday Danish police said they had seized the property owned by a suspect thought to have defrauded more than 12bn Danish kroner (£1.5 billion). Officers did not name Mr Shah, 50, but the spokesman for the businessman confirmed that his house had been seized.

He is alleged to have created a complex scheme using fake documents to fraudulently claim tax relief on share dividends in Denmark.

Under Danish law, companies withhold 27 per cent of share dividends to pay directly to the taxman but foreign

investors can have the tax refunded. The Danish tax authority says it was deceived into paying multiple refunds to British agents in 2012-15. At least £800million ended up in Solo Capital, Mr Shah's hedge fund which closed in 2016.

A High Court filing from 2018 described Mr Shah as "the primary individual said to be responsible for the fraudulent scheme". The Danish state prosecutor announced that it took control of the property on Monday but did not name the owner.

Jack Irvine, Mr Shah's spokesman, confirmed that it was his client's London house, adding that the timing of the announcement was "absolutely bizarre" as the Danish authorities had taken hold of the property last year.

"We cannot work out what they're playing at," he told *The Times*. "The property was seized well over a year ago by the Danish tax authority. I think they know that the case isn't going anywhere and they have to be seen to be doing something." He called the

announcement "gesture politics", adding: "It doesn't make any difference to us."

Mr Shah, a former medical student, accountant and trader, maintains his innocence, claiming that legal advice he received for the trades led him to believe they were legitimate.

"I'm just an easy target," he told *Borsen*, a Danish newspaper, in 2016. "If they had charged a big bank like Goldman Sachs, the bank would have kicked back with a team of lawyers. It is easier to go after an individual."

He will not return to the UK to give evidence, his spokesman said. The National Crime Agency raided his offices in 2016 and his global assets were frozen, limiting him to a family allowance. Mr Shah has staged a number of benefit concerts through his charity Autism Rocks, headlined by music stars including Prince, Elvis Costello and Michael Bubl . Mr Irvine denied reports that Mr Shah still owns a yacht and a white Rolls-Royce, saying both have now been sold.

# 'Wild Geese' mercenary dies in his sleep aged 100

Lucy Fisher Defence Editor

The former British army officer who became the world's best-known mercenary under the moniker "Mad Mike" has died aged 100.

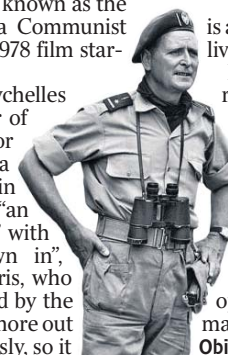
Michael Hoare died in his sleep on Sunday at a care facility in Durban, South Africa, according to a statement from his family yesterday.

Born in India to Irish parents, he earned fame while leading a private army in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1960s. The unit of 300 mercenaries, known as the "Wild Geese", crushed a Communist uprising and inspired a 1978 film starring Richard Burton.

A failed coup in the Seychelles in 1981 led to the soldier of fortune hijacking a jet, for which he was handed a three-year jail term in South Africa. He was "an officer and a gentleman" with "a bit of pirate thrown in", according to his son Chris, who added: "Mike Hoare lived by the philosophy that you get more out of life by living dangerously, so it



Michael Hoare was the inspiration for the 1978 film starring Richard Burton



is all the more remarkable that he lived more than 100 years ..."

Educated in England, Mr Hoare served in the British Army in the Second World War, during which he was deployed to India and Burma, and rose to the rank of major. He later qualified as a chartered accountant and moved to South Africa. "Mad Mike" derived from an East German radio operator describing him as "that mad bloodhound Hoare".

Obituary, page 49



# Children listen with Alexa as radio fades out

Matthew Moore Media Correspondent

More children use smart speakers than listen to the radio as Alexa replaces the wireless in family homes.

The proportion of those aged 5-15 who use voice-activated speakers has jumped from 15 to 27 per cent in a year, while radio use has fallen from 26 to 22 per cent.

Children are also shunning traditional broadcast television, with a quarter not watching any "live" TV, according to Ofcom, the media watchdog. In 2019, more (80 per cent) watched on-demand services such as Netflix and YouTube than scheduled television (75 per cent).

The figures highlight children increasingly rejecting their parents' media habits in favour of digital services that give them full control of what and when they watch.

Half of ten-year-olds now own a mobile phone, up from 30 per cent in 2015. By 15, almost all children have a smartphone, the research shows.

Millions of children are sending WhatsApp messages, breaking the Facebook-owned app's minimum age of 16. Around 62 per cent of 12-15 year

olds have a WhatsApp account, up from 43 per cent in 2018, meaning the service is nearly as popular as Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram.

TikTok, the video-sharing app known for spawning viral dance crazes, saw its usage among children rise from 8 per cent to 13 per cent in a year.

YouTube is the single most popular viewing platform, watched by 90 per cent of 12-15s and half of children aged 3-4, despite concerns about the site's algorithm recommending inappropriate and disturbing content.

If told they could only watch one service, 45 per cent of children said they would choose YouTube, higher than Netflix (32 per cent) and well ahead of traditional channels such as BBC and ITV (17 per cent). BBC television remains the most important source of news for children, but the proportion who watch BBC One or Two to stay informed has dropped from 45 per cent to 40 per cent in a year.

"Children are drawn to YouTube for a variety of reasons, and it varies by age," the Ofcom report said. "Cartoons and animations continue to be the most popular content among younger children, while watching funny videos, pranks and music videos are more popular among older children."

The report's authors also identified a "Greta Thunberg effect", with the proportion of 12-15s using social media to support political causes and organisations up from 12 per cent in 2018 to 18 per cent last year. One in ten said they signed an online petition last year.

There is also evidence that teenagers are starting to follow so-called "micro-influencers". These "vloggers next door" tend to have tens of thousands of followers, rather than the millions drawn to global stars, so are more likely to directly engage with their audience, Ofcom suggests.

The report, *Children and parents: Media use and attitudes 2019*, is drawn from sources including 3,500 interviews with children and parents nationwide.



PAMELA HANSON/HARPER'S BAZAAR

Emily Blunt told Harper's Bazaar that her daughter prefers the original Mary Poppins — not the sequel in which she stars, below

the magical nanny in the 2018 sequel *Mary Poppins Returns*. In an interview with Harper's Bazaar the British actress tells of a conversation her husband, the American actor John Krasinski, had with one of their two daughters. "I overheard Violet telling John that she wanted to watch *Mary Poppins*. He said: 'Do you want to watch Mummy's one?' She said: 'No, Julie Andrews'. Julie Andrews reigns supreme in our house."

Blunt, 36, was born in London but lives in Brooklyn, New York. "I walk around Brooklyn in a baseball cap and tracksuit bottoms most of the time," she said. "So there's an embarrassing moment when parents will say to their kid, 'This is Mary Poppins', and the kid will look at me, like: 'No, it f\*\*\*ing is not'."

She said that Brooklyn "is the next best thing" to living in London and regularly meets with the British actresses Emily Mortimer and Sienna Miller for roast dinners.

Blunt won a Golden Globe in 2006 for her role in the BBC drama *Gideon's Daughter* and has starred in Hollywood films including

*Sicario*, *The Girl on the Train* and *A Quiet Place*. The March issue of Harper's Bazaar is on sale tomorrow.

**Daughter says Blunt is second-best as Poppins**

Children can be their parents' harshest critics, as Emily Blunt has discovered (Matthew Moore writes). Her daughter has revealed that she didn't think much of her as

Mary Poppins and prefers the 1964 original starring Julie Andrews. Blunt played

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**Remoaners, rise up. We're the fruitcakes now**

**Hugo Rifkind**

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# Comment

## Johnson should learn from Thatcher's mistakes

The PM is gung-ho about free trade opportunities but he'd be wise to put the concerns of families above ideology

**Rachel Sylvester**



@RSYLVESTERTIMES

Once asked Margaret Thatcher whether she wanted to leave the European Union. It was 1999, Tony Blair was in his pro-European pomp and Brexit was not even a twinkle in Steve Baker's eye. There was a sharp intake of breath around the lunch table in the House of Lords that the only journalist present had posed such an impertinent question but the former prime minister did not seem to mind. She fixed me with a beady gaze, allowed a dramatic pause, then replied slowly and carefully: "I'm afraid I think I do".

Britain is now out of the EU because the Leave campaign ended up as a broad populist movement but the origins of Brexit are on the Thatcherite right. It was Eurosceptic Conservative MPs who made John Major's life a misery over the Maastricht treaty, then forced David Cameron into holding an EU referendum. They were backed by Nigel Farage, who has made no secret of his admiration for the Iron Lady and the declaration in her 1988 Bruges speech that "we have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain, only to see them re-imposed at a European level".

Of course, there are Leavers on the left — some MPs would say that Jeremy Corbyn is among them — but for the true believers in the European Research Group the core purpose of leaving the EU is to "finish the Thatcher revolution", as

Nigel Lawson put it in September 2016, and "make the UK the most dynamic and freest country in the whole of Europe".

That is why Boris Johnson is so determined to throw off EU rules and regulations and strike a Canada-style free-trade deal with Brussels, even if there is a price to pay for business, farmers and consumers. Britain should, he said yesterday, become a "catalyst for free trade", leaping into the phone booth to shed the Clark Kent spectacles and "emerg[ing] with its cloak flowing as the supercharged champion of the right of the populations of the earth to buy and sell freely among each other". The prime minister is ready to agree to tariffs and border checks if necessary to avoid regulatory alignment because he is making a political rather than an economic choice.

The history of Brexit also explains the wider divisions that are now opening up in the Tory party. The row over Huawei is at least in part a

He is in danger of learning the wrong lessons from Thatcher

proxy for a broader battle about Britain's economic future, with Conservative right-wingers determined to prioritise the "special relationship" with the United States over cheaper technology and building links with China. The argument about HS2 is driven by a bigger debate about the extent to which the state should intervene and spend taxpayers' money for the public good.

Underlying all these splits is the tension that has riven the Tory party since the battles over the Corn Laws,

between free trade and protectionism. It is the issue that "has had the capacity to hit the Conservative Party in the solar plexus" down the generations, says the historian Peter Hennessy because it touches on the Tories' core belief in capitalism and commerce. But whereas in the 19th century the protectionists were the wealthy landowners who wanted to keep food prices high, now those who are most likely to lose from a shift towards untrammelled global free trade and away from the European single market are factory workers and tenant farmers.

Mr Johnson likes to describe himself as a "Brexit Hezza" but in fact he wants to be an "interventionist Maggie", saying "no, no, no" to Brussels even while he bails out FlyBe and nationalises Northern Rail. As the first Tory leader since Lady Thatcher to have a strong parliamentary majority, he has the authority to get his proposals through the Commons, but that does not change the reality of the trade-offs he is making. There will be a cost to the end of frictionless trade and it is likely to be greatest in the so-called "red wall" seats in the north and the Midlands, where manufacturing jobs are most heavily concentrated. The pressure on the union will also grow as the impact on Scotland and Northern Ireland becomes clear.

The prime minister is in danger of learning the wrong lessons from Lady Thatcher. His senior adviser Dominic Cummings likes to quote the military theorist Colonel John Boyd's motto "People, ideas, machines — in that order" but Mr Johnson is putting ideology before individuals over Brexit. Things started to go wrong for Lady Thatcher when she lost touch with



Margaret Thatcher's problems began when she lost touch with real people

the pain that her policies were causing to real people, whether that was the poll tax or the closure of the coal mines. Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's former chief of staff, remembers driving through a demonstration in a motorcade with her when he was a junior diplomat. As she got out of her Rolls-Royce he heard her say: "Wasn't it nice to see all those people waving at us?" There is no address that leads more quickly to a detachment from reality than 10 Downing Street.

In 2016, Vote Leave won the EU referendum because it sided with the people against a sprawling and anonymous EU machine. The slogan "take back control" reflected the desire to see power returned to individuals from the faceless bureaucracy in Brussels. The Tories triumphed at the election last year

because they successfully capitalised on the frustration many voters felt about an inward-looking, self-indulgent political system.

Most people were not voting for free-market economics or buccaneering bravado; many were in fact expressing a yearning for safety and stability. As Danny Kruger, the new Tory MP for Devizes, put it in his maiden speech last week: "The

Most people weren't voting in December for buccaneering bravado

21st century will reward countries that are nimble, agile and free, but Brexit is about more than global Britain; it is a response to the call of home. It reflects people's attachment to the places that are theirs."

Mr Johnson is setting out into the world in a bullish and uncompromising mood but pragmatism and flexibility will be needed to avoid an outcome that harms families and communities. Yesterday he boasted that the government had hired "the lawyers, top dollar I've no doubt, the economists, free-trade experts and if we don't have enough, or if they don't perform, believe me we will hire some more". The machine is in place, the free-market ideology is clear but the prime minister will not be forgiven if he forgets about the people in his pursuit of a swashbuckling Brexit.

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## Comment

# Britain is losing the fight against extremism

The authorities are wrong to think that the power of reason is enough to rehabilitate fanatics



@MELANIELATEST

For the second time in just over two months, terrorism on Britain's streets has descended into lethal farce. On Sunday Sudesh Amman, an Islamist who had just been released from prison even though he was considered so dangerous that he was being shadowed by armed police officers, seized a knife from a shop in Streatham and stabbed two people before those officers shot him dead.

Last November Usman Khan, an Islamist released from prison 11 months earlier, murdered two people at a conference that he was attending on London Bridge organised by a prisoners' rehabilitation project.

This provoked much head-shaking about the risks of letting terrorists out of jail too early and accepting too easily that they'd been deradicalised. Now, some are saying we can't go on like this.

Easier said than done. For what's required is a step-change in attitudes which Britain has been unwilling to make.

The problem is not just that scores of other Islamists have been released from jail, with many more due to be released soon. Keeping them inside for longer won't change the fact that when eventually they are

released they may well still be dangerous.

For all the evidence suggests that deradicalisation programmes both inside and outside prison are singularly ineffectual. That's not just because of the chaos in the under-resourced prison and probation system. It's because of a conceptual error: the belief that the power of reason can be used against fanatics who believe in killing infidels and "martyring" themselves in the name of God, and wear mocked-up bomb-belts to encourage the police to kill them.

In a BBC radio programme a few days ago Ian Acheson, who conducted a review of extremism in prisons, explored why deradicalisation was proving such a failure. Prisoners were manipulating such programmes by parroting the jargon of moderation and "healthy

### Prisoners manipulate project organisers by parroting jargon

identity" that they knew officials were desperate to hear.

Most tellingly, according to Fiyaz Mughal, the founder of the counterextremist group Faith Matters, prison imams were frightened of charismatic and aggressive prisoners who sometimes seemed to know more than they did about Islamic concepts.

That last point should surely give us pause. Islam's history features holy war and conquest, punctuated over the centuries by attempts at

enlightenment and reformation that were suppressed. So could it be that these charismatic prisoners, who further radicalise other Muslim inmates, are more faithful to Islam than the hapless imams sent in to persuade them of the error of their ways?

Within the Muslim world there are different interpretations of Islam, some of which are peaceful and apolitical. And it should never be forgotten that Muslims are the most numerous victims of Islamist extremism. In Britain, many are cultural Muslims with scant interest in religion at all.

Nevertheless, Islamist extremism is an interpretation based on the literal reading of religious texts and propagated by the most powerful religious authorities in the Islamic world.

Yet in Britain and much of the West, we persist in claiming that such extremism is a perversion of Islam, whereas to its followers it is a holy duty that trumps all secular values.

Since this threat emerged in Britain more than three decades ago, the establishment has refused to acknowledge the danger inherent in what these people believe, not just in what they do. So it lets prisoners out of jail too early, it's easily duped over its deradicalisation programmes, and it denounces anyone who criticises the Muslim world as Islamophobic.

It's vital that we safeguard the majority of Muslims who are loyal, law-abiding British citizens. But it's also important to recognise that a troubling number of British Muslims

nod along with the goals, if not the tactics, of Islamist extremists. A Policy Exchange poll in 2016 revealed that more than 40 per cent of British Muslims wanted to see at least some aspects of Sharia in force in the UK.

In 1971, the home secretary Reginald Maudling caused outrage when he said IRA attacks couldn't be eliminated but only reduced to an "acceptable level". It's beginning to look as if that defeatist mindset is being repeated, through cowardice and error, towards a far greater danger.

### In the eyes of many terrorists, we are the infidels in a holy war

To begin to confront that threat properly, the government should admit what is staring it in the face: for the terrorists, we are the infidels in a holy war that will be fought to the bitter end. It is time that those states which still fund the most poisonous anti-western preachers took responsibility for the hatred they are spreading and time we shamed them into stopping it.

Liberalism's flaw is that it believes reason is the antidote to all problems, including a religious death-cult. "We can't go on like this" means our own society taking steps which won't seem very liberal — be they tougher sentences or new restrictions on hate preachers.

But if a society is so liberal it refuses to defend itself properly, it will vanish.



## Employers must look beyond CVs to help social mobility

Alan Milburn

CVs are the stock-in-trade of the want-to-be professional classes. But they aren't working. Or rather they are working only for some.

Those from a wealthier background are nearly 80 per cent more likely to end up in professional jobs than those from a working-class background.

Part of the reason is that big employers attach too much weight to applicants from Russell Group universities and fee-paying and selective schools. On average they are hiring graduates from just a quarter of the UK's 131 universities.

Research shows that applicants with Asian or African-sounding names need to send twice as many job applications as those with a traditionally British name to secure an interview. Similarly, women are less likely to be invited to interview than men, even if they send in identical CVs.

Britain's stagnant social mobility problem will never be solved unless employers change their outdated recruitment practices. That is the thrust of a new movement the Social Mobility Foundation is launching today, called the Department for Opportunities, with its debut campaign "CVs Aren't Working".

We want employers to update their hiring methods with some steps that will help to improve socio-economic diversity. Almost one in three employers entering our Social Mobility Employer Index now remove candidates' names, grades and university from applications. Some employers are using innovative digital systems to test applicants' potential rather than relying on grades. Many more need to do so.

It's welcome that social mobility has become a common concern of the political parties and that the prime minister has made it his mission to address these divisions. But politics cannot do all the heavy lifting. Arguably, there has been an over-reliance on public policy to solve the problem, with questionable results. The 20th-century expectation that each generation would be better off than the last is no longer being met. Only one in eight low-income kids are growing up to become high-income adults.

Social institutions need to step up. Employers, not ministers, are in the best position to change recruitment practices. Many universities have taken a lead to change how they recruit students to take better account of social background but the top institutions are laggards and need to catch up. Councils, mayors and community groups have a big role too in creating new opportunities for the most disadvantaged in their areas.

Getting British society moving again is far too important a task to be left to the politicians alone.

Alan Milburn is chairman of the Social Mobility Foundation

## Giles Coren Notebook

# Only a fool would write Meghan into The Crown

It's such a shame that *The Crown* will not, after all, bring the story of the royal family up to the present day with a sixth and final series as originally planned, but end in the early 2000s at the conclusion to the fifth. I had been very curious to see how they would handle the portrayal of Meghan Markle on screen, fearing that any element of shade thrown across her character to qualify the general message of radiant positivity and social progress would be decied on all sides as evidence of institutional racism at Netflix, and lead to sackings, defenestrations, possibly even executions.

Fair play to the show's creator, Peter Morgan, though. Series six would have been an impossible writing job. Because the two things a television programme absolutely cannot get away with being accused of are racism and disrespect to the Queen. How could Morgan possibly have imagined

his way into the royal family's conversations around the Meghan Markle romance without offending literally everybody? To present anything remotely resembling racism in family conversations about her would have been both deeply offensive to royalists and fatally triggering to the sort of people who are triggered by the portrayal of racism. And to have portrayed the royal family (and Britain generally) as anything but incredibly racist would, of course, have been incredibly racist.

No matter what he had written, Peter Morgan would have been marched off at dawn to the Danny Baker/Alastair Stewart memorial death camp for re-education (Woke Macht Frei) and within a week or so literally everyone in England would have been fired. So no wonder he chose to dodge that bullet and keep his career afloat for a bit longer.

But it's a shame. I was so looking forward to Laurence Fox as Prince Harry.

### Party pooper

I have always thought fancy dress is for losers who are unable to have fun dressed as themselves (a problem I solve in my own

life by not trying to have fun at all) so I am not in any way inconvenienced by the news that Oxford University has issued guidelines to students to help them avoid party outfits that might whiff of "cultural appropriation" or "have distressing impacts on marginalised communities". Personally, I think the privileged, attention-seeking bozos should be nose down in the college library, like I was, being put off books for ever. But has it not occurred to the authorities that by donning the parody garb of vicars, tarts, pimps, hoes and fox hunters (the themes marked out as especially offensive by the most recent directive) these children are not, in fact, dressing up as vicars, tarts, pimps, hoes and fox hunters at all? They are dressing up as students.

### Cat people

Look, I didn't set out this morning to construct a notebook around the theme of "political correctness gone mad", because I am not that sort of columnist. I







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# Remoaners, rise up. We're the fruitcakes now

The final insult in this sorry Brexit saga is having to admit that Nigel Farage might actually be right about something

**Hugo Rifkind**



@HUGORIFKIND

“Who,” chortled Nigel Farage at the weekend, “are the fruitcakes and loonies now?” With the answer, I’m afraid, being sadly obvious. Still him. Wait! No! Wrong. Not him. Me.

It was David Cameron, you’ll recall, who used the phrase “fruitcakes, loonies and closet racists, mostly” to refer to Ukip back in 2006. Presumably Farage has just forgotten about the last bit. Or doesn’t mind it. Who can say?

His point, though, was that it is die-hard Remainers who now fill the politico-cultural crank slot. They are the ones who, to borrow another phrase from Cameron, will be forever “banging on about Europe”. Unlike, of course, Farage himself, who said recently that if Brexit got done, “then the really good news is that you’ll never ever see me again”. And who has kept to that pledge diligently. Save for the occasional media

appearance literally every single goddamn day.

He’s basically right, though. Heaven help me but he is. Take Alastair Campbell, not a man you’d have previously expected to start a massive war over basically nothing. Hang on, that doesn’t sound right. Still, take him. Last week, he was to be found tweeting his intention to refuse change in shops if it came in the form of Brexit commemorative 50p coins. Likewise Lord Adonis. Are they feeling OK? Whatever your politics, a commitment to spend your dotage peering furiously at the backs of coins in Islington greengrocers is the stuff of maniacs. It has no dignity. It’s weird.

Alastair Campbell and Lord Adonis want to boycott the Brexit 50p

That said, the straight equivalence implied by Farage — they were the oddballs but now we are — does bother me, because it suggests that the politics here are equivalent, too. Are they? There’s an Ipsos-Mori poll floating around that purports to show the relative intolerance of Remainers. On almost every issue discussed (and we’re talking the big ones here, such as the death penalty)

Remainers were, indeed, more likely to agree that “I find it hard to respect people who hold opposite views to me on this topic”.

If one fervently believes the death penalty to be murder, though, how much sense does it make to respect people who think that we should have it? And likewise, if you believe the case for Brexit to be dishonest, damaging and dim, then what’s the magic switch you’re supposed to flick inside your head to stop believing that? Although there I go, lumping together Brexit and the death penalty, like I’ve learnt nothing at all. Probably because I’m a loony. Or a fruitcake. Or because of that YouGov poll in 2017 that showed over half of Leavers wanted it reinstated. No, it’ll be the fruitcake thing. Shame on me.

Probably, Farage doesn’t think that all 16.1 million Remainers are fruitcakes. Just the ones who won’t shut up. Two or three years from now, the only place you’ll see those EU berets with the stars on them will be at the Lib Dem party conference. “For God’s sake,” all sensible politicians or pundits will snap, when the die-hards still drone on, “stop banging on about Europe! There are more important things!”

They will be right. The pound will be too weak or too strong. We will be making too few cars, or perhaps

too many, but the wrong sort. Immigration will almost certainly be too high, although there is an outside chance that it will be too low. There will be a crisis in the NHS, and a culture war over a newsreader who has been sacked for quoting *Macbeth* at a man from Auchtermuchty. Greta Thunberg will be cross with us. “And you know what would make all of this better?” the fruitcakes will still be saying, to anybody who will listen.

Pro-Europe voters are less likely to tolerate the opinions of others

Which, in the corridors of power and media, will be almost nobody. “Shut up,” they’ll be told. “Ugh. You’re obsessed. Banging on.”

In his fifth government or perhaps his ninth, Boris Johnson will have some he wants to sack but fears to. “We don’t want another three bastards out there,” he will sigh. On the fringes, though, the bastards’ bedfellows will be forming a party of their own. Strictly for the weirdos, the sort who want shops to use the metric system and paint their passports maroon. We’ll be old by then, we fruitcakes, and our children will find us mortifying. “You just have to humour them,” they’ll tell

each other, when they come home at Christmas to our neighbourhoods of managed decline. Such as Haringey, or Edinburgh, or Bath.

There will, though, be quite a lot of us. What’s more, we’ll vote, like old people do. And, in time, some future PM — maybe Owen Jones, maybe Darren Grimes — will opt to patronise us, expediently, by offering us a referendum. “The government will implement what you decide,” they’ll smirk, confident that nobody with any grasp of economic reality would want to go back in. And they’ll have a point, too, as all the experts will agree. The cost! The upheaval! The negotiations! And for what?

Only maybe, just maybe, enough people just won’t care. Fifty-two per cent? Fifty-one? That’ll do. “But why?” the elites will howl, horrified at what Britain now must do. “The fact that you even have to ask,” we’ll snarl. And they’ll fight back, sure, and go to the courts, and lose there, too, and march through Westminster in unparalleled numbers, distraught and worried, their own kids on their shoulders, their forlorn Union Jack bowler hats sagging in the rain. And we, frankly, will not give a toss. Not about the cost. Not about our global standing. Not about any of it, because we’ll have taken back control. And who, I ask you, will be the fruitcakes then?



## Letters to the Editor



### Deficient NHS bill

Sir, Today MPs will pass a bill to enshrine in law promised funding for everyday NHS services in England. The investment is an important signal but it does not include areas of funding crucial to the government's election promises to provide more hospitals, nurses and GP appointments. The bill does not cover investment in buildings and equipment. Yet capital spending in the NHS is well below comparable countries; for example, we have only a third as many MRI or CT scanners as Germany. The government has announced some money for hospital upgrades but it is not enough to address the NHS's crumbling infrastructure or fund new technology to improve care.

The NHS is facing a workforce crisis but the bill does not cover education and training budgets that would help recruitment and retention. Nor does it offer any relief for the public health and social care services that help to keep people healthy and independent.  
**Dr Jennifer Dixon**, CEO, the Health Foundation; **Nigel Edwards**, CEO, the Nuffield Trust; **Richard Murray**, CEO, the King's Fund

### Buried treasures

Sir, The Jersey hoard of 69,347 Celtic coins ("Record coin hoard found after 30-year hunt in field", Feb 3), and even the 1908 Brussels hoard of 150,000 medieval silver pennies, are dwarfed by recent discoveries in Afghanistan. The hoard from Mir Zakah, southeast of Kabul, reportedly weighed more than four tonnes and included 550,000 silver and bronze coins, dating from the Achaemenid empire of the later centuries BC to the post-Alexander kingdoms around the time of Christ. Unfortunately the hoard was not excavated by archaeologists but the numismatist Osmund Bopearachchi was able to examine some 38,000 of them.  
**Professor Norman Hammond**  
Cambridge

### Prison melodies

Sir, Not everyone approves of classical music being used in pop songs (letters, Feb 1 & 3). André Previn likened it to vandalising an Old Master painting. Asked what he thought of an orchestra recording classical melodies accompanied by a drum machine, he said: "I'd be prepared to visit them in prison."  
**James Dixon**  
Stanningfield, Suffolk

### Corrections and clarifications

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## Friends, rivals and healing Brexit divisions

Sir, If Boris Johnson is serious about "healing divisions" in our country and making Brexit work for everybody, then he could start by toning down his "hard Brexit" rhetoric during the negotiations on the UK's trade deal with the EU ("We will make a stunning success of leaving the EU, says Johnson", Feb 1). What really scares the 57 per cent of the electorate who did not vote for his party in the December election is the attitude of the Conservative Party and its leaders to British business. All sectors that are the core of our economy — manufacturers, traders, financial services — have made it clear to government how important it is to maintain the freest possible access to the single market. But they are met with contempt and hostility. If this continues, there will be no healing, only deepening division and despair among those who cannot see a future without a strong relationship with the largest and richest trading

bloc in the world. And what will his new supporters in the West Midlands and the northeast feel when Britain's car industry loses its ability freely to import parts and export finished products to the EU?  
**Professor Richard Crook**  
Brighton

Sir, Your leading article "Friends and Rivals" (Feb 3) identifies that the government's resistance to British alignment with European rules is intended to demonstrate that "Brexit has a point". Perhaps the likelihood of achieving a widely, if not universally, sought national reconciliation might be increased by greater recognition from both sides of the debate that Brexit, like a toddler's tantrum, a friend's illness or many of the misfortunes that bedevil everyday life, does not have a "point".  
**Michael Poulson**  
Senior lecturer,  
Manchester Law School

Sir, I do not agree with Michael Gove's suggestion that Brexit has given more power to the people ("True prize is chance to make politics work again", Feb 1). The people's power over MPs has not changed at all and with the loss of our democratic representation in Brussels we have lost our influence in the EU, although admittedly we did have a tendency to elect MEPs who did not want to be there in the first place and consequently did very little to exercise their power for Britain. The only people who have gained power are Westminster MPs. Perhaps that is what Brexit was about all along.  
**Martin Parker**  
Leatherhead, Surrey

Sir, Now that we have left the European Union, can we go back to a single kiss on the cheek?  
**Gill Knox**  
Hawkhurst, Kent

### Labour's class war

Sir, Clare Foges is correct to urge the Labour Party to offer more than a divisive and narrow class-based appeal ("Labour should ditch its obsession with class", Feb 3). The new divides of our time are as much about values and education as class. Had only the more socially liberal university graduates voted at the last election then Jeremy Corbyn would be prime minister. It was non-graduates and the working class that stopped the hard left from taking power, ironically the same groups that the Labour Party was founded to represent. Voters today are "cross-pressured". Many lean left on the economy but right on culture. This is why Labour leadership hopefuls should focus less on stressing their working-class ancestry and more on explaining how they can reconnect with voters who do not just long for the mines and cloth caps but an era when their politicians shared their love of the nation, and identity, culture and tradition were respected.  
**Matthew Goodwin**  
Professor of politics and international relations, University of Kent

### Defence review

Sir, It is unfortunate that General Lord Houghton of Richmond was unable to influence the 2010 and

2015 strategic defence reviews that he was so intimately involved with ("Ex-forces chief warns against overhaul of defence spending", Feb 3). That he would allow a defence review on his watch, as chief of defence staff, to be a "remarkable indulgence in political hubris" and "failed exercises in achieving a sustainably affordable defence programme" is surprising. He is right that the military budget is overstretched but wrong in his assertion that ceasing to maintain the nuclear deterrent and removing our few tier one capabilities is the answer. The countries whose alliances with us are so important and need to be enhanced look to the UK to provide the nuclear deterrent and maritime tier one assets such as nuclear attack submarines to help Nato and European security. I too hope the imminent integrated review will be "truly profound" and strategic.  
**Admiral Lord West of Spithead**  
First sea lord 2002-06; House of Lords

### Animal cruelty

Sir, It is sad to see the RSPCA being criticised in your leading article "Cruel Charity" (Feb 1). Animal welfare has strong support in the UK and is one measure of a civilised society. The separation of charitable activity and the prosecution of animal abusers works well in Scotland. The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals investigates the

anxieties and horrors reported by the public, and the procurator fiscal's office advises on the appropriateness of any potential prosecution and manages the legal process. There are occasional disagreements between the two sides but the system is effective. The procurator fiscal takes expert testimony from those dealing with horrific abuse and calls them to give evidence in court. The outcome is determined by a court's sheriff. Perhaps, as you recommend, the RSPCA's critical work would be enhanced by separating charitable activity from handling prosecutions.  
**Kay Driver**  
Former CEO, SSPCA and member of the minister's advisory group on animal welfare, Scottish parliament

### Old habits die hard

Sir, As a fervent fan of Edward Lucas I tried his advice this morning on how to improve mental agility by upsetting routine habits ("Why willpower is the secret to a happier life", Feb 3). However, tackling tooth cleaning with a left hand for the first time in a long life had dire results. The battery-operated brush developed a life of its own by bouncing off my molars, skating across the left cheek and ending up spraying paste over the bathroom floor. When next not in a hurry maybe I'll try again.  
**Joyce Hopkirk Lear**  
Hemel Hempstead

eliminated. There is the chance that Dr Chalmers Mitchell and his companions might be overtaken by such accidents as engine trouble or a violent tropical thunderstorm at a moment when they were far away from one of the forty-two landing-places organized by the Air Ministry. They might be compelled to come down on a serried mass of forest trees, in a malarial fever swamp, in a trackless jungle of elephant grass, in the haunts of wild beasts or wild men or, at the best, in some out-of-the-way place where there are no spare parts and no petrol, and no means of communication with the outside world. It is, however, reassuring to feel that Dr Chalmers Mitchell fears air sickness more than he does lions or elephants. We wish him and his pilots and mechanics God-speed and the best of luck.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

### Baftas and diversity

Sir, There has been much condemnation of the Bafta awards for not recognising "people of colour" ("We must do more to overcome racism in film, says Phoenix", Feb 3). It is not the responsibility of the Bafta awards to do this. Bafta voters are expected to vote on merit. Nobody blames the Olympic committee if there are no white athletes in a sprint race. It is the film and television industry that must give creatives from all backgrounds opportunities to practise their craft so that they can compete with their undoubted talent.  
**Laurence Myers**  
Bafta voter and executive producer of the 2019 biographical drama *Judy*

### Seat hoggers

Sir, The "Treneman seat" syndrome exists on buses too, with the worst exponents sitting on the aisle seat with their bag placed by the window (Notebook, Jan 31, and letters, Feb 3). If one really feels the need to deter potential neighbours, a friend of mine swears by a sudden fit of coughing. She says this has been particularly effective since early January.  
**Stephen Grant**  
Rottingdean, E Sussex

Sir, I was once rudely assailed on a train by a woman who assumed I had bagged the seat next to me for my case. I was merely holding it on the seat to allow the queue of passengers past, before placing the case in the luggage hold. I later searched the train to explain this to the woman. Rather heatedly if I remember.  
**Lesley Thompson**  
Lavenham, Suffolk

### Illicit tea trade

Sir, If Ben Macintyre wants young people to take up tea, the worst thing he could do is make the subject compulsory in schools ("Your great British cuppa is going cold", Feb 1). A better idea would be to make it illegal. In no time at all kids would be chewing it, snorting it, smoking it, injecting it, baking it in their cupcakes and, as Blackadder might have said, "They'll be drinking it next".  
**Ruth Grimsley**  
Sheffield

### On the buses

Sir, The acceleration experienced by Sathnam Sanghera on an electric bus (Notebook, Feb 3) is well known in the rail traction and lift industries. It is dealt with by the drive control system having a built-in "jerk limit", ie a rate of change of acceleration limit. I would be surprised if the bus makers have not included this feature. Perhaps they have set the value too high. At least for Sathnam anyway.  
**Colin Goodman**  
Honorary professor in rail traction systems, University of Birmingham

### Rinse and repeat

Sir, Regarding Sathnam Sanghera's suggestion that "all detergent is actually the same", as teenagers we were told (by other teenagers) that 1001 carpet cleaner was as good as, and far cheaper, than shampoo and kept hair blond and luxurious. Many of us tried this. I have not kept in touch with these friends to determine the long-term results, but I am bald and grey — but with very clean hair.  
**Frank Lawton**  
London SE21



Daily Universal Register

Switzerland: Britain formally becomes an independent trading nation after leaving the EU as its ambassador to the UN takes his seat at the World Trade Organisation.

Nature notes



It will be a month before they start laying their eggs, but rooks and moorhens are beginning to take an interest in their future nests. Rooks are occasionally coming in from the fields for a short visit to their traditional rookeries. They will rearrange a few twigs in the battered nest in which they reared their young last year and which they may use again. Moorhen pairs are building platforms of reeds at the edge of ponds and lakes, and they may use one of these as the basis of their nest. Meanwhile, the pair walk around each other on them, turning their beaks down and their tails up, and displaying the white patches under their tail. This is a preliminary courtship ritual.

DERWENT MAY

Birthdays today



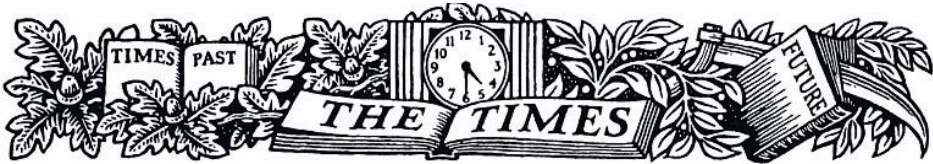
**Dara Ó Briain**, pictured, comedian and presenter, *Mock the Week*, 48; **Professor Edward Acton**, vice-chancellor, University of East Anglia (2009-14), 72; **Jerry Adler**, actor, *The Sopranos* (1999-2007), and director, 91; **Nickie Aiken**, Conservative MP for Cities of London and Westminster, 51; **Gabrielle Anwar**, actress, *Scent of a Woman* (1992), 50; **Patrick Bergin**, actor, *Patriot Games* (1992), 69; **Jeanette Brakewell**, equestrian, Olympic silver medallist, team event (2000, 2004), 46; **Damian Collins**, Conservative MP for Folkestone and Hythe, 46; **Alice Cooper**, singer, *School's Out* (1972), 72; **Jim Cunningham**, Labour MP for Coventry South (1992-2019), 79; **Serge Dorny**, artistic director, London Philharmonic Orchestra (1996-2003), 58; **Granville Gordon**, Marquess of Huntly, premier marquess of Scotland, 76; **Stephen Hammond**, Conservative MP for Wimbledon, health minister (2018-19), 58; **Oscar De La Hoya**, boxer, ten world titles in six weight classes, 47; **Natalie Imbruglia**, singer, *Torn* (1997), and actress, *Johnny English* (2003), 45; **Winton Keenen**, chief constable, Northumbria Police, 55; **Pauline Latham**, Conservative MP for Mid-Derbyshire, 72; **Irene Lucas**, chairwoman, Hays Travel Group, 66; **James Morris**, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, assistant whip, vice-chairman, Conservative Party (2018-19), 53; **Sheryll Murray**, Conservative MP for South East Cornwall, 64; **Sir Lee Pearson**, dressage rider, 11-time Paralympic Games gold medallist (2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016), 46; **Isabel Perón**, politician, president of Argentina (1974-76), 89; **Sir Charles Pollard**, QPM, chief constable, Thames Valley Police (1991-2002), 75; **Lord (Richard) Ryder** of Wensum, chairman, Child Bereavement UK, 71; **Dame Jenny Shipley**, politician, prime minister of New Zealand (1997-99), 68; **John Gordon Sinclair**, actor, *Gregory's Girl* (1981), 58; **Rt Rev Rachel Treweek**, bishop of Gloucester, 57.

On this day

In 1915 Germany declared a war zone around the UK as its U-boats sank merchant ships without warning.

The last word

"I was courtmartialled in my absence and sentenced to death in my absence, so I said they could shoot me in my absence." Brendan Behan, Irish dramatist, in *The Hostage* (1958).



# Jail Break

Jihadists are using their time behind bars to stoke anger against British society. There is an urgent need to step up deradicalisation programmes

Sudesh Amman, who was shot dead by police on Sunday, was fascinated by knives and by martyrdom. That much has been clear since 2018, when police searched his home and found manuals on how to kill people. This week, after having served half his sentence, he put his learning into practice, stabbing passers-by close to his bail hostel in suburban London. Only the swift action of an armed police squad, which had been monitoring him, prevented the frenzied attack turning into a massacre. There was never any secret about Amman's intentions when he was serving time in Belmarsh prison. He was seen staging mock executions with his cellmate and repeatedly stated his intention to carry out a "real and organised" terror act.

Boris Johnson has addressed the issues of public concern since the attack. Why was Amman regarded as a suitable candidate for automatic early release from prison? Why was there no system of scrutiny? And why were there no checks by the Parole Board? All this despite signs of official nervousness about the future behaviour of the 20-year-old. The simple answer to these questions is that he was released according to the strict provisions of the law. After a similar, more deadly assault on London Bridge last November, the government promised to put into place tougher

sentencing rules. These would force dangerous terrorists who receive extended determinate sentences to serve the whole time behind bars and a minimum 14-year jail sentence would be set for the more serious offenders. In addition there would be closer post-release monitoring.

Yesterday Robert Buckland, the justice secretary, declared that under emergency legislation he would seek a retroactive ban on early automatic release for some 220 convicted terrorists who are already serving their sentences. They will have to pass a risk assessment posed by the Parole Board. This is certain to be challenged by civil liberties groups.

In fact, tougher measures would probably not have prevented bloody incidents like the one that occurred on Sunday. Instead they just put off the moment when unreformed terrorists re-enter society, more determined than ever to commit a violent act. Plainly the system of deradicalisation is deeply flawed if it allows someone driven by ideological motives to glide through prison, to have their radicalism affirmed by fellow inmates and ultimately to exit a high-security institution resolved to kill or maim. The government is not wrong to argue that automatic release is an infringement of the rights of ordinary citizens to

live free of terror threats. The broader security of society should sometimes, after proper consideration, trump the liberty of violent offenders who resist reform.

That is merely postponing the problem, though. The long-term solution must be to stop the process whereby fanatical self-styled emirs exert a radicalising influence over the Muslim prison population. Some inmates have reported the existence of covert Sharia trials and the circulation of banned jihadist literature. Not enough attention is being paid by governors and their overstretched staff. Even when one-to-one counselling services are available the sessions all too frequently end with ticking a checklist rather than understanding the different paths to extremism. There has to be more coherent thinking with single specialist teams drawn from the police, prison staff, probation officers and the security services that track and persuade radicalised prisoners of the error of their ways.

Not every would-be jihadist can be deradicalised and in some cases it might take years to bring extremists back to civilised behaviour. But the starting point must be to understand what is actually happening behind the walls of our prisons, and to stop it radicalising inmates.

# Bad Education

Universities paying students to defer is a sign the system is not working

British universities, long said to be the envy of the world, seem bent on squandering their reputations. The *Times* reports today that some have offered applicants thousands of pounds to defer entry because they sent out offers to more students than they could cater for. The universities of Nottingham, Exeter, Manchester and Glasgow Caledonian, as well as Imperial College London and the Open University, have all engaged in these or similar tactics. Last year Nottingham offered 260 medicine applicants £2,000 and 59 nursing applicants £1,000 to delay by a year. Exeter offered 40 applicants to an MSci applied psychology course a "guaranteed first choice of accommodation, plus £1,000 towards the cost of accommodation", for deferring. Clearly this is a ludicrous state of affairs.

The universities involved argue that this practice has resulted in just a small number of deferrals. What makes it particularly objectionable is that it risks dissuading bright but less well-off students from studying. That the brunt of these tactics seem to have been directed at those aspiring to work in medical professions is another prob-

lem. The NHS has a shortage of doctors and nurses. Any incentives should act to recruit professionals sooner, not later. Neither should universities be spending valuable resources on paying students to stay away.

Bribing students to defer is moreover a worrying symptom of a deeper malaise in higher education. Since a recalibration of their funding system universities increasingly rely on student fees. As a result they are under pressure to recruit as many undergraduates as possible. The cost of accommodating these students compounds the problem. Many universities have found themselves in debt, having borrowed to expand facilities and housing. The financial incentive to raise numbers has only increased as a result. It is this rush to drum up business that lies behind the rise in universities mistakenly sending out offers to more students than they have room for.

This same pressure has led to other troubling changes, including a surge in unconditional offers as universities compete for student numbers. This can discourage sixth-formers from studying hard for their A levels. A recent report found that

almost a quarter of those with such offers failed to achieve their predicted grades at A level or in an equivalent qualification, which can be detrimental in later life for further qualifications. It also risks encouraging students to settle for unsuitable courses rather than compete for the best ones.

Then there is the reapportioning of money from academic research and teaching to marketing departments and social media drives. The University of Central Lancashire spent £3.4 million on advertising in the 2017-2018 academic year. That year universities including Middlesex and Gloucestershire invested more than £1 million.

It is clear that commercial pressure risks undermining the point of higher education, which is to enhance academic excellence in teaching and research. Treating students as consumers contains a danger that the financially disadvantaged lose out. The government should examine the problems that lie at the root of the way it funds universities. Britain's competitiveness depends on its knowledge economy and preparing its future skilled workers. University administrators should be helping, not hindering, the process.

# Body of Work

A conspiracy to make Charles Dickens's grave a national shrine can now be revealed

Touring Westminster Abbey in 1820, the American writer Washington Irving noted that visitors paid more attention to the monuments of literary figures than of kings. "They linger about these," he wrote, "as about the tombs of friends and companions, for indeed there is something of companionship between the author and the reader."

The power of the word explains a campaign to inter a giant of English letters in Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey half a century later. Charles Dickens had specified his wish to be buried in a private ceremony near his home in Kent. Yet on his sudden death in 1870 a *Times* leader called for

Dickens to be buried at Westminster Abbey, "the peculiar resting place of English literary genius".

It is time to set the record straight. We can now reveal that popular pressure to inter Dickens in Poets' Corner was largely an invention, in which this paper connived, and it is time to show due contrition. Research by Leon Litvack of Queen's University Belfast reveals that Dickens's final resting place was engineered by Arthur Stanley, dean of Westminster Abbey, and John Forster, the novelist's confidant.

The claim of popular pressure fitted Forster's interests as Dickens's biographer to conclude his

book with a demonstration of national veneration for his subject. Stanley, meanwhile, was driven by a sense of mission to make the abbey a national shrine. While not much caring for Dickens's novels, he recognised the opportunity of turning his vision into reality. The urge to honour literary figures is natural. Yet the greatest writer immortalised in Poets' Corner, William Shakespeare, was not a demigod but a grain merchant and jobbing actor. Dickens got it right. The legacy of the creative genius is in a body of work rather than in real life. Neither a tombstone nor a bust, but the writer's imagination, is the most lasting monument.



# World

## Back me and I'll be the new Obama, claims Mayor Pete

### United States

David Charter, Henry Zeffman  
Des Moines

Pete Buttigieg urged Iowa to “make history one more time” before last night’s Democratic caucuses, invoking the state’s choice of Barack Obama 12 years ago to set him on the road to the White House.

Before the first state decision on the Democratic presidential hopefuls Mr Buttigieg, 38, the surprise discovery of the party’s nomination contest, earned a boost in the final poll, rising five points to a competitive third behind Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden. The former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, also unveiled plans for an ambitious five rallies today in New Hampshire, where the second contest takes place next week.

Mr Sanders, 78, a self-declared democratic socialist, had a seven-point lead over Mr Biden, 77, the former vice-president, in the final poll before the caucuses, carried out by Emerson College. A victory for Mr Sanders, who suffered a heart attack in October, would give him a significant advantage heading into New Hampshire where he won in 2016, and is leading in polls.

Mr Buttigieg — “Mayor Pete” to his supporters — is pitching to be the compromise candidate to take on President Trump in November between the two big hitters from the centrist and left-wing factions of the Democratic Party.

Mr Trump sought to inflame those internal tensions on Sunday by labelling Mr Sanders a “communist” and tweeting that the ruling Democratic national committee was “going to do it to him again”. This was a reference to apparent efforts to block Mr Sanders in his battle with Hillary Clinton for the 2016 nomination, and followed reports that John Kerry, the former secretary of state, was overheard at the weekend saying that he might join the race to try to stop the Vermont senator. Mr Kerry, 76, who lost the presidential election in 2004 and is campaigning for Mr Biden, later denied he was considering a run.

Mr Buttigieg has risen to the front rank of Democratic contenders with his offer of generational change, not least because he is less than half the age of the frontrunners. “The great thing about Iowa is you have a knack for changing what people think is possible in presidential candidates,” he told voters in Waterloo, 110 miles northeast of Des Moines, the capital.

Pete Buttigieg offers “generational change”



## Bloomberg has clear run

Ben Hoyle Los Angeles

While his nomination rivals raced around Iowa in recent days, one Democratic candidate had the rest of the country to himself.

Mike Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York, was in Texas last week and in California yesterday, in front of voters in the two largest states that will have their say in the contest on Super Tuesday next month.

Without the financial need to court donors Mr Bloomberg, 77, pursued a more unconventional itinerary, finishing in Compton, a largely non-white Los Angeles neighbourhood with a reputation for gang violence and poverty.

He was introduced by a pair of young black mayors: Aja Brown of Compton and Michael Tubbs of Stockton, who told the crowd that “the road to the White House” was not just through Iowa and New Hampshire but “has to go through communities like Compton” that are diverse and have their own issues.

Mr Bloomberg pledged to run as the “un-Trump”: a self-made man, who had a track record running the largest city in the country and a belief in “human decency”.

Daria Brooks, 63, a community organiser and retired children’s writer from near Compton, said it was “great” that Mr Bloomberg had come because the Democratic party seems “to just assum, ‘Oh you’re black, you’re Hispanic. You’re going to vote for us’”. She was delighted “not to be taken for granted”.

“I’m usually a Bernie Sanders supporter but I’m willing to be swayed because I think the most important thing is to beat Trump.”

“The first time I came here was in 2008, knocking on doors for Senator Obama, and I saw Iowa change what is possible at the caucus. I am inviting you to make history one more time.”

Iowa is also credited with allowing Jimmy Carter, a rank outsider, to blast through to the top of the Democratic pack in 1976 and go on to become president.

Mr Buttigieg, a gay military veteran who served in Afghanistan, has policies pitched more towards the moderate wing of the

party, with a rejection of the “revolution” he says is proposed by Mr Sanders. He does not plan tax rises like Elizabeth Warren, but does back strong climate-change measures.

He needs success in Iowa and New Hampshire to help him to overcome poor polling in Nevada and South Carolina, the third and fourth primary states, before Super Tuesday on March 3, when 14 states vote.

He has failed to pick up ethnic minority support, which is a problem, as Latinos make up 29 per cent of the Nevada electorate, and a majority of Democrats in South Carolina are African-American.

At the Waterloo rally Sam Stokes, 59, a union official and one of the few black people present, said he was still undecided on his choice of candidate. “Most black people are backing Biden because of his experience with Obama,” he said. Trump supporters, he suggested, would use Mr Buttigieg’s homosexuality as a line of attack, especially with black voters. “They will attack the gay stuff, that’s a given. Trump don’t have no heart, he’s going to attack that.”

Mr Trump’s jibe at Mr Sanders came during a Super Bowl interview. Asked by Sean Hannity of Fox News to say the first word that came to mind on hearing Mr Sanders’s name, he replied: “Communist.”

He added: “I think he’s a communist. Look, I think of communism when I think of Bernie. You could say socialist, but didn’t he get married in Moscow?”

Hannity pointed out that Mr Sanders and his wife held their 1988 wedding in the US, although they did have their honeymoon in the Soviet Union.

In the Emerson poll Mr Sanders was on 28 per cent support, down two points on last week, with Mr Biden holding steady on 21 per cent. Mr Buttigieg was in third place on 15 per cent, a surge of five points, just ahead of Mrs Warren on 14 per cent, up two.

At a rally on Saturday night Mr Sanders told 3,000 supporters that they were in a fight against “the entire political establishment, both the Republican and the Democratic establishment”.

