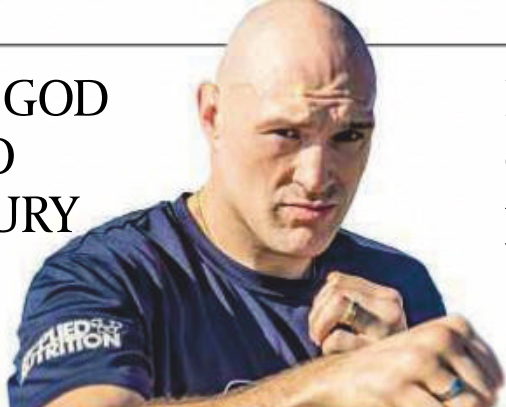


THE DAY GOD
SPOKE TO
TYSON FURY

PEOPLE P 8



How dogs
evolved their
pleading eyes

HEALTH AND
SCIENCE P 19



Fast fashion
and the
£1 bikini

TALKING POINTS
P 23



THE WEEK

29 JUNE 2019 | ISSUE 1233 | £3.80

THE BEST OF THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Can we trust Boris? The leadership race gets personal

Page 22



What happened

Hunt's uphill battle

Boris Johnson embarked on a round of public appearances this week in a bid to counter the impression that he had been hiding from scrutiny. The man hoping to beat him to the Tory leadership, Jeremy Hunt, had accused him of being “a coward” and “a bottler” who was trying to “slink through the back door” of No. 10. However, Johnson continued to decline to answer questions about an incident last week when police were called to the flat that he shares with his girlfriend Carrie Symonds, following reports of a noisy altercation (*see page 22*).

In a series of interviews, Johnson said he would seek major changes to Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement, including the removal of the Irish backstop, adding that he was committed to taking Britain out of the EU on 31 October – “do or die, come what may”. He challenged his rival to make the same pledge. Hunt declined to do so, arguing that rigid adherence to a “false deadline” could end up tripping the Government into a general election that puts Jeremy Corbyn and Labour into power. Hunt implied that Johnson would struggle to deliver a deal because he was not trusted in Brussels.



Head boy vs. naughty boy?

What the editorials said

“Who knew that Boris Johnson made models of buses from old wine boxes,” asked The Daily Telegraph. This unlikely hobby was one of the more intriguing details to emerge from interviews this week. Of greater import were Johnson's

comments about scrapping the Irish backstop, using the UK's £39bn divorce payment as a bargaining chip and sticking to the 31 October deadline. Hunt is taking a much softer approach. “A clear dividing line is emerging on the issue that matters.”

Yet again Johnson is wilfully misleading voters, said The Observer. He claims Britain has little to fear from a no-deal exit because Article 24 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the treaty underpinning the WTO, would allow us to keep trading with the EU without tariffs until a new deal

is agreed (*see page 27*). Not so. Until talks on a new deal opened, the EU would have to treat us like any other third country, said The Times. And the EU has made clear that its price for opening those talks would be settlement of issues such as the £39bn Brexit bill and Irish backstop. It's hard for Hunt to highlight the flaws in Johnson's Brexit plans since his own plans are “little better”, but with luck the intensity of the leadership campaign will bring more clarity to this debate.

What happened

Dealing with the Saudis

In a landmark judgment, the Court of Appeal ruled that British arms sales to Saudi Arabia were unlawful. The case had been brought by campaigners who objected to the Government allowing exports to Saudi though it is involved in the civil war in Yemen, where its forces have been blamed for thousands of civilian deaths. Judges ruled that licences should not be granted when there was a clear risk that the weapons would be used to violate international law, and yet ministers had failed properly to assess that risk.

Saudi Arabia's international reputation was further damaged by a damning UN report into the murder of the dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. A five-month investigation concluded that Khashoggi's killing in Istanbul last year was a “deliberate, premeditated execution” and that there was “credible evidence” linking the operation to the kingdom's de facto ruler, Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS).



MbS: a “repulsive regime”

What the editorials said

Saudi Arabia is a “dictatorial kingdom” with a horrendous history of human rights abuses, said The Washington Post.

Any country that supplies it with arms is complicit in “a criminal war in Yemen” and will be left with an “indelible stain on its moral record”. The disclosures over Khashoggi's killing reinforce what Saudi leaders are capable of. Turkish security forces recorded officials linked to MbS discussing how to dismember the journalist's body and wrap it in plastic bags. We shouldn't cosy up to this vile regime just because it's rich and stands up to Iran.

MbS doesn't appear “chastened”, said The Guardian. And why would he? Last week, the US Senate voted to block an \$8bn arms sale in protest at Saudi's human rights record – but President Trump, an “unabashed cheerleader” for the prince, has promised to override the measures. The UK Government, meanwhile, is appealing last week's Court of Appeal ruling, and has lobbied Germany to resume arms sales to Riyadh, halted after Khashoggi's death. Despite the horrors, said The Boston Globe, it's “business as usual” with Saudi.

It wasn't all bad

The central reservation of an eight-mile stretch of road in Rotherham has been transformed into a “river of flowers”. This is the sixth year that colourful wild flowers including cornflowers, poppies and marigolds have been sown on the A630 and A631 in South Yorkshire. Environmentalists say the scheme has helped the ailing bee population, while officials note that as it doesn't need as much cutting back as grass, it has saved the council £23,000.

A ten-year-old girl has become the youngest person to climb the 3,000ft face of El Capitan, the vertical rock formation in Yosemite national park in the US. Selah Schneiter, from Colorado, spent five days navigating the route known as the Nose with her father, Mike, a climbing guide, and his friend. Sleeping on a portaledge, a tent-like device that suspends from the rock face, she led parts of the climb, and carried gear, food and water equal to a third of her weight. Saleh, who has been climbing all her life, said that to ascend El Capitan had been her dream – and that she wanted to do it again.



The final £4m in funding needed for Blackpool to open its first museum has been secured. Located on the promenade, Show Town: the Museum of Fun and Entertainment will celebrate the resort's history as Britain's first mass holiday resort and its role in popular culture. Items on display will include Stan Laurel's hat, and Morecambe and Wise's suits. While its supporters hope it will help attract new visitors to the town – one of England's most deprived areas – they insist it is mainly for local people, who will be given free entry.

What the commentators said

The Tories must choose between “a naughty boy and a head boy”, said Adam Boulton in The Sunday Times. Will they opt for the chaotic, gaffe-prone Johnson? Or the ever-dependable Hunt, the admiral’s son and former head boy of Charterhouse? People complain that Hunt is “dull and a little goofy”, said Daniel Finkelstein in The Times, but that hardly does him credit. A fluent Japanese speaker and successful entrepreneur, Hunt has held several offices of state “with distinction”. David Cameron valued him as a hard-working team player; May also trusts him. The problem for Hunt, though, is that the Tory members are after a candidate who will tell them “what they want to hear about Brexit” – and Johnson does that better than anyone.

The odds are against Hunt, agreed Andrew Rawnsley in The Observer. He can take Johnson to task, but there’s little chance he’ll change the minds of the “predominantly white, male, southerly, affluent, very Brexit” Tory membership. An “eye-popping” poll last week suggested that a majority of them would be willing to tolerate almost anything, including significant economic damage, the break-up of the union and the destruction of their own party, to get Brexit. Tory members are thinking about an election victory as well as Brexit, said Paul Goodman on Conservative Home, and they “see Johnson as better placed to deliver both”. Polls suggest they’re right. “No wonder The Guardian and the Left want to take him down.”

This contest is fundamentally about who can win the looming general election, said Anand Menon and Alan Wager in The Guardian, since whoever becomes the next PM will face the same impossible parliamentary arithmetic that confounded May. The Tories aren’t voting for someone to fix Brexit. “They are voting for someone who might win the election that will be necessary for Brexit to be fixed.” Johnson needs an emphatic, “rollicking” triumph in the leadership race to give him the necessary momentum and authority to break the Brexit logjam, said Katy Balls in the I newspaper. But unless he can revamp his stuttering campaign and put this week’s damaging headlines behind him, his victory looks set to be “quite slight”.

What next?

Johnson ducked a TV debate with Hunt on Sky News this week, but is due to take part in an ITV one on 9 July, and one hosted by The Sun in the week of 15 July. The face-offs will take place after many Tory members have already voted. Members will receive their ballot papers between 6 and 8 July, and many are expected to post them back straight away.

The poll will close on 22 July and the new Tory leader will be announced the next day, two days before the House of Commons rises for its summer break. The chief whip, Julian Smith, warned the Johnson campaign last week that, as PM, Johnson could face a no-confidence vote within 24 hours of getting the job.

What the commentators said

“The Saudi-led incursion into Yemen is arguably the greatest humanitarian catastrophe in recent years,” said Beth Oppenheim in The Independent. Since 2015, when war broke out between Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and government forces supported by a Saudi-led coalition, it has left more than 100,000 people dead (including 11,000 civilians), and 22 million in need of humanitarian aid. It has also caused the worst cholera outbreak in history. “And Britain has abetted it.” We not only supply 23% of Saudi weapons imports, including half its military aircraft, we have also trained its cadets and provided military advisers. It was always immoral to export arms to Saudi; but now, thank goodness, it’s illegal too. America is no less culpable, said William Hartung in Forbes. Trump is convinced that “arms exports are good for American jobs and American companies, and all other considerations be damned” – which is disgusting and wrong. Banning the sale of “precision-guided munitions”, which have caused most of the carnage inflicted by Saudi forces, would hardly make a dent in the vast US arms industry, which spends millions every year trying to shape US policy to its own interests. But what it would do is restore a much-needed “moral dimension” to this area of foreign policy.

No, it would just be counterproductive, said Harold Hutchison in the Washington Examiner. The Saudis are “not angels”. But they’re crucial regional allies, have vast power over oil prices and are far preferable to the alternative: the Houthis and their Iranian backers. Sticking with them “is the least bad option”. How can that be said of a regime that “represses women, crushes freedom, exports extremism and bludgeons enemies”, asked Ian Birrell in The Times. Saudi has helped to put down a revolt in Bahrain and restore military dictatorship in Egypt. Now it’s arming the “thugs” persecuting pro-democracy activists in Sudan. That Western democracies should choose to support and sell lethal weapons to this “repulsive regime” is truly “baffling”.