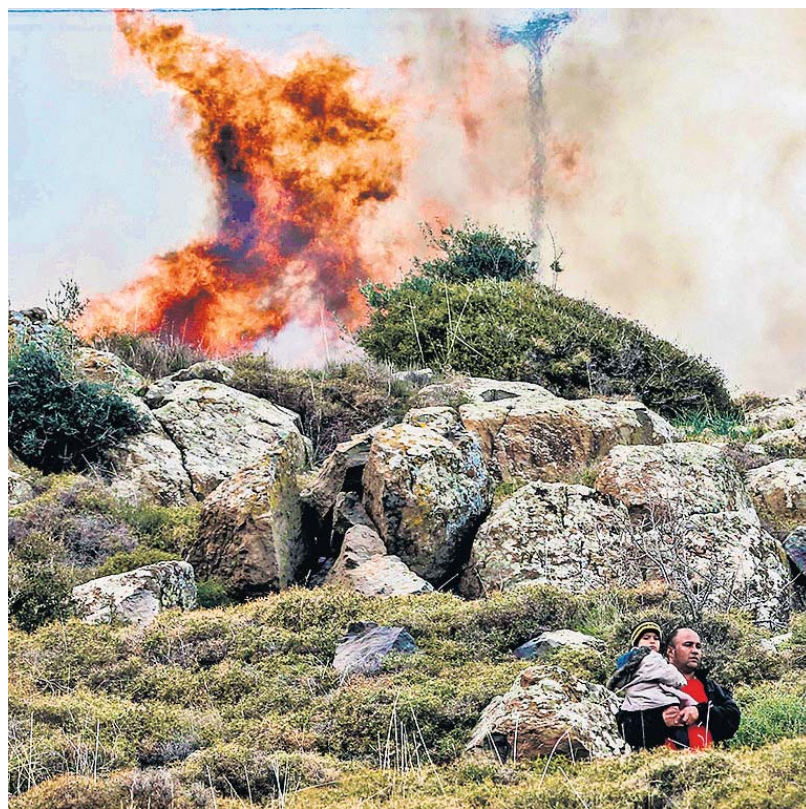
Mr Trump told Fox News: “Bernie — I call him Crazy Bernie — they are rigging the election against him again. I see what’s going on.”

Asked what word came to mind for Mr Biden, he said: “Sleepy.” On Mrs Warren, he said: “I call her fairytale because everything’s a fairytale.” Asked about Michael Bloomberg, the former New York mayor who is staging a late bid but not contesting Iowa, he said: “Very little. I just think of him as little.”

### DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE

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The protesting crowd that included scores of women and children, fled from

## Greek police fire tear gas

### Greece

Anthée Carassava Athens

More than 2,000 migrants trapped in an overcrowded refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos clashed with police yesterday in one of the biggest protests against forced deportations, abysmal living conditions and new asylum rules.

Witnesses said that riot police fired tear gas at a crowd that included scores of women and children as migrants tried to break through cordons intended to stop them reaching the island’s port city, Mytilene. The protesters had walked more than four miles from the camp in Moria before they reached the road blocks.

Hundreds of migrants, mainly from Afghanistan, ran into olive groves,

setting trees and farm shacks ablaze. By nightfall, at least 200 remained on the streets of Mytilene, erecting a rash of blue and red coloured tents near the port. Many held cardboard signs reading “Freedom”.

On the front line of Europe’s refugee crisis, Lesbos has been a key gateway to the West for thousands of people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and beyond. Nearly a million people passed through the island at the height of the Europe’s migrant crisis in 2015 and 2016.

But four years after the EU signed a landmark deal with Turkey in 2016 to stem the tide, Lesbos and other Greek islands have been hit by a fresh surge in illegal migration, aggravating the problems at overcrowded camps.

The Moria camp, on the site of a





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tear gas but were cordoned off. Hundreds ran into olive groves, where many have been forced to live due to overcrowding

## at 2,000 migrants in Lesbos protest



former military base, was built to house about 2,300 people. It now holds 19,541 migrants, forcing many to spill into surrounding olive groves. Yesterday's protest followed a government announcement of plans to "decongest" the islands, shut down existing camps

and replace them with holding centres that will process new arrivals and people whose asylum applications have been rejected.

Under the EU migration deal, virtually all refugees entering Greece illegally are required to be deported back to Turkey unless granted political asylum — a long and complex procedure keeping thousands of people in camps such as Moria for over a year.

Still, illegal arrivals continue to outpace the number of forced returns to Turkey. Overnight for example, 92 refugees and migrants crossed over to Lesbos but only 12 were deported back to Turkey.

"A significant backlog of pending applications and serious delays in asylum procedures have been a major contributing factor to the dangerously

overcrowded conditions we see on the islands," Boris Cheshirkov, spokesman for the UN refugee agency, said. "Long waiting times are also contributing to the mental toll that people are facing," he added.

After years of procedural delays, Greece faces a backlog of almost 90,000 asylum applications, Mr Cheshirkov said. Notis Mitarakis, the migration minister, said deportations would intensify this month.

Last year more than 74,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Greece, 3,500 of them children, according to the United Nations refugee agency. Most arrived on the islands of Lesbos, Chios and Samos, crossing from Turkey.

Last week, the government said it wanted to place a floating barrier in the Aegean, off Lesbos, to deter migrants.

## Enemy of Putin's Chechen warlord stabbed to death

### France

Tom Parfitt Moscow  
Adam Sage Paris

A controversial blogger from Chechnya who once insulted the Kremlin-backed leader of the Russian republic has been found stabbed to death in a French hotel room.

The case is likely to prompt comparisons with the assassination of a former Chechen rebel in Berlin last year.

French officials did not identify the victim but his acquaintances and Russian media, along with a police source in France speaking to AFP, the press agency, said he was Imran Aliyev, a Chechen émigré who lived in Belgium.

According to the local newspaper, *La Voix du Nord*, the body of a male guest with "lacerations" was discovered in a room on the top floor of the Coq Hardi hotel in Lille.

A police source told AFP the killing "has all the characteristics of [having] a political motive". Aliyev had been stabbed several times in the throat, and the knife was found close to the body. The source also said Aliyev had booked the hotel room with another man, thought to be Chechen. The second man is thought to be wanted for questioning.

Aliyev, 44, who also used the nickname "Mansur the Old", was known for posting inflammatory videos online in which he berated members of other Caucasus nationalities such as the Ingush and Avars. He also swore while speaking about Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of Chechnya, and his relatives, although in December he published a video clip in which he vowed allegiance to him.

Germany expelled two Russian diplomats in December, accusing Russia of being behind the murder of Zelimkhan Khangoshvili, a

former Chechen rebel, in Berlin four months earlier. President Putin denied any involvement in the shooting of Khangoshvili and said he was a "blood-smear" man who was probably killed in a criminal dispute.

Lille prosecutors' office said: "The body of a man [who had] died in a violent manner, was discovered on January 30. The interregional directorate of the judicial police in Lille has been asked to conduct a criminal inquiry. No arrests have been made."

The office declined to comment on the identity of the victim.

*La Voix du Nord* said staff at the hotel entered the room on Thursday at 11.30am, having not seen the guest leave. The victim, who had booked the room for one night, was on the floor.

Tumso Abdurakhmanov, a Chechen dissident, said he had information that the presumed killer had flown from Moscow to Berlin via Valencia on January 18. Accompanied by a man and a woman, the alleged assassin then travelled to Belgium and spent a week staying with Mr Aliyev before the pair went on together to Lille, he said. In the hotel room, Mr Abdurakhmanov alleged, the suspect "put Imran to sleep with a drug and then murdered him with several stabs of a knife to the throat".

It was not possible to verify Mr Abdurakhmanov's allegations.

Musa Taipov, a Chechen opposition journalist based in Strasbourg who was a friend of Mr Aliyev, said he had been killed with "special brutality". Mr Aliyev had been seriously ill and sometimes "made inappropriate remarks" online when he was under the influence of painkillers, Taipov said.

He said theories were circulating about disgruntled Ingush, Dagestanis or Kadyrov supporters killing the blogger but there was no evidence yet to confirm any of these versions.



Ramzan Kadyrov, the Chechen leader

## Icelandic orca's tour of the Med moves on to Lebanon

### Lebanon

Tom Kington

A killer whale who normally lives near Iceland and stunned experts when it was seen off Sicily in December now appears to have become the first of its species to arrive off the Lebanese coast.

A fisherman posted video of a large killer whale swimming alongside his boat yesterday four miles out from Beirut. Its white markings in front and behind its dorsal fin were clearly visible.

The sighting follows the tracking in December of a pod of killer whales that appeared off Genoa and then vanished before they were spotted weeks later by an Italian fisherman in the straits of

Messina between Sicily and mainland Italy, feasting on tuna.

An Icelandic-based expert, Marie Mruscok, identified the pod as native to Iceland and led by a male named Riptide. She told *The Times* she had watched the Lebanese footage and strongly suspected the orca is the 18-year-old, 21-foot-long Riptide.

"I would need to see clearer images to be 100 per cent sure," she said. "Either way, it's amazing because killer whales have never been seen off Lebanon to my knowledge."

Giulia Calogero, head of the Italian marine charity Menkab, said that if it was Riptide, he had made an unprecedented journey of about 5,000 miles.



# Turkey makes first assault on Assad forces

## Turkey

Hannah Lucinda Smith Istanbul

Turkish and Syrian forces have clashed for the first time in northern Syria as Assad forces try to advance into the country's last rebel-held province.

Ankara claimed to have killed dozens of Syrian troops in retaliatory attacks after eight Turks, including five soldiers, were killed.

The Turkish soldiers and three contractors were hit by artillery fire while manning the Turunbah observation post near the town of Saraqib, on the front line between rebel and Syrian regime forces in Idlib province.

The Turkish army occupies 12 such positions set up under a de-escalation deal negotiated between President Putin and President Erdogan in September 2018. The latest fighting is testing ties between Ankara and Moscow.

Turkish forces had already been forced to retreat from some of the posts as Assad's troops renewed an assault on Idlib late last year with the backing of Russian air power and Iranian-backed militias.

Mr Erdogan said initial assessments of the retaliatory strikes showed that between 30 and 35 Syrians were killed in attacks on dozens of targets that included airstrikes by F-16 jets.

This is the first time that Turkish forces have directly engaged the Syrian army and comes three days after Mr Erdogan threatened to launch an offensive in Idlib if Assad failed to halt the violence. Turkey has meanwhile been bolstering its forces in the area.

Speaking before departing for a visit



OMAR HAJ KADOUR/AFP/GETTY

Pro-Assad forces bombarded al-Nayrab in the Idlib province of Syria yesterday

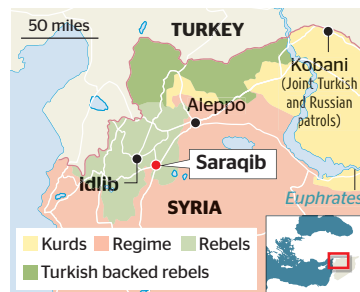
to Ukraine, Mr Erdogan said Turkish artillery hit 46 targets in Syria. "Those who test Turkey's determination with such vile attacks will understand their mistake," he added.

He said Russia had been told that Turkey would not stand for any situation where "we are prevented from responding to Syrian assaults". He urged it to "stand aside" in the conflict

as the latest escalation threatens to derail a fragile series of ceasefire agreements between Turkey and Russia across northern Syria.

Syrian activists said that airstrikes in the country's rebel-held region had killed at least nine civilians.

Turkey, which already hosts 3.6 million refugees from Syria, fears a new wave of migrants from Idlib. In Kiev Mr



Erdogan said there were close to one million people in Idlib marching to Turkish borders because of the latest offensive.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitor, reported that Turkish forces had begun shelling regime positions close to Ain Issa, which is also in the area covered by the ceasefire deal.

"We have responded in kind to these attacks and will continue to do so, whether it is with our artillery or mortars. They will soon understand their mistake," Mr Erdogan said.

The Syrian Observatory said that 13 members of the Syrian government forces had been killed in Turkish shelling. A Syrian state TV correspondent said there had been no casualties among its government forces.

Kurdish news sources were reporting that the joint Turkish-Russian patrols in Kobani, which were set up under a ceasefire deal to halt Turkey's offensive on Kurdish territory in northeastern Syria last year, had been called off after the Turkish side did not show up.

## Sinn Fein leads poll ahead of Irish election

**Ireland** Sinn Fein has surged to the top of an opinion poll before an election on Saturday that looks set to be a breakthrough for the former political wing of the IRA. An *Irish Times*/Ipsos MRBI poll found support for Sinn Fein at 25 per cent, with support for centre-right Fianna Fail at 23 per cent. Support for Fine Gael, the governing party, was 20 per cent. Sinn Fein will not go into coalition without a commitment to immediately planning for a referendum on the unification of Ireland. (Reuters)

## Sudan and Israel meet to smooth relationship

**Sudan** Israel's prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Sudan's leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan met in Uganda to discuss the end of formal hostilities between the two states. They are technically at war, but Sudan may become the third Arab state to recognise Israel. Palestinians called the meeting a "stab in the back". (AFP)

## Rush Limbaugh reveals lung cancer treatment

**United States** Rush Limbaugh, the conservative radio host, has said he has advanced lung cancer but will continue his show during treatment. Limbaugh, 69, spread theories that Barack Obama was born outside the US and claimed that last year's mosque shootings in New Zealand, which killed 51 Muslims, was staged. (AFP)



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# Russia rewrote history, Holocaust museum admits

## Israel

Catherine Philp  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel's Holocaust memorial museum has apologised for giving a stage to President Putin's "distorted" rewriting of the USSR's role in the Second World War.

Yad Vashem promised to investigate how the World Holocaust Forum allowed the Russian narrative to dominate the ceremony. The forum, marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, was organised by Moshe Kantor, a Russian oligarch close to Mr Putin, in collaboration with Yad Vashem and the Israeli government.

President Duda of Poland boycotted last month's ceremony, which was

attended by nearly four dozen world leaders, after he was denied a speaking slot. He said he was not prepared to sit silently while Mr Putin delivered his version of history.

Poland and Russia have repeatedly clashed over their conflicting narratives of the Second World War.

Mr Putin blames Poland for the outbreak of the war and portrays the Soviet Union as Nazi Germany's main victim.

In a letter to the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, published today, Yad Vashem admitted that information and videos included in the

presentation had contained "inaccuracies" and a "partial presentation of facts" which "created an unbalanced impression", including the suggestion that the Soviet Union was the sole victor over the Nazis.

Yad Vashem said the presentation contained omissions that indicated political bias, such as failing to mention the 1939-40 Soviet pact with Nazi Germany while examining the roots of the war.

"It did not include any reference to the partition of Poland between Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany in 1939, or the occupation of western Europe in 1940," Yad Vashem wrote. "We apologise for the

very regrettable mishap that occurred. These videos do not represent the perspective of Yad Vashem's research on these issues."

The videos included maps that inaccurately represented the borders of Poland and its neighbours, and contained no reference to Ukraine, which is still battling Russian-backed separatists in its east, having already lost Crimea to annexation by Moscow.

One and a half million Ukrainian Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, and it was a Ukrainian unit of the Red Army that liberated Auschwitz in 1945. Yad Vashem also acknowledged that the maps had confused Nazi concentration camps in Poland with death camps such as Auschwitz. It did not indicate whether it was responsible for the inaccurate content.



Mr Putin's narrative angered Poland

## Spanish civil war records binned by the French

### Spain

Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

The French authorities have destroyed most of an archive documenting the lives of Spaniards who fled Franco's forces at the end of the civil war.

The archive of Haute-Garonne in Toulouse has obliterated, "in a massive and random way", police and judicial files on the exiles who made the city in the south of France their "capital", according to a report in *ABC*, a Spanish newspaper.

About 500,000 republicans crossed the Pyrenees into France to escape nationalist forces after the fall of Barcelona in 1939. Last year Spain commemorated the 80th anniversary of the republican flight into exile.

The hoard of documents was apparently erased in accordance with French bureaucratic norms. Archivists sampled and digitally saved only a small percentage.

"If this is painful in general for the history of Spain, it reaches the status of a Greek tragedy in the case of the history of Catalonia," said Juan Manuel de Prada, a writer who discovered the destruction. "Toulouse was for a long time called the fifth Catalan province."

"We were following a national directive to destroy the files of foreigners, which we did twenty years ago," Anne Goulet, the archive director, told *The Times*. "We did not destroy judicial or police reports, only administrative ones, for example those relating to the registration of foreigners."

During the flight from Spain, known as *La Retirada*, men, women, children and the elderly crossed the mountains to France, where most were interned in camps. Many fled overseas. Some fought with the French Resistance, and more than 7,000 ended up in Nazi death camps.

Spanish intellectuals have called on Pedro Sánchez, the Socialist prime minister, to press France to save what remains of the archive. Andrés Trapiello, a writer and poet, appealed for Madrid to act, and referred to the controversial decision to exhume General Franco's body from a tomb at the Valley of the Fallen memorial on the eve of elections in October. "I hope the government, which has been so concerned with the historical memory, will take an interest in preserving what we have without manipulating it," he said.



Blood pressure Activists staging a street performance in protest at Colombia's bullfighting season, which began on Sunday

## Camembert purists savour Norman victory

Adam Sage

Purists are claiming victory in their battle to prevent industrial food groups from labelling factory-made camembert as authentic.

Officials rejected plans to allow industrial camembert to use a label that has hitherto been reserved for camembert from small dairy farms.

Purists say the labelling must allow consumers to distinguish between cheese made in factories with pasteurised milk imported from as far as New Zealand or Brazil, and the old-fashioned type, which is made with unpasteurised milk from Normande cattle, the Normandy breed, that have grazed in the region's fields.

The debate has pitched powerful

dairy companies such as Lactalis against critics denouncing an attack on the country's gastronomy and heritage.

About 5,000 tonnes of authentic unpasteurised camembert is made annually and sold under the label "Camembert of Normandy", compared with 60,000 tonnes sold by dairy groups with "Made in Normandy" labels.

Connoisseurs maintain that Made-in-Normandy-label cheese is vastly inferior to its old-fashioned equivalent and that the former is insipid and banal while the latter pungent and inspirational. Lactalis and other such groups have long been striving to blur the boundary between the two types of camembert.

A plan, which was rejected by the Organisation of Defence and Manage-

ment of Camembert last week, suggested that producers could use the Camembert of Normandy label providing that 30 per cent of the milk in their cheese came from Normande cattle. Traditionalists argued that this would confuse consumers and lobbied against the proposal. They posted real camembert to every French MP last year in an attempt to obtain support.

"The notion of quality has held firm against the wishes... of the dairy giants," said Véronique Richez-Lerouge, president of the Association of Terroir Cheese. "It is the victory of taste."

However, the newspaper *Le Figaro* said purists had won the battle but not the war as dairy groups would continue to demand the right to describe their cheese as veritable camembert.

## Macron tells ministers to show a little humanity

### France

Charles Bremner Paris

President Macron was forced to intervene to grant extended leave for bereaved parents after his government was accused of "acting without humanity" by rejecting the proposal.

Mr Macron ordered Édouard Philippe, the prime minister, to reverse course and extend from five to 12 days the time that parents can take off work with full pay after losing a child. Last week government MPs had voted against the measure, which was proposed by a centrist party allied to Mr Macron's *La République en Marche*.

Critics from the left and right accused the administration of callousness and the national employers' federation, Medef, expressed surprise. Mr Macron responded by telling his team to "show humanity".

The episode was one of a series of missteps since November that have sown doubt about Mr Macron's authority and his skill at reforming in the face of public resistance.

The president defeated an attempt by transport workers to block an overhaul of the state pension system — the reform bill is about to come before parliament after a six-week strike — but resentment is boiling in several sectors. Lawyers and medical professionals marched in protest through Paris yesterday.

Some allies of Mr Macron are worried about his decision to take a step back and leave Mr Philippe in charge of the pension reform. "There is a feeling that everyone is going to be worse off. Macron should have come out and clearly explained it," a senior ally said.

Valérie Pécresse, president of the Paris regional council, called the pension reform a turning point for Mr Macron. "It has been extremely badly managed. There's not a single French person who is able to say what is happening," Ms Pécresse, 52, a conservative with presidential ambitions, told *The Times*.

Mr Macron's authority also suffered a blow when he was snubbed by Cédric Villani, one of his own MPs, who is standing as a dissident candidate in the Paris council election against Benjamin Griveaux, the Macron nominee. Summoned by the president for a dressing down, Mr Villani refused to withdraw and was expelled from the party.



# Asia's hunger for 'fat plants' worth their weight in gold

## South Africa

Jane Flanagan Cape Town

The demand for rare succulent plants as status symbols in Asia is driving a multimillion-pound global smuggling racket, with some specimens fetching more than their weight in gold.

"Succulent fever", as it is known, is taking a terrible toll on delicate ecosystems, particularly in southern Africa, home to half the world's 10,000 species.

Succulents have been used throughout history as herbal remedies, food, dyes and hallucinogens. Lately they have become must-have accessories and the unlikely stars of Instagram under hashtags such as #plantparent-hood and #succulove.

Thousands of drought-resistant shrubs, many thought to pre-date the arrival of the first white settlers 370 years ago, have been taken from remote areas of South Africa and Namibia to feed the mania.

The succulents can be grown in nurseries but take years or even decades to mature, and commercial growers have struggled to keep up with demand in South Korea, Japan and China, where their engorged leaves have earned them the nickname "fat plants".

It is also impossible for nurseries to perfectly replicate species found in remote areas where nature has shaped their unique forms over generations.



Conophytum specimens from exotic locations sell for hundreds of pounds

Plant smugglers who can demonstrate the provenance of the rarest succulents — with proof of GPS locations and selfies from dangerous precipices and crags — can name their prices.

Many buyers are prepared to pay hundreds of pounds for a near-extinct specimen — and they are well informed and always hankering for something unique, according to David Newton, from Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring group. The situation has become so dire that scientific papers describing recently discovered species keep the location secret.

"South Africa's harbours, airports and leaky borders are exploited by syndicates. This trade has driven some species into extinction," Mr Newton said.

Two South Koreans were found guilty in a Cape Town court last week of collecting for sale 60,000 conophytum, a genus of miniature succulents endemic to the west coast of South Africa and southern Namibia. It was the fourth such conviction in as many months.

Byungsu Kim and Young Sunwoo were each fined the equivalent of £150,000, given a six-year suspended jail sentence and banned from returning to South Africa. One of the men is also wanted in the US for poaching succulents from parks in California.

The pair had flown in to Cape Town, rented a car and driven to some of the region's driest and most isolated areas. They packaged and couriered many of the plants to South Korea before they were caught. Those that were recovered can be returned to the wild and replanted, but it is almost impossible to know which succulent subspecies came from which areas, wildlife officials said.

The species' reputation as an easy house plant may be overstated: their high light requirements and intolerance of overwatering make them an unusually finicky accessory, and unsuited to the humidity of Asia.

A number of succulents are protected by Cites, the international agreement on the wildlife trade.



Shiny stars The pop singers Shakira and Jennifer Lopez performing at the Super Bowl half-time show near Miami, Florida, on Sunday night. Sport, page 53





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# Wildlife suffers as America's hunters hang up their guns

## United States

Ben Hoyle Los Angeles

Hunting is in long-term decline across the United States because of a shift in recreation habits and in societal attitudes to killing animals — and the country's wildlife is suffering as a result.

Since the 1930s conservation has been substantially funded by hunting, via receipts from licences and taxes on sales of firearms and ammunition. Sales of hunting licences fell from a peak of about 17 million in the early 1980s to 15 million last year, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The same agency reported in 2018 that only about 5 per cent of Americans aged 16 or older hunt, about half as many as 50 years ago.

The slump is expected to accelerate over the next decade as older hunters hang up their guns and younger generations turn to indoor activities such as video games and gym visits, or embrace non-violent outdoor pursuits like bird-watching, hiking and photography, all of which are surging in popularity.

At the same time sales of firearms are falling after a decade-long stockpiling boom. This coincided largely with President Obama's time in office and reflected fears among gun enthusiasts that he would tighten gun controls, or that Hillary Clinton would if she won the 2016 election.

Under President Trump, a close ally of the gun lobby and whose sons are hunting advocates, firearms sales have dropped from 15.7 million weapons in 2016 to 13.1 million in 2018, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

"Hunting and fishing are slowly dying off," John Heidler told *The Washington Post* on an outing to the frozen Middle Creek reservoir in Pennsylvania, where he was hoping to shoot Canada geese from a sunken blind. He described himself as a "fourth-generation waterfowler" but added that although his children enjoy hunting, very few of their friends do.

"They say there's not time between

school and after-school activities," he said.

The change in habits is converging with a growing conservation crisis. About a third of America's wildlife species are vulnerable and one in five is "imperilled and at high risk of extinction", according to a 2018 report by the National Wildlife Federation, the country's largest conservation organisation.

Their fate will affect America's booming outdoor recreation sector, which takes in everything from hunting to skiing, and contributes \$887 billion to the economy annually, creates 7.6 million direct jobs and generates \$124.5 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

In Colorado the state authorities have rolled out humorous "Hug A Hunter" and "Hug An Angler" campaigns on television and social media to boost awareness of the connection between blood sports and conservation funding.

In Pennsylvania the state agency for wildlife conservation and management has had to cancel construction projects, leaving dozens of positions vacant, and delay vehicle purchases because of the reduction in revenue from licences and weapons taxes. The state authorities have responded by expanding a mentoring programme for first-time female hunters and relaxing restrictions on Sunday hunting, to make it easier for working families to take part. Environmentalists and hunters have united behind proposed national legislation to create a funding model for conservation that would provide \$1.4 billion to states, territories and Native American tribes to restore essential habitats and intervene to protect vulnerable species before they require emergency support. The money would be drawn from the federal government's annual royalties from oil and gas development.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which has bipartisan support, is now making its way through Congress.



Raider A baboon in South Africa's Kruger National Park grabs an unlucky lion cub thought to have been destined as a meal

## Bezos sued by his girlfriend's brother

Ben Hoyle

The mystery of who really leaked a "below-the-belt selfie" of the world's richest man to America's most notorious supermarket tabloid has taken another twist.

Michael Sánchez, the brother of Jeff Bezos's girlfriend, is suing him for defamation, claiming that the Amazon boss spread false rumours that he provided "graphic, nude photographs" of the businessman to the *National Enquirer*.

In the lawsuit, which was filed on Friday in California state court in Los Angeles, Mr Sánchez acknowledged contacting the *Enquirer* but claimed that he was acting in his sister and Mr Bezos's interest by attempting to "get ahead of

the story" of their secret affair. Mr Bezos and his wife MacKenzie announced the end of their 25-year marriage in January 2019, hours before the *Enquirer* published its investigation into his romance with Lauren Sánchez, a married pilot and former television presenter.

The following month Mr Bezos posted an essay online in which he detailed an alleged extortion attempt against him by American Media Inc (AMI), the parent company of the *Enquirer*.

It included the text of emails sent to the lawyer of his security adviser, Gavin de Becker, by an AMI lawyer and a company executive, who wrote that the *Enquirer* had a trove of compromising photographs of Mr Bezos and Ms Sánchez, including a "below-the-belt selfie

— otherwise colloquially known as a 'dick pic'". It threatened to publish them unless Mr Bezos declared publicly that he did not believe the exposé was "politically motivated".

It has been widely reported that Mr Sánchez was paid \$200,000 in a contract with AMI in 2018 in exchange for the rights to text messages and photographs "documenting an affair between Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez".

Ms Sánchez said: "Michael is my older brother. He secretly provided my most personal information to the *National Enquirer* — a deep and unforgivable betrayal. My family is hurting over this new baseless and untrue lawsuit." A lawyer for Mr Bezos said he would "address this lawsuit in court".

## Manhattan bar charges \$125 for a beer

Will Pavia New York

A bar owner on the Lower East Side, near where the Velvet Underground played their first tracks, has acknowledged that "Lou Reed would have a hard time recognising his old block".

He would certainly be stunned by the price of a beer. Pretty Ricky's serves a Belgian variety called Deus for \$90 a bottle. A sour red ale from the Catskills costs \$50 a bottle and a tippie brewed in Missouri sells for \$45.

The bar pitches its high-end beers as though they are fine wines. It's a natural next step for America's craft ale scene where "beer sommeliers" tell you which fruity little Belgian to have with shellfish.

Deus, which is made with champagne yeast, is not the most expensive beer in New York. Treadwell Park on

the Upper East Side serves Bzart Lambiek at \$125 a bottle. Meanwhile mead, the fermented honey water of the ancients, is widely served by the glass, even in Grand Central station.

Bob Klein is head mead maker at Mysto Mead, which was founded five years ago and supplies bars and liquor stores all over the city. He prefers to be called a "mazer", after "the horned cup the Vikings drank mead out of".

Mr Klein credited *Game of Thrones* (and indeed the Harry Potter franchise) with providing excellent free marketing. Repeated scenes of Tormund Giantsbane drinking

**Bzart Lambiek: top tippie on the Upper East Side**



mead before battle had been "definitely good" for business, he added.

Advances in beekeeping have also helped. "Mead used to be very expensive," Mr Klein said. "It's still more expensive than grapes."

He pointed out that mead appears in Indian scriptures and in Nordic mythology. "Odin spills a little mead," he said. "A few drops fall to earth and poetry is born."

About 100 meaderies have opened in the US in the past two years, with a further 200 in the process of being established, according to the American Mead Makers Association.

"You used to go into liquor stores [and ask for mead], and they would be like: 'What?'" Mr Klein said. "Now they are like: 'We need more mead.'"

## 'My Weinstein relationship was ended by brutal rape'

Will Pavia

An alleged victim of Harvey Weinstein was accused of manipulating the Hollywood mogul during a tough cross-examination by his lawyer yesterday.

Jessica Mann, 34, alleges that she was raped by the producer in a New York hotel in 2013, after which she entered into an "extremely degrading" relationship with the producer. She said this ended after Mr Weinstein raped her for a second time in Los Angeles when she told him she had a new boyfriend. The actress said she later had consensual sex with the producer in 2016.

Lawyers for Mr Weinstein, 67, who has denied five charges including rape and "predatory" sexual assault, have

argued that his encounters with the six women who are testifying against him were all consensual.

Donna Rotunno, for the defence, asked how Ms Mann came to have consensual sex with Mr Weinstein. Ms Mann said it followed "a long negotiation", adding: "I wasn't happy to do it."

Ms Mann told the court last week that she met Mr Weinstein at a party. She said she had felt "blessed" as a 27-year-old aspiring actress, who was struggling to make ends meet, to have met a "guru" who seemed interested in guiding her career.

The defence intends to call a friend of Ms Mann, who will testify that Ms Mann's relationship with Mr Weinstein was consensual. The trial continues.



# Honking drivers get a lesson at the lights

## India

Hugh Tomlinson Delhi

India's relationship with the car horn is a love affair bordering on obsession. The phrase "Horn OK please" is commonly painted on commercial vehicles, encouraging drivers behind to sound their horn before they overtake. Many drivers dispense with mere courtesies, however, and use their horns indiscriminately and at all times. Coupled with the snarling gridlock in cities, the result is a deafening cacophony.

Many have had enough. After years of complaints about noise pollution, police in Mumbai have tested a scheme to punish "reckless honkers" for pointlessly sounding their horns as they wait at red lights.

Dubbed "Honk More Wait More", the initiative involved installing decibel meters at intersections. If the volume from honking was more than 85 decibels the timer counting down to a green light would reset and begin again. This could go on indefinitely, the light staying red until the noise subsided.

The initial response from frustrated drivers was merely to pound the horn harder. Only when the penny dropped and they curbed the impulse — waiting for the lights to change in exasperated silence — could they go on their way.

The trial was only for a day but already there are calls for the scheme to be made permanent. Mumbai police released an entertaining video of their

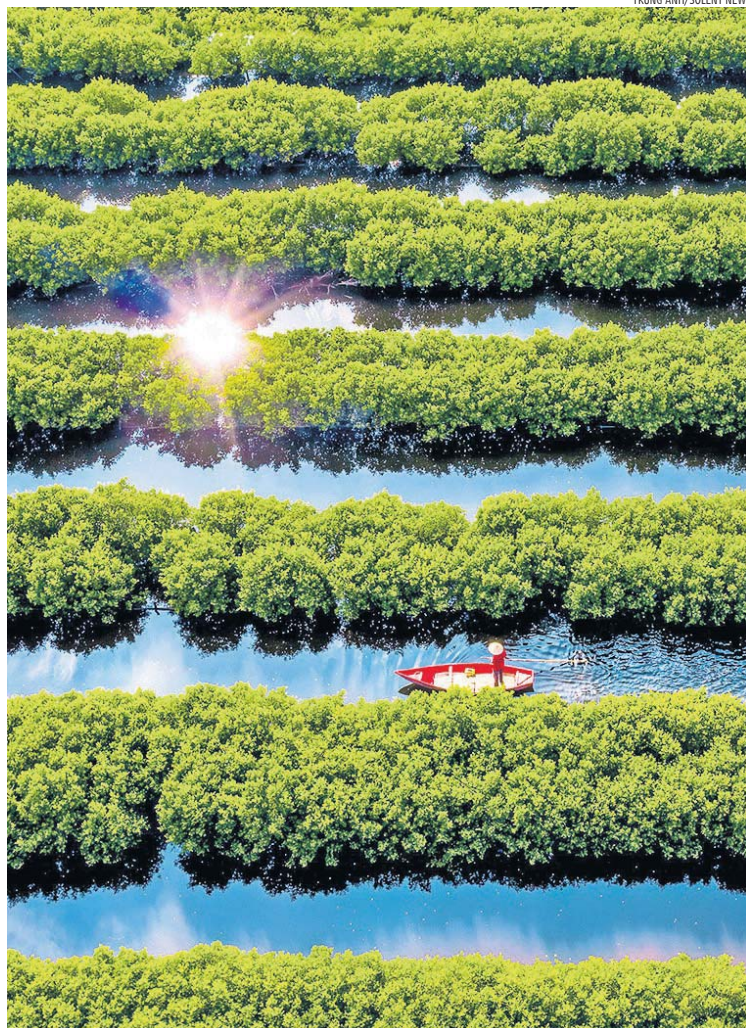
attempt to reduce the volume in the "honking capital of the world" and tweeted: "Horn not OK please".

The video has gone viral on social media. An amused voiceover says: "Here, people honk even when the signal is red. Maybe they think that by honking they can make the signal turn green faster. They just don't understand." There have been demands for similar initiatives in other cities.

Madhukar Pandey, Mumbai's traffic police commissioner, said: "Sadly, many Mumbaikars indulge in reckless honking, which not only causes noise pollution but hurts eardrums, increases heart rate, causes stress and adds to traffic chaos. All recognise it but do little to curb it. With this, hopefully we may create better road discipline and ensure honk-less, noise-free and stress-free travel on Mumbai roads."

Mumbai ranks consistently among the world's most congested cities. In the latest league table, compiled each year by the Dutch satellite navigation company Tomtom, Mumbai had the fourth worst traffic on the planet and topped the rankings in 2017 and 2018. Mumbai residents spend almost nine days of every year sitting in traffic.

It is also one of the noisiest cities. A 2017 noise pollution survey found that for residents of Delhi and Mumbai, the damage done by relentless traffic and construction noise results in hearing loss equivalent to a person almost 20 years older.



**Green defences** A fisherman passes through a mangrove forest in Vietnam. The natural infrastructure defends against flooding and protects coasts from waves

# Koalas killed as bulldozers flatten trees

## Australia

Bernard Lagan Sydney

Scores of koalas were found dead after their forest habitat was cleared by loggers using bulldozers.

Conservationists in the state of Victoria released video showing dead or injured koalas at the site near Portland, 220 miles west of Melbourne.

Helen Oakley, who lives in Portland, posted a clip saying: "Look at the destruction that they have done and there's koalas lying there dead . . . and there are mothers killed with their little babies. Australia should be ashamed."

Kate Gavens, Victoria's chief conservation regulator, said an investigation had begun. At least 40 koalas had died, a number she expected to rise. About 80 were taken into care. Vets were also treating animals for starvation.

Lily D'Ambrosio, Victoria's environment minister, said: "It is a crime, it is cruel and it should not be allowed to be gotten away with."

Keith Troeth, a farmer whose family owns the plantation, said most of the dead koalas had starved after the area was logged in November but that "a small number" may have been killed when the land was cleared last week. The owners made "every effort to avoid fatalities", he said.

Koalas are at risk of being listed as endangered after thousands died in Australia's bushfires this summer.

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
WINE Club

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# Business

## WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

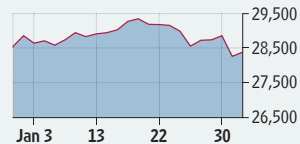
### FTSE 100

7,326.31 (+40.30) ▲



### Dow Jones

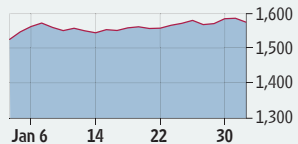
28,399.81 (+143.78) ▲



## COMMODITIES

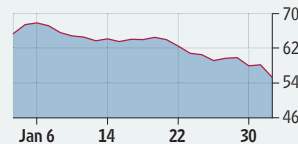
### Gold

\$1,574.86 (-12.37) ▼



### Brent crude (6ppm)

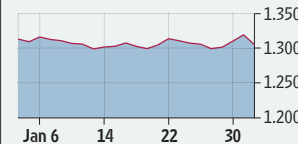
\$55.15 (-2.98) ▼



## CURRENCIES

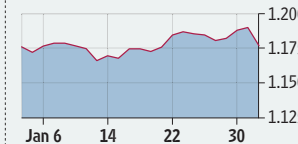
### £/\$

\$1.3005 (-0.0190) ▼



### £/€

€1.1756 (-0.0144) ▼



# Alphabet shares slide after weakest revenue growth in four years

Callum Jones

The owner of Google fell short of Wall Street's ambitions for its fourth-quarter earnings last night, sending its shares down moments after it revealed its results following the closing bell in New York.

Alphabet's overall revenue rose by 17 per cent to \$46.08 billion in the last three months of the year, its slowest fourth-quarter growth in four years

and shy of the \$46.94 billion forecast by analysts. Net profits rose 19 per cent from a year ago to nearly \$10.7 billion.

Shares in Alphabet fell by 4.2 per cent, or \$62.06, to \$1,485.94 in trading after the bell, having risen by 3.6 per cent during the day.

Sundar Pichai, 47, delivering his first earnings announcement since taking over as chief executive of Alphabet from Larry Page and Sergey Brin in December, said that he was "really

pleased" with progress across the business. "Our investments in deep computer science, including artificial intelligence, ambient computing and cloud computing, provide a strong base

for continued growth and new opportunities across Alphabet."

He sought to make a break with his predecessors by responding to demands to set out the results of key divisions for the first time. Annual advertising revenues generated by YouTube almost doubled to \$15.1 billion between 2017 and 2019, he revealed.

The streaming website posted ad revenues of \$4.7 billion in the latest quarter, up from \$3.6 billion the previous

year. The Google Cloud division meanwhile generated \$2.6 billion in quarterly revenue.

Google, set up by Mr Page, 46, and Mr Brin, 46, in 1998, created Alphabet as its parent company four years ago. The bulk of its profits come from online advertising through the search engine, YouTube and other platforms. It also has interests in the Android mobile operating system, its voice assistant devices and self-driving cars.

# Pound sinks on Johnson tariff threat

## Clash with EU on trade alarms business leaders

Philip Aldrick, Callum Jones

Sterling suffered its worst day in seven weeks after Boris Johnson said that he would swap tariffs for sovereignty if Brussels insisted that Britain followed European Union rules, renewing fears of a hard Brexit.

After the prime minister's speech, economists said that the UK was "back on a familiar path of trade talk uncertainty". Business leaders warned that the post-election boost could evaporate if talk turned to a "bare bones" Brexit.

The pound dropped 1.5 per cent against the dollar, falling 1.95 cents to \$1.3005, and 1.2 per cent against the euro, down 1.4 cents to €1.1757. Against the dollar, sterling's fall was the largest since December 17. The FTSE 100, which is dominated by dollar-earning companies, gained 40.30 points, or 0.55 per cent, to 7,326.31.

"A renewed focus on Brexit and the level of long sterling positioning encourages us to expect a further fall in the pound in the short term," Jordan Rochester, a foreign exchange strategist at Nomura, said.

Mr Johnson's victory in December appeared to have given confidence to businesses, with activity indicators signalling that investment would follow. At the height of the political uncertainty in September, sterling dropped to \$1.20. At its peak after the election it topped \$1.35.

Yesterday John Allan, 71, president of the CBI, warned that "talk of a bare bones deal could pause investment ... The challenge is to ensure business confidence is not caught in the crossfire

of a tough, public negotiation." Markets were spooked by Mr Johnson's statement that the choice was "not 'deal or no-deal', the question is whether we agree a trading relationship with the EU comparable to Canada's, or more like Australia's".

Much of Australia's trade with the EU is on World Trade Organisation terms, leading some to suggest that Mr Johnson had simply "rebadged" no-deal. Australia has agreements for certain goods with the EU and is negotiating a more comprehensive deal.

Internal government analysis in November 2018 shows that Mr Johnson's preferred Canada-style deal would cost between 4.9 per cent and 6.7 per cent of GDP after 15 years, relative to staying in the single market. A no-deal would knock up to 9.3 per cent off growth.

Brussels' draft mandate for talks shows that it wants the UK to abide by EU state aid rules to ensure the UK cannot game the system with subsidies and bailouts. Mr Johnson promised the "highest standards", but said that the UK would not accept EU jurisdiction.

Industry leaders welcomed the promise on standards but called for the UK match the "detail published by the EU".

"Businesses are less interested in the rhetoric than they are with the practical implications of the government's approach. The UK can't just stick to red lines, it needs to set out positive, practical steps to what it wants," Jonathan Geldart, director-general of the Institute of Directors, said. "Some form of adjustment period is crucial."

Robert Lea, page 35

Philip Aldrick, page 37



Stock market traders in Shanghai, where the index fell 7.7 per cent, were met at the exchange by staff in protective masks

# Virus pushes oil into a bear market

Emily Gosden, Tom Howard

Oil prices have sunk to their lowest level in more than a year after the impact of the coronavirus hit demand in China.

The price of Brent crude, the global benchmark, fell by 4 per cent to about \$54.17 per barrel yesterday, despite reports that producers in the Opec cartel were considering emergency output cuts at a possible meeting in two weeks' time.

The fall tipped Brent crude into a bear market, which is deemed a fall of more than 20 per cent. Last month it had been trading above \$68 per barrel.

The sharp sell-off came after Bloomberg reported that Chinese oil demand had fallen by about three million barrels per day because of the impact of the virus. China is the world's

biggest oil importer and ordinarily it consumes about 14 million barrels a day. However, demand has been hit as the country locks down transport networks and halts manufacturing sites to try to contain the spread of the virus.

More than 360 people have died from the coronavirus in China, surpassing the death toll of the Sars epidemic of 2002-03.

Chinese markets, open after the extended new year holiday, suffered their worst day in four and a half years. The Shanghai Composite index closed 7.7 per cent lower, its biggest daily drop since the summer of 2015, with nearly 700 companies falling by 10 per cent, the maximum allowed.

Analysts have expressed concern over the coronavirus's impact, with Oxford Economics cutting its annual Chinese growth forecast from 6 per cent to

5.4 per cent. Analysts at Fitch said that China accounted for about 15 per cent of global oil consumption and was the main driver of demand growth. Even without the effect of the coronavirus, "the oil market was expected to be well supplied in 2020", they said.

The outbreak could lead to "an extended production surplus", the extent of which would be determined by Opec's cuts.

Brent crude prices were bolstered at the start of the year by the killing of the Iranian general Qasem Soleimani by the United States and touched \$70 a barrel. However, they fell sharply as the coronavirus emerged.

The Opec cartel, of which Saudi Arabia is the biggest member, pumps about a third of global crude and co-ordinates production levels to try to manage prices.



## Business

### Need to know

**1** Sterling suffered its worst day in seven weeks after Boris Johnson said that he would swap tariffs for sovereignty if Brussels insisted that Britain followed European Union rules, renewing fears of a hard Brexit. After the prime minister's speech, the pound fell 1.95 cents, 1.5 per cent, against the dollar to \$1.3005 and 1.4 cents, or 1.2 per cent, against the euro, to €1.1757. **Page 33**

**2** Oil prices have sunk to their lowest level in more than a year after the impact of the coronavirus hit demand in China. The price of Brent crude, the global benchmark, fell by almost 4 per cent to about \$54.50 a barrel yesterday, despite reports that producers in the Opec cartel were considering output cuts at a possible emergency meeting in two weeks' time. **Page 33**

**3** Alphabet, the owner of Google, fell short of Wall Street's ambitions for its fourth-quarter earnings, sending its shares down moments after it revealed its results after the closing bell in New York. Its overall revenue rose 17 per cent to \$46.08 billion, its slowest fourth-quarter growth in four years. **Page 33**

**4** Future, a media company that was attacked by a short-seller last week, has cheered its shareholders by lifting its forecasts for the year. The publisher, which owns titles including *Total Film* and *Metal Hammer*, told investors that it believed its performance for the year would be "materially ahead" of market expectations".

**5** A non-compete agreement has forced Tesco to delay the arrival of Ken Murphy as its new chief executive. He was to have joined Britain's biggest grocer from Walgreens Boots Alliance in the summer but he will now take over in October.

**6** The manufacturing sector emerged from its longest decline since the financial crisis last month, buoyed by a rise in political certainty after the general election. The purchasing managers' index rose to 50 — denoting no change — from 47.5 in December.

**7** Imperial Brands has appointed Stefan Bomhard, the boss of Inchcape, as chief executive, but it may have to wait six months before he takes charge. **Page 39**

**8** Michael O'Leary, chief executive of Ryanair, has admitted that the budget airline's target of flying 200 million passengers a year could be pushed back by up to two years owing to delays in the delivery of the Boeing 737 Max. **Page 40**

**9** Construction activity in Britain's biggest regional cities fell from record levels last year as developers cooled on student housing and office schemes. **Page 40**

**10** Jupiter Asset Management, one of the biggest investors in Sirius Minerals with about 7.8 per cent of its shares, wants the North Yorkshire fertiliser mine developer to pursue alternatives to a £405 million takeover by Anglo American. **Page 42**

# Future shrugs off shorters by upgrading its forecasts

Ben Martin Senior City Correspondent

A media company that was attacked by a short-seller last week has swiftly cheered its shareholders by lifting its forecasts for the year.

Future, a publisher that owns titles including *Total Film* and *Metal Hammer*, told investors yesterday that it now believed its performance for the year would be "materially ahead of current market expectations", sending its shares up 52p, or 4.1 per cent, to £13.32.

The upgrade was timely, coming a single trading day after Shadowfall, a London-based short-seller, sent Future's stock tumbling with a critical, 68-page report into the publisher that raised concerns about its business model. Future's shares fell 15.9 per cent on Friday in the wake of the attack.

Future was set up 35 years ago and owns magazines and websites, including *Classic Rock*, *PC Gamer* and *Sporting Rifle*. It earns revenues from subscriptions, print and online advertising, e-commerce and events. More than half of its revenues come from North America.

The business, which has expanded through acquisitions, has drawn attention in the City for a stellar share price rise that meant it was the best-performing FTSE 350 stock last year.

Zillah Byng-Thorne, 45, chief executive since 2014, has overseen the takeover spree. Under her tenure, Future's market value has ballooned from below £100 million to £1.3 billion.

Shadowfall says that some of the businesses bought "have long histories of declining revenue and profit and all too frequent reorganisation costs. We find it difficult to reconcile the performance of assets as reported by Future compared to the performance reported by the sellers of the same assets."

The company is yet to address any of the Shadowfall criticisms and made no mention of them in yesterday's unscheduled update, which covered the four months to the end of January.

Companies are obliged to notify the stock market if they anticipate that performance will miss or beat investor expectations. Future upgraded its outlook last February in a similarly worded statement for the same four-month period. However, while last year's upgrade came 19 days after the period's end, this year Future issued its update at the earliest possible opportunity.

A spokeswoman said that the decision to put out a statement had been taken when it "became clear" that the group would surpass market expectations.

However Matthew Earl, managing partner at Shadowfall, said: "There was nothing in the update to dissuade us from our view that Future is a grossly overvalued roll-up, where we believe any significant growth has simply been acquired while its management rakes in eye-watering remuneration and quickly cashes in."

Future struck its biggest takeover to date last October when it spent £14 million buying 41 titles including *Horse & Hound*, a deal that is being scrutinised by the competition authority.

A month later a group of the publisher's managers sold nearly £44 million of stock, including Ms Byng-Thorne, who raised £14.7 million selling shares after she received about £17 million in stock from a long-term bonus scheme.

She was paid almost £5.7 million, including bonuses, benefits and pension, in the 12 months to end of September 2019. That was up from £4.8 million in 2018, angering some shareholders, with a third of investors either voting against or failing to endorse the remuneration report at its annual meeting last year.

The company could face a similar revolt at its shareholder meeting tomorrow, which will give investors a chance to ask Future's board about Shadowfall's analysis. The publisher will face the City on Thursday, when it hosts a capital markets day.

### Game on

#### What Future owns

Techradar  
Tom's Hardware  
What Hi-Fi?  
T3  
Top Ten Reviews  
PC Gamer  
Total Film  
Metal Hammer  
FourFourTwo  
Sporting Rifle  
Practical Caravan

#### Breakdown of revenue

UK total £102.7m US total £118.8m

#### Media\* total £154.9m

UK £50.4m US £104.5m

#### Magazines total £66.6m

UK £52.3m US £14.3m

\* Includes e-commerce, events and online advertising

## Radical restructurer who

### Profile

**Z**illah Byng-Thorne cut her teeth at a series of businesses going through massive disruption before overseeing an overhaul of the Future empire (Louisa Clarence-Smith writes).

Ms Byng-Thorne, 45, below, grew up outside Glasgow and after studying management science at Glasgow University became a graduate trainee at Nestlé and qualified as an accountant. She moved into corporate finance as an analyst at HMV in 1999.

She was chief financial officer of Threshers between 2002 and 2006, when the UK's largest off-licence began to face serious competition from supermarket chains.

Later she became the group finance director and interim

chief executive of Auto Trader, the car sales business. After being overlooked for the top job at Auto Trader on a permanent basis, she considered pursuing non-executive roles to spend more time with her family, but was persuaded by a City contact to keep going and was appointed Future's chief financial officer in 2013 as it was failing to hit targets and meet commitments to lenders.

Within a year of joining the media company, she was in charge after Mark Wood, the incumbent, was ousted after a profit warning. She pushed through a radical restructuring to bring in a more hard-nosed commercial culture.

Future sold business units, cut staff and added online content and subscription



## New Tesco boss's start date delayed until autumn

Katherine Griffiths

A non-compete agreement has forced Tesco to delay the arrival of its new chief executive.

Ken Murphy was to join Britain's biggest grocer from Walgreens Boots Alliance in the summer, but he will now take over in October, a full year after the supermarket chain announced his arrival.

As a result, Tesco said yesterday that Dave Lewis would continue as its chief executive until September 30 to ensure a "smooth and seamless" transition.

Revealing his departure last autumn, Mr Lewis, 54, said that his decision had been a "personal one" and that he was not departing "for any other job, nor am I having discussions about options with anyone". Having led Tesco since

September 2014, he said that the time was right "to pass the baton on".

Shares in the retailer, which has more than 3,700 shops and 340,000 staff, rose by 0.8 per cent, or 2p, to 249p yesterday.

Mr Murphy, 52, was a surprise choice



Dave Lewis, left, will remain chief executive until Ken Murphy arrives

to replace Mr Lewis, joining from Boots, where he has been a lifer. Tesco has said that he will receive a salary of £1.3 million and a pension contribution of 7.5 per cent of salary.