What next?

The Government says it is seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court against last week’s judgment. In the meantime, it will grant no new export licences. International Trade Secretary Liam Fox described Saudi Arabia as an important ally in the fight against terrorism.

Any permanent ban on sales would end British hopes of a multibillion-pound contract to sell the Saudis 48 Typhoon fighter jets. The deal is already in jeopardy because of the German arms embargo on Saudi Arabia; Germany supplies many of the aircraft’s parts.

THE WEEK

The murder of innocents. The downing of MH17 (*see p23*). Some actions are so vile they merit outrage. Ordinary human frailty does not. Yet most weeks the words “sparked outrage” could serve as the intro for every other story in this magazine. A UBS economist “sparked outrage” by noting that only Chinese pork eaters need worry about surging pork prices in China (“racist”). Scarcely had outrage over Boris Johnson’s domestic row subsided than a fresh wave descended on Jeremy Hunt for telling Boris to “man up” (“sexist”). Our moral economy is in the grip of rampant inflation: outrage inflation. And it’s debauching the currency of moral discourse. It closes off discussion: rather than engage with our opponent we demand his apology. Of course a high moral horse is a great way to sell copy and attract an online following, which is why students and journalists seem so keen to ride it. But they’re by no means alone. This week the boss of ClearlySo, an impact investment bank, couldn’t contain his outrage that Tory peer Lord Lilley had told a story about a “very pretty sixth former” in a speech to a group of financiers. “We are incensed,” wrote Rodney Schwartz to the Tory party chairman, that one of his colleagues, who’d been at the event, had been subject to such “inappropriate” remarks. It sounds moronic, yet I doubt Schwartz is a moron. To come over all woke must be good for the brand of a private equity firm that sells worthy causes to its clients. Outrage is not a virtue. It’s the vice that trades in virtue. It must be unmasked. Outrage must be outed.

Jeremy O’Grady

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Controversy of the week

Facebook's next move

Hasn't Facebook got enough problems, wondered Megan McArdle in *The Washington Post*. The social media giant is already facing existential threats on all sides. It's still dealing with the fall-out from Russia's use of its network to interfere in the last US election. It's being investigated for massive privacy violations and anti-competitive practices. But instead of going into a defensive crouch, Facebook is still "merrily" thinking about extending its dominance – by, of all things, creating its own global currency. Last week, it announced the creation of "Libra" – a new digital currency that is backed by 28 other big firms including Visa, Mastercard, PayPal and Uber, and which is due to launch next year. Mark Zuckerberg's grand vision is that Facebook's 2.4 billion users will be able to shop, make payments and transfer money to other users simply and cheaply using a linked app, Calibra. In short, Facebook wants to take a leading role in banking – "an industry even more hated than the tech giants".



Zuckerberg: world banker?

Although some have ridiculed Libra, it could still blow "the financial system wide open anyway", said Richard Waters and Hannah Murphy in the *FT*. As a cryptocurrency, it will operate using a version of "blockchain" – a decentralised digital ledger of transactions, maintained by a network of participants. But unlike previous attempts to create a virtual currency (most famously, bitcoin), Libra should be both stable and easy to use. It will be backed by a reserve of major currencies to stop wild fluctuations in price, and policed by a network of trusted partners. This could result in a faster, cheaper and more efficient system than today's bank-controlled payment networks. Some of Libra's greatest benefits will be felt by its poorest users, said Diego Zuluaga on CapX. With around 1.7 billion "unbanked" adults in the world, the currency has massive potential. It could bring inexpensive payment services, accessed via any smartphone, to those now excluded from the system.

Don't be fooled by such "philanthropic feelgoodery", said John Harris in *The Guardian*. Along with "vast" revenue opportunities, Libra also offers a chance for Facebook to advance its basic aim: "the harvesting of endless data, which can then be monetised". Imagine it. Facebook will know not only who you're talking to and what you're clicking on, but also all the companies and people you've paid money to. That's just the tip of the iceberg, said Matt Stoller in *The New York Times*. Banks have a responsibility to prevent money-laundering, terrorist financing and tax avoidance. Can we trust Facebook to do that? The regulation of money is a matter for national governments. Libra will allow a group of corporations to do it instead, bypassing central banks and undermining currency systems – especially those of poorer countries. Facebook too often acts as a "would-be sovereign power". Any company "big enough to start its own currency is just too big".

Exam leak arrests

Police investigating the possible leak of one of this year's A-level maths papers arrested two men on suspicion of theft this week. The pair, aged 29 and 32, were later released, but remain under investigation. Two questions from the Edexcel paper were posted on Twitter on 13 June, the day before the exam, with details crossed out, along with an offer to supply the full paper for £70. Reportedly, the whole paper was being circulated on some message groups on the morning of the exam. The A-level leaks were among several this exam season. Police are also looking into how the AQA GCSE religious studies paper came to be seen on Snapchat in advance of the exam – sat on 20 May – by an unknown number of students.