The Irishman has held a range of

roles within Boots as the group expanded through several deals, culminating in the takeover of Boots by Walgreens, of the United States, in 2014.

John Allan, Tesco's chairman, said when the management change was announced in October: "It is with regret that I have accepted the resignation of Dave Lewis, who has decided that he wants to leave the business in the summer of 2020. Dave has done an outstanding job in rebuilding Tesco since 2014 and he continues to have unwavering support from the board."

Days after Mr Lewis joined in 2014, it emerged that Tesco had inflated its profits by about £250 million. He has spent the past five years overseeing a widespread restructuring, selling Dobbies garden centres, the Giraffe

restaurant chain and Harris + Hoole coffee shops. He also has cut thousands of jobs as the retailer reacts to increasing competition from discounters. Mr Lewis has said that Tesco was in "intensive care" when he first arrived, but is now "healthy".

Despite preparing for departure, Mr Lewis has announced a strategic review of Tesco's Asia business, which could lead to a sale of the division. He said alongside a trading update last month that Mr Murphy had been consulted over the move.

Yesterday the retailer said in a statement: "Tesco confirms that Ken Murphy will take up the role of group chief executive on October 1, 2020, and will join the board on the same date, after fully respecting his contractual non-compete obligations."



Future share price



## went on spree

models. "If the fans' passion is strong enough and the value of the content is good enough, then we shouldn't be afraid to charge for it," Ms Byng-Thorne said in 2017.

Under her leadership Future has embarked on an acquisition spree that shows no signs of slowing. Last year it acquired TI Media, a batch of 41 magazines including *Country Life* and *Marie Claire*, for £140 million. This followed deals including the takeover of Mobile Nations, a consumer electronics publisher, and Barcroft Studios, the video maker.

The market capitalisation of Future since she joined has risen from £100 million to £1.3 billion. She took home total pay of £5.7 million last year. After the TI Media deal last year, she sold £14.6 million of shares. She once told *The Times* that money was not her motivation but a "level of wealth brings personal freedom".

## 'Dark destroyer' casts his shadow over fresh target

Ben Martin

As if Shadowfall didn't sound ominous enough, the short-seller's founder has an even more foreboding nickname. Matthew Earl, 40, the former analyst behind Shadowfall, has been dubbed the "dark destroyer" within the City for his ability to knock a company's shares.

Short-sellers seek to profit from falling share prices by borrowing stock from another investor and then selling it. The aim is to buy the shares back at a lower price at a later date and then pocket the difference when the stock is returned to its original owner.

Shadowfall — which last Friday targeted Future, the publisher — says on its website that it focuses on "exposing situations where the market value exceeds the intrinsic value". It adds: "Our approach ranges from researching into aggressive accounting, flawed business models, unethical business

conduct and business misrepresentation." Previous targets have included First Derivatives, a technology company, and IQE, a chipmaker.

Future also has drawn the attention of Coltrane Asset Management, an American hedge fund. According to filings with the Financial Conduct Authority, Coltrane has a short position equivalent to 1.55 per cent of Future's share capital. It is the only firm with a short big enough to require disclosure to the City regulator. Funds must declare short positions once they reach 0.5 per cent.

Coltrane has a fearsome reputation in the City after it blocked a rescue deal for Interserve last year, pushing the outsourcing company into administration. It was also among the shareholders in Provident Financial that rejected a takeover offer for the doorstep lender from Non-Standard Finance, which last year failed to buy its bigger rival.

## No-frills whizz is selling stake in airline

James Hurley Enterprise Editor

An American no-frills airline tycoon is selling his shares in Wizz Air for up to £500 million.

Indigo Partners, Bill Franke's private equity firm, said that it was immediately selling most of its 20.6 per cent stake in the Hungarian carrier, which is worth about £624 million based on yesterday's closing share price. The shares will be offered to institutional investors, with Barclays, Citigroup, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley working on the sale.

The move, announced after the market had closed yesterday, comes days after Wizz revealed an improved financial performance. The London-listed carrier is the largest low-cost airline serving central and eastern

Europe, flying to 154 airports with 710 routes. It has an all-Airbus fleet of 120 aircraft, about 5,000 staff and is flying about 40 million passengers a year.

Mr Franke, 82, is an investor known for pioneering the no-frills model of combining low fares with charging fees for add-ons, such as baggage allowance and seat selection. He is also renowned for cost-cutting and turning struggling carriers around.

Indigo also owns stakes in Frontier Airlines, an American carrier, and Jet-smart, a Chilean low-cost airline. Mr Franke, a lawyer by training, is the co-founder and managing partner at Indigo, which focuses on airline investments, and is chairman of Wizz.

Jozsef Varadi, 54, chief executive of Wizz, has said that he is optimistic about Britain, despite previously

blaming Brexit for disappointing performance. The company made a net profit of €21.4 million in the three months to the end of December compared with a loss of €21 million in the same period in 2018, when Mr Varadi blamed Brexit for damaging demand.

Wizz has been aided by economic growth in the regions it serves, including Hungary and Poland. Its eastern European customers are having greater spending power just as Wizz is giving them a low-cost travel option.

Wizz has a 49 per cent cap on shares owned by investors from outside the European Economic Area and Switzerland. The company said that it would review the share placing but expected it to rise "qualifying national ownership".

Its shares closed down 27p, or 0.6 per cent, at £41.60.

## Brilliant Boris plays three-word trick

BUSINESS COMMENTARY Robert Lea



Uncertainty is the new certainty. Or put another way, the right sort of uncertainty is good news. Having got Brexit done, right on cue manufacturers' PMI activity survey went positive for the first time in seven months (report, page 36). The industrial recession is over. Brexit dividends all round.

To cap all this, the prime minister in his first set-piece since the not altogether accurately named Brexit Day declared Britain will now prosper, even if he is talking tough about tariffs as the possible by-product of sovereignty.

The doomsters and gloomsters in the business federations seamlessly took umbrage. It is going to be an awfully long 11 months to the departure agreement if they carry on like this when they should realise the PM's audience yesterday was not them but Michel Barnier and the EU negotiators.

A bit of self-awareness might be handy. We know tariffs hurt business because business keeps telling us. Perhaps they should focus on explaining that it is consumers and workers who have most to lose.

Unleashing Britain's Potential is the PM's new three-word catchphrase. Not as natty as Take Back Control. Or Get Brexit Done. Or, indeed, his predecessor's gem Brexit Means Brexit.

The PM spoke of "va-et-vient", the ability of business to come and go in a post-Brexit world, but rather sinisterly added that would be done with border and immigration sovereignty and a hint of new protectionist competition, subsidy and procurement policies — which are only ever good for businesses that don't export.

In a neat coincidence, these first Brexit days come in apprenticeship week, which has been an excuse for all interested parties to tell the government they are mucking up future workforce training and that if skill shortages are not addressed, the PM will be unleashing something completely different.

But yesterday did show the PM's brilliance. There's barely a proper economist or central banker who agrees with his assertion "I have no doubt that Britain will prosper mightily again". That's the trick: he doesn't say when.

## Nissan in overdrive

As Brexit dividends go, reports that Nissan is to close factories in Spain and France and shift all production to its Sunderland factory in the North East are turbo-charged.

With the threat of trading tariffs between the UK and EU, it is claimed that Nissan would switch Sunderland's present modus operandi of exporting more than 80 per cent of what it makes to producing solely for the domestic market on the way to capturing 20 per cent of all UK cars sales.

There are some staggeringly heroic assumptions here, not least that Sunderland's cars are mostly made with parts shipped in from overseas, which would attract tariffs.

Under this putative plan, it would need to source all its componentry from a UK supply chain that doesn't exist and would take years to build. And 20 per cent of the UK market? That would be up from the 4 per cent Nissan enjoys at the moment and is the sort of level Ford, Britain's 50-year market leader, never achieved even when it made cars here. So perhaps we should take Nissan at its word when it says no such plans exist. Still, if those unleashing Britain's potential can't be optimistic in the first week of Brexit, when can they be?

## Train of thought

Three people in an Amsterdam bar talking about their trip from London. The first says he's a flyer. The second says she took the Eurostar from St Pancras because she could work the four hours on the train. But it'll be the plane on the way home, as Dutch customs rules mean passengers have to change trains in Brussels, making it a five-hour schlep back.

The third looks wistfully into his Amstel and says he's on the train both ways because his company's new environmental rules mean he has to take the least CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting transportation on business trips and he didn't fancy the cycle.

The good news for the second barfly is today Eurostar formally launches direct Amsterdam-to-London services after the Dutch authorities finally relented, a lovely albeit utterly coincidental Brexit dividend. But it is the wistful Amstel drinker who is of most interest to the airlines because this millennial trend of newly woke companies getting their people off aircraft isn't going to go away, however much carriers say they will plant millions of trees and get rid of plastic spoons.

If the trend takes hold for business folk commuting between Scotland and London, it sounds like we better get that HS2 line built high-speedish.

## Totally perplexing

The future, as Doris Day says, is not ours to see. Last Friday a short-seller called Shadowfall put out a negative note on Future, the publisher among other things of *Total Film*. Its shares promptly slumped by 16 per cent.

Bang on 7am yesterday Future put out an unscheduled trading statement saying, actually, its performance is "significantly ahead". The shares clawed back some of the losses. The company says it did this because after a January 31 four-month audit, under the City rules it had to say something pronto.

All very curious, especially as this time last year Future put out a not dissimilar post-January 31 upgrade, but, without a short-seller breathing down its neck, not until February 19. *Total Film* might give this explanation two stars out of five. What seems likely is Shadowfall the sequel is already in production.

robert.lea@thetimes.co.uk  
Alistair Osborne is away



## Business

# Things are looking up as factory orders rise

Martin Strydom

The manufacturing sector emerged from its longest decline since the financial crisis last month, buoyed by a rise in political certainty after the general election.

The purchasing managers' index rose to the 50 mark — denoting no change — from 47.5 in December and a “flash” reading for January of 49.8. Manufacturing makes up about 10 per cent of the economy and the index had been below 50 since May, the longest run since 2009.

The improvement was down to “mild recoveries in new orders and business confidence”, according to the survey by IHS Markit and the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply.

Rob Dobson, at IHS Markit, said: “A strengthened domestic market was the main source of new business. Overseas demand remained disappointing, however, as new export business fell for the third straight month in response to weak economic growth in key markets, notably European.”

Optimism rose to an eight-month high, with 47 per cent of manufacturers forecasting that output would expand

## 50

Manufacturing PMI index in January

in the year ahead, but it was low compared with historical standards.

Economists said that there was no indication of a large-scale return to spending as companies continued to face a challenging global environment. Part of this was because of the continuing uncertainty among some manufacturers about the impact of Brexit.

The prime minister has said that he is prepared to fall back on a so-called Australian-style trading arrangement with the European Union, seen by some as a version of no-deal, and would rather accept tariffs than EU law. The EU wants Britain to follow its rules on workers' rights, the environment and subsidies in exchange for a Canada-style free trade deal. The tensions hit sterling, which fell by 1.95 cents, or 1.5 per cent, against the dollar to \$1.3005 and by 1.4 cents, or 1.2 per cent, against the euro to €1.1757.

Howard Archer, chief economic adviser to the EY Item Club, said that a divergence from EU rules would raise costs, new rules and frictions at the border for manufacturers. The car, aerospace and food and drink sectors would be among those most affected.



Manufacturers such as Airbus could be particularly damaged by divergence from the EU, which Boris Johnson is pursuing

### Flashing light is a reliable guide

IHS Markit published its first flash purchasing managers' index covering Britain's services and manufacturing sectors last November (Martin Strydom writes). It is published about a week before the final release each month and is based on about 85 per

cent of replies from the 650 manufacturers and 650 services providers surveyed.

The flash survey is designed to provide an accurate indication of the final data. Markit said its analysis showed that the flash index varied on average by only 0.6 index points

from the final readings. Although the PMI surveys are watched closely, they have been criticised as being too downbeat during last year's political turmoil.

Markit also does flash PMI releases for the United States, the eurozone, Japan and Australia.

He said that past PMI surveys had overestimated the scale of upturns and downturns, particularly at times of political upheaval, “so the survey could possibly exaggerate the manufacturing pick-up in January after overplaying some of the earlier weakness”.

Samuel Tombs, at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that the “threat of a trade shock” was likely to depress investment. “We remain downbeat about the prospects for the manufacturing sector beyond the next few months of recovery,” he said.

Last week the Bank of England cut its GDP forecasts, saying that Boris John-

## Coronavirus to hit output in Germany

Philip Aldrick

Germany's manufacturing sector could be laid low by the coronavirus outbreak in China, economists have warned.

IHS Markit said that the epidemic and subsequent economic shutdowns in Germany's biggest trading partner not only would damage factory output but also would hit business sentiment.

Factory activity in the eurozone's largest economy has been declining for 13 months, after first new vehicle emissions standards disrupted the car industry and then the US-China trade war slowed global demand.

Phil Smith, economist at IHS Markit, said: “The picture has changed somewhat in the short space of time since the survey was conducted, with the disruption to business in China from the coronavirus bound to have an impact.”

IHS Markit's manufacturing purchasing managers index for January suggested factory activity was improving. The PMI rose to 45.3, its best in 11 months. A reading below 50 indicates contraction. Manufacturing is a key sector, accounting for a fifth of national output, and is affected by global trade.

There was anecdotal evidence that demand had picked up in America and China, even while firms remained reluctant to raise investment. “Germany's manufacturing sector showed more signs of being on the way to recovery in January. The most encouraging findings are those around new orders and export sales,” Mr Smith said.

son's hopes for a Canada-style trade deal would knock 0.65 per cent off growth after three years relative to the deal Theresa May wanted. Mr Johnson's pledge that a deal must be done by the end of the year was central to the judgment because it will introduce greater trade frictions next year.

The Bank cut its GDP forecasts from 1.2 per cent to 0.8 per cent in 2020, 1.8 per cent to 1.4 per cent in 2021 and from 2 per cent to 1.7 per cent in 2022.

Employment rose slightly in January after contracting over the previous nine months and inventories fell at the sharpest rate since May 2013.

## Hiring drives ‘hit by skill shortages’

James Hurley Enterprise Editor

Skills shortages meant that almost three quarters of businesses experienced difficulty in hiring staff late last year, an employers' group has warned. The British Chambers of Commerce said that more than seven in ten companies had reported recruitment difficulties during the final three months of last year.

There is a “critical skills deficit across the UK workforce”, according to the chambers. Shortages were most apparent in the construction and hospitality sectors, where almost eight in ten said that they were struggling to recruit.

The business group said that uncertainty over the UK's future immigration regime after Britain's departure from the European Union “continues to be a concern” for employers.

More than half of companies were

seeking staff during the period, according to the poll by the business group and Totaljobs, a recruitment website.

One in four respondents to the survey of 6,200 business people said that they planned to increase their headcounts during the first three months of this year. Construction companies were most likely to be trying to hire.

The chambers said that Sajid Javid must address skills shortages in his March budget.

It said that the apprenticeship levy must be made more flexible. The levy, introduced in 2017, was supposed to increase vocational training. It requires businesses with an annual wage bill of £3 million or more to pay 0.5 per cent of their payroll costs into a training fund. They can use the cash for qualifying training schemes.

There was a 24 per cent fall in apprenticeship starts in the year the

policy was introduced, however, and a further decline last year. Industry groups say that it is too difficult to transfer funds to smaller companies, although the government has said that it is working to address this issue.

Big employers are using more of their levy funds than expected because of a sharp rise in more advanced higher and degree-level apprenticeships, which are more expensive. This has left less in the pot to cover for smaller companies.

Adam Marshall, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said that the prolonged skills shortages companies faced “are not sustainable as they try to shake off years of political uncertainty and pursue growth. Training has got to be at the heart of the upcoming budget if the government wishes to demonstrate that it is serious about ‘levelling up’ opportunity all across the UK.”

## Only two women applied to head Bank of England

Philip Aldrick

The Treasury's diversity drive to appoint a female Bank of England governor fell apart at the first hurdle after only two women applied for the job.

A total of 23 people applied for the role, which has been described as the most powerful unelected position in the country, but 21 were men, the chancellor has disclosed in a letter to the Treasury select committee.

The Treasury had made the process more inclusive than ever. It used Sapphire Partners, a headhunter that specialises in placing women and ethnic minorities in senior posts.

Bradley Fried, 54, chairman of the Bank's court of directors and a member of the recruitment panel, said last May:

“It will be a brilliant moment for this institution when we appoint our first woman governor and it will be a brilliant moment when we appoint our first BAME [black, Asian and minority ethnic] governor.”

Andrew Bailey, 60, chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, was unveiled as governor in December.

The lack of women candidates suggests that one favourite never applied. Dame Minouche Shafik, 57, a former deputy governor, was thought to be ideal, with some suggesting that the specifications had been written for her. The two candidates are thought to have been Baroness Vadera, 57, chairwoman of Santander UK, and Dame Helena Morrissey, 54, former head of personal investing at Legal & General.



# Patrick Hosking

Using the profit motive to change behaviour is key to going green



“Bob Dudley, the outgoing boss of BP, likes to recall how some of his shareholders urge him to be greener, in particular by investing more in renewables such as solar and wind. ‘I say, ‘We can do that. Would you like us to cut the dividend? They go, ‘No, no, don’t do that.’”

And there, in a nutshell, is the dilemma facing not only Bernard Looney, who succeeds Mr Dudley after he delivers his swansong results and divi today, but all of capitalism. Most environment-boosting business decisions have a definite short-run cost, whatever the possible long-run gains to the business — or the planet.

For BP, which gushes out £6.5 billion a year in dividends, it’s quite a big ask. That 7 per cent yield not only warms the cockles of a lot of shareholders (myself included) and helps to pay countless pensions, it also underpins the BP share price. Nevertheless, Mr Looney is under pressure to show he “gets” the climate crisis. That means not only trying to reduce the emissions made by the company’s own oil and gas operations, and those of its suppliers, but also the gigantically harder task of taking responsibility for the emissions of its customers; that is, every motorist filling the tank.

There is widespread speculation that BP under Mr Looney will cross the Rubicon and commit to trying to tackle these so-called scope 3 emissions. He is due to unveil his philosophy on February 12. Shell has already taken this step.

Of the 491 million tons of carbon emissions attributable to BP per year, its customers around the world account for 437 million, or 89 per cent. Asking any company to deliberately try to reduce sales of its core product goes against its every impulse. Getting them to do it voluntarily is

**Pressure is growing on oil companies to make their businesses greener**

even harder. Tobacco companies are rightly required to advertise on their packs that their products kill people, but at least all of them are subject to the same rules. Deterring customers is not only the law, but all competitors are similarly hamstrung. The playing field is level.

Energy companies are in a different position. There is no blanket requirement to place notices on the pump informing drivers that they are imperilling the Earth. The piecemeal targeting of energy companies means that some, like BP, come under much more pressure than, say, the China National Oil Corporation.

The paradox of green measures adopted unilaterally by companies or by institutional shareholders is that they simply risk diverting profits to other, less green organisations. The more, say, coal is shunned by well-meaning companies and investors, the greater the return on capital from coal to others less squeamish. One day investment returns from fossil fuels will fall to zero, but that will be because of the rise of superior technologies and/or intervention by governments, not the decision by investors to remove them from their portfolios.

The City is embracing ESG investing (picking companies for their environmental, social and governance credentials) as never before. That fervour will last only for as long as ESG returns do not start to significantly lag non-ESG returns.

We are optimistic to think that capitalism will solve climate change through altruism, but there is virtually nothing it is

not capable of if given the right price signals. That, however, requires public policy intervention. It means carefully targeted taxes, subsidies, planning judgments, quotas and regulation — with penal fines for those who cheat. Shaming businesses and investors for seeking out the most promising future financial returns is bonkers. Shaping public policy so that the most promising returns

come from green behaviour by businesses and consumers has to be the better answer.

Look at wind power in the North Sea. The newest generation of turbines is generating power at astonishingly low cost, but it needed the consumer-financed renewables subsidy to get this industry off the ground. “Offshore wind is set to be competitive with fossil fuels within the next decade,” according to the International Energy Agency.

Business can move heaven and earth if the price signals are persuasive. The profit motive is deeply unfashionable these days, but it has the merit of being simple and unambiguous. The shift in most boardrooms to honouring all “stakeholders” is infinitely more complex and more likely to lead to muddle. It also raises the risk of cheating and “greenwashing”. Financial profits are relatively hard (though not impossible) to fake. Environmental wins are much easier for a company to claim, especially if, funnily enough, executive bonuses are linked to them. Verification is virtually impossible.

Unaudited claims about carbon neutrality butter no parsnips. The offsetting industry is sometimes an awfully convenient fig leaf. Was anyone convinced at the weekend when Prince Charles, accused of hypocrisy in taking a helicopter flight to lecture others on manmade emissions, issued a statement saying that “he ensures all carbon emissions are offset every year”? Such unverifiable claims are going to dominate FTSE 100 annual reports and fund manager circulars in future. An army of plausible consultants will be on hand to give them credibility. And companies, fund managers and investors will be willing them to be true.

But only governments and supra-national organisations have the policy powers to hasten change. Only ministers can rapidly turn business green. A bold move by the chancellor in his budget next month to lift fuel duty for the first time in eight years, for example, would do more to move the dial than anything Mr Looney is likely to do.

**Patrick Hosking is Financial Editor of The Times**

**Philip Aldrick**

Brussels has nothing to fear from UK in talks on level playing field

Get ready for another year of jargon. Brexit, the B-word, may have not appeared in Boris Johnson’s speech (“It is receding,” he insisted), but he did mention alignment, state aid, subsidies and treaties. Expect more technical verbiage in the months ahead, like non-regression, equivalence and, above all, “level playing field” — because trade negotiations with the European Union will be fought on how the playing field is defined.

When Michel Barnier, the EU’s chief negotiator, talks about a level playing field, he is referring to the UK’s competition regime. Governments compete with each other to attract investment all the time. Within the EU, Ireland has its 12.5 per cent corporation tax rate,

## The Brexit damage

GDP fall relative to staying in EU after 15 years, with no migration effect



Source: HM Government, Nov 2018

Germany has the advantage of an undervalued currency and Bulgaria has low wages. The UK, Brussels fears, will subsidise favoured industries or will scrap workers’ rights to undercut EU producers.

State subsidies and bailouts are never allowed in free trade deals and minimum employment and environmental standards are boiler-plate stuff. Both are in the Canada deal that the UK wants to emulate. The difference is the EU wants much tougher safeguards against Britain.

Take workers’ rights and the environment. With Canada, the EU has accepted “non-regression” from international standards, which are less strict than EU ones. If Canada does backslide by lowering labour regulations, the EU has no enforcement mechanism. On state aid, an independent arbitrator that sits between Canada and the EU determines whether a bailout or subsidy breaches the rules and what sanctions to impose.

For the UK, the EU wants non-regression below existing, more demanding EU standards, with full

sanctions under a treaty mechanism, as well as a “dynamic alignment” state-aid regime that would require the UK to update its rules whenever Brussels changes them, with no say in the matter. On top of that, it wants the European Court of Justice to act as arbitrator on any interpretation of EU law. Brussels would be running much of the UK competition framework.

Sam Lowe, senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform, says that Brussels is nervous because it fears that the UK, being so close to the EU, could “entice investment via deregulation that would otherwise go to the EU”. Those companies could then use the UK’s free trade deal to access EU markets.

But Brussels’ paranoia goes too far. Britain, under Mr Johnson, has made a clear trade-off between wealth and sovereignty. A Canada-style deal will cost the UK up to 6.7 per cent of GDP over 15 years, government analysis shows. That’s three or four years’ lost growth out of fifteen. Only a no-deal is worse. Yet Brussels is not satisfied with the economic penalty; it wants to keep a piece of UK sovereignty as well.

Mr Johnson knew these demands were coming. They were in Theresa May’s deal. But it’s clear why he removed much of the detail from what he agreed. The prime minister wants the level playing field to be a point of negotiation, not a point of capitulation. We need leverage for the battles ahead, on fisheries and agriculture — the 2 per cent of product lines on which Canada did not secure tariff-free access.

History shows that Brussels’ lack of trust in the UK is unfounded. We have stronger employment rights than the EU minimum and a more aggressive climate target, to be net zero in carbon emissions by 2050. The UK has breached EU state aid rules four times in the past 21 years, compared with 29 in France, 45 in Italy and 67 in Germany, as the prime minister pointed out. There is a deal to be done here. Britain can accept non-regression with sanctions, which allows divergence above a regulatory minimum, and the EU can ditch dynamic alignment and accept standard state-aid protections. But will they?

**Philip Aldrick is Economics Editor of The Times**

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## Business

# Duchess loans channelled through offshore business

James Hurley Enterprise Editor

An alleged financial scandal at an entertainment company linked to Sarah, Duchess of York, has deepened after it emerged that loans were secretly channelled via an offshore business controlled by the chairman's civil partner.

Loans from Gate Ventures, including to the duchess, were funnelled through a Seychelles-based business called Jenwell in a series of transactions that were not disclosed to investors, documents seen by *The Times* reveal.

Vicky Xu — the personal and business partner of Johnny Hon, a Hong Kong tycoon and politician — is a

director of Jenwell. Mr Hon was chairman of Gate Ventures at the time.

Gate Ventures, whose chairman is Lord Grade of Yarmouth, the former BBC chairman, is in dispute with some of its investors and has been accused of “potentially unlawful transactions” and “misapplication of monies running into millions of pounds” in the High Court.

The company, which backed West End shows such as *42nd Street* and *Sunset Boulevard*, has vigorously denied wrongdoing.

Gate was founded by Geoff Morrow, a British songwriter whose compositions have been performed by Elvis Presley and Barry Manilow. It had its



The duchess has left Gate Ventures, whose chairman is Lord Grade

shares withdrawn from trading on London's junior stock market five years ago amid a flood of speculative investment from China and it suffered a near-£10million loss in 2018. The

Jenwell transactions pose fresh questions for Gate, which is now listed on Nasdaq Nordic in Denmark.

The duchess stepped down as director in December. The rights for the £1.4million of Gate investments, including a £200,000 personal loan to her and a £900,000 investment in *42nd Street*, were transferred to Jenwell in 2017. These assets were acquired from a bank in the Caribbean formerly chaired by Mr Morrow in return for £74,000 in cash and shares in Gent, a Cyprus-based investment company.

It is understood that Jenwell subsequently sold the rights to the *42nd Street* loan to Gate Ventures for close to £900,000. It is not known how much it paid for the rights to the loan to the duchess. The Jenwell transactions were not disclosed to Gate's investors, despite being related-party transactions. Gate's latest accounts are overdue.

Mr Hon, 48, also has links with Zara

Tindall, the Queen's granddaughter, who was paid £100,000 a year as a non-executive director of his Global Group.

Mr Hon, who stepped down as chairman in December 2017, said he could not comment in detail on the transactions as they were led by Ms Xu and that she was not available to comment.

However, he said that *42nd Street* had gone over budget and that Ms Xu had helped with additional funds. He said he was advised by Mr Morrow and he had asked for the deals to be disclosed.

A spokesman for Gate said the company had invested directly in *42nd Street* and that it has a “history of reporting related-party transactions in a timely manner”. “Any suggestion to the contrary would be incorrect. If any transaction was deemed to be material by [our] advisers and there was a direct related party link, this would have been disclosed.” A spokeswoman for the duchess declined to comment.

## WINE OF THE MONTH



## A sumptuous taste of Sicily

Almost as good as going there, for just £6.99 a bottle

In Sicily, they have a variety which lends itself to this time of year when the days are short and the nights are long. A variety which can produce rich, velvety red wine, that falls into the glass with an intense colour with layers of dark fruit, spice and liquorice. It's called Nero D'Avola and is the most widely planted grape on the island. The Club has found a wonderful example from the village of Poggioreale around an hour's drive south of the capital Palermo. Here, Dino Taschetta crafts a rich, smooth, soft textured red that has proved enormously popular with members in the two London tastings where we poured it in November and December. Maybe try a glass with Sicily's simple pasta dish, Pasta alla Norma made with short pasta, fresh aubergines, tomato sauce, basil and ricotta salata or something with a little more meat, perhaps a slow cooked stew. Perfect for this time of year.



Will Lyons

Will Lyons, Club Vice-President and Sunday Times columnist

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## CITY PEOPLE

The feuds, the faces and the farcical  
Dominic Walsh @walshdominic

### Business big shot

NAME RICHARD  
MEDDINGS  
AGE 62  
POSITION  
BOARD MEMBER,  
CREDIT SUISSE



The chairman of TSB is joining the board of Credit Suisse, the lender embroiled in a corporate spying scandal (Simon Duke writes). Richard Meddings, 62, will take a seat at the Swiss bank's boardroom at the end of April, provided that his nomination is approved by shareholders.

Mr Meddings is a seasoned City executive and provided informal advice to the last Labour government on the bank bailouts over a decade ago. He has been no stranger to helping banks to navigate corporate crises —

experience that will stand him in good stead at Credit Suisse. The company has been accused of spying on some of its top executives and Switzerland's market watchdog is examining the oversight of Tidjane Thiam, its chief executive.

Mr Meddings trained as an accountant at Price Waterhouse, now PWC, and worked at Hill Samuel, a merchant bank taken over by TSB, in the 1980s, before spending 12 years at Standard Chartered, where he served as finance director. During his time at Standard Chartered, the bank faced pressure from US authorities over its dealings with companies in Iran. As chairman of TSB, Mr Meddings had to take executive responsibility after its IT meltdown. He also served on the board of Deutsche Bank when it paid more than \$7 billion to settle US allegations of mis-selling mortgage-backed securities.

### MEMBERS CRY FOUL — AGAIN — OVER ROEHAMPTON PLAN

The backlash against the Bank of England's decision to sell its 28-acre sports centre in leafy Roehampton continues. A group of members has raised “serious concerns” that the Bank's plan to withdraw management of the 112-year-old site in southwest London on April 30 could lead to a lengthy interval between the withdrawal of management and a new owner taking over. “Potentially, there could be deterioration of the site, disruption of supply and a considerable loss of existing members,” the group has warned. Mark Carney, the outgoing governor and ice hockey fan, will likely be relieved that this will no longer be his problem when he leaves in March.

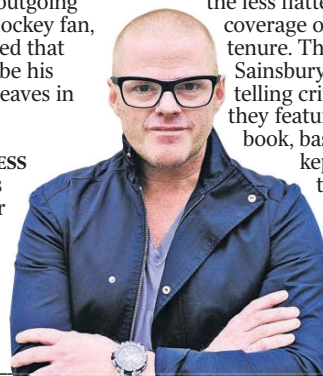
### RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

John Lewis's bonus may be at risk after a plunge in profits, but that hasn't stopped it splashing out on new top talent. Its Waitrose &

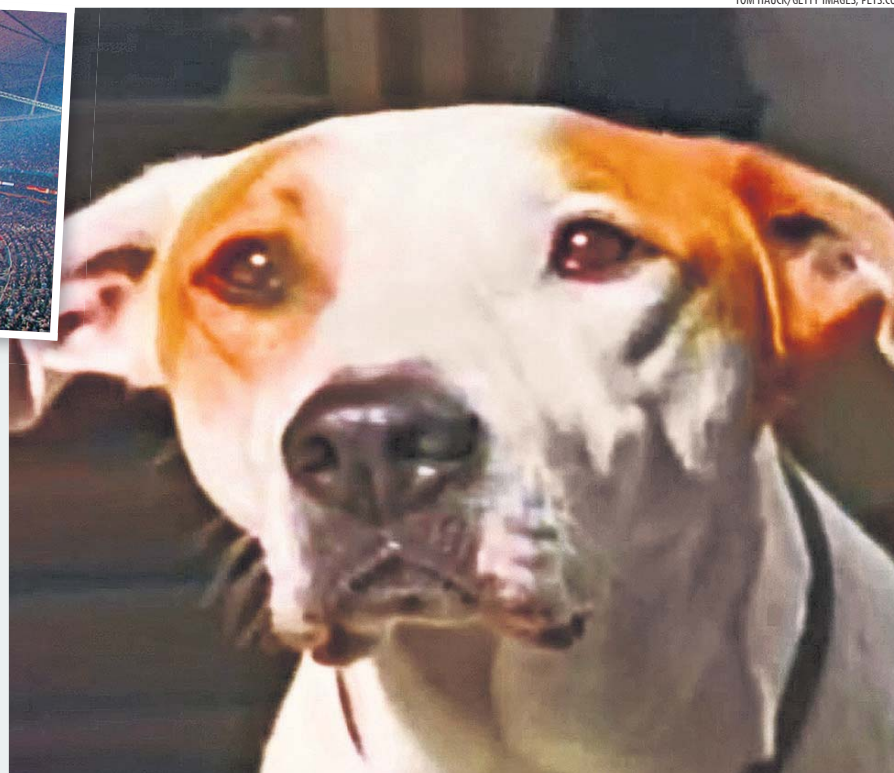
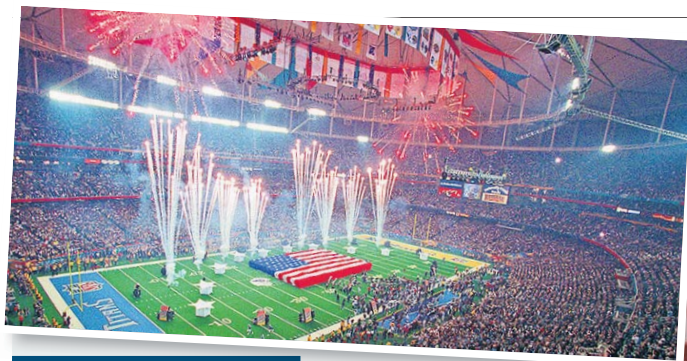
Partners business has appointed Martyn Lee, from Tesco, as its new executive chef, running the team at the new £1.5million Waitrose Food Innovation Studio officially opened in Bracknell, Berkshire, by the Prince of Wales last year. Expect more innovation along the lines of the famous hidden orange Christmas pudding developed a decade ago in partnership with Heston Blumenthal, the Michelin-starred chef, below.

### WATCH THIS SPACE

Mike “We're In The Money” Coupe seems to have found a way of getting his revenge for some of the less flattering media coverage over the length of his tenure. The outgoing Sainsbury's boss is revelling in telling critical journalists that they feature in his upcoming book, based on the diaries he kept during his time at the grocer. Andrew Tyrie and the competition wonks who blocked his proposed Asda deal are also expected to come under heavy fire.







At the Super Bowl in 2000, dotcom brands such as Pets.com bought adverts but later went bust

## Every dog has its day at Super Bowl, or does it?

Many of the world's technology giants could not resist the lure of mass market viewers at the Super Bowl this weekend (Tom Knowles writes).

Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple bought slots for advertisements during a game that was estimated to have been watched by 100 million people, with a 30sec advertising slot costing an average of \$5.6 million.

It is not the first time that technology companies have got excited by the prospect of spending large swathes of their television advertising budget on the Super Bowl. In 2000 twenty-one dotcom brands bought slots for adverts, compared with only two the previous year, with each paying an

average of \$2.2 million a slot. The adverts amounted to 20 per cent of the 61 slots available and the game became known as the "Dotcom Super Bowl".

Technology companies buying advertising space in this year's Super Bowl are enjoying record revenues, but it was a different story 20 years ago. If anything symbolised the hubris of the dotcom boom, it was the amount of money these companies spent despite the flimsiest of business plans. Start-ups such as Pets.com, Monster.com, Ourbeginning.com and Computer.com bought the most valuable advertising space in history, but most had gone bust by the end of the year.

Perhaps the company most synonymous with the

dotcom bubble was Pets.com, which sold pet supplies online. The company spent \$1.2 million on a slot at the 2000 Super Bowl, its first national commercial — involving a dog sock puppet singing *If You Leave Me Now* by Chicago, the rock band, as people left their pets behind. The company was

out of business by November that year, having lost \$147 million in the first nine months of 2000.

Ourbeginning.com, a retailer of wedding invitations and birth announcements, spent \$4 million on four adverts, despite making only \$2 million in revenue. Michael Budowski, its chief

executive, exuded the confidence of the time when he told CNN: "The exciting part is we have a very solid business model. The Super Bowl not working ... well, how can it not really work? It's not going to make or break us as a company." The company had filed for bankruptcy within the year.

# Car dealer to take wheel at Imperial but waits for keys to be handed over

Alex Ralph

Imperial Brands has appointed the boss of Inchcape as chief executive, but it could have to wait about six months before he takes charge.

The FTSE 100 tobacco company said yesterday that Stefan Bomhard, 52, would join "at a date to be announced".

Mr Bomhard, who has led the car dealer and distributor for almost five years, has a notice period of one year. While his exit is still being negotiated, there is an expectation that he will remain until the summer.

He will replace Alison Cooper, who left after nine years as chief executive in October amid investor discontent over performance. Imperial said yesterday that Ms Cooper, 53, had stepped down with immediate effect. In her place it has promoted Dominic Brisby, divisional director of the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australasia, and Jörg Biebrnick, divisional director of Europe, as joint interim chief executives.

Imperial, based in Bristol, sells brands such as Gauloises and the Blu e-cigarette. It employs about 30,000 people.

The change at the top has come at a difficult time for Imperial, which only recently completed its search for a new chairman. It promoted Thérèse Esperdy, 59, its senior independent director, to chairwoman in November. She succeeded Mark Williamson, 62, at the turn of the year. The company was thought to have lined up an external candidate as chairman, only to run into legal complexities that prompted it to promote internally.

Imperial's shares have fallen by more

## Analysis

The challenge of recruiting talented bosses to big tobacco companies has become increasingly difficult (Alex Ralph writes).

One veteran headhunter, who has helped to find senior tobacco personnel, said that manufacturers in the industry found it difficult because "it is not a sector in which many people wish to work". That's perhaps not surprising, given the greater understanding across society of the health problems from smoking and increasing boardroom emphasis on environmental, social and corporate governance.

The solution is to pay well, according to the headhunter: "They just throw money at it."

When Imperial Brands yesterday appointed Stefan

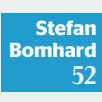


Chief executive, Imperial Brands

Market value **£18.4bn**  
Salary **£1.13m**

Bomhard, the boss of Inchcape, the FTSE 250 car dealer, it appeared to be a case in point. Mr Bomhard, 52, who has led Inchcape for about five years, will be paid a salary of £1.27 million, 12.7 per cent more than Alison Cooper, 53, who he is replacing and who had worked at Imperial for twenty years, nine of them as chief executive. His salary is also 71.2 per cent higher than the £739,000 he was paid at Inchcape in 2018.

Imperial explained the pay deal by saying that "Stefan has outstanding



Chief executive, Inchcape

Market value **£2.6bn**  
Salary at Imperial **£1.27m**

experience in the consumer goods area and a strong track record of delivery. His salary is what we needed to pay to attract such a high calibre and experienced leader who can take Imperial forward at this time."

The recruitment challenge for Imperial was made harder by the board searching for a new chairman and chief executive at the same time and by British American Tobacco, its great rival, also looking to replace Richard Burrows, 74, its chairman.

than a fifth over the past year, weakened by the clampdown on e-cigarettes in the United States, where there are concerns about use by young people. Investors also have become disgruntled by the disappointing progress with its new non-combustible products.

After trading higher for much of the day, Imperial's shares closed down 9½p, or 0.5 per cent, at £19.41. Inchcape finished 8½p, or 1.3 per cent, lower at 648½p.

Ms Esperdy acknowledged that Mr Bomhard would become chief executive "at a significant point in Imperial's development," adding: "Stefan's initial priorities will be to strengthen performance and enhance shareholder value."

Mr Bomhard is an industry outsider and Inchcape is a smaller FTSE 250 company, with a market value of £2.6 billion, compared with Imperial's £18.4 billion. He has consumer goods expertise, having held executive roles at Bacardi, Cadbury and Unilever.

The appointment of an external candidate was broadly welcomed by City analysts, who said that Mr Bomhard's record at Inchcape, where he sold off businesses, suggested that Imperial might reopen its own programme. Citi said that a "break-up seems to be off the cards", despite some investors favouring a sale. "We expect to see disposals, [share] buybacks and better new product development."

Analysts at Jefferies said that since there was an "opportunity for further non-core tobacco divestitures and an increasing focus on vapour, where brand-building is key, we think Bomhard's background should support in further implementing this change".

## Pension fund opposes twin roles at top

Ben Martin Senior City Correspondent

Britain's biggest pension fund manager plans to oppose company bosses worldwide who act as both chief executive and chairman of the businesses they run.

The decision by Legal & General Investment Management to vote against the re-election of bosses who combine the top boardroom positions comes amid concerns that it hands too much power to one individual.

However, the move puts the fund manager at odds with some of the world's largest companies. These include Goldman Sachs, the American bank where David Solomon is both chairman and chief executive, Amazon, the giant online retailer where founder Jeff Bezos holds the posts, and Exxon Mobil, the oil and gas group led by Darren Woods. It owns stakes in the trio, according to data from Refinitiv.

Legal & General Investment Management is the fund management division of Legal & General, the FTSE 100 insurer.

Sacha Sadan, director of investment stewardship at the group, said that by voting against every boss who held both posts it would send "a very clear message that we will not support a combined role going forward. The separation of combined CEO and board chair roles provides a better balance of authority and responsibility that aligns with the best long-term interests of companies and investors."

## Burford is making case for profit fall

Louisa Clarence-Smith

The prospect of lower profits was brushed aside by Burford Capital yesterday as the litigation funder issued a trading update.

Burford, which has come under scrutiny for its accounting and governance, said it was "unconcerned" at the expected decline because it was difficult to predict the timing of legal judgments.

The company invests in commercial legal disputes, booking profits partly based on the chances of winning a case at various stages of the legal process. It is trying to restore investors' confidence after an attack last summer by Muddy Waters, an American short-seller, which alleged that the litigation specialist was "egregiously misrepresenting" its return on investments and had "laughter-inducing" governance. It strenuously rejected the allegations.

Yesterday Burford said that net realised gains for last year would be between \$20 million and \$30 million lower than they were 2018. Burford also expects to book between \$50 million and \$70 million less in net "unrealised" gains, which take into account its judgment of what an uncompleted case is worth when a verdict is delivered.

In a statement, Burford said that it was "entirely unconcerned" that its profit would be lower than in 2019. It said court rulings were unpredictable and it was more important to focus on cash returns.

Burford is due to report its results for 2019 on March 24. Its shares rose 23p, or 3.6 per cent, to 653½p yesterday.



## Business

### Sun goes down on city cranes

Construction activity in Britain's biggest regional cities fell from record levels last year as developers cooled on student housing and office schemes (Louisa Clarence-Smith writes).

A total of 57 office, residential, hotel and student housing developments were started last year in the likes of Belfast, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds, right, according to Deloitte. That was down from 97 a year earlier.

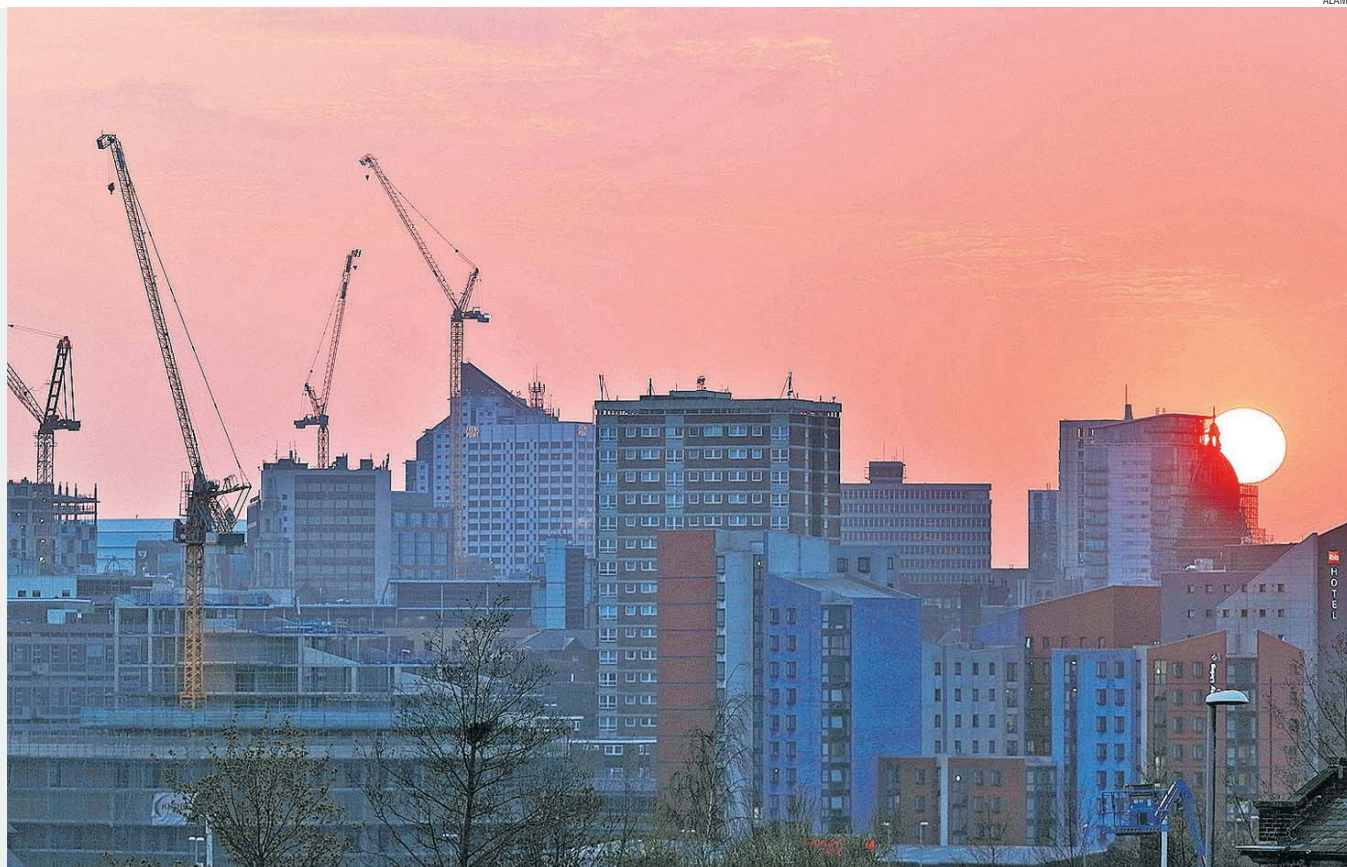
Deloitte's annual crane survey focuses on the volume of commercial property under construction. The number of student beds under construction fell by 16.6 per cent to 7,495

amid concerns of oversupply. Office construction was down by 12.2 per cent on the previous year to 4.3 million sq ft, with activity in Leeds and Birmingham slowing markedly.

Simon Bedford, of Deloitte Real Estate, said: "There is still quite a healthy amount of construction activity in the regional UK cities, but we're seeing challenges arising in the need for infrastructure investment to keep up with real estate."

The number of homes fell marginally to 20,827 from 21,961. The number of hotel beds under construction rose by 7.9 per cent to 2,884, of which 2,446 were in Manchester. No new hotel beds were under construction in Leeds.

"We should not underestimate the pull of things like Premier League football to the hotel market," Mr Bedford said.



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## Ryanair's growth target hits turbulence after Max delays

Dominic Walsh

The chief executive of Ryanair has admitted that the budget airline's target of flying 200 million passengers a year could be pushed back by up to two years owing to delays in the delivery of the Boeing 737 Max.

Michael O'Leary said that he expected to have the first 55 Max aircraft in service by the summer of next year, 12 months later than planned, with another 50 coming into service for the following three summers.

Fallout from the crashes of two Max jets, which led to 346 deaths, has forced the airline to delay its delivery targets, suggesting in its most recent update that it expected to receive ten aircraft for this summer rather than the twenty it had planned.

Mr O'Leary, 58, said yesterday that the first Max aircraft were likely to be delivered in the autumn, missing the peak summer flying period. "What is likely is that we will push out that delivery profile with Boeing by at least 12 months," he said. "At best, that

means we will have to roll forward our plans to reach 200 million passengers per year by at least 12 months, possibly 24."

On that basis, Ryanair, one of the biggest customers of the grounded Max, would not hit its 200 million target until 2025 or 2026.

Mr O'Leary said that the airline was in talks with the manufacturer over the pricing of the aircraft and the recouping of the losses incurred because of the delayed deliveries. These could not be finalised until it had a revised delivery schedule.

Asked whether the group could be forced to close further loss-making bases owing to the Max delays, Neil Sorahan, its chief financial officer, said: "It can't be ruled out."

Ryanair is Europe's largest short-haul airline, flying 154 million customers a year to more than 200 destinations in 40 countries with a fleet of 470 aircraft. The group, which has 19,000 staff, also flies under the Buzz, Lauda and Malta Air flags.

The Max update was given along-

side third-quarter results showing a profit after tax of €88 million, after a €66 million loss in the same quarter last year. Revenues for three months to December 31 grew by 21 per cent to €1.91 billion thanks to encouraging Christmas and new year bookings and ancillary sales.

The airline carried 35.9 million passengers over the quarter, a rise of 6 per cent. Mr Sorahan said that the failure of some rivals had been "helpful" as the load factor improved from 95 per cent to 96 per cent.

Last month Ryanair raised its post-tax profit forecast for the full year to between €950 million and €1.05 billion and Mr Sorahan said that present trading was "close to the middle of that range".

Asked whether Ryanair may consider mergers or acquisitions, Mr Sorahan said that they were not "the first thing on our list". He added: "We plan to grow organically over next few years."

Ryanair's shares rose by 99 cents, or 6.66 per cent, to €15.85.

## Escape plan for credit card debt trap

Kate Palmer Senior Money Reporter

Borrowers trapped in costly credit card debt were thrown a lifeline yesterday when the City watchdog urged lenders to drop fees for people who are struggling to cope.

The Financial Conduct Authority told several credit card firms to help borrowers in "persistent debt" by waiving interest fees and charges rather than cancelling their cards.

Jonathan Davidson, executive director of supervision for retail and authorisations at the FCA, said that lenders should treat people in "persistent debt" with forbearance and should offer sustainable repayment plans.

An estimated 1.78 million credit

card customers are stuck in persistent debt, paying £1.3 billion a year in interest, according to the regulator. In March 2018 it introduced rules to help such borrowers — paying more in interest, fees and charges than they borrowed — forcing pro-

# 1.78m

Card customers in persistent debt

viders including Barclaycard and Royal Bank of Scotland to offer customers in debt for 18 months a repayment plan that might include waiving interest, fees and charges.

The FCA said that customers who

still could not repay after 36 months could have their credit cards suspended. The average interest rate on a credit card is 24.9 per cent, according to Moneyfacts, the rate-tracking website.

In yesterday's letter, Mr Davidson said that companies should give customers notice before cancelling their credit cards and that their reasons must be "objectively justified". He said that the FCA would take action if it thought they were not offering customers appropriate help.

Borrowers typically have turned to 0 per cent balance transfer cards as a way to cut the cost of credit card debt. However, the number of these deals and the duration of the 0 per cent credit period have been cut.



# Takeaway merger goes ahead but final delivery may take 40 days

Dominic Walsh

The £10billion merger between Just Eat and Takeaway.com went ahead yesterday, despite an order from the Competition and Markets Authority to keep the two food delivery businesses separate pending its investigation.

Trading in the shares of Just Eat was suspended before the market opened at 8am and an hour later trading in the stock of Just Eat Takeaway.com com-

menced on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. Shares in the new company closed at £73.30.

Although the merger has gone ahead, the CMA imposed a “hold separate” order on the companies on Friday requiring the businesses to “continue to be run independently and under separate management” until its investigation is completed.