Ousted MP re-selected

Chris Davies, the former Tory MP recalled by his Brecon and Radnorshire constituents last week, after he was convicted of fiddling his expenses, has been selected by his party to fight for the seat again, in the by-election triggered by his departure. More than 10,000 constituents had signed the petition, which was well above the 5,303 required to recall an MP. The vote could prove a vital test for the Lib Dems and the Brexit Party.

Spirit of the age

An American couple have been accused of staging an elaborate marriage proposal on Instagram in order to win lucrative endorsement deals. Gabriel Grossman's "surprise" proposal to Marissa Fuchs, who is a professional "influencer" and works at Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop, involved a three-day scavenger-hunt from New York to Miami to Paris. It went viral, but it now seems that beforehand, they'd sent a sponsorship "pitch" to various firms, with details of what Fuchs could post during the trip. The couple claim this was just a "guide" for their friends and family.

A cashless version of Monopoly is to hit shops in August. It will have a "voice banking" assistant to keep track of transactions, with a top-hat-shaped speaker.

Good week for:

Boots, which was praised for announcing that it has started phasing out plastic bags. Instead, its customers will be offered sturdy paper ones. Profits from these will be donated to charity.

Bad week for:

Vaping, after officials in San Francisco voted for it to become the first US city to ban the sale of e-cigarettes, in a bid to curb the practice among teenagers. Officials said the ban would remain in place until the health effects of vaping were more clear.

Reading, with news that sales of physical fiction books slumped 9% last year – a decline that was only partially offset by rising sales of ebooks and audiobooks. Industry figures say the novel is struggling to compete with all the TV dramas being pumped out by streaming channels such as Netflix.

The RSC, after Sir Mark Rylance ended his relationship with the theatre company because of its ties with BP. The Oscar-winning actor objected to the RSC accepting funding from the company, which he accused of using its support for arts organisations to deflect attention from its damaging impact on the environment.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who came under fire when it emerged that renovations to their new home on the Windsor estate had cost the taxpayer at least £2.4m.

Mark Field, the Tory MP, who was suspended as a junior minister for manhandling a female climate change protester at a Mansion House banquet. Field has apologised "unreservedly" for grabbing the woman and marching her out by the neck, but said, in that moment, he believed that she might be armed.

Poll watch

Boris Johnson's lead among Tory voters slumped after news broke of his row with girlfriend Carrie Symonds, according to a Survation poll for *The Mail* on Sunday. Last Thursday, he was **27 points** ahead of Jeremy Hunt; by Saturday, just **11 points**. However, a ComRes/ Sunday Telegraph poll taken in the days before and after the news broke found **61%** of Tory councillors intended to vote for Johnson.

43% of Tory members say they would prefer not to have a Muslim PM. *YouGov/The Guardian*

57% of teachers say their workload is "unmanageable". English primary school teachers report working longer hours than those in all but one of the 48 other countries surveyed. *OECD/The Guardian*



Dublin

Murder case: Two 14-year-old Irish boys have been convicted of the premeditated murder of a vulnerable schoolgirl, a crime that has shocked and horrified the country. The boys were 13 when

they lured Ana Kriégel – a lonely 14-year-old who'd been badly bullied on social media – to a derelict farmhouse in the Dublin suburb of Lucan, where she was sexually assaulted and killed. The boys – the youngest people ever convicted of murder in Ireland – had assembled what police called a “murder kit”, including a homemade mask, shin pads and gloves, and weapons, including a concrete block.

Paris

Fraud case: French prosecutors have revealed details of what they say is one of the most brazen frauds of modern times, in which dozens of rich and powerful people were swindled out of a total of €80m by a gangster posing as the French foreign minister. In a series of videos, a man who identified himself as the minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, asked the victims to contribute to a secret fund to free French nationals held hostage by Islamist militants in the Middle East, money which he said needed to be sent to an account in China. In fact, the caller was a gang member wearing a latex mask, sitting in a room arranged to look like a government office. The gang's alleged victims include the Aga Khan, who lost €18m, and Corinne Mentzelopoulos, the owner of the Château Margaux vineyards, who lost €3m. Its ringleader is alleged to be Gilbert Chikli, a Franco-Israeli who was extradited from Ukraine 18 months ago on fraud charges.

Pamplona, Spain

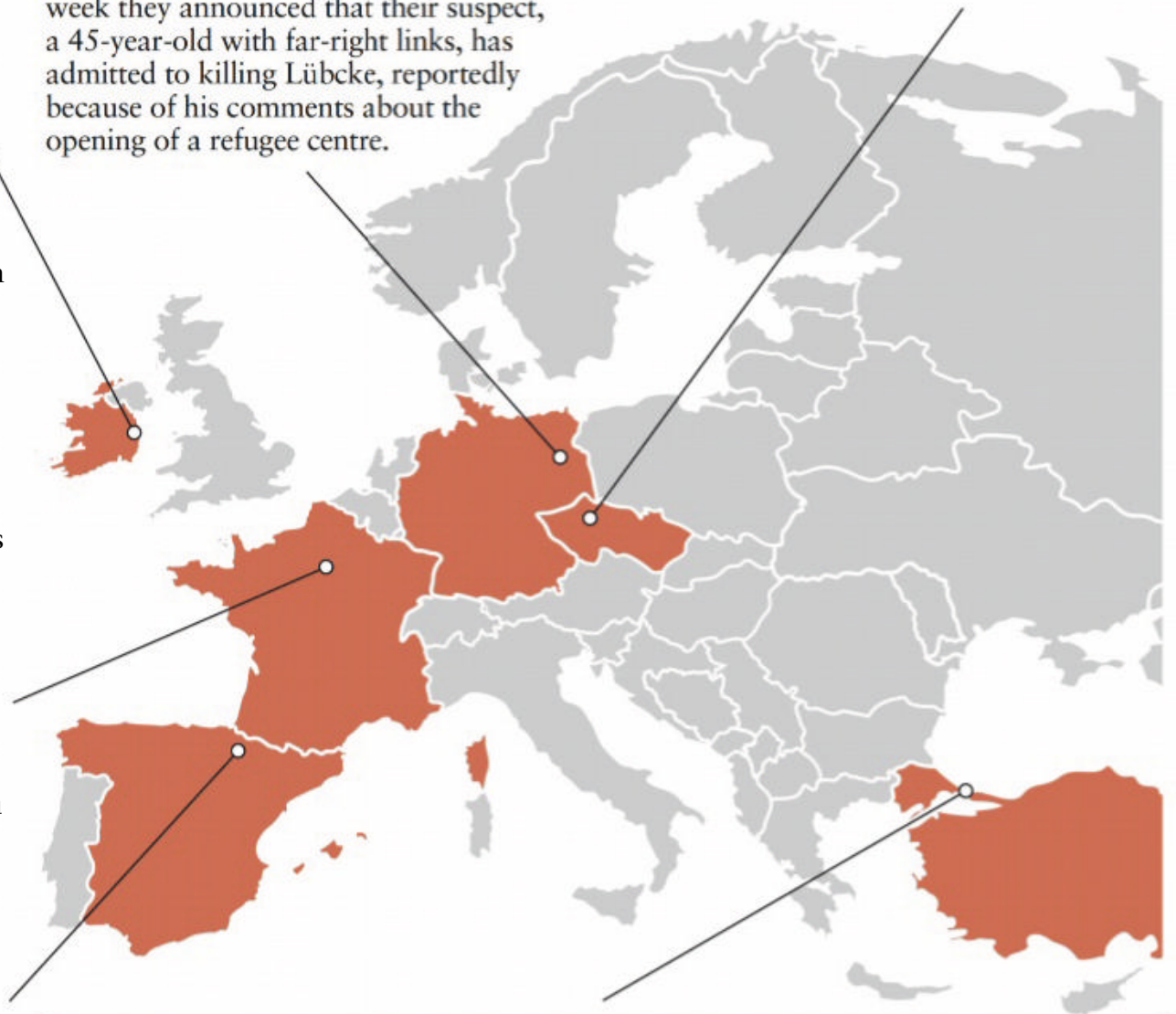
“Wolf pack” rape case: The defendants in Spain's notorious “wolf pack” case have had their jail sentences increased from nine to 15 years by the supreme court. The five, who were all members of a WhatsApp group they named “the wolf pack”, gang-raped an 18-year-old woman at the running of the bulls festival in Pamplona in 2016. But at their trial in 2018, they were only convicted of “sexual abuse” – a lesser crime that does not involve violence or intimidation – because their victim had not resisted or fought back. The verdict provoked massive protests and a fierce debate over the efficacy of the country's laws on sexual offences, and now the supreme court has overturned that verdict and convicted them of rape. In a hearing broadcast live on national TV, it accepted the prosecution case that the victim had adopted an “attitude of submission” for the purposes of self-preservation in the face of a “genuinely intimidating scenario”.

Berlin

Far-right threat: One of the most senior politicians in Germany's ruling party, the CDU, has warned that large numbers of Germany's police and armed forces have been “lost” to the far-right. Friedrich Merz, a CDU grandee who narrowly lost the party's leadership election last year, urged the “organs of state security” to act quickly to halt the spread of far-right ideas among soldiers and police officers. Germany has been troubled in recent weeks by fears of a rise in far-right extremism, which have been triggered by the murder in early June of Walter Lübcke, a regional CDU politician in the city of Kassel. He was shot dead on the veranda of his home. Police were initially cautious about ascribing a political motive to his murder, but this week they announced that their suspect, a 45-year-old with far-right links, has admitted to killing Lübcke, reportedly because of his comments about the opening of a refugee centre.

Prague

Mass protest: A quarter of a million Czechs rallied in Prague on Sunday to demand the resignation of the prime minister, Andrej Babiš, in the biggest mass protest since the 1989 Velvet Revolution, which overthrew communism and led to the break-up of Czechoslovakia. A “populist” billionaire businessman (who's been sometimes dubbed the Czech Donald Trump), Babiš faces multiple accusations of fraud relating to the EU subsidies received by his former agricultural business empire. The rallies were triggered by Babiš appointing a close ally as justice minister just as prosecutors were deciding on a potential indictment against the PM. The protesters regard Babiš as a threat to democracy and to the independence of the country's legal system.