Just Eat Takeaway.com, which delayed completion of the merger by a

## £73.30

Share price of merged company

week after the CMA’s intervention, said that it “takes its responsibilities under the hold separate order seriously” and that the Just Eat and Takeaway.com businesses would continue to operate under separate brand names, logos and

websites for the estimated 40-day review of the deal.

The competition watchdog’s last-minute decision to launch a phase one investigation came as a shock because Takeaway.com, a Dutch operator, has no operations in the UK after closing its small loss-making operation in 2016. It said that it had been informed by the CMA that its investigation was “focused on assessing whether Takeaway.com (absent the Just Eat trans-

action) would have re-entered the UK market”. It made clear that it had no intention of doing so.

Just Eat, launched in Copenhagen in 2001, entered the British market in 2006 and was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 2014. Takeaway.com was founded in 2000 by Jitse Groen, who is chief executive of the merged company. Mr Groen, 41, said yesterday that he remained confident that regulatory clearance would be obtained.

## Drax fuels talk about the end of King Coal

The end of coal-fired power generation in Britain moved a step closer yesterday after Drax said that it was reviewing options for the remaining coal-burning units of its eponymous North Yorkshire power plant (Emily Gosden writes).

A series of other plant closures with more to come mean that by the end of this year coal will be burnt for electricity at only three sites in Britain, including the Drax plant near Selby.

Drax has converted most of the power station to burn biomass wood pellets that qualify for renewable energy subsidies. It has contracts to keep the remaining two coal units running until September 2022 through the government’s capacity market scheme, which offers power plant owners retainer-style contracts to ensure



Even converting the Drax plants from burning coal to biomass does not satisfy all campaigners

that the country has enough power to meet peak winter demand. It said yesterday that it had not taken

agreements to keep the units running from October 2022 and would “assess options for these assets, alongside discussions with National Grid, Ofgem and the UK government”. As recently as 2013,

coal provided the biggest share of Britain’s electricity generation, but this had fallen to only 2 per cent of supplies by last year. Ageing coal plants have been shut down because of pollution rules and the

tax on emissions, which made them increasingly uneconomic to run versus subsidised renewables. Drax had been looking at closing at least one of the coal units as part of plans to

convert them both into a new gas-fired power plant. However, this has been put on hold because of a legal challenge against the government’s decision to grant planning consent for the plant. Tempus, page 42

## American bid brightens fortunes of tycoon

Ben Martin Senior City Correspondent

An insurance tycoon is in line for a multimillion-pound payday after striking a deal with an American private equity firm that values his company at about £650 million.

Peter Cullum’s London-based Global Risk Partners said yesterday that it had agreed to sell a majority stake to Searchlight Capital Partners. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed, but it is understood that the deal values Mr Cullum’s near-33 per cent shareholding at about £100 million.

Mr Cullum, 69, rose to prominence in the insurance sector after setting up Towergate, a broker, in 1997. However, his holding in Towergate was wiped out in 2015 when the business ran into trouble and was forced into a debt-for-equity swap with its bondholders.

The entrepreneur is not cashing out entirely and will retain a stake of less than 10 per cent. The rumoured £650 million price tag includes Global Risk Partners’ debt.

Mr Cullum is the company’s executive chairman. He set up the business in 2013 with David Margrett, 66, its chief executive, and Penta Capital, a private equity firm. All will retain minority stakes, as will the management team.

The company acts as an insurance intermediary and has grown rapidly through a string of acquisitions of regional insurance brokers. Its broking network is its biggest division, with more than 90 offices around the UK. The group also has an underwriting business and owns Lonmar, a broker in the Lloyd’s of London insurance market. It employs more than 1,600 staff and has gross written premium of almost £800 million.

Mr Cullum said that Global Risk Partners had bought more than 50 businesses since it had started and that the deal with Searchlight would give it the financial firepower to strike further acquisitions. “This is a buy-and-build business,” he said. “We’ve got a very, very strong pipeline of potential new deals.”

After the deal, Mr Cullum will become a non-executive director and Mr Margrett will switch to non-executive chairman. Mike Bruce, 57, the present group managing director, will be promoted to chief executive.

Searchlight has more than \$7billion in assets under management and offices in New York, Toronto and London.

Oliver Haarmann, 52, a founding partner at Searchlight, said: “We look forward to working with GRP to accelerate its growth in a highly fragmented industry through Searchlight’s deep investment, industry and operational expertise, as well as our transatlantic presence.”

# Top investor urges Sirius Minerals to explore alternative rescue deal

Emily Gosden

One of the biggest shareholders in Sirius Minerals has called for the North Yorkshire fertiliser mine developer to pursue alternatives to a £405million takeover by Anglo American.

Jupiter Asset Management, which controls about 7.8 per cent of Sirius shares, urged the company’s board to explore a rival approach from a consortium of financial investors offering £680million of debt-based funding. Jupiter said that it wanted a proposal that “would enable shareholders to remain invested in the project”.

Sirius has already recommended the Anglo takeover as the “only feasible option” to save its project and prevent it going bust, wiping out investors — including 85,000 retail shareholders — altogether.

The miner believes that the alter-

native, debt-based funding proposal is “not acceptable”, for reasons including that it would have required the company to “undertake a substantial new equity-raising”.

Sirius Minerals is developing the Woodsmith mine near Whitby to tap a huge resource of polyhalite, a nutrient-rich fertiliser, from about a mile beneath the North York Moors National Park. The project would be Britain’s biggest new mine in decades. Sirius has already invested more than \$1 billion in developing the project, but it requires more than \$3 billion in extra funding to get the mine to production.

It launched a strategic review in September after failing to complete a \$500 million bond issue and it recommended a 5.5p-a-share takeover by Anglo last month after concluding that there were no other viable options.

The takeover by the FTSE 100 miner

will crystallise heavy losses for many investors, who saw shares trade as high as 37p less than two years ago.

Jupiter Asset Management is invested in Sirius primarily via its Jupiter UK Growth Fund, which had £996million under management at the end of 2019, at which point Sirius accounted for 1.6 per cent of its portfolio. The fund, managed by Steve Davies, has significantly underperformed the FTSE All-Share index in recent years.

It is also invested via the Jupiter UK Growth Investment Trust, a listed trust valued at just under £50million, of which Sirius accounted for about 1.4 per cent of the portfolio as of the end of December. This also is managed by Mr Davies, although its board said last year that it was reviewing “alternative arrangements” for the fund after several years of underperformance. Mr Davies called on Sirius’s board to “pursue any

alternative options, including the consortium of financial investors who submitted a proposal for a \$680million funding package earlier in January”.

Jupiter declined to comment on how he would vote on the Anglo proposal, which is due to be put to shareholders shortly and requires approval by 75 per cent of Sirius shareholders.

In a letter to Share Soc, which is acting for several individual shareholders, Sirius said that the alternative debt-based proposal, which was indicative and non-binding, also would have required the company to secure concessions from some of its key creditors.

Sirius reiterated that there was “a very material risk that the overall funding package would not be implementable by the end of March 2020” and it had therefore concluded “there was not likely to be an alternative to the Anglo offer other than administration or liquidation”.



Tempus  
Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips

# Portfolio well insulated from trade war

ABERDEEN STANDARD ASIA FOCUS

Gross assets at Dec 2019 £454m | Dividend, year to July 2019 19p

It's a little over a year since Aberdeen Standard Asia Focus decided to trim its portfolio in an attempt to improve its performance (Greig Cameron writes). Stakes in Cabcharge, an Australian taxi operator, Hong Leong Finance, a financial services firm, and FJ Benjamin, a retailer, were among those ditched. The refreshed strategy, which began in November 2018, focuses on 30 core holdings and a mix of up to 30 others, compared with about 80 investments previously.

Nor was this the only change. Hugh Young, a veteran Asia specialist, was selected as sole named fund manager, having previously been part of a five-strong team picking stocks. And he seems satisfied with the way things are going.

"The portfolio is in good shape and the businesses are strong," Mr Young, 61, said yesterday, speaking from Singapore. "Most of them are market leaders or in a niche of a market where they are one of the dominant players." Nevertheless, there are still a few changes to come. There are several holdings, making up less than 5 per cent of the trust's total, that he intends to offload when market conditions are right.

The trust, formerly known as Aberdeen Asian Smaller Companies,

Plodding along nicely



ADVICE Hold  
WHY A defensive portfolio at a time of uncertainty, as well as a growing dividend. Tweak in strategy has had decent start

was listed in London in 1995. It invests in businesses with a market capitalisation of up to \$1.5 billion and can choose to go into unlisted equities, though it hasn't done so yet. Much of its portfolio is domestically focused — that is on the countries where the companies are based. Mr Young believes that this approach can help to shelter the trust from

Ten largest equity holdings

Bank OCBC Nisp	Indonesia	3.8%
John Keells	Sri Lanka	3.4%
Asian Terminals	Philippines	3%
CEBU	Philippines	2.9%
Millennium & Copthorne	New Zealand	2.9%
AEM	Singapore	2.9%
Oriental Holdings	Malaysia	2.7%
MP Evans	UK	2.6%
Hana Microelectronics	Thailand	2.6%
Ultrajaya Milk Industry & Trading	Indonesia	2.6%

global trade concerns, such as the tariff tit-for-tat between the United States and China.

The trust's arsenal is quite widely spread across the region, including exposures in India, Thailand and Malaysia. Big holdings include the OCBC Nisp Bank in Indonesia, Asian Terminals, the port operator, and John Keells, Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate boasting interests in hotels, IT, transport, retail, food and property.

The companies in the portfolio are also regular dividend payers. That, in turn, helps the trust to maintain its record of paying out increasing amounts to shareholders, with 19p going to those on the register for the

12 months to the end of July last year, up from 17p in the previous year.

The trust's shares were changing hands for 948p in October 2018 and reached a peak of £11.50 in August last year. The stock was up 8.1 per cent over 2019, compared with 6.6 per cent for the MSCI Asia Pacific Small Cap Index, excluding Japan. Yesterday, the shares were down 10p, or 0.9 per cent, at £10.50.

According to Mr Young, the trust has little exposure in China, but is well aware of the potential impact of coronavirus on the wider region. "Trade will be affected, hotel bookings have collapsed, flights have been cancelled," he said. "It will echo a bit through the system, whether it is Australian ore shipments to industry in China or other things. The million-dollar question is whether it is a blip for a quarter and then back to normal."

Even though the Indian economy is "not firing on all cylinders" and there are issues in China, Mr Young remains bullish on the wider prospects for many economies across Asia, in spite of global headwinds. "My 30-odd year career has seen tariff barriers come down and for trade to become easier. There is the potential for those things to go into reverse, which I think is not particularly healthy for the world — but this portfolio, in particular, is relatively well-insulated [from that]. I always call it the tortoise that sort of plods along and then you think, 'Actually it has done rather well.'"

ADVICE Avoid  
WHY Destiny still beyond its control

DRAX

First-half 2019 revenues £2.2bn | Pre-tax profit £4m

Britain's energy sector is so enmeshed in policy and regulation that few utilities can claim to be wholly in charge of their own destinies — but few seem quite so lacking in control as Drax (Emily Gosden writes).

To recap, Drax started out burning coal at its North Yorkshire power plant, but was forced to rethink after the government began to penalise the fuel. It set about converting the plant to burn biomass wood pellets, which qualified for renewable

electricity subsidies, only for the government to cool on biomass. It has converted four out of six units, but subsidies will end in 2027.

Nor was this the only change. Hugh Young, a veteran Asia specialist, was selected as sole named fund manager, having previously been part of a five-strong team picking stocks. And he seems satisfied with the way things are going.

The trust, formerly known as Aberdeen Asian Smaller Companies,

remaining two coal units to a new gas-fired power plant, but a judicial review has just put that on hold. So far, capacity market subsidies appear too low to support it, anyway: Drax said yesterday it had not even taken contracts to keep the coal units open beyond 2022, or to go ahead with another proposed gas plant acquired from Scottish Power last year, although it did secure contracts for existing pumped storage, hydro and gas-fired plants. Drax also wants to make its biomass units viable to compete for such contracts by reducing their operating costs.

Its boldest plan is to turn the plant "carbon-negative" through carbon capture and storage, a plan that may

make sense for the climate, but certainly won't come cheap and as such is entirely dependent on the "right investment and regulatory framework".

Tempus advised avoiding Drax almost a year ago, when its shares were trading at 370p. They are now at 282p, which some may see as a buying opportunity. However, with so much uncertainty ahead, Tempus is still steering clear.

## PRICES

### Major indices

New York		
Dow Jones	28399.81	(+143.78)
Nasdaq Composite	9273.40	(+122.47)
S&P 500	3248.92	(+23.40)
Tokyo		
Nikkei 225	22971.94	(-233.24)
Hong Kong		
Hang Seng	26356.98	(+44.35)
Amsterdam		
AEX Index	592.36	(+2.86)
Sydney		
AO	7019.90	(-101.30)
Frankfurt		
DAX	13045.19	(+63.22)
Singapore		
Straits	3116.31	(-37.42)
Brussels		
BEL20	3929.27	(+21.66)
Paris		
CAC-40	5832.51	(+26.17)
Zurich		
SMI Index	10664.95	(+37.07)
DJ EURO Stoxx 50	3661.27	(+20.36)
London		
FTSE 100	7326.31	(+40.30)
FTSE 250	21160.85	(+17.36)
FTSE 350	4124.48	(+19.34)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3097.72	(+2.91)
FTSE All-Shares	4076.19	(+18.72)
FTSE Non Financials	4855.71	(+21.33)
techMARK 100	5973.19	(+26.83)
Bargains	n/a	
US\$	1.2998	(-0.0182)
Euro	1.1749	(-0.0135)
£:SDR	0.98	(+0.00)
Exchange Index	81.25	(+0.31)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
CPI	108.53	Dec (2015 = 100)
RPI	291.90	Dec (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	292.40	Dec (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	547.05	(-3.21)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	3805.46	(-17.17)

### London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 20	134.85	135.11	134.59	134.83	180952	643042
	Jun 20	132.60	132.60	132.50	134.11	100	
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 20	99.290	99.295	99.285	99.285	96793	703916
	Jun 20	99.390	99.400	99.375	99.385	96059	733072
	Sep 20	99.440	99.455	99.430	99.440	63560	574375
	Dec 20	99.435	99.460	99.430	99.445	60124	694893
	Mar 21						
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 20	100.42	100.42	100.41	100.42	44887	548488
	Jun 20	100.44	100.44	100.43	100.44	70947	437101
	Sep 20	100.45	100.46	100.45	100.45	71883	559223
	Dec 20	100.45	100.46	100.45	100.46	80386	499315
	Mar 21						
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 20	100.72	100.72	100.71	100.72	2732	38886
	Jun 20	100.75	100.76	100.75	100.75	7510	51504
	Sep 20	100.77	100.78	100.77	100.77	3363	39216
	Dec 20	100.79	100.80	100.78	100.78	3858	32866
FTSE100	Mar 20	7216.5	7300.0	7211.5	7275.0	118769	704491
	Jun 20	7155.5	7182.0	7154.0	7194.5	7	647
FTSEurofirst 80	Mar 20				5016.5		
	Jun 20				5010.5		

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### Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)			
Brent (9.00pm)			
Apr	54.27-54.26	Jul	54.50-54.48
May	54.41-54.40	Aug	54.46-54.44
Jun	54.56-54.54	Volume:	2225125
Crude Oils (\$/barrel FOB)			
Brent Physical	54.14	+0.11	
BFOE(Apr)	54.58	-2.17	
BFOE(May)	54.76	-1.63	
WTI(Apr)	50.28	-1.40	
WTI(May)	50.45	-1.32	
Products (\$/MT)			
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)			
Premium Unld	533.00	533.00	-15.00
Gasoil EEC	482.50	484.50	-17.50
3.5 Fuel Oil	242.00	246.00	-7.00
Naphtha	445.00	448.00	-23.00
ICE Futures			
Gas Oil			
Feb	482.25-481.75	May	483.75-483.50
Mar	483.50-483.25	Jun	484.50-484.25
Apr	483.75-483.50	Volume:	737878
RobustaCoffee			
Mar	1299-1297	Nov	1430-1360
May	1313-1311	Jan	1383-1350
Jul	1334-1328		
Sep	1368-1343	Volume:	26293
White Sugar (FOB)			
Reuters			
Oct	396.50-395.60		
Dec	395.00-392.80		
Mar	418.40-418.20	Mar	ung
May	409.90-408.40	May	ung
Aug	402.00-401.50	Volume:	65985





### Ashley bags another prize asset

Mike Ashley's retail empire has bought a 12.5 per cent stake in Mulberry, the British maker of luxury handbags (Callum Jones writes). Frasers, previously known as Sports Direct International, gave no detail on what it had paid, but, based on yesterday's share price, the stake is worth almost £19 million. In a brief statement

announcing the acquisition, the company said that the elevation of Frasers' retail proposition and strengthening of relationships with "premium third-party brands" were priorities. A Mulberry bag can cost as much as £1,295. Mr Ashley's lieutenants had been in talks with the fashion house for months because its products are sold by House of Fraser, which he bought in 2018. The tycoon, who also owns Newcastle United, the Premier League football club, has completed several

takeovers of retailers in recent years, including those of Game Digital and Evans Cycles. Some of his investments have been less successful than others: Debenhams, the department stores chain, fell into administration last year and Goals Soccer Centres collapsed after an accounting scandal. Mulberry has been under pressure in recent months, suffering a loss of £9.9 million before tax in the six months to September 28. Its executives have blamed heavy discounting and market conditions.

### Results in brief

Name	Pre-tax figure Profit (+) loss (-)	Dividend
Porvair (support FY)	£14m (£12m)	4.9p f 3.2p p Jun 5

● Results in brief are given for all companies valued at more than £30 million. f = final p = payable

### The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Watches of Switzerland	Investors bullish ahead of trading update this month 4.4%
Avast	Shares rally after last week's rout 4.4%
Future	Bosses expect this year's profits to be "materially ahead" of consensus 4.1%
Easyjet	Lifted by a "very strong" third-quarter performance from Ryanair 3.8%
Drax	Barclays now a buyer of the stock as it lifts price target 3.7%
First Group	Faces being kicked off the South Western Rail franchise -4.7%
Vivo Energy	Shares slip to lowest levels in over a year -6.3%
Finabl	Analyst downgrade -7.9%
Puretech Health	Recent run comes to an end -8.1%
NMC Health	Shares plunge to four-year lows -19.8%

# ‘Easy to like’ broadband sale is boost for Talktalk

Tom Howard Market report

Investors dialled into Talktalk yesterday after analysts at HSBC ditched their bearish stance towards the telecoms group. The recent £200 million sale of Fibre Nation, Talktalk's fledgling fibre broadband business, to the Goldman Sachs-backed City Fibre was "easy to like. The price, at £200 million, well over three times the net asset value, was substantially ahead of our expectations," the bank's Adam Fox-Rumley said. And he didn't stop there. The deal "meaningfully improves" the company's net debt position, which should fall this year for the first time since 2013. "With an improved balance sheet position and a reduced risk of guidance disappointment at the full-year results in May, a 'reduce' rating is

### Wall Street report

Good news for the US manufacturing sector, with the purchasing managers' index at a six-month high in January, helped markets to recover from Friday's mauling. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 143.78 points, or 0.5 per cent, to 28,399.81.

no longer appropriate and we upgrade to 'hold'." For the third session in a row Talktalk shares closed higher as they advanced another 3p, or 2.6 per cent, to 121½p. Sentiment towards the stock was boosted further by Tristia Harrison, the company's chief executive, who snapped up £200,000 of shares. While Ms Harrison was topping up her stake, a couple of other chief executives cashed in some of their shares. Ben van Beurden, the Dutch boss of Shell, sold stock worth £295,000 in the oil major, which ended the day 36¼p, or 1.8 per cent, down at £19.63, its fortunes not helped, either, by the sliding price of oil. The chief executive of Integrafín, which owns Transact, an investment platform used by financial advisers, also lined his pockets. Ian Taylor and his wife, Frances, sold shares worth £2.5 million, which they are using to buy a new family home. It is not the first time that one of

### PERSONAL INJURY

## Gloom hits accident helpline

The owner of National Accident Helpline suffered a slip of its own yesterday as the claims management company scrapped its dividend and warned that profits for last year and the year ahead would be worse than expected. NAHL Group clarified that underlying profits for the year just gone would fall between 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent short of previous expectations. The Aim-listed company blamed the weak UK property market. Russell Atkinson,



Underdog, star of TV adverts for NAHL, where profits are down

chief executive, said that the 2020 results also would be "significantly lower" than City forecasts, sending its shares tumbling 41.7 per cent to a record low of 56¼p. NAHL anticipates a

knock-on effect from the "considerable uncertainty" around the government's proposed reforms to personal injury claims, which will allow lawyers to be used only if a claim is worth £5,000 or more. The present limit is £1,000. Some of NAHL's competitors plan to exit smaller claims once the regulation is brought in and the company has set up a business to clean up at that end of the market. But bosses think the changes will be pushed back until at least the autumn, prolonging the tricky market backdrop.

Integrafín's top brass has offloaded some of their stock recently. Someone closely associated with Judith Davidson, the company's chief operating officer, pocketed almost £1 million at the end of January, while Michael Howard, Integrafín's founder, sold just over £40 million on the same day. Despite Mr Taylor's disposal, shares in the group rose 15p, or 3 per cent, to a new record high of 510p yesterday. The FTSE 100 made a flying start to the week after last week's heavy losses, rising 40.30 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 7,326.31. Boris Johnson's tough stance in trade talks with the European Union knocked the pound below \$1.30 against the dollar, which helped to prop up the big Footsie exporters. Easyjet ascended to the top of the leaderboard as it got a tailwind from Ryanair, its rival low-cost carrier. The Irish outfit smashed expectations with its third-quarter performance, which the market thinks bodes well

for Easyjet, whose shares flew 53½p, or 3.8 per cent, higher to £14.47. Holding the index back was, once again, NMC Health, the Middle East-focused hospitals group. Shares in the company tumbled by 256p, or 19.8 per cent, to a four-year low of £10.36. A couple of the company's biggest shareholders have been unwinding their stakes recently in order to repay loans. Since a bearish research note from Muddy Waters in early December, the stock has more than halved in value. A tier below, the FTSE 250, without the fillip of a weak pound, could eke out only a small gain of 17.36 points, or 0.1 per cent, to 21,160.85. First Group hit the skids after reports suggested that the travel operator it could be stripped of its South Western Railway franchise if it fails to impress Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, with a pitch to stay in the job. The company's shares dropped 5¼p, or 4.7 per cent, to 118p yesterday.

London Grain Futures				
LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)				
Mar	ung	May	151.25	Jul ung
Nov	159.65	Jan	ung	Volume: 986
London Metal Exchange				
(Official)				
Cash	3mth			Dec 19
Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)				
5593.0-5595.0	5600.0-5602.0			5690.0-5700.0
Lead (\$/tonne)				
1878.0-1879.0	1858.0-1860.0			1882.0-1887.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne)				
2198.0-2200.0	2187.0-2187.5			2168.0-2173.0
Alum Hi Gde (\$/tonne)				
1693.5-1694.5	1718.0-1719.0			1850.0-1855.0
Nickel (\$/tonne)				
12745.0-12750.0	12835.0-12850.0			13245.0-13295.0
Tin (\$/tonne)				
16325.0-16350.0	16200.0-16225.0			16080.0-16130.0
				15mth

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)				
Bullion: Open \$1589.46				
Close \$1574.64-1575.09 High \$1589.65				
Low \$1571.46				
AM \$1580.80 PM \$1574.72				
Krugerrand \$1560.00-1644.00 (£1200.14-1264.76)				
Platinum \$971.00 (£747.01)				
Silver \$17.67 (£13.60)				
Palladium \$2320.00 (£1784.82)				
European money deposits %				
Currency				
1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth	
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	0.71	0.76	0.82	0.88
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %					
Base Rates	Clearing Banks 0.75		ECB Refi 0.00	US Fed Fd 1.50-1.75	
Halifax Mortgage Rate 4.24					
Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 0.694; 3 mth 0.690. Sell: 1 mth 0.610; 3 mth 0.610					
	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	0.7080	0.7450	0.7648	0.8195	0.8793
Clearer CDs	0.80-0.70	0.84-0.74	0.88-0.78	0.97-0.82	1.04-0.89
Depo CDs	0.80-0.70	0.84-0.74	0.88-0.78	0.97-0.82	1.04-0.89
Eurodollar Deps	1.50-1.60	1.62-1.82	1.63-1.83	1.60-1.80	1.74-1.98
Sterling spot and forward rates					
Mkt Rates for	Range		Close	1 month	3 months
Copenhagen	8.7718-8.8866		8.7819-8.7832	108ds	329ds
Euro	1.1895-1.1741		1.1754-1.1752	9pr	27pr
Montreal	1.7239-1.7455		1.7276-1.7278	14pr	41pr
New York	1.2990-1.3182		1.2998-1.2999	10pr	31pr
Oslo	12.050-12.143		12.065-12.069	76pr	242pr
Stockholm	12.534-12.698		12.546-12.550	78ds	230ds
Tokyo	141.07-143.10		141.20-141.23	11ds	37ds
Zurich	1.2544-1.2712		1.2559-1.2560	16ds	49ds
				Premium = pr	Discount = ds

Dollar rates	
Australia	1.4951-1.4952
Canada	1.3292-1.3293
Denmark	6.7567-6.7572
Euro	0.9042-0.9042
Hong Kong	7.7673-7.7678
Japan	108.64-108.65
Malaysia	4.1125-4.1175
Norway	9.2821-9.2846
Singapore	1.3689-1.3691
Sweden	9.6523-9.6540
Switzerland	0.9663-0.9663
Other Sterling	
Argentina peso	78.573-78.585
Australia dollar	1.9432-1.9435
Bahrain dinar	0.4866-0.4937
Brazil real	5.5110-5.5149
Euro	1.1752-1.1754
Hong Kong dollar	10.095-10.097
India rupee	92.678-92.704
Indonesia rupiah	17596-18136
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3944-0.3968
Malaysia ringgit	5.3453-5.3518
New Zealand dollar	2.0111-2.0116
Singapore dollar	1.7791-1.7795
S Africa rand	19.357-19.369
U A E dirham	4.7963-4.7972

Exchange rates		
	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	2.090	1.820
Canada \$	1.880	1.630
Denmark Kr	9.430	8.260
Egypt	n/a	n/a
Euro €	1.290	1.130
Hong Kong \$	10.880	9.570
Hungary	433.240	356.430
Indonesia	20441.000	16304.900
Israel Shk	4.950	4.220
Japan Yen	155.130	134.350
New Zealand \$	2.200	1.860
Norway Kr	12.610	10.900
Poland	5.490	4.500
Russia	86.340	71.900
S Africa Rd	20.860	17.660
Sweden Kr	13.230	11.760
Switzerland Fr	1.390	1.200
Turkey Lira	8.620	7.370
USA \$	1.420	1.250
Rates for banknotes and traveller's cheques as traded by Royal Bank of Scotland plc yesterday		
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## Unit Trusts Business

## The Times unit trust information service

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Assets Trust	98.60	104.00	-0.78	1.49
For Abbey National see Santander				
For Allchurches see Ecclesiastical				
<b>ALLIANCE GLOBAL INVESTORS</b>				
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573				
Gilt Yield A %@	194.72	...	-0.09	...
Strategic Bond Fund %@	168.65	...	+0.36	...
UK Corp Bond C %@	104.79	...	-0.78	...
UK Equity C %@	6317.26	...	-14.91	...
UK Eqty Inc A %@	312.75	...	-0.74	...
UK Gwrth A %@	6616.18	...	-26.96	...
UK Index A Inc %@	1423.81	...	-5.83	3.01
UK Mid Cap A %@	5021.66	...	-30.27	0.24

<b>ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD</b>				
<b>0800 092 2051</b>				
<b>Authorised Inv Funds</b>				
Capital R Acc %@	1680.99	...	-2.86	...
Euro Opps R Acc %@	106.02	...	-0.02	...
Euro Opps R Inc %@	99.18	...	-0.01	...
European Growth R Acc %@	9330.74	...	+0.32	...
Global Energy R Acc %@	29.08	...	-0.27	0.96
Global Growth R Acc %@	274.76	...	-2.26	...
Global Income R Acc %@	125.62	...	-0.84	...
Global Income R Inc %@	87.63	...	-1.59	...
Global Select R Acc %@	123.57	...	-0.59	...
High Income R Inc %@	75.70	...	-0.09	...
Income R Acc %@	456.95	...	-0.68	...
Income R Inc %@	226.06	...	-0.34	...
Monthly Dist R Inc %@	69.08	...	-0.27	...
Strategic Assets R Acc %@	79.18	...	+0.04	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc %@	101.74	...	+0.02	...
Strategic Bond R M Inc %@	57.49	...	+0.01	...
Strategic Bond R Q Acc %@	101.56	...	+0.02	...
Strategic Bond R Q Inc %@	57.46	...	-0.08	...
UK Growth R Acc %@	583.03	...	-2.08	...
UK Smaller Cos R Acc %@	91903.18	...	-1.42	1.46
UK Special Sits R Acc %@	626.05	...	-1.80	...

<b>AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD</b>				
<b>Dirings: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511</b>				
Equity Inc %@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc %@	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc %@	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc %@	2184.00	...	-23.00	...
Jap Smllr Co Acc %@	62.56	66.09	-0.19	...
Managed Inc %@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc %@	254.70	...	-1.30	...
UK Growth Inc %@	242.10	...	-0.10	...
UK Select Opps Inc %@	2001.00	...	-9.00	...
UK Smll Cos Inc %@	318.80	...	-0.60	...

<b>AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD</b>				
<b>Admin &amp; Enq 0117 989 0808 AXA Trusts</b>				
Gen Acc %@	2101.00	...	+6.00	...
Gen Inc %@	1079.00	...	-2.00	...

<b>UK/Global Investment Companies</b>				
Euro Acc A %@	252.20	...	+0.60	...
Extra Inc B %@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwrth Acc R %@	236.90	...	-2.00	...
Japan Acc A %@	164.80	...	+0.20	...
Pac Gwrth Acc A %@	445.00	...	-1.20	...

<b>CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD</b>				
<b>08457 46 46 46</b>				
European Gwrth %@	167.80	...	+0.30	...
Sus Leaders %@	700.00	...	+3.00	...
UK Growth %@	597.10	...	-4.50	...
UK Income %@	219.10	...	-0.50	...

<b>CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD</b>				
<b>0870 606 6402</b>				
Beacon Inv %	84.88	...	+0.35	...

<b>Dealing: 020 7426 6232</b>				
Winchester %	3087.00	...	-62.21	1.21

<b>EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD</b>				
<b>0800 358 3010</b>				
Amity European A %	256.80	...	+0.40	...
Amity International A %	282.10	...	-2.20	...
Amity Sterling Bond A %	106.20	...	-0.20	...
Amity UK A Inc %	251.70	...	+0.10	...
Higher Income A %	129.70	...	-0.60	...
UK Equity Growth A %@	308.30	...	-2.30	...

<b>F &amp; C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)</b>				
<b>Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083</b>				
<b>Share Class 1 - Retail</b>				
Corporate Bd %@	60.58	...	-0.03	...
Emerging Mkts %@	123.00	...	-0.70	...
Euro Gwrth & Inc 1 %@	1105.00	...	+6.00	...
Extra Inc Bond %@	49.70	...	-0.24	...
FTSE All-Shr Track %@	416.00	...	-0.70	...
Global Growth SCL %@	252.50	...	-2.00	...
High Inc Trst %@	12.86	13.53	-0.10	...
Max Inc Bond %@	49.28	...	-0.31	2.97
Multi Man Caut %@	70.41	...	...	...
Multi Man Distr %@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer %@	630.80	...	-10.90	...
Pacific Gwrth %@	476.40	...	-0.10	...
Strategic Bd %@	201.50	...	-0.10	...
UK Equity %@	3522.00	...	-12.00	...
UK Gwrth & Inc Acc 1 %@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwrth & Inc Dist %@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos %@	1079.00	...	-7.00	0.81

<b>FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL</b>				
<b>Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181</b>				
Amer Spec Sits %@	1639.00	...	-3.00	...
American %@	4657.00	...	...	...
Euro Opps %@	505.10	...	+2.80	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European %@	2629.00	...	+7.00	...
Extra Income %@	28.86	...	-0.09	2.72
Glob Spec Sits %@	4449.00	...	-1.00	...
Global Focus %@	2362.00	...	-2.00	...
International %@	416.30	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan %@	416.30	...	+4.20	...
Moneybldr Bal %@	50.06	...	-0.20	...
Moneybldr Glob %@	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwrth %@	76.12	...	-0.95	...
Moneybldr Inc %@	38.49	...	-0.11	...
Moneybldr UK Ind %@	114.09	...	-0.18	...
Special Sits %@	4027.00	...	-23.00	...
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	...

<b>HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD</b>				
<b>01296 386 386</b>				
<b>Authorised Inv Funds</b>				
<b>Share Class 'C'</b>				
Corporate Bond %@	39.65	...	-0.08	...
Ethical %@	91.13	...	+0.01	...
European %@	92.10	...	-0.81	...
Far Eastern %	102.70	...	-1.30	...
Fund of Inv Tst %@	126.50	...	-0.10	...
Intl Gwrth %	95.99	...	-0.62	...
Japanese %	62.76	...	+0.07	...
North Amer %	107.00	...	-0.20	...
Smaller Cos %@	118.00	...	-1.60	1.35
Special Sits %@	53.25	...	-0.45	...
UK Equity Inc %@	86.36	...	-1.07	...
UK FTSE 100 IT %@	62.00	...	-0.81	...
UK FTSE All-S IT %@	71.74	...	-0.82	...
UK Growth %@	80.39	...	-1.00	...

<b>HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD</b>				
<b>Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6</b>				
<b>HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)</b>				
Amer Ind Acc %@	655.46	...	-7.83	...
Amer Ind Inc %@	546.07	...	-6.53	...
Euro Ind Acc %@	946.16	...	+0.03	...
Euro Ind Inc %@	646.05	...	+0.02	...
FTSE 100 Ind Acc %@	239.31	...	-0.10	...
FTSE 100 Ind Inc %@	119.12	...	-0.04	...
FTSE 250 Ind Acc %@	296.64	...	-0.74	2.42
FTSE 250 Ind Inc %@	194.30	...	-0.49	2.66
FTSE All-S Acc %@	625.42	...	+2.38	...
FTSE All-S Inc %@	347.22	...	+1.32	...
Jap Ind Acc %@	128.09	...	+0.23	...
Jap Ind Inc %@	105.56	...	+0.21	...
Pac Ind Acc %@	402.18	...	-0.62	...
Pac Ind Inc %@	269.58	...	-0.41	...

<b>HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class</b>				
Balanced Acc %@	229.10	...	-0.39	...
Balanced Inc %@	148.63	...	-0.23	...
Corp Bd Acc %@	309.37	...	-0.29	...
Corp Bd Inc %@	129.93	...	-0.13	...
Gilt & Fd Int Acc %@	508.40	...	-0.51	1.57
Gilt & Fd Int Inc %@	76.68	...	-0.08	1.59
Income Acc %@	669.79	...	+0.45	...
Income Inc %@	307.36	...	+0.20	...
Monthly Inc Acc %@	313.41	...	+0.02	...
Monthly Inc Inc %@	142.97	...	+0.01	...
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc %@	9139.43	...	+0.12	...
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc %@	688.19	...	+0.06	...
UK Gth & Inc Acc %@	139.43	...	+0.12	...
UK Gth & Inc Inc %@	68.19	...	+0.06	...

<b>HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)</b>				
American Index Retail Acc %@	6655.46	...	-7.83	...
American Index Retail Inc %@	6546.07	...	-6.53	...
Asian Gth Acc %@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc %@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc %@	513.81	...	+0.27	...
Chinese Eq Inc %@	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc %@	824.04	...	+1.67	...
Euro Gth Inc %@	690.87	...	+1.40	...

<b>IGNIS ASSET MGMT</b>				
<b>Dlg: 0141 222 8282</b>				
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond %@	99.69	...	-0.89	...
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	...
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	...
Glob Gwrth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan %@	49.06	51.78	-0.03	0.94
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	...

<b>INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD</b>				
<b>Client Servs: 0207 163 4000</b>				
<b>Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds</b>				
Well Bldr Bal Acc %@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwrth Acc %@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

<b>INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD</b>				
<b>Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677</b>				
<b>Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121</b>				
<b>INVESCO Funds</b>				
UK Str Inc N/Trl %@	452.94	...	-1.90	...
<b>INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds</b>				
Childrens Acc %@	473.80	...	-0.58	...
Corp Bond Acc %@	217.23	...	-0.04	...
High Income Inc %@	382.27	...	-1.11	...
Income & Grth Inc %@	434.01	...	+0.55	...
Income Inc %@	1502.49	...	-4.66	...
Money Acc %@	91.04	...	+0.01	...
Monthly Inc Plus Inc %@	105.54	...	-0.30	...
UK Aggressive Inc %@	185.39	...	-0.54	...
UK Growth Acc %@	655.38	...	-1.89	...
UK Smll Cos Eqty Acc %@	15059.58	...	-7.20	0.56
UK Smll Cos Gwrth %@	82.54	...	-0.04	...

<b>INVESTEC FUND MGRS</b>				
<b>Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900</b>				
<b>OEIC Series I,II,III, &amp; iv</b>				
American A Acc %@	493.72	...	-6.83	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc %@	713.16	...	-34.91	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc %@	9248.73	...	-2.00	1.35
Cautious Managed A Acc %@	9406.64	...	-0.29	...
Cautious Managed A Inc %@	9267.48	...	-0.19	...
Diversified Growth A Acc %@	9130.40	...	-0.62	...
Diversified Growth A Inc %@	9141.24	...	-0.67	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Diversified Income A Acc @	9321.33	...	-0.68	...
Diversified Income A Inc @	976.97	...	-0.42	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc @	9126.15	...	+0.18	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross @	9252.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc @	987.00	...	+0.13	...
Emerging Mkts Curr Debt A Acc @	9146.72	...	-0.91	...
Emerging Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc @	9196.47	...	+0.97	...
Emerg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc @	920.49	...	+0.45	...
Emerg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross A Acc @	992.44	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc @	9119.01	...	-0.65	1.70
Global Bond A Acc @	139.30	...	+0.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc @	109.33	...	+3.00	0.82
Global Bond 1 Gross Inc @	91167.00	...	+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc @	168.97	...	-1.15	...
Global Energy A Acc @	176.14	...	-1.92	1.98
Global Equity A Acc @	174.14	...	-1.68	...
Global Franchise A Acc @	9255.41	...	-2.72	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc @	9973.32	...	-9.05	...
Global Fund A Acc @	174.54	...	+1.77	...
Global Special Situations A Acc @	9271.51	...	-1.27	...
Global Special Situations A Inc @	9211.14	...	-0.09	...
Managed Growth A Acc @	9237.01	...	-1.59	...
Monthly High Income A Acc @	9234.87	...	-0.21	...
Monthly High Income A Inc @	966.80	...	-0.31	...
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc @	9184.57	...	-0.34	...
Strategic Bond A Acc @	244.54	...	+0.09	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc @	119.47	...	+0.19	3.32
Target Return A Acc @	101.64	...	-0.03	0.82
Target Return A Inc @	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc @	2661.40	...	+1.96	...
UK Blue Chip A Acc @	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc @	9545.77	...	-13.38	0.64
UK Smaller Companies A Inc @	94895.51	...	-11.96	0.64
UK Special Situations A Acc @	91316.84	...	-8.35	...
UK Special Situations A Inc @	9487.57	...	-3.09	...



# Business Equity prices

Please note: dividend yields are supplied by Morningstar. They are calculated on the basis of dividends that have been recorded in the annual or half-year reports

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E

## Automobiles & parts

1374% 399% Aston Martin Lagonda 476% - 22% ... -7.1

## Banking & finance

50%	23%	1PM	28%	...	3.2	4.2
2330	2014	<b>Admiral</b>	2259	...	4.0	16.3
38%	16%	ADVFH	18	...	...	...
141	73%	Amynt Pharma	125%	+ 2	...	-2.1
17283%	12002%	Aon Corp	17283%	+ 359%	0.7	36.0
61%	46%	Appreciate Group	59%	+ 1/5	5.4	12.1
1390	1040	Arbutnot Bkg	1170	- 30	2.9	24.1
4%	2%	Arc Minerals	2%	...	...	-0.8
27	15	Arden Partners	15	- 1	6.6	-2.0
25	15%	Argo Group	24%	...	...	15.6
567%	397%	Ashmore Gp	548	+ 4%	3.0	21.8
1478	1238	Aus New Z	1301%	- 23%	6.7	11.1
438%	352%	<b>Aviva</b>	401%	+ 3	7.4	6.9
402	294%	Banco Santander	302%	+ 2%	4.8	10.7
1755	1252	Bank of Georgia	1476	+ 37	4.6	5.5
192%	135%	<b>Barclays</b>	169%	+ 1%	4.1	15.7
628	492%	Beazley	538%	+ 3	2.2	22.9
1/4	...	Blue Star Capital	1/4	...	...	2.0
311	208	BP Marsh&Ptnrs	261	...	1.8	8.0
13%	8%	Braveheart Inv	10	...	5.0	-1.2
375%	287%	Brewin Dolphin	357	- 3	4.5	21.5
47%	29%	Carador	29%	- 4%	12.8	-4.7
73	38	Centos Secs	52%	- 1/2	8.5	16.9
337	235	Charles Stanley	337	+ 4	2.6	15.0
389%	259%	Chesnara	326	+ 1/2	6.3	8.6
145	132%	City of Lon Gp	132%	...	...	...
474	380	City Lon Inv Gp	444	- 4%	6.0	13.0
1/4	...	Clear Leisure	1/4	...	...	-0.4
1663	1227	Close Bros	1435	+ 19	4.4	10.8
164%	77%	CMC Markets	157%	+ 1/2	1.2	18.1
684%	397%	Commerzbank	444%	+ 2%	...	7.7
700	495%	Deutsche Bk	690%	+ 13	1.4	-3.5
366%	270%	Direct Line Ins	339%	+ 1%	6.1	10.8
76%	7%	Downing ONE VCT	72	...	6.9	...
189%	133%	EFG-Hermes Hldg	148%	- 6%	4.3	8.5

## Investment companies

12 month			Price		Yld	Dis(-)
High Low	Company		(p)	+/-	%	or Pm
1189	851%	<b>3I Group</b>	1126	+ 21%	4.3	28.5
314%	229%	3i Infrastructure	308	- 2%	3.7	29.9
121%	100%	Abrdn Div I&G	110%	...	4.2	-8.4
1547%	1095	Aberforth Smir	1432	- 6	2.5	-5.6
874	723	Alliance	834	+ 11	1.5	-4.3
438	362	Asia Dragon Tr	398	+ 7	1.0	-11.3
249	193	Atelney Trust	235	...	3.3	-16.5
802	698	AVI Global Trust	768	+ 5	1.9	-9.3
956	748	Baillie Gifford Euro Gr	918	- 28	3.3	1.9
851	708	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	794	+ 6	0.4	-2.4
193%	167	Baillie Gifford SMI	172	+ 1%	...	-1.4
206%	129%	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	198%	+ 1%	1.4	-5.8
1037%	822	Bankers	991	+ 13	2.1	0.7
1680	1430	BH Global	1530	- 5	...	-3.5
2840	2250	BH Macro	2630	- 10	...	-2.4
964%	648	Biotech Growth	934	+ 28	...	-8.2
78%	62%	BidRck Com Inc	65%	+ 1/2	5.5	-10.5
145	115%	BidRck Frio Inv	119%	+ 3%	5.0	-3.1
423	286	BidRck Grt Euro	410	+ 1	1.4	-0.6
211%	182%	BidRck Inc & Gwth	205	+ 3	3.4	-3.6
544	430%	BidRck Latin Am	482	- 6	5.2	-6.0
204	168	BidRck N Amer Inc	190%	+ 2	4.4	3.4
1760	1280	BidRck Smir	1730	+ 12	1.8	-0.5
704%	467%	BidRck Throgmorton	694	+ 2	1.4	2.0
396	328	BidRck Wild Min	358%	+ 1%	5.2	-12.7
45%	31%	Blue Plan Int Fn	36%	...	5.3	-22.7
358	290	BMO CapClnk	348	- 1	3.3	1.6
130%	103%	BMO Comm Prop	109%	- 1	4.5	-16.1
150	127	BMO Gbl Smaller	141%	+ 1%	1.1	-5.3
906	317	BMO Priv Eq Ord	396%	- 9%	3.8	5.9
6%	79%	BMO Real Estate	85%	+ 1/2	4.8	-16.7
103	88	BMO UK HIT	100	...	4.8	-6.9
103	89	BMO UK HIT B	100	...	...	-6.9
406	348	BMO UK HIT UNIT	399	...	3.5	-7.2
935	720	Brunner	904	+ 6	2.1	-4.6
3195	2900	Caledonia Inv	3070	...	1.6	-16.9
199%	178%	City Merch Hl Yld	194%	- 1%	5.2	2.4
448%	390%	City of Lon FT	424	+ 2%	4.5	1.3
225%	113	Crystal Amber Int	118	- 1%	2.7	-33.8
396	319%	Dunedin Entp	361	...	0.4	-15.6
654	528	Edinburgh Int	602	+ 1	4.1	-11.9
209%	166%	Edin Wwide	202%	+ 3%	...	1.8
427	288	Electra Pte Eq	354	- 17	...	-28.3
319	289	EP Global Opp	304	...	2.1	-3.3
115	97%	European Assets	106%	+ 2%	1.4	-6.8
784	670	F&C Investment Tr	752	+ 13	1.5	...
460	376	Fidelity Asian Val	380%	+ 1%	2.3	-0.1
253	198%	Fidelity China Sp	224	+ 3%	1.6	-9.5
284%	215%	Fidelity Euro Val	259	+ 5	3.3	-7.6
184%	130	Fidelity Jap Tru	168%	...	...	-6.0
280%	234%	Fidelity Spec Val	263	+ 5	2.8	-0.1
966	770	Fins Gwth & Inc	891	+ 2	1.8	0.5
134%	122	GOP Infrastructure	127%	- 1/2	5.2	16.8
205%	111%	GOP Student Living	203%	+ 2	3.6	19.5
820	678	Gem Emer Mkts	764	+ 15	...	-21.3
38%	19	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	30%	- 1/4	...	-14.6
155	128%	Greencoat UK	142%	+ 1/2	4.3	17.3
1140	174%	Hansa Investment	191%	+ 1%	1.3	-33.9
1040	176	Hansa Investment Company	193%	+ 1%	1.3	-32.7
1856	1044	Hbrvest Gbl Pt Eq	1824	- 12	...	-9.6
1350	1095	Hend Euro Foc	1287%	+ 17%	2.2	-7.7
1195	162%	Hend High Inc	184	+ 2	5.2	-1.6
1104	489	Hend Smir	1070	+ 6	2.1	-2.2
1518	1175	Herford	1462	- 12	...	-12.0
269	196	HgCapital Trust	263%	+ 4	1.9	7.0
180%	152%	HICL Infra	177	- 1/2	5.2	14.1
209	179%	Highbridge Tactical	193	- 1	...	-10.3
1015	814	ICC Ent Tr	924	- 42	1.9	-14.9
340	266	Impax Enr Mkts	332	+ 2	0.9	3.6
310%	261	Invesco Asia Tr	278%	+ 2%	2.0	-10.6
308	237%	Invesco Asia Inc	299	+ 2	3.5	-10.8
145	132%	IPST Bal	146	...	...	0.6
128	187	IPST Gbl Eq	207	- 2	3.3	0.5
104	100%	IPST Managed	103	...	0.7	-2.3
190%	165	IPST UK Eq	182	- 3	3.5	-1.2
78	70	IP Enhanced Inc	77%	...	6.7	3.6

12 month	Price					
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E		
19	7½	EH♦	7½	...	...	-2.6
1	1½	Energiser Inv♦	1	...	...	-1.3
210	150	EPE Special Opps♦	199	+ 2	3.2	...
813½	694	FBD	712½	...	6.2	4.8
70	59	Fiske♦	59	- 2½	...	...
46	27	Frenkel Topping♦	45½	- 1½	2.8	32.7
1149½	781	Georgia Capital	781	- 23	...	...
7½	2½	GLI Finance	5½	...	...	-0.8
667½	441	Gresham House♦	667½	...	0.4	...
1355	892½	Gresh Hse Strat♦	1335	...	1.4	...
102½	85½	Gulf Invest	102½	+ ¾	2.3	7.1
398	277	H&T Group	375	...	2.9	12.3
48½	36½	Hansard Global	44½	...	10.0	13.4
2433	1633½	Hargreaves L	1752	+ 27	1.8	33.6
231½	167½	Hastings Gp	182½	+ 2½	7.3	12.5
141½	117½	Helios Under♦	137½	+ 2½	...	22.2
...	...	Highway Capital†	15½	...	...	-5.0
1777	1213	Hiscox	1322	+ 9	2.4	38.5
680½	552½	HSBC	555½	+ 3¾	7.4	10.7
708	474½	IG Group†	660½	- 3	7.0	15.4
405	201	Impax♦	385½	- 8½	1.1	31.8
1729	987½	Intermediate Cap	1729	- 13	2.6	24.4
205½	87	IPF	160	+ 2	7.7	5.2
171½	146½	Intl Public Pntshp	165½	- 1¾	4.2	15.4
518½	395½	Investec	420½	+ 1½	5.8	8.7
347	293	Investment Co†	329	+ 2	5.5	...
109½	55½	IP Group	67½	- 1½	...	...
...	...	IRF Euro Fin Inv	¼	...	...	...
513	435	Jarvis Securities♦	478	+ 2	5.4	13.9
432	314	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	390	+ 4½	4.3	13.4
108½	36	Just Group	80½	+ 2½	...	...
780½	561½	Lancashire Hdqs	746	- 2	1.5	...
27	14	Leeds Group♦	16½	- ½	...	-3.5
317½	216½	Legal & Gen	304½	- 1¾	5.4	9.6
6361½	541½	Liberty Group	541½	- 3¾	7.1	9.7
1335	588	Liontrust	1335	- 10	1.7	41.0
50	34½	Livemore Invs♦	40½	...	...	10.3

12 month			Price		
High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld% P/E
67½	48½	Lloyds Bkg Gp	56½	- ¼	5.7 18.8
59½	38	LMS Capital	38½	+ ¼	... -6.7
4%	1½	Location Sciences♦	1½	-	... -1.3
7986	4489	Lond Stk Ex Gp	7924	+ 88	0.7 58.3
249½	202½	M&G	243½	+ 3½	... 4.1
175½	130½	Man	154½	+ ½	5.9 10.8
9%	7%	Manx Fin♦	8½	- ¼	... 3.4
1%	½	Marechale Cap♦	¾	...	... -2.7
8849¼	6832	Marsh McLn	8700¼	+ 105¼	1.5 36.4
840	662½	Matioli Woods♦	840	+ 5	2.1 27.3
1%	1%	Metal Tiger♦	1½	...	... 2.4
1543	166	Metro Bank	228½	- ½	... ..
1531½	1217½	Nat Aust Bk	1311½	- 18½	7.5 13.7
306	212	Numis♦	289	+ 3½	4.1 21.5
452	313½	Onesavings Bank	427¼	+ 1¼	3.4 8.0
1¼	½	Origo Partners♦	¾	...	... -0.4
553½	388	Paragon†	513½	+ 5½	3.7 9.6
1118	844	PayPoint	1002	+ 3	3.9 15.8
38	24½	PCF Group♦	33	...	0.9 13.7
769	631½	Phoenix Gp	764	+ 6½	6.0 10.0
¾	...	Plutus PowerGen♦	...	...	... -0.3
4%	2½	Polo Resources♦	3½	- ½	... -3.2
610	356	Provident	470¼	+ 5¼	2.1 20.1
1528½	1132½	Prudential	1368	+ 16	3.6 13.4
7%	2½	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	2½	- ¼	... -7.5
174%	120½	Quilter PLC	171½	+ 1	1.9 22.5
223	147	Randall & Quilter♦	176	...	3.1 8.0
2540	1966	Rathbone Brs	1970	- 2	3.3 45.1
187	90	Redde♦	99	+ 1	11.7 8.9
...	...	Robeco N/V	2670¼	...	... ..
...	...	Rolinto N/V	2489¼	...	... ..
270%	177½	Ryl Bk Scot	217	- 1½	2.5 13.1
597	501½	RSA Ins	547½	- 3½	3.8 21.6
2440	1767½	S & U	2140	...	5.5 9.0
59	52½	Schroder REIT	52½	...	4.9 26.3
3419	2541	Schroders	3234	+ 21	3.5 19.4
2615	1962	Schroders N/V	2465	- 25	4.6 14.8

12 month			Price			
High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
295	194%	Balfour Beatty	262½	-	3½	1.8
816	546%	<b>Barratt Devs</b>	810¼	+ 8	3.3	11.2
4092	2698	Bellway	4007	+ 22	3.6	9.1
5412	3437	<b>Berkeley</b>	5296	+ 56	0.5	13.2
1200	933	Big Yellow Group	1167	- 12	2.8	12.0
430	266	Billington Hldgs♦	420	- 10	3.1	10.8
342	233	Bolt (Henry)	335	+ 5	2.6	12.2
93½	58	Breedon Group♦	91½	- 2½	...	20.2
638¼	468½	<b>Br Land</b>	559	+ 4½	5.5	-8.2
270½	162½	Caledonian Tst♦	180	...	...	10.3
250	184%	Cap & Count Prop	242	- 1½	0.6	...
333	136	Cap & Regnl	234¼	+ 3½	1.0	...
1750	1700	Cardiff Prop†	1725	+ 10	0.9	14.0
52	35½	Carecapital♦	39	+ 2½	...	-3.2
140	91	Clarke T	132	+ ½	3.0	8.4
312½	212	CLS Hldgs	267	- 4½	2.5	7.8
507	277½	Countryside Prop†	486	- 2	2.5	13.0
564	162½	Countryside	270½	- 8½	...	0.2
2997	141½	Craven House♦	226½	- 3½	...	6.9
500	332	Crest Nicholson	500	...	-3.6	...
3100	2250	<b>CRH</b>	2922	+ 66	2.2	16.0
6160	4715	Daejan	5230	+ 30	2.0	14.0
4186	2884	Derwent London	4146	+ 36	2.5	12.0
5½	4	Dolphin Capital♦	4	...	...	-1.4
12½	9½	Dragon-Ukra Prop♦	11	+ ¼	...	7.0
1½	...	EQTEC♦	½	...	...	-0.4
52	39½	FIRST Prop♦	44	...	3.7	8.4
46	40	Fletcher King♦	43½	...	4.0	19.2
88	48½	Foxtons Group	84½	+ 1	...	...
886	131½	Galliford Try	151½	+ 2½	47.5	1.9
990	698	Gleeson (MJ)	932	- 26	3.7	15.0
937	645½	Grafton Gp Uts	914	- 6	1.9	14.3
315½	217½	Grainger†	297½	+ 1½	1.7	15.0
940½	649½	Gr Portland	929½	- 1½	1.3	41.1
388½	203½	Hammons	231½	+ 1½	11.1	2.1
117	86½	Hansteen Hldgs	116½	- 1	5.3	10.0
156	116	Harworth Gp	149	- 1	0.6	11.0



Equity prices **Business**

12 month	High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
94½	26		<b>IXICO♦</b>	85	-	½	... -9.3
5½	3½		<b>LIDCO♦</b>	4½	...	...	72.5
415½	293½		<b>Mediclin Int</b>	374½	+ 4½	2.1	21.8
13½	2½		<b>N4 Pharma</b>	3	...	...	-2.4
3000	1036		<b>NMC Health</b>	1036	- 256	1.7	10.2
96.20	76.96		<b>Novartis</b>	CHF91.45	+ 0.28	3.1	29.5
16½	8½		<b>Omega Diags♦</b>	14½	...	...	...
771	496½		<b>Oxford Biomedica</b>	601	- 4	...	...
4	2½		<b>Physiomics♦</b>	2½	- ½	...	...
64½	33½		<b>Premier Veterinary</b>	40	...	...	-1.9
4	2½		<b>Proteome Scies♦</b>	3½	...	...	...
6688	5767		<b>Reckitt Benck</b>	6356	+ 75	2.6	19.8
½	½		<b>Sareum Hldgs♦</b>	½	...	...	-8.1
610	41		<b>Silence Therap♦</b>	398	+ 2	...	...
1990	1424½		<b>Smith &amp; Neph</b>	1833½	+ 7	1.5	29.2
143½	96½		<b>Spire Hare</b>	129½	- 1½	2.9	32.3
32½	19½		<b>Summit Corp♦</b>	21½	...	...	-1.2
17	5½		<b>Synairgen♦</b>	11½	+ 1	...	-3.4
8½	½		<b>Tissue Regenix♦</b>	1	...	...	-1.4
76	40		<b>Tiziana Life♦</b>	40	...	...	-8.4
400	264		<b>Tristel♦</b>	395	- 2	1.2	44.5
832½	551		<b>UDG Healthcare‡</b>	756	+ 5½	1.7	40.6
1½	...		<b>ValRx♦</b>	...	...	...	-0.1
100½	75½		<b>Vectura Grp</b>	93	- ½	...	-7.3
75	38½		<b>Verona Pharma♦</b>	48½	- 4	...	-1.8

**Industrials**

104	83½		<b>Accsys Tech</b>	102½	-	½	...
6274	4733½		<b>BASF</b>	5157½	- 31½	5.4	21.5
6380½	4424½		<b>Bayer DM50</b>	6229½	+ 22½	3.9	...
450	260		<b>Biome Tech♦</b>	270	...	...	...
3½	1½		<b>Eyrolor♦</b>	2½	...	...	13.7
12½	10½		<b>Camb Gbl Timber♦</b>	10½	...	...	...
120½	84½		<b>Cloudcall Group♦</b>	93	- 1	...	-7.8
91½	68		<b>Coats Grp</b>	74½	- 1	1.7	19.4
5375	4564		<b>Croda</b>	5040	+ 56	1.7	27.5
1410	920		<b>Cropper (James)♦</b>	1335	- 15	1.0	3.0
5½	1½		<b>DeepMatter Gp♦</b>	1½	...	...	-4.4
197½	127½		<b>Elementis</b>	127½	...	...	5.0 15.8
750	612		<b>Evans (M.P.)♦</b>	689	- 19	2.6	...
75½	1½		<b>Hardie♦</b>	63	- 1½	...	...
70	52½		<b>Inspiration Health♦</b>	64½	...	...	18.7
5436½	3957½		<b>Jardine Math</b>	4342½	+ 46	3.0	12.3
3074½	2231		<b>Jardine Strat</b>	2349	- 19½	1.1	10.4
3454	2611		<b>Johnson Math♦</b>	2611	+ 6	3.2	13.0
1898	1510½		<b>Mondi</b>	1567	+ 21	4.3	9.0
88½	66		<b>Robinson♦</b>	76½	- 1	7.1	13.1
403	157		<b>Scapa♦</b>	250½	- 1	1.1	...
394½	307½		<b>Smith (DS)</b>	345½	+ 4½	4.6	...
1005½	668½		<b>Swire Pacific</b>	671½	- 9½	4.4	5.5
12½	5½		<b>Symph Environ♦</b>	8½	...	...	...
...	...		<b>Syngenta</b>	34274	+ 68	...	39.2
392½	279		<b>Synthomer</b>	335½	- 2½	3.6	15.6
3376½	2421½		<b>Takeda Pharm</b>	2961	- 26½	4.5	...
4½	1½		<b>Velocys♦</b>	2½	+ ½	...	-1.1
2540	1845		<b>Victrix†</b>	2228	+ 12	2.6	19.3
455	271		<b>Wynnstay Group♦</b>	280	...	...	4.7 7.8
650	302		<b>Zotefoams</b>	435	+ 11	1.4	25.3

**Leisure**

180	129½		<b>888 Hldgs</b>	134½	...	5.9	10.6
1540	342		<b>Accesso Tech♦</b>	368	+ 3	...	...
445	260		<b>Best of the Best♦</b>	403	- 2	0.3	11.5
4430	3056		<b>Carnival</b>	3103	- 15	5.3	8.5
9	1½		<b>Cathay Intl</b>	2½	- ¼	...	-0.6
167½	132½		<b>Celtic♦</b>	145	+ 2½	...	21.3
321	177½		<b>Gineworld</b>	177½	+ ¼	8.2	11.3
326½	221½		<b>Domino's Pizza</b>	312	+ 3	3.0	37.1
285	194		<b>El Group</b>	284½	...	...	-6.1
9456	5525		<b>Flutter Int</b>	8610	+ 8	2.3	36.8
1230	930		<b>Fullr Sm A</b>	942	- 10	2.1	33.7
10½	4		<b>Gaming Realms♦</b>	9	- ½	...	-5.0
939	507½		<b>GVC Holdings</b>	888	+ 10½	3.6	...
490	420		<b>Heavitree♦</b>	425	+ 5	1.8	15.1
230	220		<b>Heavitree A♦</b>	220	...	3.6	7.8
70	57½		<b>Hermes Pacific♦</b>	60	...	...	...
5738	4366		<b>Intercont HtIs</b>	4701	+ 15½	1.9	25.2
158½	104½		<b>Mandarin Orntl</b>	129	- ½	1.8	64.6
131½	93½		<b>Marston's</b>	106½	+ 1½	7.0	...
2½	1½		<b>Minoan Gp♦</b>	1½	...	...	-1.1
470½	238		<b>Mitch &amp; Butlers</b>	400	...	...	12.0
499½	359½		<b>On The Beach†</b>	392½	+ 3	0.8	22.4
2100	1630		<b>PPHE Hotels</b>	1980	- 20	1.7	30.9
½	...		<b>Prospect♦</b>	½	...	...	2.1
285	144		<b>Rack Grp</b>	284	- 2	2.6	40.0
166½	111½		<b>Restaurant Grp</b>	125½	- 3½	5.1	-7.4
61	51½		<b>Rotala♦</b>	54	...	5.0	10.4
39½	26½		<b>Sportech</b>	31½	- ½	...	...
748½	608		<b>SSP Group</b>	650	+ 6	1.6	24.7
77½	19½		<b>St James House♦</b>	36	+ 4	...	...
9½	2½		<b>Tasty♦</b>	9	...	...	-1.9
1211	698		<b>THE</b>	748	+ 20	7.9	12.7
3½	1		<b>Webis Holdings♦</b>	1½	...	...	-8.4
1734	1230		<b>Wetherspoon JD</b>	1555	+ 4	0.7	22.5
5152	3988		<b>Whitbread</b>	4502	+ 32	2.2	38.8
205½	132½		<b>William Hill</b>	173½	+ 1	6.9	62.1
1885	1500		<b>Young &amp; Co - A♦</b>	1550	...	1.3	25.8
1310	1030		<b>Young &amp; Co - N/V♦</b>	1225	...	1.7	20.4

12 month	High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
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**Media**

1½	½		<b>7digital Gp♦</b>	½	...	...	-0.1
43	25		<b>Aeorema Comms♦</b>	39½	...	1.9	12.5
117½	44		<b>Altitude Group♦</b>	49	- 1½	...	...
228	125		<b>Arcontech Grp♦</b>	215	+ 4	0.6	25.7
421½	319		<b>Ascential</b>	366	+ ¼	1.5	60.0
607½	448½		<b>Auto Trader</b>	579½	+ 17½	1.1	26.0
302	220		<b>Bloomsbury Pub</b>	290	+ 6	2.7	24.3
91	28½		<b>Bonhill Group♦</b>	28½	...	...	...
82½	66½		<b>Catalyst Media♦</b>	66½	...	87.2	...
10	½		<b>Catenac♦</b>	½	...	...	-0.1
56½	31		<b>Centaur Media</b>	37	...	8.1	-3.4
877	596½		<b>Daily Mail†</b>	826	+ 14	2.8	21.8
415	225		<b>DCD Media♦</b>	275	...	...	...
8½	3½		<b>Dods Gp♦</b>	4	...	...	-2.2
62	36½		<b>Ebiquty♦</b>	36½	- ½	1.9	-2.7
½	...		<b>Edenille Energy♦</b>	...	...	...	-0.4
1498	1152		<b>Euromoney In Inv</b>	1222	- 2	2.7	66.0
1572	532		<b>Future‡</b>	1332	+ 52	...	...
1410	590		<b>GlobalData♦</b>	1295	- 5	0.8	...
105	64½		<b>Gocompare.com</b>	93	- ½	1.7	19.7
109½	65		<b>Hyve Group†</b>	98½	+ ½	1.9	...
774	519		<b>IG Design Grp♦</b>	774	- 24	1.1	42.5
33	11		<b>Immedia Gp♦</b>	25	- 1½	...	...
892	680		<b>Informa</b>	779	+ 4½	2.8	32.4
156½	103½		<b>ITV</b>	135	- ½	5.9	12.1
19½	1½		<b>Jayving♦</b>	4½	...	...	-2.1
901	587½		<b>Just Eat‡</b>	861	- 4	...	...
71½	20½		<b>Live Company Gp♦</b>	20½	- ¼	...	-3.2
394	79		<b>M&amp;C Saatchi♦</b>	100	...	10.9	6.0
...	...		<b>Mediazest♦</b>	...	...	...	-1.3
160	62½		<b>Mirada♦</b>	135	...	...	1.6
96	56		<b>Mission Group♦</b>	87½	...	2.1	13.4
417½	306		<b>Moneysupermarket</b>	327½	+ 1½	3.3	18.7
1138	869½		<b>News Corp A</b>	1051½	+ 5½	1.5	...
1163½	882½		<b>News Corp B</b>	1077½	+ 3½	1.5	...
658	465		<b>Nex1 15 Comms♦</b>	505	- 1	1.5	58.0
943½	563½		<b>Pearson</b>	566½	- 1½	3.2	9.8
106	76		<b>Photo-Me</b>	89	- ½	9.4	10.0
3	1½		<b>Primorus Inv♦</b>	3	...	...	...
74½	47½		<b>Quarto</b>	72	...	...	6.6
1½	½		<b>Realdot Resources♦</b>	½	...	...	-9.0
145	55		<b>Reach</b>	144	+ 11	4.2	10.1
½	...		<b>REACT Gp♦</b>	½	...	...	-1.1
2050	1606		<b>RKL PLC</b>	2017	+ 4	2.0	26.1
676½	465½		<b>Rightmove</b>	670½	+ 12½	0.9	35.6
15½	11		<b>SpaceandPeople♦</b>	11½	- ¼	4.4	-3.4
452	340		<b>STV Group</b>	423	+ 6	4.7	12.4
290	180		<b>System1 Group♦</b>	290	+ 8	2.5	25.2
14½	8½		<b>Totally♦</b>	14½	+ ¼	...	-4.8
3079	2116½		<b>21st Cent Fox Inc A</b>	2877½	+ 28½	1.3	14.7
3018½	2194½		<b>21st Cent Fox Inc B</b>	2821½	+ 29½	1.3	14.4
½	...		<b>Vela Tech♦</b>	...	...	...	-0.4
2½	½		<b>Vintana♦</b>	1	...	...	-0.7
274	182½		<b>Wilmington</b>	241	- 3	3.6	19.0
1077½	800½		<b>WPP</b>	955½	+ 10½	6.2	17.1
672	435		<b>YouGov PLC♦</b>	656	+ 10	0.4	49.7
½	½		<b>Zinc Media♦</b>	½	...	...	-0.8

**Natural resources**

39½	4		<b>ADM Energy♦</b>	4½	+ ¼	...	3.3
25½	3		<b>AF Energy♦</b>	19½	+ ½	...	...
½	...		<b>Alba Mineral Res♦</b>	...	...	...	...
½	...		<b>Alien Metals♦</b>	½	...	...	-1.1
140½	108½		<b>Alumina</b>	109	- 3	15.8	6.9
1½	½		<b>Aminex</b>	1	...	...	-1.0
3½	1½		<b>Amur Mins Corp♦</b>	1½	...	...	-7.0
½	...		<b>Andalas Energy♦</b>	½	...	...	-0.1
717828½	6068½		<b>Anglo Amer Plat</b>	6068½	- 121½	1.0	23.9
2266	1666½		<b>Ang Am</b>	1992½	+ 6½	3.9	7.9
173½	68½		<b>Anglo Asian Mng♦</b>	139	- 4½	3.9	11.2
1022½	779½		<b>Antofagasta</b>	834½	+ 12½	4.0	16.9
2½	1½		<b>Ariana Res♦</b>	2½	+ ¼	...	7.3
1½	½		<b>Ardk Resources♦</b>	1½	...	...	-4.2
3½	½		<b>Armadae Cap♦</b>	2½	- ¼	...	...
8½	1½		<b>Asiamet Rsrcs♦</b>	2	...	...	-1.6
242	183½		<b>Atalaya Mine♦</b>	202½	...	...	9.1
20½	11½		<b>Avocet‡</b>	13	...	...	-0.2
½	...		<b>Baron Oil♦</b>	...	...	...	-0.3
8½	4½		<b>Beowulf Mining♦</b>	4½	- ½	...	...
½	...		<b>Bezant Res♦</b>	½	...	...	-1.9
2049	1600		<b>BHP Group</b>	1656	- 3½	4.8	12.6
2½	1½		<b>Border &amp; Sthn Pet♦</b>	1½	- ¼	...	-5.4
25	4½		<b>Bougainville</b>	13½	...	...	...
18½	4½		<b>BowlLeven♦</b>	6½	- ½	...	-0.3
582½	452½		<b>BP</b>	452½	- 4	7.3	23.8
975	66½		<b>Cadence Min♦</b>	6½	+ ¼	...	-0.6
13½	4½		<b>Cadogan Petrol</b>	4½	...	...	3.5
213½	143		<b>Caim Energy</b>	167	- 2½	...	-2.1



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INCLUDED<sup>‡</sup>

FOLLOW IN  
THE WAKE  
OF GREAT  
EXPLORERS

YOUR 20 NIGHT VOYAGE TO THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE DEPARTS 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020

## AUGUST 2020

- Thu 13 **Fly from London to Reykjavik, Iceland<sup>‡</sup>**  
Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel for your overnight stay, including breakfast<sup>‡</sup>
- Fri 14 **Reykjavik, Iceland**  
After breakfast, transfer to the port and embark the newly-refurbished *MS Fram* for your 17 night expedition voyage
- Sat 15 - **Cruising the Denmark Strait**  
Sun 16 Sail across the Denmark Strait, a crossing used by Vikings to migrate from Iceland to South Greenland some 1,000 years ago. Enjoy lectures by the Expedition Team and visit the Science Center or just relax with a book
- Mon 17 **Cruising Prince Christian Sound**  
Prince Christian Sound separates Greenland from Sammisog and the Cape Farewell Archipelago. Sail through this narrow channel and enjoy the spectacular scenery
- Tue 18 **Kvanefjord, Greenland**  
Kvanefjord is a 48 km long fjord on the west coast of Greenland. Spend the day exploring this amazing fjord
- Wed 19 **Nuuk, Greenland**  
Nuuk is the oldest town in the nation, founded in 1728. The name Nuuk means peninsula, as it is located at the mouth of one of the most spectacular fjord systems in the world  
**★Included Excursion<sup>‡</sup>: Visit the National Museum of Greenland**  
Visit the National Museum of Greenland. Discover exhibitions covering Greenland's history during the past 4,500 years - from the first Arctic Stone Age cultures to the Norse settlements, the arrival of the Thule culture and the gradual transition to modern day Greenland
- Thu 20 **Sisumut, Greenland**  
Sisimiut is situated 40 km north of the Arctic Circle and is a modern settlement that maintains ancient traditions. Come ashore to explore the colourful town; visit the small museum, hike in the hills and shop for local handicrafts  
**★Included Excursion<sup>‡</sup>: Kayak demo and Museum visit**  
Enjoy a traditional kayaking demonstration and the Sisimiut museum. The Inuit invented the 'qajaq' in Greenland. Experience the Greenland kayakers roll first hand. Sisimiut museum features local cultural history and exhibits different periods of the city's history and its surroundings
- Fri 21 **Ilulissat, Greenland**  
Ilulissat is set in the stunning scenery of the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Just outside the town you can often see enormous icebergs that originate from the Jakobshavn Glacier, one of the most productive glaciers in the Northern Hemisphere. The icebergs make their way down the 20 km fjord before entering Disko Bay  
**★Included Excursion<sup>‡</sup>: Walk to the Icefjords**  
Take a closer look at the beautiful icebergs of Ilulissat Icefjord. Getting a close-up view of these frozen giants will slow your world down and leave you humbled. Join a walk to enjoy this UNESCO World Heritage Site

- Sat 22 **Crossing the Davis Strait**
- Sun 23 **Sam Ford Fjord, Baffin Island, Canada**  
Sam Ford Fjord is set on the east coast of Baffin Island. The fjord is known for its glaciers and granite cliffs rising steeply from the shores to heights up to 1500 metres above sea level
- Mon 24 - **★The Northwest Passage★**  
Sun 30 Head into the heart of the historic Northwest Passage. The first recorded voyage here was led by John Cabot in 1497. The most famous journey was James Cook's failed attempt to sail the Passage in 1776, and of course the ill-fated Franklin expedition of 1845. The first to conquer the Passage by ship was Norwegian Roald Amundsen on an expedition that lasted from 1903 to 1906.  
Depending on the varying ice, below are some of the following places you may experience:  
**Pond Inlet**, called 'Mittimatalik' in Inuktitut, is a traditional Inuit community surrounded by mountains, glaciers, fjords, ice caves, geological hoodoos and drifting icebergs  
**Dundas Harbour** is an abandoned settlement with an old Royal Canadian Mounted Police camp and several archaeological sites. Head ashore to see the ruins of some of these buildings, along with an impressive Thule site.  
**Radstock Bay** is dominated by the striking outcropping of Caswell Tower. The shoreline here is ideal for walks to a pre-historic Inuit dwelling site. Caswell Tower itself features a challenging hike to the summit for great views  
**Beechey Island** is known for the ill-fated Franklin expedition. Two ships sailed into the passage in 1845, but neither were ever seen again. It is known that the Franklin Expedition overwintered on Beechey Island in 1845-1846  
**Gjøa Haven** honours the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, who wintered here from 1903. He was in contact with the local Netsilik Inuit people, and learned a lot from them about survival and travel in polar regions  
Throughout the journey, you will be sailing in amazing straits with unique nature and hopefully enough ice to be on the constant look out for wildlife
- Mon 31 **Cambridge Bay, Victoria – Edmonton, Canada**  
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your internal flight to Edmonton, Canada. Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel for your overnight stay, including breakfast

## SEPTEMBER 2020

- Thu 1 **Edmonton, Canada**  
Enjoy the city of Edmonton before transferring to the airport for your overnight flight to London<sup>‡</sup>
- Fri 2 **Arrive in London**  
Please note, weather, wind and ice conditions have a great influence on the itinerary and the ship's Captain will decide the final sailing schedule. Therefore, itinerary is subject to change.

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  - **FREE** tea and coffee
  - A range of optional shore excursions are available at a supplement<sup>‡</sup>
- **OVERNIGHT** post-cruise 4★ hotel stay in Edmonton, Canada, including breakfast<sup>‡</sup>
- Flights (regional and premium class flights may be available on request<sup>‡</sup>), overseas flights and transfers
- **PLUS**, book a Polar Outside (N) Cabin or above by 8.30pm 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to enjoy an **EXCLUSIVE FREE** case of six fine wines with our compliments\*

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From choir boy to  
England rugby prop  
George Hastings  
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## Obituaries

# 'Mad Mike' Hoare

Chartered accountant who became the 'last gentleman mercenary' and whose dangerous adventures inspired the film *The Wild Geese*

"Mad Mike" Hoare was perhaps the best-known mercenary since Xenophon. Like the ancient Greek general, he had a remarkable gift for leadership in trying circumstances, notably in the mid-1960s in what became known as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where his "Wild Geese" saved thousands of lives during the Simba (Lion) rebellion. Like Xenophon he briefly elevated the reputation of the soldier of fortune and lost much of his réclame in a later misadventure — a failed coup in the Seychelles.

Hoare became involved in the DRC's affairs soon after Belgium's disastrously hasty decision to grant independence in 1960 to what was then known as the Belgian Congo. Much of the new nation's wealth — in particular its copper mines — was concentrated in the province of Katanga. Under Moïse Tshombe it seceded, provoking a counter-rebellion by Baluba tribesmen that Tshombe hired white mercenaries to crush in 1961.

The fighting that followed was confused, and Hoare's time there short. However, three years later he was called back to play a far larger role, this time after Tshombe had become prime minister of the DRC. By then, a Maoist-inspired revolt in the north and east of the vast country, which is four times the size of France, had involved half the population in bloody carnage.

The violence centred on the city of Stanleyville (the "Inner Station" of Joseph Conrad's novella *Heart of Darkness*), where rebels had cut out the mayor's liver and eaten it before his eyes. Knowing that government troops lacked the skill, and indeed the will, to suppress the uprising, Tshombe asked Hoare to raise a force of 1,000 men to do so.

Hoare, never lacking in bravado, later recalled that he wanted the "adventure and fulfilment of command". Yet he was aware of the potential for political interference, not least from Joseph-Désiré Mobutu, the army's powerful chief of staff. More immediately, while Hoare, who was 45, had fought in the Second World War, most of those who answered his recruitment notices proved to have little military training and no aptitude for absorbing it.

He whittled down their number to about 300, but not all of those accepted his leadership. His plan to make a first attack by sailing up a blustery Lake Tanganyika provoked a near mutiny until Hoare stilled the ringleader with a pistol blow to the head. "It was a watershed in my life," he wrote. "The leadership of mercenary troops by force of personality alone demands a hardness of character and a conviction in one's own invincibility, which I did not possess. I was obliged to assume those qualities there and then."

Unlike a contingent known as les Affreux (the Terrible Ones) led by the French mercenary Bob Denard, Hoare's 5 Commando unit committed relatively few acts of casual brutality. He liked to compare his men to the 17th-century Irish mercenaries known as the Wild Geese, who had roamed Europe and who, he fondly imagined, had "offered their hearts for an ideal".

Nonetheless, he sometimes had to mete out savage justice. He sentenced



"Mad Mike" Hoare with his bodyguard in 1964 and, below, close to his 100th birthday, with a biography written by his son Chris

a soldier and keen footballer who had committed rape to having his big toes shot off. Hoare carried out the punishment himself.

The exploit with which Hoare was most frequently credited was the relief in 1964 of Stanleyville, where 1,700 Europeans were held hostage by the Simbas. However, as his not wholly

## He declared that prison 'refreshed my liver and regulated my bowels'

reliable memoir *Congo Mercenary* makes clear, the city was in fact liberated by Belgian paratroopers aided by US air support — both governments had concluded that Hoare's lightly armed force may take too long to win through and had intervened.

This was to affect Tshombe's prestige adversely, but 5 Commando had made some notable forays of its own. At Bangala Hoare came across the bodies of 11 Britons who had been murdered, among them young children. Nonetheless, elsewhere his troops undoubtedly saved numerous locals, as well as whites, for instance at Kindu, where they rescued 220 Europeans who were about to be slaughtered.

Spurred by the horrors they had seen, Hoare's men proved increasingly effective throughout 1965, when they were given a free hand by Mobutu in

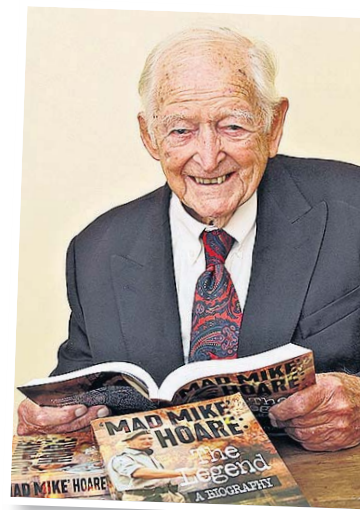
Oriental province, where the rebellion still smouldered. Operating along the shores of Lake Albert, they closed the border with Uganda and the frontier with Sudan, across which aid was flowing to the Simbas.

Hoare, now promoted to lieutenant-colonel, then turned his attention to that which was coming from Burundi and over Lake Tanganyika, where for a time his opponent was Che Guevara. Cold War politics had arrived in Africa, and Hoare acquired his nickname from an East German radio station, which called him "a mad bloodhound".

By turns charming, enigmatic, fearless, proper and yet piratical, Hoare made good copy for journalists. It helped that he had a flair for self-promotion. He and his officers were not above teasing them (one whetted their appetites by offering to reveal the worst thing he had seen — a billiards baize cut up to make epaulettes), which may explain why much written about him was inaccurate.

Hoare was said variously to have been a colonel in the Coldstream Guards or a paratrooper or a Chindit, to have been born in Dublin, to have fought in north Africa, and even to have been secretary of the Natal yacht club. None of this was true.

Thomas Michael Bernard Hoare was born in Calcutta, India, in 1919 on St Patrick's Day — appropriate, given that he was of Irish stock. His father was a ship's master who became a river pilot on the



Hooghly. Mike spent his first years in Bengal, before being sent to Margate College in Kent, which he left at 16.

On the outbreak of war, Hoare — already a territorial — joined the 2nd Battalion of the London Irish Rifles. He was later commissioned and, in 1941, posted to the newly formed 2nd Reconnaissance Regiment, which became part of the Royal Armoured Corps. The next year he sailed for India, where he saw action in Kohima. He then served in Burma, rising to the rank of major.

Subsequently he qualified as a chartered accountant, and in 1948 emigrated to South Africa. He soon began to feel that life offered more if it were lived dangerously. Graduating from long hikes in the bush, he crossed the continent on motorbike, from the Cape to Cairo and from Mombasa to Lobito. By the late 1950s he was leading safaris in the Kalahari Desert and the Okavango Delta.

In 1945, in New Delhi, he had married Elizabeth Stott. They had three children: Chris, who is a public relations consultant; Tim, a musician and builder; and Geraldine, who teaches English in Italy. Chris and Tim live in South Africa.

This marriage ended in 1960, and the next year Hoare married Phyllis Sims, an air hostess, in Durban. They had two sons: Michael, an airline pilot, and Simon, an IT consultant.

During the 1970s Hoare was an adviser to the film *The Wild Geese* (1978), which was inspired by his adventures and starred Richard Burton.

Hoare had an ardent dislike of communism and believed that African states found it hard to resist. It was this conviction that in 1981 caused him to take on the organising of what became known in the press as "the package holiday coup" in the Seychelles. Its socialist regime led by France-Albert René, who had taken power by force, irked the governments of the US (which had a base near by at Diego Garcia) and South Africa, which sponsored Hoare's undertaking.

Disguised as the Ancient Order of Froth Blowers, a group of charitable beer-drinking holidaymakers, Hoare and 50 mercenaries flew into the Seychelles' airport from Swaziland. Weapons were concealed in the false bottoms of their luggage, ostensibly filled with toys such as rugby balls for local children. However, a customs official found a Kalashnikov and was shot dead when he tried to raise the alarm.

During the ensuing fight it became clear that the mercenaries were outgunned by the Seychellois. An Air India jet had landed in the midst of the battle and Hoare hijacked it, forcing the captain to fly his men to South Africa. One mercenary had been killed and several others were left behind.

At his trial in Pietermaritzburg for air piracy, Hoare was described by the judge as "a man with a cavalier attitude to the truth". He was sentenced to ten years, but served only three. On his release from prison he announced that he had "revitalised my soul, refreshed my liver and regulated my bowels".

He spent the next two decades in the south of France, devoting much of his time to studying the history of the medieval Cathar heresy.

His wife died in 2003, and six years later he returned to live in Durban. "I make no apologies for being a mercenary soldier," he reflected. "Quite the reverse... I am proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder with the toughest and bravest band of men it has ever been my honour to command. I am proud that they stood when all else failed."

**Mike Hoare, soldier, was born on March 17, 1919. He died on February 2, 2020, aged 100**



# George Hastings

Powerful and lusty rugby prop who played for Gloucester and England and never lost his competitiveness, even when fishing

George Hastings would never talk about the arts, dark or otherwise, of the scrummaging that he learnt during his rugby career for Gloucester and England in the 1950s. He disliked giving opinionated interviews despite disapproving of the professionalism, money and attitudes that came into the game. There was, though, one incident that he delighted in recounting, for this concerned his defiance in the face of the physicality of his era.

Hastings could see Ron Jacobs and Don White, players he admired, bearing down on him as he positioned himself to catch a high ball in a match against Northampton. He had time to put up two fingers in their direction before, as he put it, “they buried me”. It was a rare moment of levity for a serious-minded person, who was not chosen to play for England until he was 30 and who was always looking to better himself.

He had not even been chosen for his school first XV and yet became, in the words of the great rugby player and commentator Cliff Morgan, who played against him when he made his debut, “the first mobile prop forward”. Hastings played in various positions in the scrum. He was a flanker whose game blossomed when he was put into the front row, one who kicked conversions, penalties and drop goals. He was to win 13 caps for England.

Hastings also played 20 times for the Barbarians, touring Canada and South Africa. In one of these matches he scored 28 points, a haul that included five conversions and five penalties. “He began as a choir boy at Tewkesbury Abbey, finished as a hotelier in Lincolnshire and was almost embarrassed

about his success in the game,” his son Nick said. “And he never talked about skulduggery in the scrum.”

George William Hastings was born in Dursley, Gloucestershire, in 1924, the son of a police inspector in Bishop’s Cleeve who was also christened George William. His mother, Millicent, was a housewife. Although the younger George took up rugby at Cheltenham Grammar School, it was somewhat surprising, given what he went on to achieve in the game, that he was not chosen for the first XV. He did not get on with the games master, who, even though he would have followed Hastings’s career, was never to admit that he had made a mistake.

Nor did the master appreciate that Hastings was improving his strength and fitness by cycling to and from school from his home in Tewkesbury, 12 miles away. The family had no other mode of transport apart from anything provided by the police; sometimes he would hold on to the back of a lorry to speed up his arrival at the school gates.

Hastings played some rugby as a teenager for Old Patesians, a club formed by his school’s old boys, and for Cheltenham during the Second World War — while he was employed as a draughtsman and undertook various apprenticeships at the Gloucester Aircraft Company — and for Gloucester afterwards. During his National Service he was selected for the Army XV in Egypt and Cyprus. Upon returning to England he played for Cheltenham during the 1947-48 season.

Hastings moved to Gloucester in 1949 and captained them in 1954-55. He made 260 appearances for the club and



George Hastings with the England team at Twickenham in 1958, middle row, second from left. Left: with the Barbarians before a match against Transvaal

also played 34 times for Gloucestershire. His speed around the pitch resulted in him scoring 30 tries, a substantial total for a prop forward. The animosity shown towards him by some Cheltenham supporters, as was the case with any player who joined their arch-rivals eight miles away, belied the popular image of a sedate Regency town. “I turned up to a match wearing Cheltenham colours and everyone laughed at me,” his wife, Jean, said. “But the crowd was OK and there was no difficulty with his former team-mates.”

He made his England debut in 1955, against Wales, and played in the four Five Nations games, scoring a try against Ireland. Of his selection, *The Times*’s rugby correspondent said: “The powerful Hastings of Gloucester, as a lusty forward, is well worth his place, but is not everyone’s idea of a front-row prop.” He was by the time he was a part of England’s grand slam-winning team in the 1956-57 season. He won his last cap in 1958, kicking a penalty in the final minutes against Scotland at Murrayfield to draw the match, and finished playing club rugby the year after.

That he did not play international rugby until an advanced age was in part because of his lightweight build in an era of heavy forwards and, strangely, also on account of his versatility — he played club rugby in every position in the scrum and, once, on the wing. “He was technically a good player, but there was nothing to distinguish him physi-

## He put two fingers up at his opponents before ‘they buried me’

cally,” John Woodward, Cheltenham’s historian, said. “He was also a very good goal-kicker.”

Hastings met his wife, Jean Moore, through her brother, Mike, who was playing for Cheltenham. Her father, Tim, one of four generations to represent the club, “was delighted I married a rugby player”, she said. They had two children: William, a retired computer analyst who played rugby for Grimsby; and Nick, a sales director who represented Market Rasen. Hastings

died seven days before their 69th wedding anniversary.

To pursue his post-rugby careers he had to leave the West Country. He took jobs with the Coal Board in Cardiff while still playing for Gloucester, then with the GEC, purchasing goods in London, and moved to Lincolnshire in 1965, becoming a supplies officer purchasing goods at a port outside Grimsby. He and his wife then ran hotels, “reasonably successfully”, as she put it, in Horncastle and Boston, with Hastings working as front of house; he liked to drink with customers, some of whom recognised him.

Hastings made his final appearance on a rugby field when he was 46, playing with his son William for an Invitation XV against Grimsby. He was thrilled when Nick played at Twickenham in a charity match. “He played down his career so we did not feel heightened expectations,” Nick said.

Occasionally, Hastings would return to Gloucester, and he would watch their matches on television. When he was 88 he was invited into the England dressing room before an international to pass on his experiences to the modern-day players. Professionalism or not, he respected them.

He pursued the country sports of shooting and fishing, not least on the Tweed in Scotland, and his old competitiveness never left him. “We never beat him at table tennis or snooker, and he never played against my brother at golf as my brother was too good,” Nick said. “On the Tweed he briefly showed me how to cast, and then left me with two hooks and a bottle of whisky while he disappeared with the ghillie for five hours. When he returned he discovered I had caught two salmon, more than he did — he did toast me with the whisky.”

**George Hastings, rugby player, was born on November 7, 1924. He died of fluid retention and heart failure on December 30, 2019, aged 95**

# Jocelyn Bell

Co-founder and mainstay of the English Speaking Board who helped generations of young people to project their voices clearly

In Southport in the early 1950s two young women were brought together as they sought to develop new ways of teaching spoken English — the kind “that causes neither ambiguity nor embarrassment”, they wrote. Formal elocution lessons seemed old-fashioned and elitist. Instead, the vision of Jocelyn Bell and Christabel Burniston was for children to develop their speaking and listening skills in supportive groups.

“In 1950 Christabel had founded her drama school in Southport: the North West School of Speech and Drama, where I joined her in 1952,” Bell recalled. “One side of the house was our drama studio: two largish rooms knocked into one. Our sitting room, called ‘the library’ as it was full of books, had a large bay window with a window seat, and it was there I was sitting in February 1953 when Christabel returned from the hairdresser and said: ‘I’ve had an idea. I’m going to set up my own system of spoken English assessments. I’m going to start my own examinations board.’”

So was born the English Speaking Board (ESB), of which Bell was for many years a mainstay, helping to promote the importance of the spoken word in a way that today is often referred to as oracy. “We had no money, but much optimism,” Bell said. In the early days she worked as an assessor before setting up the school’s formal training procedures.



Jocelyn Bell in the early 1950s outside Christabel Burniston’s drama school

By the 1960s the ESB was being recognised as a pioneer in the move to develop and promote spoken English skills, and in 1963 11 local education authorities invited the ESB to work with teachers to demonstrate its methods. Soon visitors were coming from as far afield as New Zealand to learn about them, while Bell was taking the organisation’s philosophy to Australia, South Africa and Canada — prompting a move to add “International” to its name. Today ESB (International), based in Ormskirk,

Lancashire, provides speech and language qualifications to 65,000 students a year, many of whom go on to work in public speaking roles.

Mary Jocelyn Bell was born in 1915 in Aslockton, a small village 12 miles east of Nottingham, the daughter of James Bell and his wife, Edith (née Wood). Mary was an only child with elderly parents, and her childhood was a solitary one.

She was educated at Aslockton School, where she particularly disliked games, avoiding them by climbing up

a tree to read a book. Later she studied at Polam Hall, a Quaker girls’ school near Darlington, where she discovered Shakespeare, reading every book on the Bard that she could find.

During the 1930s she was an actress with the Sheffield Repertory Company, appearing on stage with Rachel Kempson and Alec Clunes. In the early years of the war the local theatre, like many, was closed because the government feared mass casualties if it were bombed. However, Southport, then in Lancashire, was exempt, and the company moved there, continuing to perform in the town even after the Sheffield restrictions were lifted.

Eventually Bell gave up acting to look after her sick father while working in an arms factory in Nottingham. Afterwards she qualified as a librarian, before studying with Elsie Fogerty, founder of the Central School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art, and at the Rose Bruford Training College of Speech and Drama, which opened in London in 1950.

Bell, who never married and had no children, developed Fogerty’s approach to what was then called “voice and diction” or “elocution”, in which the focus was entirely on the mouth and nasal cavity. Fogerty included not only the lungs in her teaching, but stressed the importance of the whole body. Bell described this new approach to the teaching of voice production as

“verbal dynamics”. In 1954 she and Burniston published *Rhymes with Reasons*, a collection of speech exercises for young children.

In their book *Into the Life of Things: An Exploration of Language Through Verbal Dynamics* (1972), Bell and Burniston explained how they abandoned the word “elocution” and the manicured constraints that were imposed on rich regional accents and class identity. “The voice and words at a physical level are infinitely complicated movement sequences, and the voice sound movement encapsulates each individual’s essence and who we are,” they wrote.

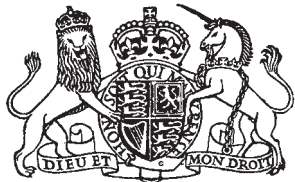
After Burniston’s death (obituary, November 2, 2006), Bell was appointed the honorary president of ESB (International), and in later years, after retiring to Cheltenham, she studied theosophy and astrology, and practised yoga.

Beneath a steely exterior there was a sense of humour, albeit sometimes unintended. On one occasion a student arrived 15 minutes late for her 9am “verbal dynamics” class, saying: “I’m sorry Miss, I couldn’t get my eyes open.” She quickly rebuked him, saying: “Well, you shouldn’t use glue,” at which the entire class burst out laughing.

**Jocelyn Bell, educationist, was born on November 19, 1915. She died on January 13, 2020, aged 104**



Court Circular



**Sandringham, Norfolk**  
3rd February, 2020  
The Queen, Honorary Air Commodore, today visited Royal Air Force Marham, King's Lynn, and was received this morning at the Integrated Learning Centre by the Station Commander (Group Captain James Beck). Her Majesty was received with a Royal Salute and

inspected the Guard of Honour. The Queen moved into the Integrated Learning Centre and met current and former Officers Commanding the Centre, and Station personnel.

Her Majesty received a demonstration of virtual training in the Air System Maintenance Trainer Classroom and viewed demonstrations of a canopy change, a weapons load and engine maintenance in the Integrated Learning Centre Hangar.

The Queen observed the vertical landing of an F-35B Lightning stealth fighter jet and drove past landed aircraft on a runway.

Her Majesty this afternoon attended a Reception in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and was subsequently entertained to Luncheon in the Officers' Mess by the Station Commander.

The Lord Bethell (Lord-in-Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport London this morning upon the Arrival of The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam and welcomed His Majesty on behalf of The Queen.

**St James's Palace**  
3rd February, 2020  
The Princess Royal, Perpetual Master, the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, this afternoon attended the National Saddle and Bridle Competition, Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, Master, the Corporation of Trinity House, this evening attended the United Kingdom Chamber of Shipping Annual Dinner at London Hilton on Park Lane, 22 Park Lane, London W1, and was received by Vice-Admiral Sir Adrian Johns (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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**I MYSELF** will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will find them a place to rest. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken. Ezekiel 34.15 (GNB)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

**HENLEY CARVALLO** On 27th January 2020 to Adriana (née Carvalho Aceves) and Guy Henley, a son, Rowan Alexander in St Thomas's Hospital London.

**MIDDLETON** On 21st January 2020 to Talitha and George, a daughter, Rita, sister to Maria

**SHEEHAN** On 10th January 2020 to Amie Woodbridge and Grant Sheehan, a daughter, Violet Cybill Deborah

Deaths

**AMIES** David John died on 16th January 2020, aged 77. Much-loved husband of Gail, devoted father of Paul and the late Tanaquil, and grandfather of Daniel and Alexander. Funeral service at 3.30pm on 12th February at Hastings Crematorium. No flowers. Donations if desired to the NSPCC. All enquiries to F. Jempson of Battle, 01424 772029.

**BOUSTRED** Christopher Norman died on 1st January 2020, aged 63 Dearly loved brother of Peter, Carol and Roger, son of Ailsa and Kenneth, he will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at Emmanuel Church Lyncroft Gardens London NW6 1JU on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 1.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations to MIND and Samaritans may be sent to Levertons Funeral Directors of 1 Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, London N2 9HG. Telephone 020 8444 5753

**CLIFFORD-JONES** Neville Leo Peacefully at home on January 24th aged 89 years. Beloved husband of Sue. Much loved father of Clare, Sarah-Jane, Frances and Annabel. Proud Gaga of Isabel, Lucy, Georgie, Emma, Alice, Emilia, Tom and Honor. Funeral at St Margaret's Church, Ockley at 11.30am on Monday, February 24th. No flowers please.

**CLIFFORD.** Colonel Nigel David Clifford MBE, Late Royal Engineers died peacefully on 17th January 2020, aged 88. A memorial service will be held at the church of St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 2.30pm.

**GIBBS** Henry Francis, died peacefully on 26th January 2020, aged 91. Dearly loved husband of the late Janet, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to many. Service of thanksgiving at Ampney St Peter Church on Friday 21 February at 2pm.

**HINDLEY** Brian Wilson at home on 20th January 2020. Dearly loved father of Guy and Alexandra and adored Papa of Laura, Maddy, Annabel, Sophie and Giles. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary the Virgin Church, Rolvenden, Kent on Tuesday 11th February at 2.00pm

**JOHNSON** Colonel John Malcolm Curtis Passed away suddenly on 27th January 2020, aged 86. Beloved husband to Penny, father to Sarah and Helen. Service of thanksgiving at St Patrick's Church Patrick Brompton, North Yorkshire on Wednesday 12th February at 2.30pm. All welcome. No flowers please. Donations if wished to SSAFA Forces Help.

**LYTLE** Margarita, lost her battle with cancer on 7th January 2020. Greatly loved and missed mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London, W1J 9LL on Saturday 15th February at 12.30 p.m. Info: mjelytle@gmail.com

**MARLE** William James (Bill) died peacefully on 26th January 2020, aged 89. Much loved husband of the late Doreen and father of William and Liza, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service at St Nicholas Church, Manor Park Road, Chislehurst, BR7 5PE on 12th February at 11.45am followed by a reception. Family flowers only. Donations to Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution with cheques payable to "RMBI cc Pdgok amenities account" the Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Shepherds Green, Chislehurst, BR7 6PA.

**PEECCOCK** Bernard Joseph on 20th January 2020, aged 56. Universally loved and hugely missed by family, friends and colleagues alike. May he rest in peace. For funeral details, please contact: tadworth@stonemanfunerals.co.uk Telephone 01737 814 406

**ROWLANDS** Gill (née Wilkin) passed away on 17th January 2020, aged 74. Gill will be sadly missed by her sons, Nick and Jamie, and grandchildren, Poppy, Benji and Tom. The funeral will take place at 2.30pm on Thursday 6 February at St Paul & St Peter's Church in Steeple Aston, Oxon. Donations welcome to the MSA Trust at www.msatrust.org.uk.

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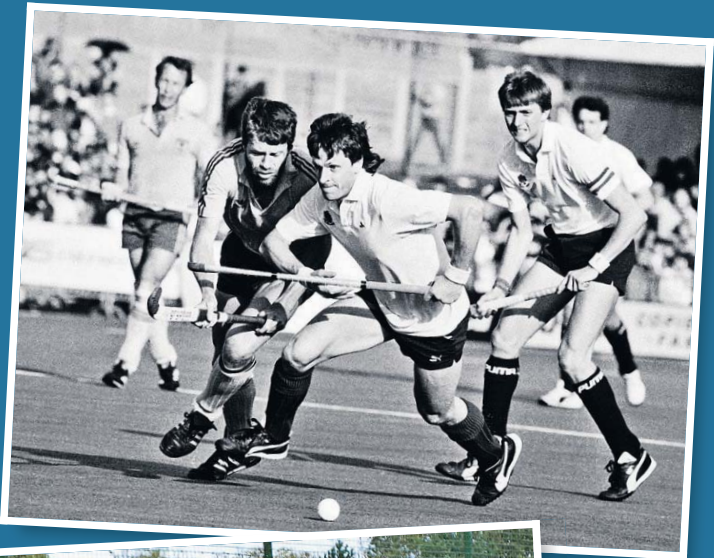


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**THE TIMES**



Weather

**Today** Feeling chilly with sunny spells and the chance of a few showers, mainly in the east. Max 10C (50F), min -3C (27F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy  
du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain,  
sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder  
\*=previous day \*\*=data not available

	Temp C		Rain mm	Sun hr <sup>®</sup>
	midday yesterday		24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	
Aberdeen	8	PC	0.4	0.0
Aberporth	8	C	0.0	0.0
Anglesey	8	PC	0.0	1.4
Aviemore	4	SH	12.4	0.0
Barnstaple	10	SH	2.2	**
Bedford	11	PC	0.0	**
Belfast	6	S	2.4	1.1
Birmingham	8	S	0.0	**
Bournemouth	12	DU	0.8	0.8
Bridlington	9	PC	0.0	**
Bristol	9	C	0.6	0.0
Camborne	9	SH	4.2	0.0
Cardiff	9	R	1.6	0.3
Edinburgh	6	PC	1.2	0.3
Eskdalemuir	4	SH	12.8	0.0
Glasgow	6	PC	8.6	0.1
Hereford	9	S	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	11	PC	2.4	0.0
Ipswich	10	PC	0.0	0.0
Isle of Man	7	PC	0.0	2.7
Isle of Wight	11	C	1.6	**
Jersey	10	PC	5.8	0.0
Keswick	6	PC	4.6	**
Kinloss	6	PC	1.6	0.0
Leeds	6	PC	4.6	**
Lerwick	6	DU	7.2	4.8
Leuchars	5	PC	0.8	0.0
Lincoln	9	PC	0.2	1.5
Liverpool	8	PC	0.0	**
London	12	PC	0.2	0.0
Lyneham	10	PC	0.4	0.0
Manchester	8	C	0.2	1.9
Margate	10	C	0.0	1.1
Milford Haven	9	PC	0.0	**
Newcastle	6	S	0.2	**
Nottingham	9	S	3.8	0.8
Orkney	6	R	8.4	1.2
Oxford	10	B	0.0	**
Plymouth	10	R	4.0	**
Portland	10	C	3.6	**
Scilly, St Mary's	9	R	0.0	**
Shoreham	11	PC	0.0	0.0
Shrewsbury	8	PC	1.0	0.3
Snowdonia	6	PC	2.6	**
Southend	11	PC	0.0	0.9
South Uist	**	**	**	**
Stormoway	6	C	8.4	0.0
Tiree	**	**	7.2	0.4
Whitehaven	5	C	7.4	0.1
Wick	6	C	2.0	**
Yeovilton	10	PC	0.8	0.0

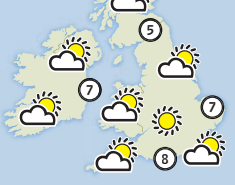
Five days ahead

Gradually turning unsettled and breezy with thick cloud and rain moving in from the west

Tomorrow

A frosty morning in places, but this soon clears to leave a dry day with sunny spells and areas of cloud. The small chance of a shower in northern Scotland.