Istanbul

Erdogan stumbles: Turkey's secularist opposition won a decisive victory in the re-run mayoral election in Istanbul last weekend – dealing a major blow to President Erdogan and his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). The AKP candidate had suffered a shock defeat in the original election in March, losing by the wafer-thin margin of 13,000 votes (less than 0.2% of the more than eight million votes cast). Under intense pressure from Erdogan, for whom the loss of Istanbul was seen as a personal humiliation, Turkey's electoral commission ordered a re-run. But in Sunday's vote, the Republican People's Party (CHP) candidate, Ekrem Imamoglu (pictured), won again, and this time far more decisively, by 800,000 votes (giving him 54% of the vote, to the AKP's 45%).

The AKP's defeat could mark a tectonic shift in Turkish politics. Erdogan, who was himself elected mayor of Istanbul 25 years ago, has said that Turkey cannot be governed if its president does not control its major city: “if we stumble in Istanbul, we lose our footing in Turkey”, he told his party in 2017. However, the CHP likely won't be able to capitalise on its breakthrough unless he calls an early general election. Some have speculated that he may feel obliged to do so, in order to oust fractious elements in his governing coalition – but no elections are due to take place until 2023.



**New York**

Trump rape claim: Donald Trump has dismissed allegations that he raped the author E. Jean Carroll (pictured) in a New York department store in the 1990s, saying “she’s not my type”. A well-known advice columnist, Carroll claims that Trump accosted her in Bergdorf Goodman to ask for her help in choosing lingerie, and then forced her against a wall in the changing room and raped her. She didn’t report the alleged attack to the police, but two friends have said she told them about

it. While several women have accused Trump of sexual misconduct, Carroll is only the second to accuse him of rape: the first was his ex-wife Ivana, who retracted the claim. Trump says it “never happened”, and that Carroll made it up to sell her new book.

New York

Cult leader guilty: The leader of the New York sex cult Nxivm (“nexium”) has been found guilty of sex trafficking, racketeering and creating images of child sexual abuse at the end of a six-week trial in Brooklyn. Keith Raniere described Nxivm as a self-help group, and charged \$5,000 for “self-empowerment” courses that attracted thousands of followers. But at its highest level, it operated as a sex cult in which women were coerced into becoming his “sex slaves”. Senior members included TV actress Allison Mack and Seagram heiress Clare Bronfman, both of whom pleaded guilty to related crimes prior to Raniere’s trial. Prosecutors called him “a modern-day Svengali” who “ruined marriages, careers, fortunes and lives”. He is due to be sentenced in September.

Mexico City

Border deployment: Mexico has sent nearly 15,000 soldiers and national guardsmen to its northern border to prevent migrants from crossing into the United States, its defence minister has revealed. It is the first time Mexican security forces have prevented migrants from crossing the US border, and critics of the deployment have described it as a dispiriting victory for Donald Trump’s strong-arm diplomacy. Earlier this month, the US president threatened Mexico with devastating tariffs on its US exports unless it agreed to take action to control the surge in the number of Central Americans travelling through Mexico to reach the US. It was already known that Mexico had agreed to send 6,500 troops to its southern borders. But it had not previously revealed the extent of its military presence on its northern border.

**Washington DC****Iran tensions worsen:**

The already tense relations between the US and Iran deteriorated further this week, despite President Trump’s last-minute decision to call off a series of missile strikes against military targets in Iran last Thursday. The planned strikes, which had been

authorised by the US president before he reversed course, were in retaliation for the downing of a \$130m US surveillance drone last week by an Iranian surface-to-air missile. The two sides disputed whether the drone was in Iranian or international airspace when it was hit. Trump said he had decided to pull the mission when he was told that as many as 150 people could be killed in Iran.

On Monday, Trump announced a new round of sanctions on specific Iranian officials including Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader. Iran’s President Rouhani said Iran would not be intimidated by US sanctions, and called the White House’s actions “mentally retarded” – an insult that drew an immediate threat of “obliteration” from Trump. “Any attack by Iran on anything American will be met with great and overwhelming force. In some areas, overwhelming will mean obliteration,” he tweeted.

Ottawa

Safe haven: Canada resettled more refugees than any other country in the world last year, according to the UN – overtaking the US as the global leader in offering asylum to people fleeing war, persecution and conflict. According to a UN report published last week, Canada resettled 28,100 refugees in 2018 – compared with 22,900 in the United States (which has a population almost ten times as big), down from 33,000 the year before and 97,000 in 2016. It was the first time since 1980 that the US has not led the world in refugee resettlement, and the drop is partly due to President Trump’s drive to lower the cap on refugee numbers. The UN figures refer to refugees who have entered a country with prior permission to do so, and they are dwarfed by the tens of millions of people who have fled countries including Syria, Somalia and South Sudan, and who are not officially resettled.