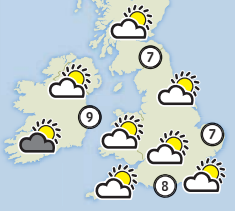
Max 8C, min -2C



Thursday

Dry and mostly sunny with some cloud thickening from the west, after a frosty and foggy morning in places.

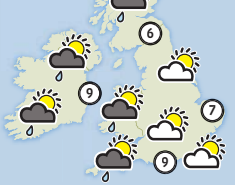
Max 9C, min -2C



Friday

A frosty morning in England, Wales and Scotland with sunny spells, then cloud increasing to bring a few showers over western areas. Mainly cloudy over Ireland with showers.

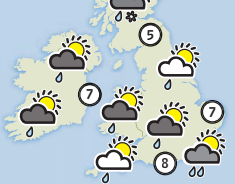
Max 11C, min -2C



Saturday

An area of cloud and patchy rain will clear England and Scotland in the morning to bring a dry day with sunny spells in most places. A few showers in western areas.

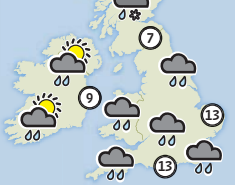
Max 10C, min -1C



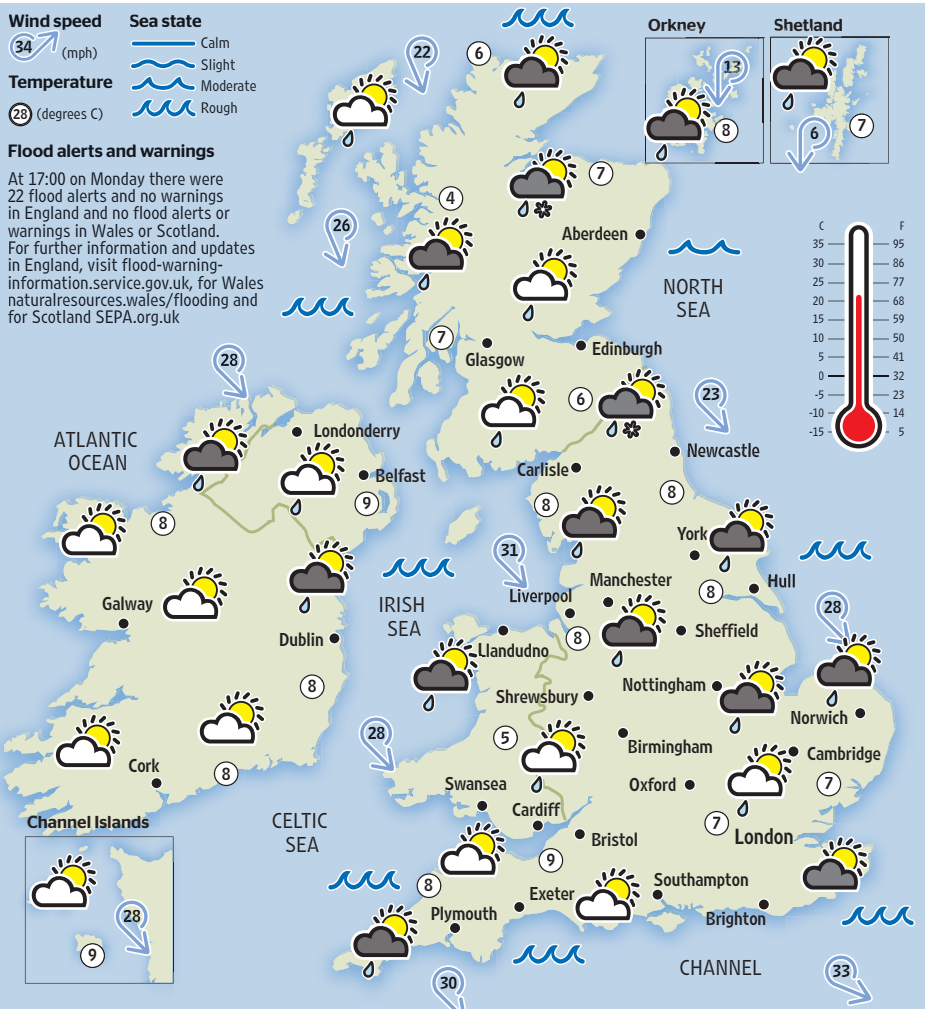
Sunday

A very windy and mostly mild day with thick cloud and outbreaks of rain spreading eastwards, turning heavy at times. Some sunshine in Ireland during the afternoon. Sleet over Scotland.

Max 14C, min -3C



The Times weather page is provided by Weatherquest

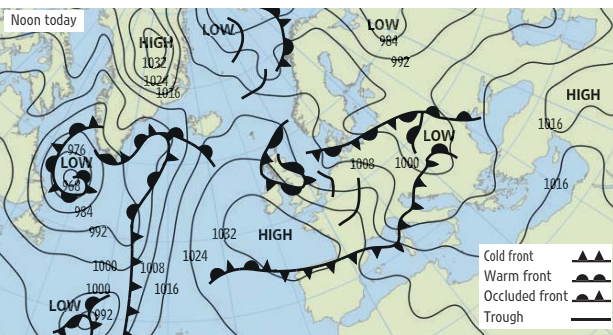


**General situation:** Breezy with plenty of sunshine and a scattering of showers from the north. W Mids, NW Eng, Lake District, Wales, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland, IoM, Argyll: Some sunshine, but areas of thicker cloud will bring the risk of showers from the north at times. Fresh to strong northwesterly wind, turning light later. Maximum 9C (48F), minimum -3C (27F). Cen S Eng, SE Eng, London: A dry day with plenty of sunny spells, before

thicker cloud moves in from the north in the afternoon. Moderate to fresh northwesterly wind. Maximum 9C (48F), minimum 0C (32F). Republic of Ireland, Channel Is, SW Eng: Any showers around at first soon clearing to leave a dry day with sunny spells. Fresh to strong northwesterly wind, becoming light over Ireland later. Maximum 10C (50F), minimum -3C (27F). E Mids, E Anglia, E Eng, Cen N Eng: Some dry and sunny spells at first, but

cloud soon increasing with showers or a longer spell of rain for a time. Fresh to strong northwesterly wind, becoming moderate later. Maximum 8C (46F), minimum -3C (27F). NE Eng, Edinburgh & Dundee, Borders, Cen Highland, Moray Firth, Aberdeen, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, N Isles: Sunny spells and scattered wintry showers, becoming drier later. Fresh to strong northwesterly wind, turning light later. Maximum 9C (48F), minimum -2C (28F).

Tides				
Tidal predictions. Heights in metres				
Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	09:08	3.4	21:27	3.4
Avonmouth	01:37	9.8	14:24	9.8
Belfast	06:42	2.9	19:02	2.9
Cardiff	01:40	9.1	14:25	9.2
Devonport	00:20	4.3	12:53	4.3
Dover	06:15	5.3	19:10	5.2
Dublin	07:27	3.2	19:44	3.3
Falmouth	00:06	4.0	12:34	4.1
Greenock	07:28	2.8	20:05	2.8
Harwich	06:45	3.2	19:22	3.3
Holyhead	05:56	4.3	18:22	4.5
Hull	00:47	6.0	13:46	5.8
Leith	10:14	4.3	22:41	4.4
Liverpool	06:28	7.2	19:00	7.4
London Bridge	08:31	5.7	21:29	5.7
Lowestoft	04:39	2.1	17:49	2.1
Milford Haven	01:04	5.1	13:48	5.2
Morecambe	06:37	7.0	19:13	7.2
Newhaven	06:09	5.1	18:56	5.0
Newquay	00:03	5.2	12:46	5.3
Oban	00:19	2.9	14:17	3.0
Penzance	12:15	4.2	---	---
Portsmouth	06:35	3.8	19:15	3.7
Shoreham	06:24	4.8	19:08	4.7
Southampton	05:17	3.6	17:47	3.4
Swansea	01:02	7.0	13:48	7.1
Tees	11:23	4.2	23:44	4.3
Weymouth	00:57	1.4	13:35	1.3



Synoptic situation

An area of high pressure centred near southwestern Ireland will bring mainly dry conditions and sunny spells over southwestern Britain and Ireland. Low pressure centred in eastern Europe will continue to push a trough and set of occluded fronts southwards across most of the British Isles, bringing thicker cloud and showers or spells of rain.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday  
Warmest: Teddington Bushy Park, Greater London, 11.8C  
Coldest: Cairngorm, -3.8C  
Wettest: Achnagart, Inverness-shire, 33.6mm  
Sunniest: Lerwick, 4.8hrs\*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich  
Sun rises: 07:34  
Sun sets: 16:53  
Moon rises: 12:02  
Moon sets: 04:25 Wed  
Full moon: February 9

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	17:11-07:30
Belfast	17:36-07:36
Birmingham	17:28-07:13
Cardiff	17:36-07:15
Exeter	17:40-07:14
Glasgow	17:25-07:34
Liverpool	17:29-07:20
London	17:24-07:03
Manchester	17:26-07:17
Newcastle	17:18-07:20
Norwich	17:14-07:00
Penzance	17:49-07:20
Sheffield	17:23-07:14

Weather Eye  
Paul Simons



The Earth's climate has fluctuated over the past 2,000 years, and climate-change sceptics argue that this shows the warming in recent times is simply natural variation. But the past climate fluctuations were not always what they seemed.

The climate was so warm from about 950 to 1250 that it is called the Medieval Warm Period, during which harvests were bountiful and huge investment was put into building cathedrals.

At the other extreme, the Little Ice Age from about 1400 to 1800 was a period when winters were sometimes brutal, often typified by frost fairs on the frozen Thames in London, the growth of glaciers in the Alps and hardship for people across large parts of Europe.


However, recent studies show that these lurches in climate were limited to certain regions and didn't occur on a global scale. The global climate over the past two millennia was reconstructed from tree rings, ice cores extracted from glaciers, corals, lake sediments and other natural records. In the Medieval Warm Period, temperatures rose significantly only across about 40 per cent of the Earth's surface. And the Little Ice Age was at its strongest in the Pacific Ocean in the 15th century, while in Europe it was strongest in the 17th century.

In other words, the entire planet didn't heat up or cool down at the same rate or at the same time; different regions changed at their own pace. The only exception is the climate change in recent times, with temperatures having risen across 98 per cent of the Earth, at the same time and at an unprecedented rate.

A stark illustration of how global temperatures have changed since the year AD1 has been devised by Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading (bit.ly/392DFcX). Using coloured stripes for each year — blue for cold and red for warm — he shows that dramatic global warming has happened only in the past few decades, and is unlike anything else in the past 2,000 years.

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# Sport

## Mahomes stands on brink of riches and legend status

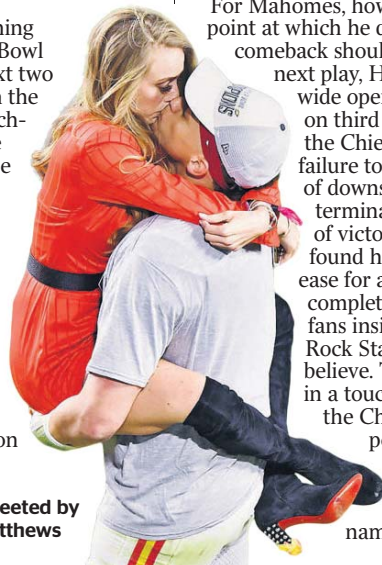
Quarterback delivered when it mattered most as Kansas City Chiefs ended 50 years of hurt, **Charles Walford** writes

The Kansas City Chiefs had to wait 50 years for the franchise's second Super Bowl victory. It would be little surprise if they were to double their tally in the next 50 months. That is because they are the franchise blessed to be able to call Patrick Mahomes their starting quarterback.

The 24-year-old, who won the league MVP last year in his first full season in the NFL, is regarded by many as the brightest talent in the game. And on Sunday night against San Francisco 49ers he proved why — eventually.

He scored the opening touchdown of Super Bowl LIV but spent the next two quarters struggling in the face of the 49ers' much-vaunted defence. The occasion seemed to be passing him by, but that only served to enhance the game's narrative, his race seemingly run before embarking on a comeback for the ages, making a Hollywood throw with the game — and 50 years of Kansas City hurt — on the line.

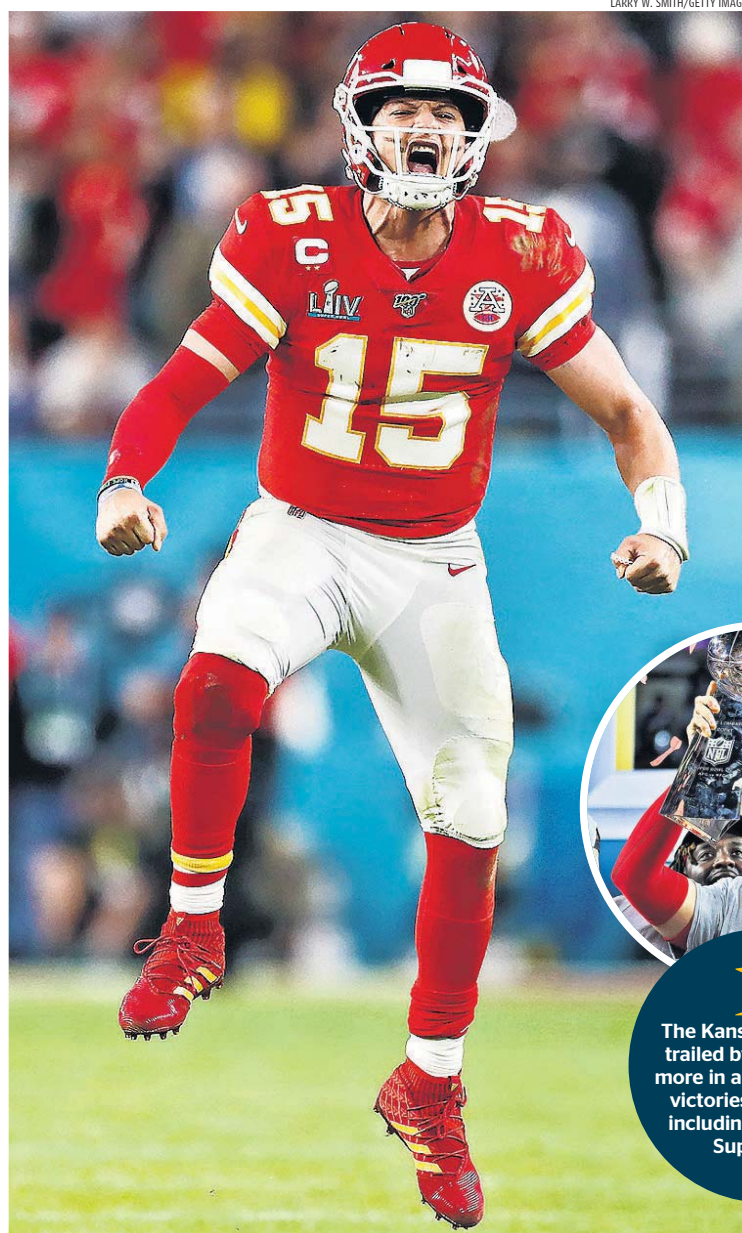
The quarterback is greeted by girlfriend **Brittany Matthews**



Jennifer Lopez and Shakira put on a half-time spectacle of verve and glitz — everything that had been missing from the game's opening exchanges. But while the honours were even on the half-time stage, there was only one team who would be on the winner's podium come the game's end. And for a long time, that looked like being San Francisco.

Mahomes threw two interceptions in the third quarter having had none in the previous two play-off games. The first was when the Chiefs were 13-10 down; less than three minutes later that deficit had widened by another seven points. The second came on the Chiefs' very next possession. That mistake did not prove to be costly, but when he underthrew a pass to Tyreek Hill with the receiver wide open, it only added to the impression that he was running out of ideas.

For Mahomes, however, it was the point at which he decreed the comeback should start. On the next play, Hill was again wide open and this time, on third and 15 and with the Chiefs knowing that a failure to get another set of downs could be terminal to their hopes of victory, Mahomes found his receiver with ease for a 44-yard completion. The Chiefs' fans inside Miami's Hard Rock Stadium started to believe. That drive ended in a touchdown, as did the Chiefs' next two possessions, as they secured a 31-20 victory. Mahomes was named the Super



LARRY W. SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

been a relief pitcher for Texas Tech, giving him the option of following his father into the major leagues. But he was also being watched by the Chiefs head coach, Andy Reid, who saw the young playmaker as a talent around whom he could build an offense with the attacking weapons he had already assembled. Mahomes was the missing piece in the jigsaw, confirmed at the scouting combine, where NFL coaches assess the next generation of talent, when his passes were clocked at 60mph, tying the record for the fastest pass recorded at the combine.

And so Chiefs took Mahomes with the tenth overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft. Three years later, that faith has been rewarded. The financial rewards will follow soon enough. Like all first-round picks, Mahomes was signed to a four-year contract, with the option of a fifth year that the team can trigger. Next season will be his fourth year, meaning that negotiations should begin this off-season. His rookie contract was worth

\$16.42 million (about £12.6 million). That pales into insignificance compared with what he will get next. At the start of the season, ESPN's Adam Schefter suggested that he would be offered a five-year deal worth at least \$40 million a year — Russell Wilson is, at present, the league's highest-paid quarterback on \$35 million a year.

Barring a dramatic loss of form, Mahomes will go down as one of the game's greats, but he is not ready to embrace the hype just yet. When asked if he was now the face of the NFL, Mahomes pointed to Lamar Jackson, the 23-year-old of the Baltimore Ravens, winning the MVP for the season.

After the game, Donald Trump tweeted his congratulations to the "great state of Kansas", in a post that was hastily deleted. The president will hopefully learn his geography, not least as Mahomes has put the Kansas City Chiefs — from Missouri — back on the map.



10

The Kansas City Chiefs trailed by 10 points or more in all their play-off victories this season, including in Sunday's Super Bowl

Mahomes lifts the Vince Lombardi Trophy, inset, after recovering from a poor start to mastermind Kansas City Chiefs' comeback against San Francisco 49ers

Bowl MVP — the youngest quarterback to win the award — to go with the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

It was the third game in a row in which Mahomes had masterminded a comeback of ten points or more. And while he did not play anywhere near

the level he is capable of, he faced a whole new challenge posed by one of the best defences in the game — and found the answer.

Mahomes was chosen by Detroit Tigers in the 37th round of the 2014 Major League Baseball Draft having

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## Sport

# Morgan bans talk of World Cup win

**First one-day international**  
Chris Stocks Cape Town

Quite how you move on from winning the greatest one-day international of all time is anybody's guess. Yet 205 days after that epic World Cup final against New Zealand at Lord's, it is a question that England will try to answer when they play South Africa at Newlands.

This will be England's first ODI since they sealed the World Cup on a boundary countback last July after a tied Super Over. As Ian Smith, the former New Zealand wicketkeeper, memorably exclaimed on commentary at its conclusion, when Jos Buttler ran out Martin Guptill, England had won "by the barest of margins".

Yet it was a triumph four years in the planning and the end of a journey during which Eoin Morgan's team rose from the depths of a first-round exit at the 2015 tournament in Australia and New Zealand to provide arguably the sporting highlight of 2019. Now England must start again as they build towards the next 50-over World Cup in 2023 and, initially, two T20 World Cups in 18 months, the first of which is in Australia this autumn.

Morgan, 33, said that he wanted to be a part of that journey — at least through until the second of the T20 World Cups, in India in 2021. Asked whether he planned to stay on until the next 50-over tournament, also in India, in three years' time, the England white-ball captain said: "I haven't looked that far ahead. I've looked at the next two T20 World Cups and I feel in a good enough space right here and now to be able to say I'm hoping to be here for both of them."

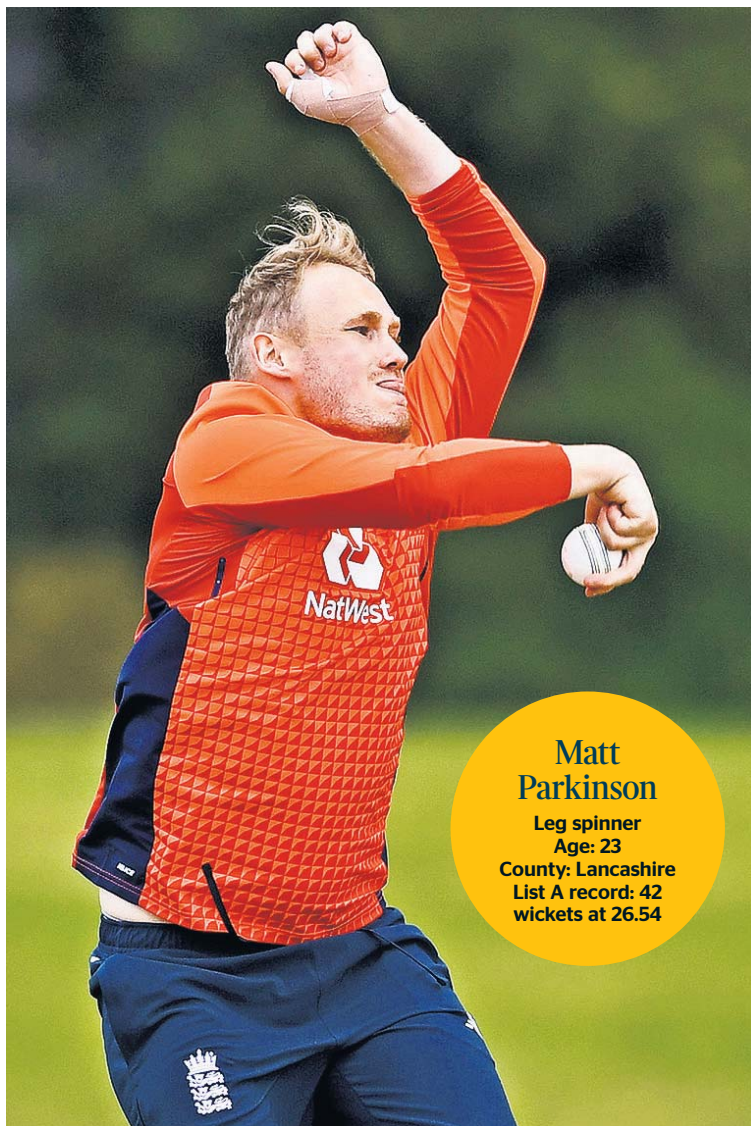
"Over the last four years I have been in the best form of my life. The level of experience I have now has allowed me to grow in confidence as a leader."

There will be an eye on the future in this three-match series, with Ben Stokes, man of the match in the World Cup final, Buttler and Mark Wood rested. Jofra Archer, the fast bowler who delivered the decisive Super Over at Lord's, is also absent with the elbow injury that ruled him out of the final three Tests in South Africa.

Those absences provide opportunities for young players in Tom Banton, the explosive Somerset batsman, and Matt Parkinson, the Lancashire leg spinner. Both are expected to make their ODI debuts at Newlands, with Banton, 21, filling in for Buttler at No 6, and Parkinson, 23, playing ahead of World-Cup winner Adil Rashid.

Morgan was keen to talk about the theme of continual improvement on the eve of this first ODI, with the captain banning his players from referring to themselves as world champions.

"We don't call ourselves that," he said. "I think everybody [else] refers to



## ODI world rankings

		Rating
1	England	125
2	India	121
3	New Zealand	112
4	South Africa	110
5	Australia	110
6	Pakistan	98
7	Bangladesh	86
8	Sri Lanka	81
9	West Indies	80
10	Afghanistan	57

us as that which is awesome. It was our goal to win the World Cup, we managed to achieve that, which was an unbelievable feeling, and it lays down a platform for us to build for the next cycle.

"To put this series in context, it will allow us to build a broader squad so in three to four years' time we have quite a substantial squad to select from like we did before last summer's World Cup."

"That involves younger guys coming through. Ultimately we don't know how good they're going to be until they get exposed."

What sets great teams apart from good ones is their ability to carry on winning. Neither of England's previous men's World Cup winners in high-profile sports — the footballers of 1966 and the rugby union team of 2003 — were able to win another big global title. So how will Morgan ensure that his players maintain their hunger?

"It can be a challenge," he said. "I don't think for one instance that guys are taking the position we are in for granted."

"We are very fortunate to have won



something but the drive forward is extremely important."

Morgan has said that he is open to a return to the England side for Alex Hales but only if the opening batsman can regain the trust of his team-mates.

Hales, 31, was removed from the World Cup squad last year after failing a drugs test. He has been in fine form for Sydney Thunder at the Big Bash, scoring 568 runs at an average of 40.57, making him the second-highest run-scorer in Australia's T20 competition.

Asked by Sky Sports if Hales could return, Morgan said: "Yes, absolutely. Alex is in fantastic form for Sydney but his form has never been a question. What happened prior to the World Cup last summer was a complete breakdown in trust between Alex and the team. The way back for Alex is to try and rebuild that trust and that takes a considerable amount of time."

England will face a much-changed South Africa team from the one that failed to reach the last four of the World Cup. Imran Tahir, JP Duminy and Hashim Amla have retired from ODIs, while Faf du Plessis and Kagiso Rabada have been rested. Quinton de Kock, the new one-day captain, is one of only four players from their final World Cup group match involved in this series.

**South Africa** Quinton de Kock (capt & wkt), Reeza Hendricks, Temba Bavuma, Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller, JJ Smuts, Andile Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz Shamsi, Lutho Sipamla, Lungi Ngidi, Beuran Hendricks.  
**England** Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow (wkt), Joe Root, Eoin Morgan (capt), Joe Denly, Tom Banton, Sam Curran, Chris Woakes, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, Matt Parkinson.  
**Umpires** Gregory Brathwaite (West Indies), Shaun George (South Africa). **TV umpire** Aleem Dar (Pakistan).  
**TV Live** on Sky Sports Cricket, from 10.30am, starts 11am. **Radio** TalkSPORT2, from 10am.

## Murray urged to play on clay this year

### Tennis

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

Andy Murray should consider playing on clay this year to help his preparations for Wimbledon, according to his former coach Alex Corretja.

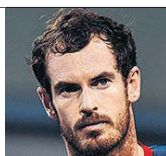
Murray, 32, has been troubled by a pelvic injury since mid-November. The three-times grand-slam champion postponed his return at the Open Sud de France in Montpellier this week and is yet to announce where and when he will return. Given his latest injury and the operation he had on his right hip last year, it was thought that Murray would avoid the clay this year, having not played a match on the surface since

losing to Stan Wawrinka in the 2017 French Open semi-finals.

However, Corretja, the former world No 2 from Spain who worked with Murray between 2008 and 2011, believes that his former charge should not rule out the European clay swing, which starts in April.

"Andy should use clay to get enough matches to be ready for the grass,"

**Murray's return to action after his pelvic injury has been delayed**



Corretja, now a pundit for Eurosport, said. "If he skips the clay-court season, there is going to be such a long gap before the grass. I believe he should use clay, not for practice, but to get in shape. He should aim for the grass season and why not the Olympics again? It is very special, he loves the feeling there and it is a competition he knows he can win."

Corretja acknowledges, though, that the French Open, starting on May 18, may be a step too far for Murray, given that matches there are contested over the best of five sets.

"If he feels it can be a little bit risky, maybe he should sacrifice the French Open, because it's very demanding," Corretja said.

## Hundred tickets snapped up

Elizabeth Ammon

County members appear to have given their tacit support to The Hundred by buying 25,000 tickets for the inaugural edition of tournament.

Members were given the chance to buy discounted tickets for the radical new eight-team event, which begins in July, during a sales window that closed last Friday. The ECB will be pleased with the initial uptake given the vehement opposition to the tournament from many county members who believe that it will harm county cricket.

Surrey have offered free entry to Hundred matches as part of their county membership package but the other city-based franchises offered 50

per cent discount on ticket purchases for the 100-ball tournament.

These initial sales represent only 3.6 per cent of approximately 690,000 tickets available for the 32 matches of the group stage of the men's tournament, based on the capacity of the eight host venues. Each team will play four home matches, followed by a finals day at Lord's in August.

The women's tournament is being played by the same eight teams but is mostly taking place in smaller venues apart from one double-header with their men's team at the main venue. The ECB does not expect every match to be sold out. Colin Graves, the chairman, said last year that he expected a minimum of 60 per cent capacity.



# Chelsea don't want Lampard to offload Arrizabalaga yet

Gary Jacob

Frank Lampard faces a battle with some of Chelsea's hierarchy to sell Kepa Arrizabalaga this summer.

The head coach dropped the goalkeeper for the 2-2 draw with Leicester City on Saturday and has been monitoring possible alternatives to replace him at the end of the season, including Nick Pope, of Burnley, and Dean Henderson, the Sheffield United goalkeeper who is on loan from Manchester United.

Chelsea paid the £71.6 million release clause for Arrizabalaga, 25, right, at the start of last season but he has had some erratic displays of late, with concerns about his shot-stopping and distribution. However, Chelsea may not be



keen to cut their losses so quickly and appreciate that goalkeepers need to develop and mature at an older age.

There are also few other clubs in Europe who would pay a significant fee for the Spaniard, below, who signed a seven-year contract worth as much as £200,000 a week. Marina Granovskaia, the Chelsea director, had a strong hand in the deal when needing a replacement for Thibaut Courtois, who forced a move to Real Madrid.

Arrizabalaga joined after Jan Oblak rejected the chance to leave Atletico Madrid.

Willy Caballero started against Leicester and could face Manchester United a week on Monday. Caballero, 38, is out of contract at the end of this season.

## Results

### Tennis

ATP

Maharashtra Open, India

**First round** S Caruso (It) bt R Ramanathan (India) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; V Troicki (Serbia) bt S Nagal (India) 6-2, 6-7 (4-7), 6-1; Y Sugita (Japan) bt T Fabbiano (It) 6-3, 6-0; C Stebe (Ger) bt I Karlovic (Cro) 6-3, 6-4.

**Open Sud de France, Montpellier**  
**Qualifiers** S Stakhovsky (Ukraine) bt D Petrovic (Serbia) 6-2, 6-4; E Couacaud (Fr) bt G Garcia-Lopez (Sp) 6-3, 6-3; E Ruusuvoori (Fin) bt N Mahut (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3); G Barrere (Fr) bt J Sousa (Por) 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).  
**First round** V Pospisil (Can) bt A Bedene (Slovenia) 6-3, 6-4.  
**Cordoba Open, Argentina First round**  
A Balazs (Hun) bt L Sonogo (It) 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

### Snooker

**World Grand Prix, First round** English unless stated: R O'Sullivan bt D Gilbert 4-3; T Ford bt S Maguire (Scot) 4-3.

### American Football

**NFL Super Bowl LIV, Miami, Florida.**  
Kansas City Chiefs 31 San Francisco 49ers 20.

### Basketball

**NBA (Selected scores):** Indiana 85 New York 92; Orlando 89 Miami 102; Cleveland 112 Golden State 131; Washington 113 Brooklyn 107; Dallas 123 Atlanta 100; Boston 116 Philadelphia 95; Sacramento 113 LA Lakers 129; Portland 124 Utah 107; Detroit 128 Denver 123; Milwaukee 129 Phoenix 108; Toronto 129 Chicago 102.

## Fixtures

### Football

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

**FA Cup: Fourth-round replays** Birmingham v Coventry; Cardiff v Reading; Derby v Northampton; Liverpool v Shrewsbury; Oxford United v Newcastle United (8.05).

**Sky Bet League One** Tranmere Rovers v Doncaster Rovers.

**EFL Trophy: Fourth Round** Newport County v Leicester City U21 (7.0).

**National League** Dover v Barrow. **National League North** Altrincham v Telford United. **National League South** Hungerford v Dorking.

### Cricket

**ODI International Series** South Africa v England (Newlands, 11am).

## Kempton Park

Rob Wright

**4.50** Lord P **7.00 Bobby Wheeler** (nap) **5.25** Inevitable Outcome **7.30** Sea Sculpture **6.00** Law Of Peace **8.00** Caen Na Coille **6.30** Home Before Dusk **8.30** Estrela Star  
**Going:** standard to slow **Racing TV**  
**Draw:** 5f-1m, low numbers best

### 4.50 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,105: 6f) (11)

1 (3) 14-16 YOU DON'T OWN ME 24 (B,CD) J Tuite 9-9 C Bishop  
2 (5) 06-3 GIOVANNI TIEPOLO 31 H Candy 9-7 D Probert  
3 (2) 103-1 SIR RODNEYREDBLOOD 18 (CD) J R Jenkins 9-5 A Kirby  
4 (9) 60-51 LORD P 5 (D) R Hannan 9-4 (6x) T Hammer Hansen (5)  
5 (1) 000-4 UPSTAGE 31 D M Simcock 9-2 C Shepherd  
6 (10) 30-6 BROUGHTON SUNPEARL 29 (H) Tom Clover 9-2 J Haynes  
7 (6) 06-40 FUNNY LITTLE WAYS 25 J P O'Brien (Ire) 9-1 B Curtis  
8 (7) 00-25 CLIFF WIND 18 (V,B,F) Sir M Prescott 8-13 L Morris  
9 (4) 00-0 CHOCOLAAT HEER 40 J J Quinn 8-8 J Fanning  
10 (8) 0600- LADY STARK 95 (P) Miss Amy Murphy 8-7 N Currie  
11 (11) 66-30 STAR OF ST LOUIS 18 (V,D) P Quinn 8-2 K O'Neill  
11-4 Sir Rodneyredblood, 9-2 Lord P, 5-1 Funny Little Ways, 6-1 others.

**Rob Wright's choice:** Lord P won easily at Southwell and is unexposed **Dangers:** Sir Rodneyredblood, Upstage

### 5.25 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,105: 6f) (11)

1 (3) 3620- YOLO ARIS 128 Debbie Hughes 9-7 W Carson  
2 (6) 06-40 RAPIDASH 8 R Hannan 9-6 M Crehan (5)  
3 (2) 6402- DIAMONDS AND RUST 68 W G M Turner 9-5 E J Walsh  
4 (4) 005- GLENCOE BOY 88 D Flood 9-3 D Probert  
5 (11) 0300- SIR GORDON 89 R J Smith 9-2 J Fahy  
6 (10) 663-2 SHYMAY 17 G Margaron 9-2 T P Queally  
7 (5) 3-622 A GO GO GO 10 P Evans 8-13 B Curtis  
8 (9) 60-42 INEVITABLE OUTCOME 18 D M Simcock 8-11 C Shepherd  
9 (8) 0000- BAL MAL 78 J J Quinn 8-7 J Fanning  
10 (7) 02-63 JUNGLE CAPERS 18 M Channon 8-4 N Currie  
11 (1) 5-034 BROUGHTONS COMPASS 10 M Hoad 8-2 D Keenan (3)  
3-1 Diamonds And Rust, 11-2 Shymay, 6-1 Inevitable Outcome, 7-1 others.

**Wright choice:** Inevitable Outcome has had little luck on her past two starts **Dangers:** Jungle Capers, Rapidash

### 6.00 Novice Stakes (3-Y-O: £3,881: 1m) (7)

1 (2) 55- CALL MY BLUFF 59 D F Davis 9-5 L Keniry  
2 (4) 0-0 EGYPSYAN CRACKAJAK 31 D F Davis 9-5 D Costello  
3 (1) 06- FROGE VALLEY LAD 73 E Vaughan 9-5 S Donohoe  
4 (6) HOVER M Meade 9-5 B Curtis  
5 (3) 224- LAW OF PEACE 134 (B,C) C Appleby 9-5 A Kirby  
6 (7) LEXINGTON FORCE R Hannan 9-5 M Dwyer  
7 (5) AFFABLE R Beckett 9-0 R Hornby  
8-13 Law Of Peace, 5-1 Hover, 6-1 Lexington Force, 10-1 Affable, 16-1 Hornby.

**Wright choice:** Law Of Peace has had a break since a below-par effort at Leicester; capable of better **Danger:** Hover

### 6.30 Handicap (E£,938: 1m) (5)

1 (1) 3400- ADELANTE 156 G Baker 4-9-8 George Rooke (7)  
2 (4) 200-0 PINNATA 27 (T,CD) S C Williams 6-9-7 P J McDonald  
3 (5) 151-3 HOME BEFORE DUSK 27 (P,D) K Dalgleish 5-9-5 C Rodriguez  
4 (2) 23-35 ULTIMATE AVENUE 17 (H) D M Simcock 6-8-12 B Curran (3)  
5 (3) 454-3 FAMILY FORTUNES 13 (BF,CD) M Madgwick 6-8-12 L Keniry  
2-1 Family Fortunes, 9-4 Home Before Dusk, 7-2 Pinnata, 6-1 others.

**Wright choice:** Home Before Dusk, third in a better race at Newcastle, can take this **Danger:** Family Fortunes

### 7.00 Handicap (E£,469: 7f) (10)

1 (2) /00-2 BOBBY WHEELER 20 (P,CD) C Cox 7-9-7 A Kirby  
2 (5) 06-14 BRIGHAM YOUNG 13 (D) Ed Walker 5-9-6 L Morris  
3 (9) 40-56 GOSSIPING 10 (CD) G L Moore 8-9-6 S W Kelly  
4 (1) 20-32 KAMRA 6 (P,T,C) M Appleby 6-9-5 A Rawlinson  
5 (6) 506-4 APEX KING 10 (P,D) M Usher 6-9-4 K Shoemark  
6 (8) 50-22 ATLETICO 17 P Evans 8-9-1 B Curtis  
7 (4) 50-14 NEZAR 18 (D) D Ivory 9-9-0 Sophie Ralston (5) A Bailey  
8 (3) 423-5 DESERT LAND 17 Boyle 4-8-11 H Turner  
9 (10) 440-5 MYKINDOFSUNSHINE 33 Mark Pattinson 4-8-9 W Carson  
10 (7) /00-0 WAQAAS 10 (D) M Usher 6-8-9 N Currie  
10-3 Kamra, 4-1 Brigham Young, 9-2 Atletico, 7-1 Desert Land, 8-1 others.

**Wright choice:** Bobby Wheeler returned to form when second at Wolverhampton **Dangers:** Atletico, Mykindofsunshine

### 7.30 Handicap (E£,469: 1m 3f) (7)

1 (4) 2600- ALLEGIANT 99 S C Williams 5-9-7 P J McDonald  
2 (2) 160-2 STARFIGHTER 18 (P,B,F) Ed Walker 4-9-6 L Morris  
3 (1) 1/56- DESERT FRIEND 183 (H,C) D M Simcock 4-9-5 C Shepherd  
4 (6) 430-6 GREY D'ARS 33 N Littmenden 4-9-5 A Kirby  
5 (3) 003-2 ILHABELA FACT 15 (CD) A Carroll 6-9-4 B Curtis  
6 (7) 14-40 ARGUS 10 (T,CD) Alexandra Dunn 8-9-2 D Muscutt  
7 (5) 145-6 SEA SCULPTURE 28 A Balding 4-9-2 W Carver (5)  
9-4 Starfighter, 7-2 Sea Sculpture, 4-1 Ilhabela Fact, 5-1 Allegiant, 10-1 Grey D'Ar's, Desert Friend, 14-1 Argus.

**Wright choice:** Sea Sculpture did not handle the Fibresand surface when sixth at Southwell **Danger:** Ilhabela Fact

### 8.00 Fillies' Handicap (E£,752: 1m 3f) (9)

1 (8) 306-4 PROXY 7 M Appleby 4-9-10 A Rawlinson  
2 (7) 66-24 VOI 10 (T,B,F,CD) C Allen 6-9-8 G Malone (3)  
3 (5) 326-0 CAEN NA COILLE 24 (H) C Fellowes 4-9-8 H Turner  
4 (6) 4511- HINDAAM 96 W Jarvis 4-9-7 K Shoemark  
5 (2) 2531- ICONIC CODE J13 (P) K Dalgleish 5-9-5 J Fanning  
6 (1) 3534- MUNAJAJAAT 67 (T) J P O'Brien (Ire) 4-9-4 B Curtis  
7 (9) 253-3 LUCK OF CLOVER 22 (BF) A Balding 4-9-2 D Probert  
8 (3) 620-0 COMEONFEELTHEFORCE 25 (T,C) L Carter 4-9-2 C Shepherd  
9 (4) 500-3 DESTINY'S ROCK 15 M Loughnane 5-9-1 K Lunde (5)  
7-2 Munajajat, 4-1 Hindaam, 5-1 Iconic Code, 7-1 Voi, Luck Of Clover, 8-1 Proxy, 10-1 Destinys Rock, Caen Na Coille, 16-1 ComeonfeeltheForce.

**Wright choice:** Caen Na Coille is bred to improve for this step up in distance **Dangers:** Hindaam, Munajajat

### 8.30 Handicap (E£,105: 2m) (14)

1 (2) 554-6 STAR OF ATHENA 11 (T,V) Ali Stronge 5-9-10 D E Hogan (3)  
2 (1) 120/5 AUMERLE 27 (CD) S Lyckett 8-9-10 Elisha Whittington (7)  
3 (10) 413-0 DOCTOR JAZZ 12 (B,T) M Appleby 5-9-9 A Rawlinson  
4 (6) 43-00 IN DEMAND 13 (B) R Charlton 5-9-8 A Kirby  
5 (14) 1411/ STYNES 600 (T) G McPherson 10-9-7 L Keniry  
6 (5) 64/6- PRINCE CHARMIN' J189 (P,T) T Vaughan 7-9-7 D Probert  
7 (13) 0030- SEA SOVEREIGN 68 I Williams 7-9-7 B Curtis  
8 (7) /00-2 CAGED LIGHTNING 25 (P,D) S Gollings 10-9-6 L Morris  
9 (9) 0-102 ACCESSOR 6 (P) M Wigham 5-9-5 J Fanning  
10 (4) 523-3 ESTRELA STAR 27 (BF) Ali Stronge 4-9-2 K O'Neill  
11 (8) 602-5 CALL ME MADAM 25 (P) J Bethell 5-8-10 J Mitchell  
12 (3) 0/0-0 FENNANIN 25 (BF) Frank Bishop 9-8-10 D Keenan (3)  
13 (11) 203-4 BRINKLEYS KATIE 25 (P,B,F) Paul George 4-8-6 H Turner  
14 (12) 5356- MISS SWIFT 75 (P) M Trengoning 4-8-6 M Dwyer  
2-5 Stynes, 5-1 Accessor, 6-1 Caged Lightning, 8-1 Star Of Athena, Estrela Star, 10-1 Prince Charmin', In Demand, 12-1 Aumerle, 14-1 others.

**Wright choice:** Estrela Star was unsuited by a slow early pace last time **Dangers:** Brinkleys Katie, Caged Lightning

Blinkered first time: Kempton Park 4.50 Cliff Wind, 8.30 Star Of Athena. **Market Rasen** 2.10 Ice Galley. **Sedgefield** 4.05 Red Star Dancer. 4.35 Miss Zip.

## Yesterday's racing results

### Wolverhampton

Going: standard

**5.00** (7f 36yd) 1, Elusif (Grace McEntee, 4-1); 2, Bold Decision (2-1 fav); 3, Billypops (4-1), 9 ran. NR: Cool Strutter. **Nk, 5½f, P** S McEntee.  
**5.30** (7f 36yd) 1, Come On Bear (George Rooke, 5-1); 2, Rockesbury (13-8 fav); 3, Little Miss Kodi (33-1), 10 ran. 1f, ½f, A Bailey.  
**6.00** (7f 36yd) 1, Divine Connection (Rob Hornby, 7-4); 2, Knockacurra (16-1); 3, Buy Me Back (4-6 fav). **NR:** White Face. **Nk, sh hd, J** P Gortman.  
**6.30** (5f 21yd) 1, Hot Hot Hot (F Norton, 8-1); 2, Comeatchoo (9-2); 3, Street Life

# Relegation would mean pay cuts for West Ham's players

Gary Jacob

West Ham United players face a pay cut of up to 50 per cent if the team are relegated this season.

The east London club, who have slipped into the bottom three in the Premier League, inserted a relegation clause into the majority of the squad's contracts to protect themselves against what could be a £70million drop in broadcast revenue when taking into account the parachute payments they would receive in the Championship.

West Ham's wage bill has soared by £51million in the past three years and the club announced last week that it had reached £136million last season.

Many of West Ham's biggest players would be expected to leave if the club went down. Felipe Anderson is the club's top earner on £120,000 a week

and attacking players such as Sébastien Haller would attract interest from abroad. The club's most recent arrival, Jarrod Bowen, did not want to accept a relegation clause, instead compromising by having a release clause inserted into his deal when he signed for £18million from Hull City on deadline day.

West Ham play away to Manchester City and Liverpool in their next two matches before hosting Southampton at the end of the month. A small group of fans have threatened to let off black balloons outside the London Stadium as a protest before the game on February 29. They have approached the stadium landlords about their plan but no permission has yet been granted.

West Ham have promised to ban two fans if they are found guilty of homophobic abuse during the draw against Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday.

### 3.50 Mares' Handicap Chase (E£,614: 2m 3f) (9)

1 143-1 QUANTUM OF SOLACE 12 F O'Brien 10-12-0 P Brennan  
2 -44P0 THE CRAZED MOON 31 M Scudamore 8-11-12 B J Powell  
3 10000 ROBIN GOLD 31 D Skelton 7-11-11 William Marshall (7)  
4 -3633 VUE CAVALIERE 73 (H,B,F) Miss S Smith 6-11-9 M G Nolan  
5 32-P3 LADY MASTER 61 (D) Mrs C Bailey 7-11-5 S Bowen  
6 /65-5 GLORVINA 73 (P) C Mann 6-11-3 H Bannister  
7 6/000 FAIRY POL 69 Henry Oliver 7-10-12 J M Davies  
8 44P1F BENNY'S GIRL 28 (P) D L Williams 12-10-4 Shane Quinlan (5)  
9 0403P IMPULSIVE LEADER 22 (P) Miss Z Davison 7-10-0 Page Fuller (3)  
5-2 Quantum Of Solace, 7-2 Vue Cavaliere, 5-1 Robin Gold, 11-2 others.

### 4.20 Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle (E£,498: 2m 5f) (9)

1 1-6PP BALLYHOME 89 (BF,CD) F O'Brien 9-11-13 C Brace (3)  
2 36-01 SERMANDO 11 (D) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-10 Jonjo O'Neill Jr. (3)  
3 3-P65 OUR DOT'S BABY 29 (P,D) Miss Z Davison 8-11-9 Page Fuller  
4 -6014 FLASH DE CLERVAL 31 (BF) Dr R Newland 5-11-9 C Hammond (3)  
5 015-P NORTHERN BOUND 259 (W) B Pauling 6-11-5 Luca Morgan (6)  
6 0-266 STEADY AWAY 48 Nicky Martin 6-11-4 B R Jones  
7 30464 FARMER BOY 19 (CD) C Dore 7-11-2 H Reed  
8 -6303 STARSKY 36 (T) P Nicholls 6-11-2 L Williams (3)  
9 46-PP ENVOL DE LA COUR 59 M Scudamore 6-11-0 R Patrick  
5-4 Sermando, 11-4 Starsky, 5-1 Flash De Clerval, 15-2 others.

## Sedgefield

Rob Wright

**1.25** Sabbatical **3.30** Let The Heirs Walk  
**1.55** Agent Westy **4.05** Sign Of War  
**2.25** Upterior Motives **4.35** Two Hoots  
**3.00** Roxylet

**Going:** soft, good to soft in places  
**Sky Sports Racing**

### 1.25 Handicap Hurdle (E£,794: 2m 4f) (10)

1 P0031 SABBATHICAL 6 (P,D) E Williams 5-12-2 (7x) A Wedge  
2 0-43P THE VERY THING 32 (H) M Hammond 6-12-0 B Garrity (5)  
3 42260 ARTICHOKE HEART 26 D McCain 5-11-12 L Murtagh (3)  
4 430P4 GOLDSINGER 12 (P) A B Hamilton 6-11-3 C McCormack (3)  
5 000P2 EX S'ELANCE 9 (T) M Hammond 6-10-13 A Cawley  
6 -0051 BERTIE BLAKE 25 (P,CD) P Kirby 7-10-11 T Dowson  
7 00-02 GO AS YOU PLEASE 35 P Webber 7-10-10 R McLernon  
8 50/0- MAGNUM F469 (P,T) R G Hawker 7-10-9 Robert Dunne  
9 65/0- PHANTOM ISLE 638 Rebecca Menzies 7-10-6 H Brooke  
10 45-02 DOLLY'S DOT 9 (CD) V Thompson 9-10-0 B Hughes  
13-8 Sabbatical, 3-1 Bertie Blake, 6-1 Go As You Please, 13-2 others.

### 1.55 Handicap Hurdle (E£,794: 2m 4f) (10)

1 152PP BUTTEVANT LADY 37 (D) Mrs A C Hamilton 7-12-0 J Hamilton  
2 00241 HAASAB 4 Laura Morgan 7-11-12 A Wedge  
3 0006 WHISPERING WATERS 15 J Jardine 7-11-10 C O'Farrell  
4 /00P- FRIENDS IN HEAVEN 385 A Wilson 8-11-2 C Bewley  
5 U5051 AGENT WESTY 49 (T) E Williams 6-10-13 Isabel Williams (7)  
6 04P34 FLAMING GLORY 23 Katie Scott 6-10-11 S Mulqueen (3)

## Murray pens new Brighton deal after scoring return

The Brighton & Hove Albion striker Glenn Murray, 36, has signed a new one-year contract. Murray was tipped to leave the club during last month's transfer window having not started a Premier League match since September. But he was recalled to the starting line-up away to West Ham United on Saturday and responded with the equaliser in a 3-3 draw — his first league goal of the season.

## Bradford sack Bowyer 'to keep play-off hopes alive'

Bradford City have sacked manager Gary Bowyer after 11 months in the job. The 48-year-old, who leaves Bradford eighth in Sky Bet League Two, paid the price for a poor run, culminating in a 3-0 defeat away to Oldham Athletic on Saturday. Julian Rhodes, the interim chief executive, said a change was needed "in order to compete for a play-off place".

**EFL Trophy: Fourth Round** Newport County v Leicester City U21 (7.0).

**National League** Dover v Barrow. **National League North** Altrincham v Telford United. **National League South** Hungerford v Dorking.

### Cricket

**ODI International Series** South Africa v England (Newlands, 11am).

7 00045 DUTY GIRL 29 Julia Brooke 7-10-8 H Brooke  
8 -40UP JO CASHFLOW 25 (P) C Grant 6-10-5 Ross Chapman  
9 0563 SINCERELY RESDEV 9 (P) Kirby 5-10-2 T Dowson  
10 04245 KISUMU 32 (P,T) M Hammond 8-10-0 Emma Smith-Chaston (7)  
7-4 Agent Westy, 2-1 Haasab, 7-1 Flaming Glory, 8-1 others.

### 2.25 Novices' Hurdle (E£,769: 2m 5f) (5)

1 -221U EVANDER 13 (H,B,F,C) Oliver Greenall 5-11-9 B Hughes  
2 -2313 LEN BRENNAN 69 (CD) T Vaughan 7-11-9 A Johns  
3 43U BAVINGTON BOB 8 Mrs A Hamilton 5-11-2 Craig Nichol  
4 2-004 KERRKENNY GOLD 28 Ollly Murphy 6-11-2 G Sheehan  
5 16431 ULTERIOR MOTIVES 9 (CD) M Todhunter 6-11-2 D McMenamin (3)  
7-4 Evander, 15-8 Len Brennan, 5-1 Kerrkeny Gold, 6-1 others.

### 3.00 Handicap Chase (E£,289: 2m) (8)

1 650/1 OURO BRANCO 38 (D) N Hawke 7-11-12 D Noonan  
2 5-64P VALENCE D'AUMONT 10 Mrs S Smith 6-11-5 D Cook  
3 5-004 VOCALISER 88 (W,P,T,D) R Dickinson 8-10-10 Tabitha Worsley (5)  
4 -0P26 OREGON GOLD 38 N Kent 7-10-10 A Wedge  
5 50221 ROXYFET 9 (CD) M Hammond 10-10-10 Emma Smith-Chaston (7)  
6 52132 RIPSTICK 7 (CD) J Walton 9-10-0 C O'Farrell  
7 P343 FRANKIE BALLOU 7 (P,T,CD) Miss S Foster 11-10-0 J Hamilton  
8 52200 AGENTLEMAN 11 P Winks 10-10-0 Alison Clarke (7)  
5-2 Roxylet, 11-4 Ouro Branco, 4-1 Ripstick, 15-2 Frankie Balloou, 10-1 others.

### 3.30 Maiden Hurdle (E£,794: 2m 1f) (7)

1 02 BRIARDALE 34 (T) J Bethell 8-11-3 B Hughes  
2 P-363 LET THE HEIRS WALK 11 T Vaughan 6-11-3 A Johns  
3 24 QUOTELINE DIRECT 34 (H) M Hammond 7-11-3 A Cawley  
4 6-6F ROAD TO REWARD 65 D McCain 5-11-3 L Murtagh (3)  
5 53244 ROSTELLO 25 (BF) Dr R Newland 5-11-3 S Twiston-Davies  
6 THE GINGERBREADMAN F89 C Fairhurst 5-11-3 J Kingston  
7 0 SIMUL AMICIS 24 Mrs D Sayer 4-10-0 C O'Farrell  
7-4 Let The Heirs Walk, 15-8 Rostello, 9-2 Briardale, 11-2 others.

### 4.05 Handicap Hurdle (E£,794: 3m 3f) (14)

1 -P602 STRIKE WEST 36 M Hammond 8-11-12 B Garrity (4)  
2 0-533 KILCREA BRIDGE 32 (P,B,F) R G Hawker 9-11-8 Robert Dunne  
3 P4651 SIGN OF WAR 29 (T) E Williams 6-11-4 A Wedge  
4 0340 RED STAR DANCER 15 (B) D Thompson 6-11-2 Craig Nichol  
5 06451 UN WE GO 16 Kenny Johnson 7-11-1 Alison Clarke (7)  
6 43011 PRAY FOR A RAINBOW 39 (T) S Drinkwater 9-10-13 F Gregory (3)  
7 -0F32 GEORGIAN FIREBIRD 26 (T) B Leavy 10-10-12 B Hughes  
8 54035 SAMTUA 34 (P) F Murtagh 9-10-11 L Murtagh (3)  
9 6-54P LAMMTURNER 61 (P,CD) Miss S Foster 8-10-6 H Brooke  
10 546-4 OLIVER'S ISLAND 12 (B,T) S Conway 8-10-5 A Anderson (7)  
11 40-644 LETTHEHEIRS WALK 9 (T,V) A B Hamilton 12-10-5 Mr D Hurst (7)  
12 56P30 SIMPLY LUCKY 21 (P,T) M Sowersby 11-10-4 D McMenamin (3)  
13 -64P3 MIDNIGHT MUSTANG 19 (P) Andrew Martin 13-10-0 B Poste  
14 6P-PO AGENT LOUISE 34 (P,CD) M Sowersby 12-10-4 Ross Chapman  
2-5 Sign Of War, 11-2 Pray For A Rainbow, Un We Go, 6-1 others.

### 4.25 Handicap Chase (E£,989: 2m 5f) (10)

1 12F/4 DAHILLS HILL 24 (H) Laura Morgan 8-12-6 Ross Chapman  
2 42032 PADDLING 13 (P) M Hammond 9-11-12 A Cawley  
3 P0103 BOCASIAN DESBOIS 38 (D) M Todhunter 9-11-7 D Cook  
4 504P2 TWO HOOTS 19 (P,T,C) Miss S Foster 9-11-5 H Brooke  
5 3P-3P SANDFORD CASTLE 63 (P) J Farrelly 10-11-5 R McLernon  
6 6545P MISS ZIP 54 (B) E Williams 7-11-4 A Wedge  
7 5/P-4 SUNNY LEDGEND 19 (P,D) Andrew Martin 15-11-0 B Poste  
8 F62P4 PC DIXON 18 (P) V Thompson 7-11-0 Mr Cameron Wedge (7)  
9 00032 ROBIN DE BROOME 12 (B) S Curran 8-10-4 B Hughes  
10 -0033 SORY 9 (P) Miss T Jackson 13-10-4 D McMenamin (3)  
5-2 Paddling, 4-1 Two Hoots, 13-2 Robin De Broome, Dahills Hill, 15-2 others.

## Course specialists

**Kempton Park: Trainers**



## Sport Football

# Newcastle would be doomed without brilliant goalkeeper

**Relegation analysis** Bottom six are scrapping for their lives but mid-table sides could yet be sucked in, writes **James Gheerbrant**



## NEWCASTLE UNITED 12TH, 31 POINTS

They may look relatively safe, level with Arsenal, Burnley and Southampton — who are below them in 13th — on 31 points, but Newcastle's performances have not been as good as the table suggests.

Part of Newcastle's problem is that they are exceptionally bad at moving the ball in advanced areas of the pitch. Bruce's side play the fewest passes in the opposition half in the league (173.3 per game), the fewest passes in the final third (40.8), and the fewest passes into the box (21.6). They are terrible at circulating possession and constructing attacking moves.

They rank second-bottom for the quality of the chances they create (worth 0.84 expected goals per game, excluding penalties) and the quality of chances they concede (worth 1.84 expected goals, or xG). On the balance of chances, they are the worst in the division. Newcastle also give up more shots on target than any other team. Luckily, they have Martin Dubravka. Opta credits Dubravka for saves worth 8.1 goals prevented, based on the shot quality he has faced — the best of any keeper in the league.

The next four home games — against Burnley, Sheffield United, Aston Villa and West Ham United — are crucial. Seven points from those should assure their safety.

## CRYSTAL PALACE 14TH, 30 POINTS

Palace are another team whose position belies some concerning trends in their underlying performance. The attack is anaemic, with the fewest shots (9.48) and the fewest chances created from open play (5.64). Palace's attack is basically a one-man show. Wilfried Zaha has the second-most completed dribbles in the league, behind Adama Traoré, and is Palace's leading crosser and chance-creator by a wide margin.

But the 27-year-old has not been as productive as last season. This campaign, he is averaging 1.48 shots, 0.41 shots on target and 1.07 chances created from open play per 90 minutes, down from 2.16 shots, 0.8 shots on target and 1.6 open-play chances created in 2018-19, suggesting that while he continues to torment defenders, his end product has slightly diminished.

Defensively, things are much rosier: only Liverpool, Sheffield United and Leicester City have conceded fewer than Palace's 29 goals. But like Newcastle, Palace owe their relatively lofty position in the table to some goalkeeping heroics. Vicente Guaita's saves have prevented 7.3 goals, second only to Dubravka.

Their next five games, against Everton, Newcastle, Brighton, Watford and Bournemouth, are winnable. Three victories would see them over the line.



Wilson is shooting less and scoring less as Bournemouth have struggled

## BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 15TH, 26 POINTS

The underlying statistics suggest Brighton are in the best shape of any of the relegation battlers. They are ninth-best in the league when judged on the quality of chances created (1.29xG per game) and rank a respectable 13th for chance-quality conceded (1.36xG per game). Their shots conceded per game (12.7) is around the league average.

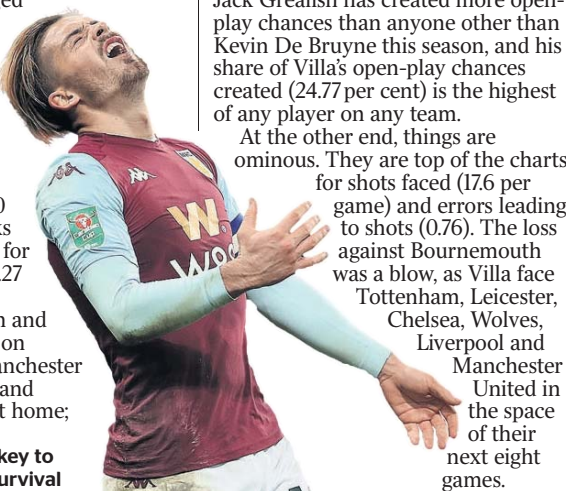
Of all the teams in the dogfight, Brighton are also the most assured at moving the ball in advanced areas of the pitch, which is testament to Graham Potter's progressive influence on the team he inherited from Chris Hughton. They rank seventh in the league for successful passes in the opposition half (191.8 per game), and sixth for passes into the box (29.4). Last season, they were 17th and last in those respective categories.

So why are they in trouble? Partly because of a tendency to miss sitters: they have the worst big-chance conversion rate (21.3 per cent, compared with an average of 38.1 per cent) in the league. But that is the kind of statistic that tends to regress to the mean.

Much has changed under Potter, but one thing hasn't: Pascal Gross is still the player that Brighton rely on to create. He leads the team in open-play chances created (1.57 per 90 minutes), and ranks sixth in the league for expected assists (0.27 per 90).

Brighton's March and April looks hellish on paper: Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool, and Manchester City at home;

**Grealish holds the key to Villa's chances of survival**



Wolverhampton Wanderers, Leicester and Norwich City away. Points from their next three games, against Watford, Sheffield United and Palace, are crucial.

## BOURNEMOUTH 16TH, 26 POINTS

Bournemouth are neither particularly good at creating opportunities nor suppressing them. Their attacking woes are partly explained by a remarkable statistic: Eddie Howe's team have gone from being the league's most accurate crossers last season, with a completion percentage of 24.5 per cent, to the least accurate this season, with a percentage of 13.8 per cent. Lack of bite in midfield has been a perennial Bournemouth problem, and their average of 13.7 tackles per game this season is the lowest in the league.

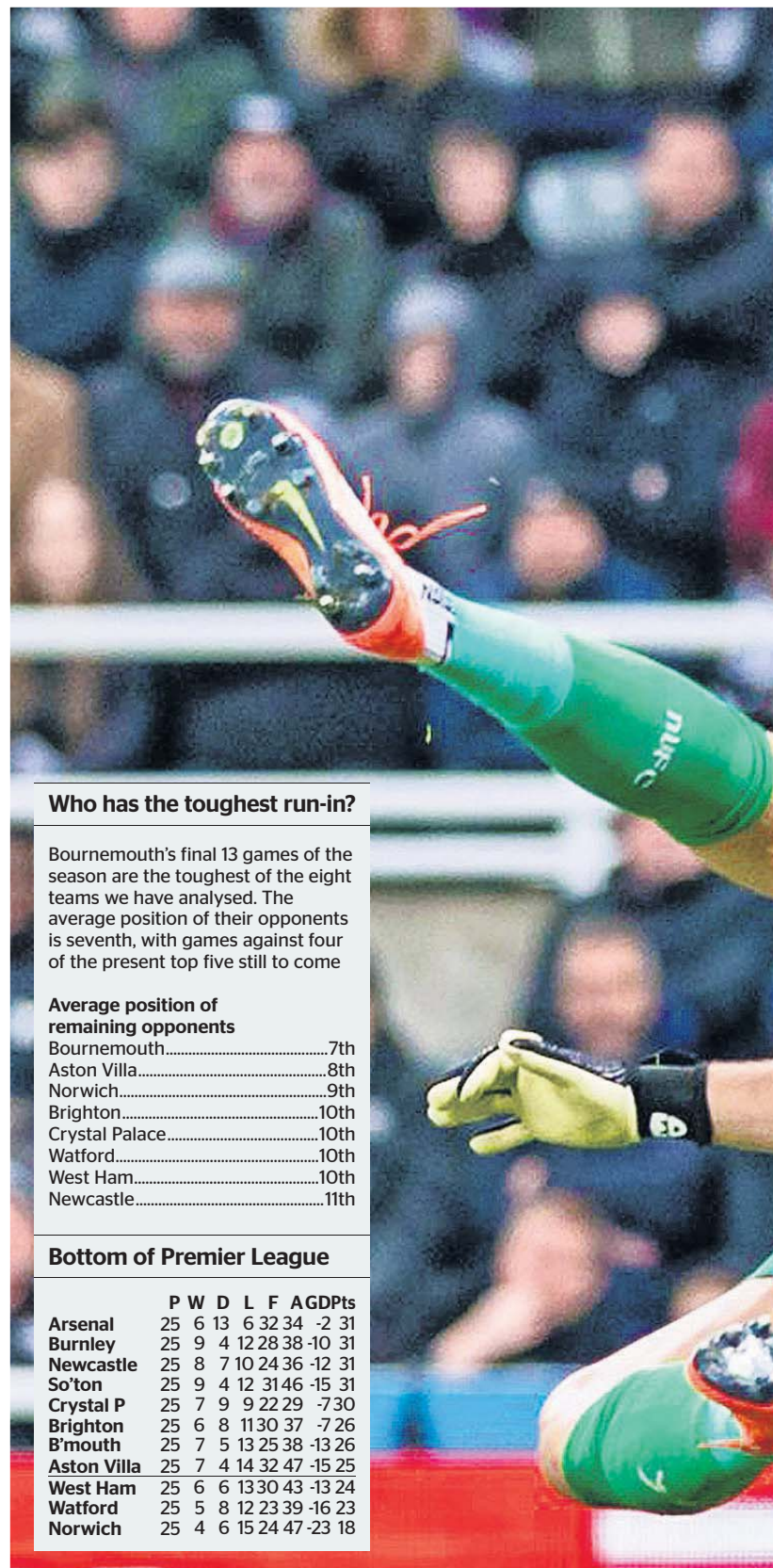
Callum Wilson has only scored once in his past 17 matches, having netted 17 in his previous 30. The statistics lay bare his struggle: between October 2018 and September 2019, he took 2.13 shots per game, got 65 per cent of them on target and converted 27.4 per cent. Since the start of October, he has averaged 1.37 shots per game, with an accuracy of 18.8 per cent and a conversion rate of 4.8 per cent. His clinical excellence in front of goal has deserted him, and Bournemouth desperately need him to rediscover it.

Bournemouth's run-in is brutal: in their final six games they host Tottenham Hotspur, Leicester and Southampton and visit Manchester United, Manchester City and Everton. If they are still in the thick of it in April, they are in trouble.

## ASTON VILLA 17TH, 25 POINTS

Decent attack, dreadful defence. Villa rank sixth for chances created from open play (8.88 per game), fifth for passes into the box (29.6), and, in Matt Targett, they have the most accurate crosser in the league (34.15 per cent completion). Jack Grealish has created more open-play chances than anyone other than Kevin De Bruyne this season, and his share of Villa's open-play chances created (24.77 per cent) is the highest of any player on any team.

At the other end, things are ominous. They are top of the charts for shots faced (17.6 per game) and errors leading to shots (0.76). The loss against Bournemouth was a blow, as Villa face Tottenham, Leicester, Chelsea, Wolves, Liverpool and Manchester United in the space of their next eight games.



### Who has the toughest run-in?

Bournemouth's final 13 games of the season are the toughest of the eight teams we have analysed. The average position of their opponents is seventh, with games against four of the present top five still to come

### Average position of remaining opponents

Bournemouth.....	7th
Aston Villa.....	8th
Norwich.....	9th
Brighton.....	10th
Crystal Palace.....	10th
Watford.....	10th
West Ham.....	10th
Newcastle.....	11th

### Bottom of Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	25	6	13	6	32	34	-2	31
Burnley	25	9	4	12	28	38	-10	31
Newcastle	25	8	7	10	24	36	-12	31
So'ton	25	9	4	12	31	46	-15	31
Crystal P	25	7	9	9	22	29	-7	30
Brighton	25	6	8	11	30	37	-7	26
B'mouth	25	7	5	13	25	38	-13	26
Aston Villa	25	7	4	14	32	47	-15	25
West Ham	25	6	6	13	30	43	-13	24
Watford	25	5	8	12	23	39	-16	23
Norwich	25	4	6	15	24	47	-23	18

**Safe hands:** Newcastle are seven points clear of the drop zone, thanks largely to



## WEST HAM UNITED 18TH, 24 POINTS

West Ham have problems at both ends. They do not give up that many shots, but the chances they do give up tend to be clear ones. The average shot they concede has a 14.3 per cent likelihood of being scored, according to expected goals, which is the worst in the league.

At the other end, West Ham's chance-quality created of 1.12xG per game is the fifth-worst in the division, but a glimmer of optimism can be found at set pieces, from which only Everton have created more chances this season.

Robert Snodgrass's dead-ball delivery has emerged as a weapon for a team whose emphasis has shifted further towards set plays since the arrival of David Moyes. His figure of 1.62 chances created from set pieces per 90 minutes this season is only bettered by one player: Pascal Gross.

West Ham's next four away games are the stuff of nightmares: at Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal

and Tottenham. Their run-in is gentle, but can they avoid already being cut adrift by then?



## WATFORD 19TH, 23 POINTS

We know that Nigel Pearson has made Watford better since he took over. But while you might have expected him to have tightened the team up defensively, in fact the underlying numbers suggest that Pearson has boosted their attack, while their defence remains problematic. Watford's average expected-goals scoreline in the 16 games before Pearson arrived, excluding penalties, was 1.06-1.46. Since he took over, it's 1.32-1.44.

Some issues have bedevilled Watford throughout the season. No team has created fewer chances from set plays, and they have only hit the target with 40 per cent of their shots, making them the least accurate team in the league. Crosses have been a reliable source of joy though, and no team in the division has completed a





BPI/REX / SHUTTERSTOCK

Dubravka, whose saves have prevented more goals than any other top-flight No 1

higher percentage of their deliveries from wide areas than Watford's 24.65 per cent.

Abdoulaye Doucoure offers an unusual blend of creative and destructive strengths: he is one of only three players to have made at least 40 tackles, taken at least 40 shots and created at least 25 chances from open play. The others are James Maddison and Richarlison.

Five of Watford's seven games in March and April are against teams presently in the bottom half, but their final two games, at home to Manchester City and away to Arsenal, look daunting.



#### NORWICH CITY 20TH, 18 POINTS

Daniel Farke's team are comfortable possessing the ball in the attacking half, ranking a respectable 13th for passes in the opposition half (230) per game. The problems come when they try to move the ball forward — only Newcastle play fewer passes into the final third than

Norwich's 46.44. When they do get the ball into the danger area, they are thwarted by a shot conversion rate of 7.97 per cent — the second-lowest in the league.

At the other end, Norwich concede 15.3 shots per game — only Villa and Newcastle ship more.

Emiliano Buendía has been a shining light for Norwich this season. Only De Bruyne, Grealish, David Silva and Riyad Mahrez average more than the Argentine playmaker's 2.31 open-play chances created per 90 minutes this season.

Buendía also ranks fifth, behind De Bruyne, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Lucas Digne and Maddison for passes into the box (9.47). If he can keep on creating chances, and Norwich find their shooting boots, you never know.

Norwich's final five home games of the season are against Southampton, Everton, Brighton, West Ham and Burnley. If they can win all of those, they may have a chance of pulling off an unlikely escape.

## Jet-setting or staying at home? Your team's winter break plans

### ARSENAL

The players will have a few days off this week before travelling to Dubai on Friday for warm-weather training and sponsor events.

### ASTON VILLA

The players have been given the week off to spend time with their families. It is understood they will return to training next Monday, in preparation for the game against Spurs.

### BOURNEMOUTH

Eddie Howe has decided against a warm-weather camp, instead choosing a mixture of training and time off for players.

### BRIGHTON

Graham Potter's side will be training as usual during their fortnight break.

### BURNLEY

Players are off this week before training on Friday and Saturday — preventing them from venturing too far on holiday. They will be off on Sunday before resuming their normal schedule the next week.

### CHELSEA

Frank Lampard has given his players time off to spend with their families before returning to training early next week.

### CRYSTAL PALACE

The players will have time off next week. No warm-weather training has been booked in.

### EVERTON

Senior players will be given a few days off and will then have an extended period of training at the club's Finch Farm centre.

### LEICESTER CITY

The players are not going away as a squad but James Maddison has already been pictured on holiday in Dubai and it is understood that others may be joining him.

### LIVERPOOL

The players have been given time to go away on holiday, with Roberto Firmino, Georginio Wijnaldum, Adam Lallana, and Joe Gomez, who is in California, among those pictured on social media soaking up the sun.



### SHEFFIELD UNITED

Chris Wilder and his squad are going away for a few days, but details of the trip have not been made public.

### SOUTHAMPTON

The players will be given extra time off before

### MANCHESTER CITY

The players will have four days off at the start of next week before returning to training at the City Football Academy. Pep Guardiola did consider a training camp abroad but he wants players to have time with their families.

### MANCHESTER UNITED

With a 16-day gap between fixtures, the players are off until Saturday, before flying to Marbella for a week-long training camp. The club were considering a trip to Qatar, but Ole Gunnar Solskjaer vetoed the plan because of rising tensions in the Middle East. Among the players, Fred is spending this week in the Maldives, while Victor Lindelof is in Morocco.

### NEWCASTLE UNITED

Steve Bruce will give his players five days off after tonight's FA Cup replay against Oxford United.

### NORWICH CITY

Norwich have nothing different from their usual training planned. It will be normal scheduling unless there are severe weather conditions.



### WATFORD

The players will have an unspecified amount of time off after their match with Brighton on Saturday before returning to training the following week.

### WEST HAM UNITED

The club, who have two weeks off after their game away to Manchester City on Sunday, said that their plans had not been confirmed yet.

### WOLVES

The squad flew out to Marbella on Monday for a warm-weather training camp at La Manga and will return home on Friday. It is understood that they will have the weekend off with their families before returning to training.

From top: Arsenal's Lucas Torreira is in Dubai, where he will be joined by his team-mates on Friday, and Fred, of Manchester United, has gone to the Maldives, while Liverpool's Roberto Firmino, above, and Georginio Wijnaldum, left, have opted for time away

returning to training before the Burnley game.

### TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

After their FA Cup replay with Southampton tomorrow, the players are off until next week.



# Klopp could give advice from afar

**Paul Joyce**  
Northern Football Correspondent

The image of Jürgen Klopp enjoying a beer in foreign climes while Liverpool fulfil their fixture schedule on chilly Merseyside tonight will be inescapable.

Yet while Klopp will be out of sight for the FA Cup fourth-round replay with Shrewsbury Town, those youngsters standing in for their senior team-mates will not necessarily be out of mind.

Despite the Liverpool manager's refusal to attend the tie on a point of principle after the FA scheduled the game during the club's winter break, it is understood Klopp will have access, via his laptop, to a live feed of the game.

He could also yet pass on instructions to Liverpool Under-23 coach Neil Critchley, who will be taking the German's place in the Anfield dugout. In December, when Liverpool's presence at the Club World Cup in Qatar clashed with the Carabao Cup quarter-final at Aston Villa, Klopp made contact with Critchley during the

interval in the 5-0 defeat and the option is there to do so again.

"I don't know [if he will], I don't think about that," Critchley said. "He did during the Aston Villa game because he felt it was the right thing to do.

"Even though we were going off the pitch thinking, 'We've played all right there but we're getting beat 4-0,' it creates that element of doubt in your mind about whether you are doing the right thing and if you need to do something different.

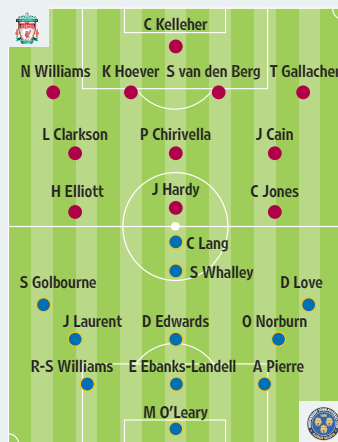
"So when you get a message from the manager saying, 'Don't change anything, carry on doing what you're doing, you've been brilliant,' it just clears all that doubt in your mind and you can give that message to the players. It helped everyone at that moment. That option is available, yes. But that's up to the manager.

"Another great quality of the manager is he trusts people to do their job. The best support he gives the players is he gives them a chance and an opportunity. I don't know what more

## Liverpool v Shrewsbury Town

FA Cup fourth-round replay  
Anfield, kick-off 7.45pm  
Radio talkSPORT Referee A Madley

Liverpool (probable; 4-3-3)



Shrewsbury Town (probable; 3-5-1-1)

support you could wish for as a young player. I know there has been a lot spoken going into the game, but there has been total clarity around the decision and we all support the decision."

Klopp's absence for the visit of the League One side, who fought back with two goals from Jason Cummings to draw 2-2 at Montgomery Waters Meadow ten days ago, remains a rare misstep by him.

The 52-year-old has taken the authorities to task repeatedly for the relentless scheduling of matches and so his decision to insist his first-team squad dispersed after the victory over Southampton until next Monday is understandable. But his desire to allow his players a rest should not preclude him from attending. Klopp feels his point would be diluted if he did, although what it demonstrates is the power he wields at Liverpool.

Curtis Jones, who scored the winner in the 1-0 victory over Everton in the third round and the first goal in the orig-

inal tie in Shropshire, could become Liverpool's youngest captain if handed the honour at 19 years and five days, beating the record — 20 years and 250 days — held by Alex Raisbeck since 1900.

The youngsters trying to seize their chance face a physical test from Shrewsbury to which they are seldom subjected in under-23 football.

"When you are playing against men who are fully matured and developed physically, they have an advantage," Critchley said.

"But maybe we can play our way and take that advantage away a little bit. If our boys want to have a career in football then they need to cope with that side of the game and cope with nights like this.

"It's ridiculous when you're talking about experience and Curtis has only just turned 19 and we're going to have players who are eligible for the under-18 team. People say [we are] an under-23 team but we're not, we're going to be under-19, under-20 at best."

JAMES BAYLIS/AMA/GETTY IMAGES

## Daredevils, vegans and a diehard fan who won't celebrate

Shrewsbury Town's **Josh Laurent** gives his lowdown on the squad that will try to cause a cup upset at Anfield

**Max O'Leary, goalkeeper, 23**

The quiet man of the dressing room. Occasionally known for throwing the ball out of play! He is a keen golfer.

**Aaron Pierre, centre back, 26**

"Big P" is very chilled and as one of the single lads in the dressing room, he is a bit of a ladies man.

**Ethan Ebanks-Landell, centre back, 27**

A ruthless man. Not scared to keep his opinions to himself, whether it be in training, or during a match.

**Ro-Shaun Williams, centre back, 21**

Very emotional — can be sad one minute and happy the next. He will shed some tears if we win. Likes his hip hop and is a regular at church.

**Donald Love, right back, 25**

The silent assassin. Very calm and pleasant off the pitch but isn't afraid to put in a kick on it.

**Ollie Norburn, midfielder, 27**

The captain and everyone's friend. One of the jokers in the pack.

**Dave Edwards, midfielder, 34**

One of the wise heads who commands respect. Has advice if they need it and also has plenty of stories from his time with Wolves and Wales.

**Josh Laurent, midfielder, 24**

Always laughing and enjoys the banter with the boys.

**Scott Golbourne, left back, 31**

Known as "Uncle Scott" because he's so intelligent. A vegan who massages his beard with coconut oil.

**Shaun Whalley, winger, 32**

He says he won't celebrate if he scores — he's a big Liverpool fan.

**Callum Lang, forward, 21**

Needs to check his heart rate because he does everything at 100mph! An Everton fan, so he's wants revenge on Liverpool since they eliminated his team.

**Jason Cummings, striker, 24**

A real daredevil. He went in front of the Sky cameras in his undies when they were doing a piece with Dave Edwards. Also swallowed a rubber fish at the Christmas party.

**Sean Goss, midfielder, 24**

Posh and laid back, he is one of the main ones daring Jason Cummings.

**Daniel Udoh, striker, 23**

Another joker, but the difference is everyone laughs at him, not with him. Very quick-witted.

**Joe Murphy, goalkeeper, 38**

Known as "Wacca" because he calls everyone "Wack", he's in charge of the music for most games and likes his drum and bass.

**Omar Beckles, centre back, 28**

One of the nicest men in football, he runs his own mental health charity and is a big Christian who organises bible sessions for a few other players.

**Sam Hart, left back, 23**

He's very well groomed and spends a lot of time and money on his barnet. I wish I had it!

**Brad Walker, midfielder, 24**

Thinks he's the best table tennis player in the squad — but there are a few better than him!

**Sam Ricketts, manager, 38**

Very calm and collected and can see the funny side of things — you can have a joke with him. Very tactical in the way he looks at games and thinks everything through before speaking.



Laurent, right, and Whalley, a Liverpool fan, are aiming to take advantage of the Premier League leaders' weakened team

## Shrewsbury 'to miss out on £500,000'

**Tim Nash**

Shrewsbury Town claim they have missed out on a £500,000 windfall because Liverpool are playing their under-23 team in the FA Cup fourth round replay at Anfield tonight.

Liverpool have reduced prices for the game after the manager Jürgen Klopp confirmed that he would play an inexperienced side with the first team on their winter break. Although the host club must notify their opposition and the FA of their intended ticket pricing for a cup tie, it is understood they do not need to seek agreement.

Adults will pay £15 and under-17s only £1 tonight, whereas for Liverpool's third-round tie against Everton, all supporters paid £10-50.

Each club receives a 42.5 per cent

share of the gate revenue in replays, and a near sell-out attendance of 50,000 is expected, with around 6,300 travelling from Shropshire. The gate receipts are expected to be in the region of £550,000.

Unlike the first tie, in which his side came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at New Meadow, the game will not be screened live on television, denying the Sky Bet League One club another six-figure sum.

The Shrewsbury manager Sam Ricketts admitted the impact of the reduced revenue will hit his club substantially in the pocket.

"It is huge — the revenue is vitally important for a club like ours who are self-sustaining," Ricketts said.

"For someone like us if we are playing Liverpool's first team you are

generating £500,000 to £600,000 as opposed to £100,000 to £150,000.

"Historically you would say Liverpool away would generate a lot but what we are going to get is very different. At a club like ours every penny counts."

Shrewsbury built a new training ground with the £1million they made from their FA Cup run in 2015-16 when they played Manchester United in the fifth round.

Ricketts said that he did not blame Klopp for sticking to his original plans. "I spoke to Jürgen after the first game and we had a real good conversation for 20-30 minutes or so — he was very open," Ricketts said. "He explained his thinking and I fully understand it. If you are promised a winter break, you deserve a winter break."



# Henry Winter

Chief Football Writer



## Don't loathe Liverpool, learn from them

You'll never walk alone? Liverpool run alone. Jürgen Klopp, Jordan Henderson, John W Henry and Peter Moore are where they are, 22 points clear and sprinting towards the title, because they put the process into procession. Ambitious, accomplished individuals drive the club on and off the field. Those who loathe Liverpool need to look and learn.

As ever in sport, it's about the response, the seizing of the gauntlet. Liverpool's success is not some fairytale conjured up as if by magic, as if sport were shaped by romanticists not pragmatists. Liverpool's story is the long-term appliance of sound principles and resources by those in the Anfield dressing room like Klopp and Henderson, and those upstairs like Henry, the principal owner, and Moore, the chief executive officer.

It's about unity of purpose, expertise front of house and back stage, and most immediately in reacting to Manchester City's recent excellence. The rhythm of sport is call and response, and that is why this season is so significant. Liverpool are remarkable because of their tactical sophistication, phenomenal work ethic and myriad ways to score — but also as role models.

Assorted claims of Liverpool dominance damaging the Premier League need swift and emphatic dismissal. The champions-elect deserve celebrating. English football has been here before, either nervily noting hegemonies or busily acclaiming them, dating back to Herbert Chapman with Huddersfield Town and then Arsenal in the 1920s and 30s, to Liverpool's formidable feats under Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan from 1977 to 1984, to Alex Ferguson's titles, trebles and knighthood at Manchester United, to Arsenal's Invincibles, to the special ones at Chelsea and on to City's tactical and technical maestros under Pep Guardiola. Klopp simply inserts some glorious stitches in the long, sparkling tapestry of English football.

Being tribal is instinctive, and railing against a rampant rival inevitable, but responding is better than raging against the machine like Liverpool. After defeat away to Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, Guardiola referred spikily to "the owner of the Premier League", meaning the former executive chairman Richard Scudamore, telling the BBC in 2018 after City won the league by 18 points that "we want the season to go to the last...and I'd like someone to get a little bit closer to Manchester City". Scudamore underlined that he wasn't taking anything away from "City's excellence".

Guardiola had neither forgotten nor forgiven. Never short of a singularly stumpy bee in his bonnet, intensifying innately or deliberately his competitive nature, Guardiola recalled on Sunday Scudamore suggesting that "it's not

good for the Premier League for City to win the title in that way, with 100 points. Now it's Liverpool, you have to be concerned if you are the owner of the Premier League".

Guardiola was actually, retrospectively demanding more respect for City in 2018 rather than disrespecting Liverpool in 2020. This felt more a challenge to Guardiola himself as a coach always employed by pre-eminent clubs (Barcelona and Bayern Munich). In terms of the team, Liverpool responded in 2018-19, finishing a spectacular title race a point behind City.

Many seek to turn the debate into Pep v Jürgen, City v Liverpool, whereas it is more about

challenging others. This is why Liverpool are good for English football, raising standards across the land. Adversaries rally. There is already well-informed talk of Guardiola's intentions to strengthen his squad. Frank Lampard works hard on Chelsea, backing home-grown prospects and doubtless soon recruiting a stellar striker.

Arsenal rise under the bright new management in Mikel Arteta, the type of tough, ambitious, intelligent leader a soft club and squad have been crying out for. Tottenham are refreshed by José Mourinho, as Giovanni Lo Celso, Steven Bergwijn and Japhet Tanganga get embedded, bringing more pace, more bite.

Manchester United are always in everyone's crosshairs, targeting deficiencies, enjoying their travails, schadenfreude über alles, yet more sanguine appraisals appreciate Ole Gunnar Solskjær using transfer opportunities to rejuvenate a stale squad. Solskjær will take Liverpool's return to the premier perch as a personal insult. So he responds. Roll on next season. United just have to respond. Their fans demand it.

United are 38 points — 38 points! — behind Liverpool. Twelve wins and two draws. Crazy, incomprehensible, embarrassing really for an institution of the substance of United, who have won 13 titles since Liverpool last lifted the trophy. Solskjær, the wretched Glazers, have to respond. Liverpool have American owners too, but Boston's finest, Henry, understands the game and the business better than the money-driven Glazers, who think only of the new investors, not the new Invincibles. Followers of

**Salah is one of many Liverpool players to have increased in value considerably while at Anfield**

uptown, up-tempo Leicester City will rightly demand inclusion in considerations about the elite pecking order. Fair enough. But their special club have already accepted the challenge, they are already a practised operation, already in the hands of an alchemist manager in Brendan Rodgers, already in the safe hands of Kasper Schmeichel and moving to the fast feet of James Maddison and Jamie Vardy. Don't worry about Leicester; they are already responding, already flying high and hurtling towards Europe.

Tarry a while in the corridors near the home dressing room at the King Power Stadium,

admire the playing talent swaying in and out, check the experts at the recruitment game going about their productive work, be grateful for the leadership of the conscientious chief executive Susan Whelan and the special chairman, Top, Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha, and understand that no other club is as well run.

So back to Liverpool, the present pioneers par excellence of good practice. So English football really needs to venerate events at Anfield. As painful as it is for those whose lives revolve around City, United, Chelsea, Spurs and Arsenal, and to a lesser extent

Leicester, just wake up, react, construct a riposte. Don't be a mug. Mug up.

Just acknowledge and absorb how the team of Klopp, Henry and Henderson have the balance right between recruiting bargains like Andy Robertson (£8 million from relegated Hull City) and Joe Gomez (£3.5 million from Charlton Athletic), using their broadcast, commercial and ticketing revenue, spending substantially but also selling shrewdly. So offload Philippe Coutinho for £140 million

to Barcelona, covering Virgil van Dijk (from Southampton) and Alisson (from Roma), the defensive pillars underpinning the new Liverpool. Klopp gets acclaimed for commitment to youth, and a manic nodding motion needs directing at Trent Alexander-Arnold, but Liverpool are broadly a celebration of inspired recruitment. Klopp should really promote more.

The key here, implicitly the challenge to opposing managers, is that Klopp's coaching turns good players into very good ones. Along with Leicester they are masters of recruitment. Liverpool aren't for selling, of course, but the majority of their signings have increased in value. Van Dijk is 28, will be at his peak for another three years minimum, would walk into any defence in the world but would command a figure substantially more than the £75 million Liverpool paid Southampton.

The 27-year-old Alisson, winner of the inaugural Lev Yashin award at this season's Ballon d'Or ceremony, would go for more than the £66.8 million that Liverpool paid Roma. On it goes, Klopp's alchemy running wild. Fabinho cost £39 million from Monaco and, at 26 with a contract to 2023, is probably worth double that.

And more. Liverpool's attacking triumvirate of Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mané was assembled for a touch more than £100 million, which might cover just Salah now. Naby Keita's injury record remains an issue, and recouping £52 million could be difficult, but he is only 24, clearly a huge talent. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, £35 million from Arsenal in 2017, is flying.

Liverpool deserve credit for buying well and their galvanising German credit for developing them. Klopp's enlightened, attacking approach to the game, whether pressing, full backs switching play to beat the mass midfield block or the interchanging between mobile wide players and a false No 9 has transformed football, just as Guardiola's everyone-into-midfield mantra did.

As well as appreciating Liverpool's exciting football, aspiring coaches will examine Klopp's career path, accentuating his knowledge and reputation through seven years at Mainz, similarly at Borussia Dortmund, and now Liverpool. He makes good players better. Klopp, also, helps the England national team. Alexander-Arnold, Gomez, Henderson and Oxlade-Chamberlain have all progressed prodigiously under Klopp.

Liverpool suffer occasional embarrassments such as Firmino's drink-driving offence in 2017. No set of players is perfect. No crowd is a complete haven of respect either. But, on and off the pitch, Liverpool are worthy champions and rousing role models because of process revisited.

## Bruce: Our style suits the players we've got – it's not my fault

**Martin Hardy**  
Northern Sports Correspondent

Steve Bruce believes that Newcastle United's perceived lack of style can be blamed on the quality of the squad he has at his disposal.

Newcastle have 31 points in Bruce's first season in charge, enough to get them into mid-table in the Premier League, but there has been criticism of a lack of identity, which caused the 59-year-old to respond angrily. But he did accept that he would prefer to move away from the system of three central defenders introduced by Rafael Benítez in November 2018.

Back-to-back goalless draws at

St James' Park against League One Oxford United — to whom they travel for their FA Cup fourth-round replay tonight — and the bottom club Norwich City have brought criticism. Newcastle are the Premier League's third-lowest scorers and have had the least possession.

"I can't see that the accumulation of points [we've made] over the last seven months is luck," Bruce said. "That's an insult to the players. They might not be technically the best but they go out and give us as

much as they can give. I don't think we're ready to change.

"I could play the way Norwich play but it's all about keeping the club where we need to be. If we changed to four at the back we'd be in trouble. Hopefully we can evolve. The team went to five at the back last year — before that they couldn't win a corner."

Bruce conceded that the system and lack of fluency means, more than six months into his time as head coach, that Newcastle do not look like his side. "It's not really, not yet, but look,

**Oxford Utd  
v Newcastle**

**FA Cup  
fourth-round replay  
Kick-off: 8.05pm  
TV: BBC One  
Radio: talkSPORT2**

### Tonight's other replays

**Birmingham City v Coventry City**  
St Andrew's, kick-off 7.45pm  
Referee D Bond  
*Winners away to Leicester City*

**Cardiff City v Reading**  
Cardiff City Stadium, kick-off 7.45pm  
Referee G Ward  
*Winners at home to Sheffield Utd*

**Derby County  
v Northampton Town**  
Pride Park, kick-off 7.45pm  
Referee D Webb  
*Winners at home to Man Utd*

when is your team your team?" he said. "We don't get time any more, but I will only do what's best. I set us up to play this way because it suits the squad. We can be better, but keeping the ball well enough, it's a certain type of quality you need. We've had a bad week and all of a sudden, it's a storm, because we've had back-to-back goalless draws."

Bruce confirmed that the England Under-20 international Matty Longstaff had still to agree a new contract, as *The Times* revealed last week. AC Milan and Inter Milan are eager to sign the midfielder, whose deal ends in the summer. "It's a concern for us," Bruce said. "I hope we can get that tied up but the players have got the power these days."



## Sport Football

# Premier League moaning but rest of Europe is learning to love VAR

**Martyn Ziegler** finds a positive reaction in four countries that have been using the system for at least two seasons

José Mourinho says he “does not love VAR like he thought he would” because there are too many mistakes in the system. Chants of “F\*\*\* VAR” are regularly heard across Premier League grounds, while the use of the system to rule out goals for marginal offside is hugely controversial.

Football’s lawmakers, Ifab, will discuss VAR controversies and possible changes to the system this month. However Lukas Brud, the secretary of Ifab, said that if the Premier League followed the pattern of other leagues, which introduced VAR a year or two earlier, then there would be greater acceptance of the system next season. “The first season is always difficult,” he said. “The second season is usually much calmer and by the third the debate is more around the detail, such as when attacking phases of play actually start.”

The Times has looked at countries across Europe who have had the technology for at least two seasons to see if VAR will ever be truly accepted.

## THE NETHERLANDS

The Dutch, who are into their third season with VAR, were one of the strongest advocates of video referees and carried out the first trials. Ruud Gullit, the former Holland captain, says people in the Netherlands support the system but that there are still gripes.

In the 1-1 draw between VVV-Venlo and Utrecht at the weekend there was an incident when a penalty was saved by the VVV goalkeeper, only for the spot kick to be ordered to be retaken after play had continued for almost two minutes, because of encroachment in the box. “I’m not really in favour of VAR and this was nitpicking over one step,” said Thomas Bruns, the VVV midfielder.

Gullit says there is still a debate over the extent of VAR’s use. “I don’t like VAR being used to rule goals out so much, if for example the goalkeeper moves a second early,” he said. “But there’s no doubt people would be a lot more pissed off if there was no VAR now. We don’t want goals like the one France scored against Ireland after the [Thierry] Henry handball [in World Cup qualifying in 2009] and with VAR that doesn’t happen any more.”

## Hat-trick of ‘armpit’ offside

**M**arginal “armpit” offside calls have been the main source of frustration with VAR in the Premier League but Mario Gómez, the former Germany striker, has suffered more than any player in England’s top flight this season.

The 34-year-old, now playing for Stuttgart in Germany’s second tier, had a hat-trick of goals chalked off by VAR in a match against Sandhausen in December — including an acrobatic bicycle kick — all for tight offside calls.

Gómez was an advocate of VAR but has since changed his mind. He said: “I am happy that much of my career is behind me and that I will not have to deal with these issues for the next ten years.”

Gijs de Jong, the secretary general of the Dutch FA, believes that the positive feelings outweigh the negative. “People are happy that diving and elbowing have almost been eliminated by VAR,” he said. “I don’t really understand the debate over offside either, if it is one centimetre or one metre it makes no difference and the technology will only get better.”

## GERMANY

The attitude to VAR in the Bundesliga is perhaps the most similar to the English experience: groups of fans sing how they hate VAR and attack the German FA, while a survey last month suggested that 63 per cent of players do not believe the system has improved this season compared with last year.

Mario Gómez, the former Germany forward, had three goals ruled out for offside in a single game for Stuttgart against Sandhausen in December and said: “VAR is a disaster for strikers.”

However, the German football

expert Raphael Honigstein says VAR, which is now in its third season in the country, appears to be gaining acceptance — and it is now used in the second division as well as the top flight. “I can’t think of that many talking points about VAR decisions in recent months,” he said. “Some ultras still sing about it because it’s taking away that moment of elation but my sense is that it is no longer a big deal.”

Honigstein says marginal offside barely spark any debate — perhaps because unlike in the Premier League the broadcasters are not provided with the exact lines for every decision. “There was an incident involving Marco Reus this season when Borussia Dortmund scored a goal and it was spotted he was fractionally offside earlier in the move but in the end it wasn’t a big thing,” he said.

## ITALY

Chris Smalling, the Manchester United defender on loan at Roma, was involved in an incident in the

Europa League this season that convinced many Italians that VAR is the only way forward. Smalling was penalised for a handball in injury time when replays showed the ball had struck him in the face. There is no VAR in the Europa League, however, and so Borussia Mönchengladbach scored a late equaliser from the spot. “Everybody would scream if we stopped using VAR now,” said Fabio Licari, international football reporter with *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Italy can claim to have invented VAR — the former referees Pierluigi Collina and Roberto Rosetti have been at the forefront of introducing the system at Fifa and Uefa respectively, and Serie A was one of the first competitions to embrace it.

## SPAIN

The long-held mistrust of referees by Spanish fans, and in particular the suspicion that Real Madrid and to an extent Barcelona are favoured by match officials, meant there was

widespread support for the introduction of VAR into La Liga. It is now in its second season and is also used in the second flight in Spain but video assistants have not eliminated the belief that Real are still favoured.

Christian Machowski, the Malaga-based head of the company ESEM that organises training camps and travel for football clubs, said: “In Spain there is so little trust in the refereeing, and people hoped that VARs would end this preferential treatment but there is still some feeling that there is selective justice.”

“There was an example at the weekend when Real’s Casemiro appeared to foul [Alvaro] Morata in the Madrid derby but no penalty was given to Atletico — people then complain this is the VAR now favouring Real because they have influence with the Spanish FA.”

“On balance, it appears most people in Spain think football is better with VAR. There are still issues but it is not as intense as it is in the UK.”



## City's inquest after Spurs loss

### CONTINUED FROM BACK

be allowed to leave this summer, though he is unwilling to take a pay cut. The Argentinian has 2½ years left on his £120,000-a-week deal.

Guardiola kept his players in the dressing room for 45 minutes after the defeat at Tottenham’s new ground, which came four days after City had lost 1-0 at home to Manchester United in the Carabao Cup semi-final second leg but still progressed on aggregate to face Aston Villa in the final next month.

It is understood that Guardiola asked his players why they thought their title challenge was faltering and how they could improve. There was no indication that Guardiola or his players raised their voices.

Raheem Sterling is confident that he will be fit for City’s Champions League last-16 first-leg tie against Real Madrid in three weeks. Sterling hobbled off with an injury to his left hamstring but is optimistic that he will be back for the Leicester City game on February 22 or the encounter in Spain four days later.

## Everton ready to reward Holgate with new deal

Mason Holgate is set to be handed a new contract by Everton (Paul Joyce writes).

Holgate’s present deal expires in the summer of 2022 and he is one of the talents earmarked for new terms. Striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin is in talks on an improved contract.

Holgate, 23, who was signed for £2 million from Barnsley in 2015, has grasped the opportunity that has presented itself to establish himself alongside Yerry Mina as the club’s first choice centre-back pairing.



## Neymar out with rib injury after partying at nightclub

The Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar will miss tonight’s Ligue 1 match away to Nantes because of a rib injury, just 48 hours after celebrating his 28th birthday at a nightclub in Paris. Neymar, left, played the full 90 minutes on Saturday when Thomas Tuchel’s side thrashed Montpellier 5-0, but did need treatment during the first half. His coach admitted that the preparation was not ideal. “Is it the best way to prepare for a match? Clearly not,” Tuchel said. “Is it the worst thing in the world? No.”



# 'Eddie picked the wrong word when promising to bring brutality'

He masterminded their Paris defeat but Shaun Edwards will never rule out coaching England, he tells **John Westerby**

Shaun Edwards was feeling rather weary yesterday. Not as a consequence, he stresses, of too much vin rouge in the aftermath of his side's stirring 24-17 victory over England, rather from the heightened emotions of his first game as France's defence coach, all played out in front of an expectant Stade de France full house sensing that a new era may be dawning for their team.

In attempting to set the agenda for the week, Eddie Jones, the England head coach, had promised that "absolute brutality" lay in store for an inexperienced France team. What transpired instead was a performance from the home team in which they dominated the physical confrontations, giving the finest defensive display from a France team for as long as anyone could recall. So much for England's promised brutality.

"I thought Eddie chose the wrong word there, to be honest," Edwards told *The Times* yesterday. "He probably should have said 'physicality'. 'Brutality' brings to mind other things. I

Edwards consoles George Ford after France's win on Sunday



just think Eddie picked the wrong word." Did it motivate France's players? "When you're playing in front of 75,000 in the first game of the Six Nations, if you need exterior motivation, you're in the wrong place," Edwards said. "They're a pretty self-motivated bunch."

The pleasure that Edwards felt in his players' defensive diligence was redoubled by the reaction from the home supporters, who cheered each defensive set with escalating fervour as England fought back in the second half, threatening to overturn France's 17-0 half-time lead. "Didn't they get behind us brilliantly?" Edwards said. "I don't know if I've ever seen a French crowd cheer defence quite like that. It was incredibly inspiring."

Speak to players who have worked with this remarkably successful coach, whether at Wasps, with Wales or the British & Irish Lions, and they talk of how fostering this emotional investment in defensive duties is the bedrock to Edwards's work. The fans were taking their cue from the animated reactions of the French players to each other's defensive successes, clearly relishing their work.

"I've been helped because at the

World Cup, France were using a system with Fabien [Galthié, now head coach] as defence coach that was similar to what we'd been using with Wales," Edwards, 53, said. "I've come in and added a bit of detail on top of that. It's the same with anything in life, if you're



Charles Ollivon halted Kyle Sinckler as France displayed their defensive steel

enjoying what you're doing, you're going to go about it with more zest. But there was more to it than that, our maul defence was excellent and we only conceded seven penalties. And I was particularly pleased with the kicking. We kicked the ball at the right times, we kicked more than England. There's a lot of negativity around kicking, but you have to do it in rugby union. It's only one game, but it was a good start."

If ever there was a lull in France's defensive intensity, Gaël Fickou, appointed defensive captain by Edwards, was a conspicuous presence

in urging his team on. Six years after he caught the eye as a precocious 19-year-old with a match-winning try against England in the Stade de France, Fickou, 25, has matured into a rounded player who led the defensive effort from inside centre and will look to develop a degree of consistency in the forthcoming games at home to Italy on Sunday and then when Edwards returns to Cardiff to face Wales two weeks later.

"I've had some great defensive captains," Edwards said. "I had Jonathan Davies with Wales, and Jamie Roberts before him, Gavin

Henson for that first grand slam [in 2008] and at Wasps we had Fraser Waters and Josh Lewsey. I've followed Gaël's career since he was 18 and I was hoping coming into camp that he'd be my defensive captain. He's got all the credentials, he takes the job seriously and he speaks at the right times. And he leads from the front in defence."

The swift impact that Edwards has made calls to mind the instant effect he had, working with Warren Gatland, when Wales's defence was transformed in 2008 after their pool-stage exit from the World Cup the previous year. It has also prompted the query among many England supporters yesterday of how the most successful English coach of his generation, who has been living in Chiswick, has never quite been enticed to work a short distance away at Twickenham.

"It's a masterstroke from whoever [with France] decided to reach out to

“

Have England missed out on me? You never know what might happen in future. Let's just leave it at that.

Shaun Edwards," Lawrence Dallaglio told *The Ruck* podcast yesterday. "It begs the question, 'Should the RFU be kicking themselves?' The answer is yes." In an interview in these pages last week, Edwards said that he had had only one serious offer from England, in 2006, but it came at a time when he was dealing with the after-effects of his brother's death and preferred to stay in club rugby with Wasps.