**Caracas**

Suspects held: Six members of Venezuela’s military and police, including an air force brigadier general, were arrested last weekend as part of a renewed drive by President Maduro to eliminate dissent. Maduro survived a failed uprising against his regime two months ago led by Juan Guaidó, the head of the national assembly, who has declared himself interim president. Guaidó is recognised by about 50 countries, including the US, but Maduro retains the loyalty of the armed forces. According to the campaign group Penal Forum, some 700 people are currently being held as political prisoners in Venezuela, including about 100 members of the military. Maduro’s government denies that it holds political prisoners.

Tbilisi

Mass protests: Thousands of people have been taking part in demonstrations in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, calling for a snap election and the former Soviet republic's "de-oligarchisation". The protests began last Thursday, triggered by news that a Russian MP had addressed a conference held in the country's parliament in Russian, while sitting in the speaker's chair. It's only 11 years since the two countries fought a short but bloody war over South Ossetia, and the news inflamed many Georgians who reacted by trying to storm the parliament building, only to be confronted by police using rubber bullets and tear gas. Some of the protesters carried EU flags and banners reading "Russia is an occupier". In response, President Putin announced that he was suspending all flights to Georgia.

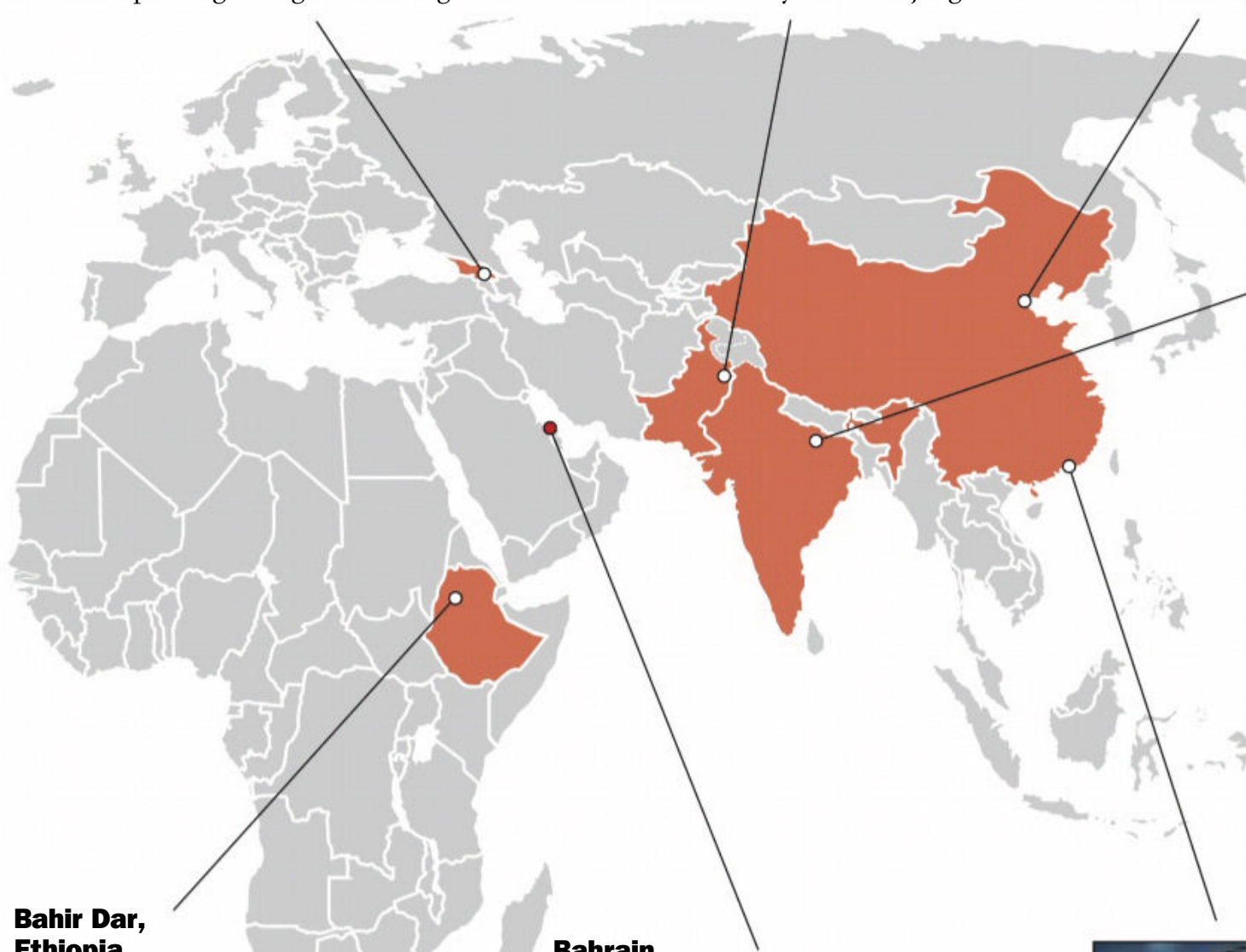
Lahore

Gender violence courts: More than 1,000 new courts are to be established in Pakistan to hear cases of violence against women, the country's most senior judge has announced. Pakistan is regularly ranked as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for women, but many crimes, including domestic violence, rape and acid attacks, go unreported because victims are afraid to speak out in the conservative country. "Each district shall have one special court," said chief justice Asif Saeed Khosa, in a televised speech, where "complainants can speak their heart without any fear". A pilot scheme in Lahore has been deemed a success. However, some activists are sceptical that the courts will make a difference, as they'll be in the same buildings as other courts and staffed by the same judges.