But Edwards was looking for a job again this year, with his Wales contract due to expire after the World Cup and a proposed move to Wigan Warriors faltering. Dallaglio, who played under Edwards at Wasps, said that his old coach would have been amenable to an approach from England. "Shaun phoned me up a few months ago, said, 'This job from Wigan is not going to be for me and I'd love that England job,'" Dallaglio said.

The phone did not ring and France saw their opportunity. Does Edwards, now with a four-year contract through to the next World Cup, permit himself a smile when it is suggested that England have missed out?

"You never know what might happen in future," he said. "Let's just leave it at that."

## Robshaw to leave Harlequins and could head for US

**John Westerby**

The end of an era is approaching at Harlequins after Chris Robshaw, the former England captain, announced that he would be leaving his only professional club at the end of the season.

Robshaw turns 34 in June, when his three-year contract at the Twickenham Stoop expires, and he will bring down the curtain on a remarkably consistent career in the back row for Harlequins, the highlight of which was leading them to their only Premiership title in 2012.

He is not intending to retire and said that he has yet to make a decision on his future, but the flanker is not expected to join another Premiership club and has been linked with a move to play in the expanding Major League Rugby in the

United States. But he will play the rest of the season as Harlequins captain and is determined to finish on a high.

"In terms of what that means for me, I'm not sure yet," he said. "I'm looking towards the next challenge, the next chapter, and it felt like the right time for me personally, physically and mentally. It's tough, because I've been here a long time. I want to enjoy these last six months. I want us to win something."

During his 16-year stint at Harlequins, Robshaw won 66 caps for England from 2009 to 2018, captaining the side 43 times. His captaincy on the way to England's early exit at the pool stage of the 2015 Rugby World Cup was heavily criticised, but his leadership qualities have always been regarded highly by the coaches he has played under and team-mates he has led.

Although Eddie Jones had been

among Robshaw's sternest critics in 2015, when he later became England head coach Jones picked Robshaw in his back row for most of his first two years in charge.

Paul Gustard, the Harlequins head of rugby, said: "There's a few people you



Robshaw led Harlequins to the league title in 2012

come across in rugby that are a once-in-a-lifetime kind of player and Chris, particularly for Harlequins, has been that kind of guy. It sometimes felt as though there were two of him on the field, he covers that much ground and

gets through that much work. He trains with the same kind of energy and intensity. He'll leave a bit of a hole."

These are uncertain times at Harlequins, with Kyle Sinckler, the England tight-head prop, announcing last week that he would be leaving for Bristol Bears next season, his value having soared since establishing himself as one of the finest front-row players in the game at the World Cup in Japan.

Although he had come through the club's academy to the senior ranks, Harlequins were unable to compete with Bristol's offer of about £500,000 a year due to the restrictions of the Gallagher Premiership's salary cap.

Robshaw's departure is a different matter, as he is beginning to contemplate a life after rugby having embarked on a number of business ventures.

## The Ruck podcast

**Lawrence Dallaglio, Owen Slot, Stephen Jones and Stuart Barnes reflect on England's defeat in Paris and ask: What now for Eddie Jones and his team?**

Available from your usual podcast provider





# Time for Jones to fight his

## Owen Slot

Chief Rugby Correspondent



When under pressure, it is not unknown for Eddie Jones to turn on his questioners, and Sunday post-match in Paris was certainly an Eddie under pressure. He was asked — perfectly reasonably, you may suggest — whether England's defeat by France would trigger any changes to his selection plans for Scotland.

No, Jones replied dismissively, it won't. "Why would a result like this change the 23 for the next game?" he asked. He didn't give time for a reply, which was probably best otherwise we would all still be in Paris. Instead, he countered: "I really don't understand the question."

In one other facet, when under pressure, we now know Jones extremely well. He does not do kneejerk reaction. He has the least reactively jerky knees in the business.

So, no, he isn't about to make manifold selection changes. His more favoured response is to back his own team to deliver — or, you may suggest, to back his original decisions to come right.

This show of faith shows strength of conviction; to start dropping players one game into the Six Nations would undermine the group. Yet while Jones's instinct to be conservative is right, the challenge here is that his list of problems to solve is particularly long.

**Scotland v England**  
Saturday, Murrayfield, 4.45pm  
TV: Live on BBC One  
Radio: BBC 5 Live

### THE POWER VACUUM

There was a point, six months ago, when Jones had at his disposal an extraordinary battalion of (Polynesian) power runners. There were two Vunipolas, Mako and Billy, Joe Cokanasiga, a revitalised Manu Tuilagi and a Tuilagi back-up man in Ben Te'o. Jones used to drool over the potential at his disposal.

It looks as though only one of the above, Mako Vunipola, will be available for the Scotland game this weekend because of injuries. That is a seriously underpowered England — which is exactly how they looked on Sunday in Paris. They hammered away at the French tryline with relentless pick-and-gos but they couldn't blast their way over.

Jones does not deny that this is a concern. "That sort of attack has become a power game," he said, "and we weren't good in that area. It's an area we need to improve in. We need to find a way to get some more power because you've got to carry through bodies."

**Solution** The obvious solution would be to make a personnel change at No 8. If you have one of the best flankers in the world, in Tom Curry, why transform him into one of the most average of No 8s? Why not return him to flanker, the position from where he was shortlisted for world player of the year only three months ago, and bring in an experienced No 8 who is more of a like-for-like

The groin injury suffered by Tuilagi in Paris gives Jones another selection problem

replacement for Billy Vunipola? However, Jones is not going to budge on this one. He says that Curry is a long-term project at No 8.

The alternative options are not great: to call in Alex Dombrandt today, or Sam Simmonds, who has been in the squad before, or the more experienced Nathan Hughes gives any of these players only a couple of training sessions to get up to speed. It would also place huge pressure on their shoulders to carry the day at Murrayfield.

The sensible option, at the very least, would be to invite one of the above into the squad. They could start on the bench and then contend properly for a start against Ireland two weeks later.

Yet Jones is refusing to make a selection change. Here, above all, he believes he can get a change in performance without a change in personnel.

### THE IDEAS DEFICIT

One of the saddest sights in an England shirt on Sunday was Jonathan Joseph carrying the ball straight into tacklers. Owen Farrell had a go too. These players weren't remotely made for this but England had reached a dead end and couldn't see anywhere else to go.

The stats tell a horrible story of England's inadequacies: They had 70 per cent of the territory against France and 61 per cent of the possession, they forced France to make 203 tackles to their own 134. The natural result was that France tired towards the end yet, still, England's only tries were down to the individual brilliance of one man, Jonny May.

What happened to the England who were cutting apart Australia and New Zealand in the World Cup, only three months back?

The unkind answer points to the departure of Scott Wisemantel, the Australian who was their attack coach for 18 months. This is unkind because Simon Amor, his replacement, has had only one game. Nevertheless, the pressure is quickly upon him.

**Solution** Amor requires a whole campaign to make his impact. Yet it is not as if England need to start again; they do not need to reinvent the wheel. The pack, in Japan, never attacked with such persistent simplicity and predictability.

Where they can change is with their contribution from the bench. The England bench no longer has game-changing personnel.

The most glaring example, here, is at scrum half. If it makes sense for Jones to maintain continuity at 9-10-12 from Japan — and many would argue that the No 9 should change anyway — it doesn't make sense to retain both World Cup No 9s.

Jones needs someone different, who can present a different challenge. He needs long-term solutions here, but a quick fix would be to go straight back to Danny Care.

### ADAPTABILITY INADEQUACY

We know all about this, the players know it and they must be more frustrated about it than anyone.

"We needed to adapt quicker," Sam Underhill said after the game on Sunday. And Joe Marler: "We didn't adapt quickly enough." And May: "Maybe we've got to think of something different inside the opposition 22."

Curry should play in his best position of flanker rather than at No 8



### Curry's new role

Statistics from the game against France — his first at No 8, shows that he made twice as many carries as in an average game as flanker, but they were far less effective in making ground and beating defenders and made fewer than half as many tackles as on average

Flanker		No 8
19	Test	1
6.5	Carries	14
15.9	Metres	10
2	Clean breaks	0
1.9	Defenders beaten	0
12.1	Tackles	6
0.8	Turnovers won	1
1.5	Turnovers conceded	1



The decision to start Furbank backfired and he should now drop to the bench

England have long struggled to master the art of building a performance. They don't find it easy to reset. You wonder if this is a reflection on the way they have been developed as professional players or b) a reflection on the tight control kept by Jones which

restricts their own ability to run the game. Either way, they seem to need the half-time changing room to be told where the solutions may lie.

**Solution** Not easy. This is a cultural issue. It is too easy to blame Farrell when the responsibility falls on all the

### Lack of power

In Eddie Jones's 51 games in charge, England had only twice failed to get across the gainline with carries as often as they did on Sunday — the worst was in the World Cup final

**Lowest percentage of carries that crossed the gainline under Jones**  
v South Africa, World Cup final, November 2019

36%

v South Africa, third Test, June 2018

37%

v France, Sunday

38%

v Wales, February 2019

40%

**0.91** Average metres England forwards made with each carry on Sunday. In the World Cup it was 2.1 and in last year's Six Nations it was 2.2

senior players. Nevertheless, Sunday is by no means the first time that, as a game has gone away from England, Farrell has receded further and further into the background. When adversity strikes, at the very moment when England need to hear his voice and



# instincts and make changes



## Tuilagi a Calcutta Cup doubt but coach keeps faith with his squad

### CONTINUED FROM BACK

18-stone powerhouse has a history of serious groin injuries and the RFU said that Tuilagi, the Leicester Tigers centre, required an MRI scan to determine the severity of the damage. An update is expected from England today.

Eddie Jones, the head coach, opted against drafting in any midfield cover for Tuilagi, insisting that he had enough options already in Jonathan Joseph and Fraser Dingwall.

Jones admitted that England lacked ball-carrying thrust against France when Tuilagi went off, an issue that will be remedied in part by the expected return to the starting XV of Mako Vunipola at Murrayfield.

Billy Vunipola is out injured but Jones declined to add a specialist No 8 to his squad, despite the form of Sam Simmonds and Alex Dombard. Jones said he was invested in the long-term project of converting Tom Curry into a full-time No 8.

Jones believes Curry could emulate Rodney So'oialo, the former New Zealand No 8, who began his career as an open-side flanker. Four years ago, Jones made the same So'oialo reference when he picked Jack Clifford with the intention of converting the Harlequins flanker into a No 8.

"I see Tom Curry as a long-term No 8 so I am prepared to accept some mistakes for him to learn and become a better No 8," Jones said. "We don't have a one-game selection policy, just look at players like Ellis Genge and how long it has taken him to be a Test player — four years. They have to go through this apprenticeship and sometimes they go through some pain at the start of it."

"He can be a So'oialo-type player. Mobile, hard-running No 8 that has ball skills. We can't find another Billy so we

won't go down that track. We will find a different sort of player."

"We want this team to be a great team. To do this we need to have the ambition to make players great players. Tom is one of those players we feel can be an absolutely outstanding No 8."

England expect Anthony Watson to be available for the Scotland game after he missed the 24-17 defeat by France with a calf injury. The Bath full back would have started at No 15 in Paris had he been fit. He could now claim the jersey from George Furbank, who endured a baptism of fire on his Test debut in Paris.

Jones insisted that Furbank, 23, would develop into "an important player" for England. "Coaching is about helping players get better," he said. "What do you think I'm going to



Russell has been a thorn in England's side in the past

do? Say 'George you're absolute rubbish get out of here, go back to Northampton, work in the shoe factory?' Of course I'm going to help him become a better player. And I thought he was good."

Kyran Bracken, the former England scrum half, argued yesterday that the RFU should have replaced Jones after the World Cup and recruited an English head coach. "His time is up," Bracken said on his podcast, Ruck It!, during which he criticised Jones for his selections and his soundbites.

"All the other teams in the Six Nations have made big changes on and off the pitch," Bracken said.

benefit from some clarity of thought, he gets quieter.

Switching captain right now would be too disruptive. However, the senior players' group need to invest serious time this week on their own, working out their approach to problem-solving.

### THE FULL-BACK DEFICIENCY

Jones's instinct is to be conservative as a selector. He likes players to do their time in the squad, to prove themselves and to earn his trust. Promoting George Furbank to the starting full back in a raucous Stade de France was an uncharacteristic show of faith that backfired.

Furbank had replaced Anthony Watson, who was intended to have replaced Elliot Daly, who was moved to the wing. But Watson was injured and suddenly Furbank, 23 years old, 5ft 9in and uncapped, was in. It was a selection that Les Bleus relished.

**Solution** Jones owes it to Furbank to give him the support and the education afforded to most players before they finally take the stage. However, he must not start him against Scotland on Saturday. If Watson is passed fit, he must start at No 15. If not, then Daly should do another shift in his old position. Play Furbank off the bench; take the pressure off him.

## Is Eddie right to stick with Farrell as captain?

In his column in yesterday's paper Stuart Barnes suggested that Owen Farrell was the wrong man to be England captain, as he lacked the calm authority required. Here, some of our writers and online commentators offer their opinion on whether Farrell is the right man and, if not, who should be captain.

### Our writers' verdicts

#### Stuart Barnes

George Ford will not be captain on Saturday but he should be. The best (maybe only) tactician in the side with a strong streak of controlled leadership. If England bench him for Farrell to start at fly half it would be a mistake.

#### Owen Slot

Farrell should keep the captaincy for the Six Nations. It would be too disruptive to change now. He will remain the spiritual leader of the

team whether he is captain or not, but the evidence grows that another player should take over. My choice would be Jamie George.

#### Alex Lowe

This is not a kneejerk reaction to Sunday; I would have changed captain after the World Cup. England expressed concerns during the tournament that the captaincy responsibilities were having a negative impact on Farrell's performances. I would turn to George or Maro Itoje, both of whom are senior players in the pack (forwards make better captains) and confident in their own public voice.

#### John Westerby

I'd expect Eddie Jones to move on from Farrell in the autumn internationals. Itoje seems the ideal candidate to replace him, but if Jones worries that the captaincy

would blunt Itoje's edge, George could be an option.

#### Steve James

Stick with Farrell but he needs to play at fly half. That is his position and one from which he can influence the game more. It looks as if he just gets more and more frustrated at 12. He needs help, though. England need to realise that opposition sides know they can target their No 8 and No 9 and disrupt everything. It was what South Africa did in the World Cup

**Farrell's captaincy has been criticised**

final and it was what Wales did last year in Cardiff. Shaun Edwards, now the France defence coach, will have been banging the same drum in Paris.

### Our readers' verdicts

#### David Taylor

For one of the finest No 10s in the game it is crazy to play Farrell out of position. Jones must be the sole coach on the planet to countenance such a thing.

#### James RP

Jamie George should be the captain for the next couple of years. Long-term, Itoje can be a great captain but there's no point giving it to him now. George is a leader, a confident speaker and a key player.



### TSPowright

Undoubted warriors like Alun Wyn Jones, Martin Johnson and Richie McCaw have the ability to switch to being a diplomat when they are talking to the ref. Farrell cannot — it is obvious he is on the brink of screaming in frustration when he tries.

### Icolonius

Jones didn't prepare for the South African (predictable) blitzkrieg. He seems to have thought that the French would try the same tactics and built the pack on that assumption only to find Les Bleus reverting to their fluid running style.

### Geoff Loughborough

Fly half is one of the worst positions to award the captaincy to. They have too much on their plate, orchestrating the backs is a full-time job.



# Sport

## Stones under threat in City rebuild plan

Guardiola wants to sign two new centre backs

Paul Hirst

Pep Guardiola wants to sign two centre backs this summer in a move that casts fresh doubt over John Stones's future at Manchester City.

Guardiola's team fell 22 points behind the Premier League leaders Liverpool on Sunday when they lost 2-0 away to Tottenham Hotspur.

Despite admitting defeat in the title race, Guardiola does not want to make wholesale changes to his squad this summer. The 49-year-old wants to sign an attacking player, especially if Leroy Sané leaves, but is concerned about the number of goals his team are leaking after their failure to sign a replacement for Vincent Kompany last summer.

With a third of the campaign remaining, City have conceded 29 league goals — six more than they did in the whole of last season.

The City manager will look to bring in two central defenders when the transfer window reopens at the end of the season. City are tracking Pau Torres, the 23-year-old centre back. Torres made his Spain debut in November after breaking into Villarreal's first team and is seen as the perfect foil for Aymeric Laporte.

City have scouted Rúben Dias, the 22-year-old Benfica defender, Milan Skriniar, of Inter Milan, and Brighton & Hove Albion's Lewis Dunk.

Two central defenders will have to leave to make room for the arrivals. Laporte, 25, is City's best defender so he will remain, Fernandinho recently

signed a one-year contract extension and Guardiola has big plans for 19-year-old Eric García so it appears that Stones and Nicolás Otamendi, 31, are the most vulnerable.

Stones, 25, was one of Guardiola's first signings when he joined City from Everton for £47.5 million in 2016, but has struggled to hold down a regular place in the team. Stones has started ten league matches this season, although he has at times struggled with a thigh injury. Despite the absence of Laporte because of a lack of match fitness, Stones was not named in the squad for the Spurs game. City started with Otamendi and Fernandinho, 34, and had García on the bench.

"No, he's not injured," Guardiola said of Stones. "I decided to bring Eric. Eric has played so good, so I brought him."

City have made a habit of renewing the contracts of their best performers even if they have a long time left to run, but they are yet to offer the England defender an extension to his present deal, which expires in the summer of 2022. Guardiola is said to have reservations about Stones's application and ability to focus on the pitch.

Stones's lack of playing time this season will be of concern to the England manager Gareth Southgate, as he was part of his first-choice defence in the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

City were considering selling Otamendi last summer until Kompany told them he was leaving to become Anderlecht's player-manager. He will

Continued on page 60

### Eddie was wrong

Shaun Edwards on how he helped France beat England

Rugby union, page 61



### Wish you were here...

Where are your football team going on their winter break?

Page 57



DAN MULLAN/GETTY IMAGES

Sam Curran gets ready for the first ODI against South Africa



## England ready to deliver again

World champions play first ODI since epic Lord's final 205 days ago, page 54

## Russell left out of squad for Calcutta Cup

Alex Lowe Deputy Rugby Correspondent  
Alasdair Reid

England will not face their Calcutta Cup nemesis at Murrayfield on Saturday after Finn Russell was frozen out of the Scotland squad for a second week.

The Racing 92 fly half was dropped from Scotland's opening Six Nations game, the 19-12 defeat by Ireland, for missing training after a late-night drinking session.

Gregor Townsend, the head coach, said the pair then held "positive" talks but Russell opted to leave the camp rather than stay to help Scotland prepare for the trip to Dublin. It emerged yesterday that contact between Townsend and Russell has been re-established but *The Times* understands that the 27-year-old would have to show some public contrition before being recalled.

Russell's absence will be a blow to Scotland but a boon to England. It was Russell who orchestrated Scotland's first win against England in a decade in 2018, creating three first-half tries in a virtuoso performance at Murrayfield.

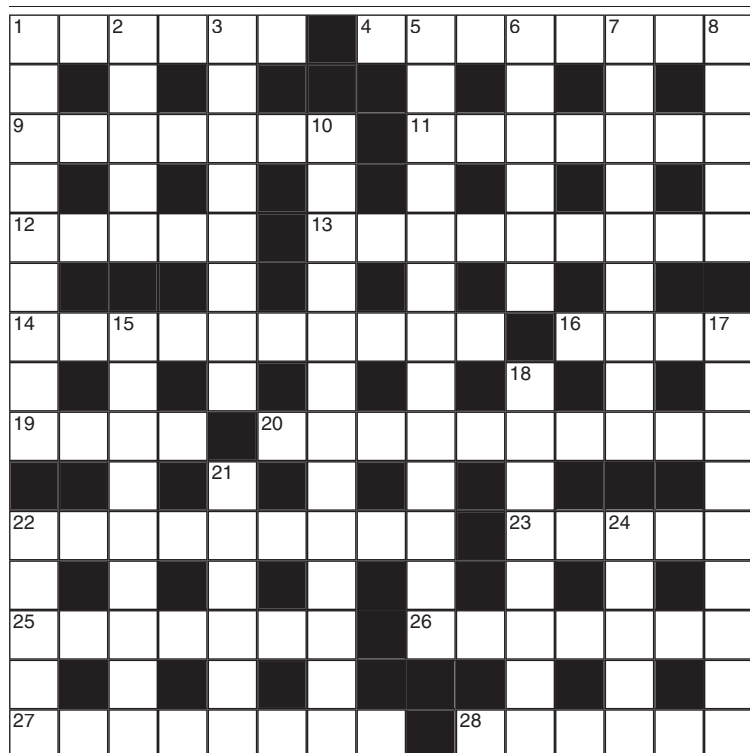
Eleven months ago at Twickenham, he was the catalyst for Scotland's comeback as they recovered from 31-0 down to lead 38-31 before England scrambled a draw. "I know Gregor has had some dialogue with him, he won't be involved at the minute," Steve Tandy, the Scotland defence coach, said.

Adam Hastings played well at fly half in the absence of Russell and he will continue in the role against England, who are bracing themselves for the prospect of losing Manu Tuilagi to another groin injury.

Tuilagi was withdrawn after 16 minutes of England's defeat by France and was heard swearing in frustration as he left the field. The 28-year-old did not seek immediate treatment for the injury but was consoled by the England medical staff and team-mates. The

Continued on page 63

## Times Crossword 27,578



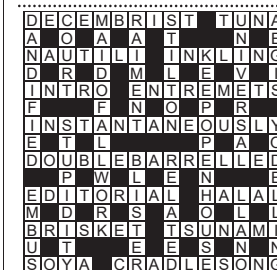
### ACROSS

- 1 Neglect ache crossing South America (6)
- 4 Evangelist before long beginning to rant (8)
- 9 Upstart after a year runs meeting-place briefly (7)
- 11 At uni, Jack pens work of an acceptable standard (2,2,3)
- 12 What pilot may do, caught in European plane (5)
- 13 Conduct Beethoven's Fifth, with a bouvier barking (9)
- 14 Unable to see the way, I curse (5-5)
- 16 Wine doesn't start very well (4)
- 19 Nimble Scotsman's left resisting (4)
- 20 A church intimate with no name, lacking colour (10)
- 22 I can still broadcast a little bit (9)
- 23 Small diagram has three headings in it (5)
- 25 Fodder reportedly nearly all stolen? Oh, well (5-2)
- 26 Table item, last of lousy dry alcohol I swallowed (7)
- 27 Dominate worst tour (8)
- 28 Impoverished north on its knees (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Document about papers under paperweight? (9)
- 2 Swell guy in theatre not performing (5)
- 3 Tiny tip one's left in main plant (5,3)
- 5 Crude old carpet's acquired, useful to cover study (5-3-5)
- 6 Voice last part of play, not loudly (6)
- 7 Cool pot, somewhere to keep flask? (3,6)
- 8 Army groups initially return more bloody (5)
- 10 Locum laid crib out for babyfood supplier (9,4)
- 15 Banned old exotic film qualifies to be shown outside (3-6)
- 17 Sailor is toady inviting in German eight, not English (9)
- 18 Make sour beer after middle of November (8)
- 21 One who chases old playwright out of Florida (6)
- 22 Prejudice about adopting Henry's form of address (5)
- 24 Hum first of tunes in flop (5)

### Yesterday's solution 27,577



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- Seven-night full-board cruise on board Koningsdam
- **\*FREE drinks package when you book an Ocean View cabin or above**
- All transfers
- All flights (London departure)

## Cruise Itinerary



- Vancouver - Embark
- Juneau
- Skagway
- Glacier Bay (Scenic Cruising)
- Ketchikan
- Vancouver - Disembark

## Your Experience

Immerse yourself in the life of a cowboy as you fly to Calgary and enjoy a two-day ticket to the famed Calgary Stampede. Witness as man tries to tame beast in lively rodeos, before you watch competitors grab the bull by the horns in rounds of bull riding. Transferring to Banff, you'll embrace the quieter things in life during an escorted tour which will take you to Lake Louise. Next, you'll board the Rocky Mountaineer, a luxury rail journey that glides into the heart of the Canadian Rockies, discover stunning sights from dramatic gorges to sparkling lakeside beauties. Marvel at the sight of winding, turquoise rivers bisecting deep valleys, towering trees clinging to cliff faces while dining on regional inspired dishes. Finally, round off your North America experience with a luxury cruise through Alaska's icy and spectacular scenery on board Koningsdam.



Use this unique **CRUISE CODE**  
online to find out more - **AME7354**

INSIDE  
**£4,799**  
PER PERSON

OCEAN VIEW  
**£5,499**  
PER PERSON

VERANDAH  
**£5,999**  
PER PERSON

SUITE  
**£6,499**  
PER PERSON

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CRUISING**  
MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES**



# No-fly Cunard and Silversea cruise with a North America adventure

CRUISE

INCLUDES A CRUISE ON BOARD QUEEN MARY 2 AND SILVER WHISPER



BRAND NEW  
NO-FLY  
EXPERIENCE

Ten-day  
fully escorted  
North America  
tour



30 NIGHTS, DEPARTING MAY 21, 2021

## Price Includes

- Seven-night full-board cruise on board Queen Mary 2
- Two-night hotel stay in New York
- One-night hotel stay in Philadelphia with a fully escorted tour
- Two-night hotel stay in Washington DC with a fully escorted tour
- Two-night hotel stay in Niagara Falls
- Hornblower Niagara cruise, an intimate tour where you'll journey past all three of the falls^
- Fully escorted scenic tour of Niagara-on-the-Lake including wine tasting
- One-night hotel stay in Watkins Glen
- One-night hotel stay in New York
- 14-night all-inclusive luxury cruise on board Silver Whisper
  - Pre-paid gratuities and complimentary WI-FI on board
  - In-suite butler service and fully stocked fridge
  - All-inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including fine wines and premium spirits whilst on board
- All transfers

## Cruise Itinerary

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Southampton - Embark Queen Mary 2                    | • Bar Harbor (Maine)      |
| • New York - Disembark                                 | • Halifax (Canada)        |
| • New York - Embark Silver Whisper - Overnight in Port | • Sydney (Canada)         |
| • Cape Cod (Scenic Cruising)                           | • St John's (Canada)      |
| • Boston   | • Cork                    |
|  | • Falmouth                |
|  | • Southampton - Disembark |

## Your Experience

Embark regal Queen Mary 2 for an iconic transatlantic journey to New York, where you'll enjoy a tour of some of America's fascinating sites, from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. From here, you'll head to Niagara Falls to witness the majestic beauty of the three waterfalls that make up this unforgettable natural wonder. Following your stay, you'll return to New York, stopping in the picturesque village of Watkins Glen. Next, you'll embark the elegant Silver Whisper for your voyage back home. Admire the rural charm of Canada's coastline before crossing the North Atlantic, where you'll explore beautiful Ireland and indulge in tasty Cornish cuisine.

Use this unique **CRUISE CODE** online to find out more - **AME7357**

INSIDE + VISTA SUITE  
**£5,999**  
PER PERSON

OUTSIDE + VISTA SUITE  
**£6,499**  
PER PERSON

BALCONY + VERANDA SUITE  
**£7,499**  
PER PERSON

GRILL SUITE + SILVER SUITE  
**£12,999**  
PER PERSON

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# Ultimate luxury Indian escape and the Maharajas' Express

CRUISE

INCLUDES AN ALL-INCLUSIVE LUXURY  
CRYSTAL CRUISES VOYAGE



BRAND NEW  
LUXURY  
EXPERIENCE

All-inclusive  
luxury India rail  
journey  
and tours



22 NIGHTS, DEPARTING NOVEMBER 7, 2020

## Price Includes

- One-night five-star stay at the Intercontinental Dubai Festival City
- 13-night all-inclusive luxury cruise on board Crystal Symphony
  - Pre-paid gratuities, unlimited Wi-Fi and 24-hour room service
  - All-inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages whilst on board
- One-night hotel stay Mumbai
- Six-night all-inclusive luxury Maharajas' Express rail journey with fully escorted tours visiting: Mumbai, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra and Delhi
- One-night hotel stay in Delhi
- All hotel stays include breakfast
- All transfers
- All Emirates Airline flights (London departure - regional flights available)



## Cruise Itinerary



- Dubai - Embark - Overnight in Port
- Doha - Overnight in Port
- Manama
- Abu Dhabi - Overnight in Port
- Muscat
- Mumbai - Overnight in Port - Disembark

## Your Experience

Following an all-inclusive cruise on board Crystal Symphony around the Middle East, you'll embark the ultimate luxury train, the Maharajas' Express. On a journey incomparable to others of its kind, you'll sail across serene Lake Pichola, one of the most romantic destinations in India, find Jodhpur's looming Mehrangarh Fort and savour a sunset dinner in sight of Bikaner's glittering metropolis. Your next stop is in Jaipur where you'll wander within the lavish Amber Fort, the home of the glimmering Sheesh Mahal. Finally witness as tigers slink through the underbrush in Ranthambore National Park on a game drive and stand in the shade of the resplendent Taj Mahal, one of the world's most beloved monuments.



Use this unique **CRUISE CODE**  
online to find out more - **ASA7495**

DELUXE OCEAN VIEW  
**£8,999**  
PER PERSON

DELUXE VERANDA  
**£9,999**  
PER PERSON

PENTHOUSE SUITE  
**£12,599**  
PER PERSON

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# No-fly trio of Italian Lakes and luxury rail journey

CRUISE

INCLUDES A CUNARD EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN VOYAGE

EXCLUSIVE  
TO IMAGINE  
CRUISINGLuxury Venice  
Simplon-Orient-  
Express rail  
journey

## 20 NIGHTS, DEPARTING OCTOBER 1, 2021

### Price Includes

- Nine-night full-board cruise on board Queen Victoria
- Two-night hotel stay in Venice
- Three-night hotel stay in Lake Maggiore
- Scenic rail journey through Centovalli on board the Centovalli Express
- Two-night hotel stay in Lake Como
- Scenic train journey through the Swiss Alps on board the Bernina Express
- Two-night hotel stay in Lake Garda
- Fully escorted wine tasting tour in Lake Garda
- Two-day full-board luxury Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train journey from Verona to London
- All hotel stays include breakfast
- All transfers

### Cruise Itinerary



- Southampton - Embark
- Seville
- Dubrovnik
- Zadar
- Venice - Disembark

### Your Experience

Surrounded by enchanting views of snow-capped mountains and steep-wooded hills, dotted with botanical gardens featuring bursts of Mediterranean colour; the iconic Italian Lakes offer beguiling beauty. Explore the natural attractions, Baroque architecture and fascinating culture of Lake Maggiore, Lake Como and Lake Garda as you roam the picturesque landscapes. From Verona, you'll embark the opulent Venice Simplon-Orient-Express to enjoy luxurious comfort, decadent surroundings and delectable fine-dining. Spend the afternoon relaxing in the comfort of your cabin, admiring the exquisite passing scenery, on a memorable journey to London.

Paired with a cruise on board Queen Victoria and a two-night hotel stay in Venice, this holiday will be one to remember.



Use this unique **CRUISE CODE**  
online to find out more - **MED7278**

INSIDE  
**£5,199**  
PER PERSON

BALCONY  
**£6,299**  
PER PERSON

GRILL SUITE  
**£8,999**  
PER PERSON



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# Luxury Blue Train journey and Victoria Falls adventure

CRUISE

INCLUDES AN ALL-INCLUSIVE FIVE-STAR VOYAGE



NEW  
BLUE TRAIN  
EXPERIENCE

All-inclusive  
luxury rail  
journey

Trio of  
Victoria Falls  
tours



20 NIGHTS, DEPARTING FEBRUARY 3, 2021

## Price Includes

- One-night five-star hotel stay in Johannesburg at the Peermont D'oreale Grande
- Three-night hotel stay in Victoria Falls at The David Livingstone Safari Lodge and Spa
- Fully escorted walking tour of Victoria Falls
- Fully escorted Lady Livingstone river safari
- Royal Livingstone Express train journey including a five-course dinner and drinks
- One-night five-star stay at the Sheraton Pretoria Hotel
- Two-night all-inclusive luxury Blue Train journey from Pretoria to Cape Town with an off train excursion
- One-night hotel stay in Cape Town at Southern Sun The Cullinan
- 12-night all-inclusive luxury cruise on board Azamara Journey®
  - Complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including house spirits, wine and international beers
  - Pre-paid gratuities and complimentary AzAmazing Evenings® event
  - Concierge services for personal guidance and reservations
- All hotel stays include breakfast
- All flights (London departure - regional flights available) and transfers

## Cruise Itinerary



- Cape Town - Embark
- Port Elizabeth
- East London
- Maputo (Mozambique)
- Richards Bay
- Durban
- Cape Town - Two Nights in Port - Disembark

## Your Experience

Feel Victoria Falls' roar reverberate in your chest as you enjoy your first tour walking beside this marvel. Then in the evening, sail out on a serene, sunset river safari on board the Lady Livingstone. Watch as the African sunset glows on the water and keep an eye out for hippos surfacing by the riverbank. Finally enjoy a sumptuous five-course dinner on board the Royal Livingstone Express which glides into the depths of the Zambezi River Valley. The second part of your adventure sees you embark the Blue Train and experience all-inclusive luxury as you glide through Africa's dramatic and diverse landscapes. Arriving in Cape Town, you'll disembark for an overnight hotel stay. To complete your Africa discovery, you'll voyage to cosmopolitan cities, beach resorts and bustling capitals on board the five-star Azamara Journey®.



Use this unique **CRUISE CODE**  
online to find out more - **AFR7249**

CLUB INTERIOR  
**£4,999**  
PER PERSON

CLUB OCEANVIEW  
**£5,499**  
PER PERSON

CLUB BALCONY  
**£6,199**  
PER PERSON

CLUB SUITE  
**£7,499**  
PER PERSON

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# Cunard New Zealand voyage and Australia rail adventure

INCLUDES HOTEL STAYS IN SYDNEY AND PERTH

CRUISE



Three-night  
all-inclusive  
Indian Pacific  
train journey



## 18 NIGHTS\*, DEPARTS JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 2021

### Price Includes

- One-night hotel stay at the InterContinental Perth City Centre
- Three-night all-inclusive Gold Service Indian Pacific train journey including:
  - All-inclusive regionally-inspired meals, local fine wines and beverages
  - Off train experiences in Broken Hill, Adelaide and surrounds, Cook and Rawlinna
- Two-night hotel stay in Sydney at the Rydges World Square
- 12-night full-board cruise on board Queen Elizabeth
- All hotel stays include breakfast
- All transfers
- All flights (London departure - regional flights available)

### Cruise Itinerary\*



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Sydney - Embark                           | • Wellington                               |
| • Fiordland National Park (Scenic Cruising) | • Picton - Overnight in Port               |
| • Dunedin                                   | • New Plymouth                             |
| • Lyttelton (Christchurch)                  | • Auckland - Overnight in Port - Disembark |

### Your Experience\*

Discover the Australian Outback on board the Indian Pacific and watch dusty desert rise into the beatific Blue Mountains, before embarking the elegant Queen Elizabeth for a stunning cruise around New Zealand.

Begin your Australasia discovery in Perth for an overnight hotel stay and embark the Indian Pacific for three glorious nights of all-inclusive dining and unforgettable off-train excursions. Arriving in Sydney, indulge yourself during your two night hotel stay from walking along Bondi Beach to its historic Rocks district. Next embark Queen Elizabeth and sail away into a dreamlike landscape of Fiordland National Park, complete with forest-caped mountains streaked with waterfalls, and dolphin fins cresting the glassy water. You'll discover the diverse treats of New Zealand from Dunedin – also known as the 'Edinburgh of the South' – to its bustling capital, Wellington with its many craft beers.



Use this unique **CRUISE CODE**  
online to find out more - **AUS7266**

INSIDE\*  
**£3,999**  
PER PERSON

OUTSIDE  
**£4,499**  
PER PERSON

BALCONY  
**£4,999**  
PER PERSON

GRILL SUITE  
**£7,499**  
PER PERSON

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# Luxury Ganges River cruise and Golden Triangle discovery

CRUISE

INCLUDES AN IMMERSIVE INDIAN RIVER CRUISE WITH ALL EXCURSIONS



SAVE UP TO  
£4,000  
PER COUPLE\*

Seven-day  
fully escorted  
Golden Triangle  
tour

EXCLUSIVE TO  
IMAGINE CRUISING



14 NIGHTS, DEPARTING MARCH 30, 2021

## Price Includes

- One-night hotel stay in Kolkata
- Seven-night full-board river cruise on board Ganges Voyager I with fully escorted tours visiting: Kolkata, Bally Bridge, Bandel, Kalna, Mayapur, Guptipara, Fulia and Chandernagore
- Three-night hotel stay in Delhi
- Fully escorted tour of Jama Masjid Mosque, Raj Ghat, Humayun's Tomb, Qutub Minar and more
- One-night hotel stay in Agra
- Fully escorted tour of the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri
- Two-night hotel stay in Jaipur
- Fully escorted tour of Amber Fort, Hawa Mahal, the City Palace, Jantar Mantar Observatory and more
- All hotel stays include breakfast
- All transfers
- All flights (London departure - regional flights available)

## Cruise Itinerary

EXOTIC HERITAGE GROUP  
BOUTIQUE EXPERIENCES ON LAND AND WATER

- Kolkata - Embark - Overnight in Port
- Bally Bridge
- Bandel
- Kalna
- Mayapur
- Guptipara
- Fulia
- Chandernagore
- Kolkata - Disembark

## Your Experience

Your 14-night holiday starts in Kolkata, the former colonial capital. You'll stay for one night and enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour of what is now India's second-biggest city. From here, you'll board the luxurious Ganges Voyager I for a seven-night cruise down the holiest of rivers. This beautiful air-conditioned ship is more like a boutique hotel on water and boasts 28 spacious suites in five categories, a spa and a sundeck.

Absorb life on the riverbanks as you pass rice paddy fields and mango orchards with stops at Bandel, the temple town of Kalna, where you'll enjoy a rickshaw ride, Mayapur, known for its many statues of Lord Krishna, the Temple complex at Guptipara and the former French colony of Chandernagore. The second half of your fascinating itinerary begins with a six-night tour of India's famous Golden Triangle. Explore the ancient and the modern in Old and New Delhi, visit the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra and enjoy an excursion to Jaipur's Amber Fort by Jeep.

Use this unique **CRUISE CODE**  
online to find out more - **ASA7494**

SIGNATURE SUITE  
**£2,999**  
PER PERSON

COLONIAL SUITE  
**£3,399**  
PER PERSON

MAHARAJA SUITE  
**£4,999**  
PER PERSON

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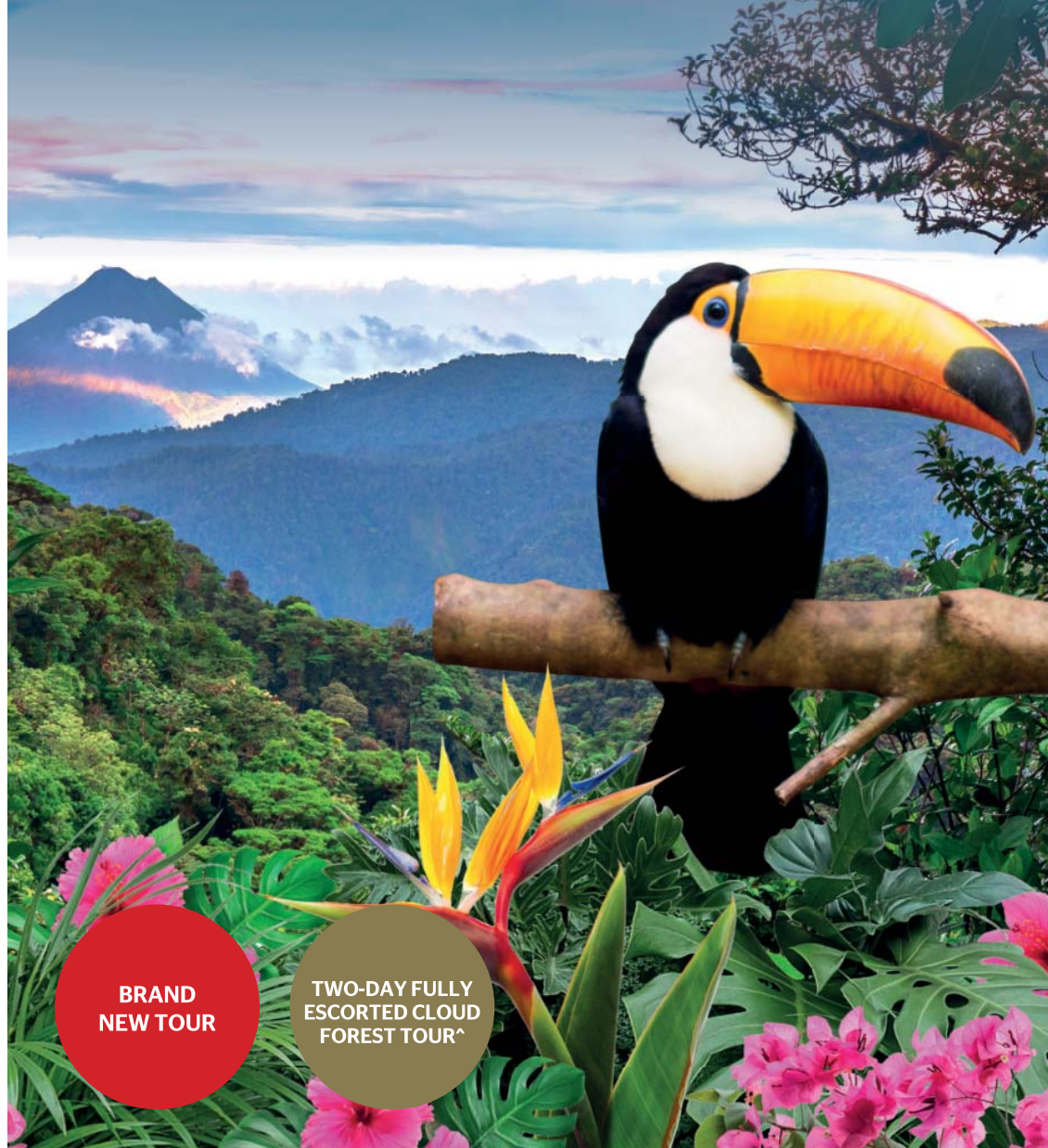
THE TIMES  
THE SUNDAY TIMES



# Costa Rica escape and Caribbean cruise

CRUISE

INCLUDES A THREE-NIGHT HOTEL STAY IN COSTA RICA



Now only £35pp  
per day to add^



Drinks



Wi-Fi



Gratuities

## 11 NIGHTS DEPARTING NOVEMBER, 2020 TO MARCH, 2021

### Price Includes

- Three-night stay at the El Establo Mountain Hotel in Costa Rica
- ^Book a Balcony or above and receive a two-day fully escorted Cloud Forest tour
- One-night hotel stay in Fort Lauderdale
- Seven-night full-board cruise on board Caribbean Princess
- All flights (London departure - regional flights available)

### Cruise Itinerary

- Fort Lauderdale - Embark
- Princess Cays
- St. Thomas
- St. Maarten
- Fort Lauderdale - Disembark

### Your Experience

Embrace the natural beauty of Costa Rica during a hotel stay before you embark on a cruise around the breathtaking Caribbean.

Costa Rica, rich in captivating nature, exotic wildlife, cascading waterfalls and tranquil beaches is where you'll begin your holiday. During your three-night hotel stay in Monteverde, poised in the mountains of Costa Rica, you'll relish the chance to unwind in the charming setting of your hotel that overlooks verdant landscapes. If you book a Balcony cabin or above, you'll also enjoy a tour of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, a sanctuary of untouched jungle, and gain insight into the area's rich biodiversity; learn more about the coffee-process and marvel at the spectacular wildlife that has made this region their home.

Following your Costa Rican escape, you'll enjoy a hotel stay in Fort Lauderdale, also known as the 'Venice of America', before you embark Caribbean Princess for a cruise around the alluring gems of the Caribbean. Take a paddle boat around Princess Cays and embrace the spectacular sights; uncover the blends of culture on St. Thomas from some of the prettiest beaches in the world to its historic buildings that have plenty of stories to tell and explore both Dutch and French sides of the island of St. Maarten before arriving back in Fort Lauderdale where you'll disembark.

Use this unique **CRUISE CODE**  
online to find out more - **AME7358**

**INTERIOR\***  
**£1,599**  
PER PERSON

**OCEANVIEW**  
**£1,799**  
PER PERSON

**BALCONY**  
**£2,199**  
PER PERSON

**SUITE**  
**£2,599**  
PER PERSON

\*Princess Best Value is an additional £35pp per day. Princess Best Value includes Premier Beverage Package, Wi-Fi & gratuities and is available on cruises between 3 and 32 nights in duration. Princess Best Value will not be available to purchase on cruises within 90 days of sailing. Offer only applies to cruises in this campaign and is available from 20 December 2019 to 2 March 2020. For full terms and conditions visit princess.com.

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## 16 NIGHTS, DEPARTURES FROM OCTOBER, 2020 TO MARCH, 2021

### Price Includes

- One-night hotel stay in Los Angeles
- 15-night full-board cruise on board Star Princess
- All flights (London departure)

### Cruise Itinerary\*



- Los Angeles - Embark
- Honolulu
- Kauai
- Maui
- Hilo
- Ensenada
- Los Angeles - Disembark

Use this unique **CRUISE CODE** online to find out more - **AME7253**

	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021
INTERIOR	£1,499	£1,599	£1,999	£1,799	£1,899	£1,999
OCEANVIEW	£1,799	£1,899	£2,299	£2,099	£2,199	£2,299
BALCONY	£2,199	£2,299	£2,799	£2,599	£2,699	£2,799
SUITE	£2,899	£2,999	£3,399	£3,299	£3,299	£3,399

\*Princess Best Value is an additional £35pp per day. Princess Best Value includes Premier Beverage Package, Wi-Fi & gratuities and is available on cruises between 3 and 32 nights in duration. Princess Best Value will not be available to purchase on cruises within 90 days of sailing. Offer only applies to cruises in this campaign and is available from 20 December 2019 to 2 March 2020. For full terms and conditions visit princess.com.

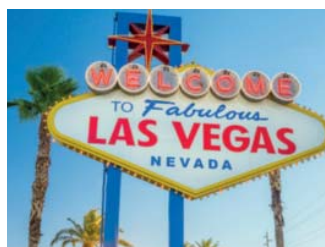
# Highlights of Hawaii

CRUISE

INCLUDES A HOTEL STAY IN LOS ANGELES

AMAZING  
VALUE

Add three nights  
in Las Vegas from  
£299pp+



Now only £35pp  
per day to add^



Drinks



Wi-Fi



Gratuities

PRINCESS CRUISES

# Heavenly Pacific islands explorer

CRUISE

INCLUDES A HOTEL STAY IN SYDNEY

LAST MINUTE  
OFFER

Use this unique **CRUISE CODE** online to find out more - **REP7289**

INSIDE  
**£2,199**  
PER PERSON

OCEAN VIEW  
**£2,499**  
PER PERSON

VERANDAH  
**£2,999**  
PER PERSON

SUITE  
**£3,999**  
PER PERSON

## 26 NIGHTS, DEPARTING APRIL 15, 2020

### Price Includes

- One-night hotel stay in Sydney with breakfast
- 25-night full-board cruise on board Noordam
- Discover museum-quality paintings as well as contemporary art such as the photographs of music greats, Dizzy Gillespie and BB King on board
- All British Airways flights (London departure)

BRITISH AIRWAYS

### Cruise Itinerary



- Sydney - Embark
- Noumea
- Kuto
- Lautoka
- Dravuni Island
- Savusavu
- Pago Pago
- Honolulu
- Lahaina
- Nawiliwili
- Victoria
- Vancouver - Disembark



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagine. Prices are per person based on two adults sharing a cruise cabin and include flights from London. \*Cruise itinerary and ship based on October 21, 2020 departure. \*Las Vegas upgrade replaces Los Angeles hotel stay (upgrade price based on January 29, 2021 departure date). Imagine Cruising are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change.





# PRINCESS CRUISES

From only

# £429



Offering contemporary cruising at its finest, Princess Cruises has become the cruise line of choice for many travellers.

For a limited time only, you can book your next Princess cruise with a deposit of just £50!

As if that was not enough, you can also add on the Princess Best Value bundle which includes the Premier Beverage Package, Wi-Fi and gratuities. Check out our selection of incredible Princess cruises.

**£50 Low Deposit**

Select our Best Value package on all cruises.

Now only £35<sup>pp</sup> per day to add\*



Drinks



Wi-Fi



Gratuities



**BELGIUM & CHANNEL ISLANDS SAMPLER**

**4 NIGHTS | DEPARTING OCT 2020 & APR 2021**

**On board Crown Princess**

**Visiting:** Southampton, Zeebrugge (Brussels/Bruges), St. Peter Port (Guernsey), Southampton

Prices from **£429<sup>pp</sup>\***

\*Price based on 7 October 2020 departure.



**SPAIN & FRANCE SAMPLER**

**7 NIGHTS | DEPARTING 30 OCTOBER 2020**

**On board Crown Princess**

**Visiting:** Southampton, St. Peter Port (Guernsey), La Rochelle (France), Bilbao (Spain), La Coruna, Southampton

Prices from **£529<sup>pp</sup>**



**SCANDINAVIA**

**7 NIGHTS | DEPARTING JUL & SEP 2020**

**On board Crown Princess**

**Visiting:** Southampton, Kristiansand, Copenhagen, Skagen, Oslo, Southampton

Prices from **£669<sup>pp</sup>\***

\*Price based on 19 September 2020 departure.



**EUROPEAN EXPLORER**

**10 NIGHTS | DEPARTING 7 OCT 2020**

**On board Regal Princess**

**Visiting:** Southampton, Cadiz (Seville), Gibraltar, Palma (Mallorca), Barcelona, La Seyne (Toulon/Provence), Livorno (Florence/Pisa), Civitavecchia (Rome)

Prices from **£799<sup>pp</sup>**



**LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN**

**14 NIGHTS | DEPARTING 13 JUN 2020**

**On board Crown Princess**

**Visiting:** Southampton, Stavanger, Flaam, Olden, Trondheim, Honningsvåg, Tromsø, Lofoten Islands, Andalsnes, Bergen, Southampton

Prices from **£1,099<sup>pp</sup>**



**NORWEGIAN FJORDS**

**7 NIGHTS | DEPARTING JUN & AUG 2020**

**On board Crown Princess**

**Visiting:** Southampton, Stavanger, Olden, Skjolden/Sognefjord, Bergen, Southampton

Prices from **£729<sup>pp</sup>\***

\*Price based on 27 June 2020 departure.



**WESTERN EUROPE PASSAGE**

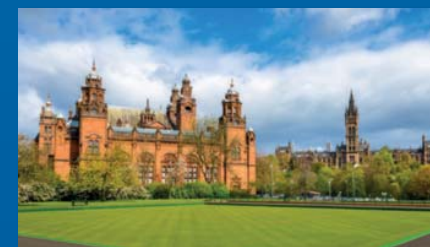
**15 NIGHTS | DEPARTING 19 APR 2020**

**On board Regal Princess**

**Visiting:** Fort Lauderdale, Ponta Delgada (Azores Islands), Lisbon, Bilbao, Zeebrugge (Brussels/Bruges), Portland, Southampton

Prices from **£1,359<sup>pp</sup>**

*Flights and transfers included*



**IRELAND & SCOTLAND**

**8 NIGHTS | DEPARTING 24 APR 2021**

**On board Crown Princess**

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