Tianjin, China

Guilty plea:

The former head of Interpol has appeared in court in Tianjin, in northeastern China, to plead guilty to accepting \$2m in bribes, according to local state media. Meng Hongwei vanished last September while on a trip home to his native China from France, where Interpol is based. It was several weeks before the Chinese authorities confirmed that they had him in custody. The charges relate to his time as a vice-minister of public security and head of the maritime police, from 2005 onwards.



Bihar state, India

Brain fever outbreak:

More than 150 children have died in India's Bihar state from the brain condition encephalitis in the past few weeks, and hundreds more have been hospitalised. Although the cause is unclear – as is the exact nature of the disease – some doctors have linked it to a toxin found in lychees which is known to be dangerous if consumed by malnourished children on an empty stomach. However, many of those affected by this outbreak are said not to have eaten lychees.

Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

Attempted coup:

A renegade general tried to seize control of the northern Ethiopian state of Amhara last Saturday in an attempted coup that has underlined the security challenges facing Africa's second-most populous country, which remains riven by separatist and interethnic tensions. Amhara's state president – an ally of the prime minister, Abiy Ahmed – was killed along with two other officials; fighting raged for several hours in the regional capital, Bahir Dar; in the national capital, Addis Ababa, the head of Ethiopia's army was shot dead by his bodyguard. Since coming to power, Abiy's reforms to the military and intelligence services have won him plaudits abroad, but have made him enemies at home.

Bahrain

Peace plan: Donald Trump's adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner launched his long-awaited economic blueprint for peace in the Middle East at a "workshop" in Bahrain, with neither Israeli nor Palestinian officials present. The "Peace to Prosperity" plan envisages \$50bn in regional investments over ten years, much of it in infrastructure projects in the West Bank and Gaza. But it is contingent on a peace deal being agreed, and it's still not clear how that might be achieved (a political blueprint is due to be unveiled at a later date). Palestinian officials, who've rejected the "economy-first" plan as an attempt to impose peace by a US administration that is too pro-Israel to be an honest broker, snubbed the event. As a result, the Israelis were not invited. "You need two to tango, and the two of them are not here," said one Western diplomat.



Hong Kong

Sit-in protests:

Thousands of protesters blocked a major road in Hong Kong and surrounded the police HQ last weekend, as demonstrations against the now-suspended extradition law continued – albeit in smaller numbers. The planned law would allow people in Hong Kong (including visitors to the city) to be extradited to mainland China, something protesters say is a clear erosion of the city's legal autonomy. They are demanding the resignation of Carrie Lam, the city's chief executive, and the release of those arrested during demonstrations earlier this month.

Liam Gallagher's family

Liam Gallagher hasn't spoken to his father in years. Tommy Gallagher was a drunk, and abusive. But though he beat up Liam's mother, Peggy, and his two older brothers, Tommy was never violent with Liam. "With me he was half decent – which is even more f***** – up because you're seeing that and you're seeing this." Peggy fled with her sons when Liam was seven, and he has barely seen Tommy since, but he never felt his absence because his mother gave him all he needed. "She was there with the cuddles [and] with the whack," he told Krissi Murison in *The Times*. "Any good that comes out of me is all from Peggy and all her sisters and brothers – they were a good bunch of people." Now 46, he is, he says, more of a feminist than his image might suggest. "I like football and I wear certain clothes", but "it's just armour". Around the house, he does "the things people would class as the natural things geezers wouldn't touch – the dishwasher, all the cats. I do the curtains... I'm obsessed with interiors. I've had that house painted four times. It's still not quite right."

A woman's life in tech

Dame Stephanie Shirley is known as one of this country's great entrepreneurs and philanthropists. But she started her life in Britain with nothing, as an unaccompanied child refugee. Born in Germany, she arrived on the Kindertransport aged five, and was taken in by

a couple in the West Midlands. They were poor but loving, and at her girls' school she excelled – especially at maths. But the maths teaching was so basic, she had to have lessons at a nearby boys' school. And when it came to university, she found that most maths faculties were closed to women. Instead, she went to work at the Post Office Research Station, writing code for early computers. She loved the job, but hated the sexism she encountered: "You learnt to stand with your back to the wall so that someone couldn't pinch your bottom," she told Will Smale on the BBC. So in 1962, with £6 of capital, she set up her own software firm, employing mainly women who worked flexitime so that they could juggle their jobs with their family lives (she was raising her own son, who was severely autistic). Her old colleagues were sure she'd fail – "They literally laughed at me" – and potential clients didn't answer her letters until she began to sign them "Steve". But within a few years, she had 4,000 female staff; and by the time she retired, in 1993, she'd given them most of her stake in the firm. She made 70 of them millionaires. Since then, she has given away millions more, much of it to autism charities. Now 85, she still gives talks about business and women's rights, and works six hours a day. "Going back to my refugee start, I really feel that I have had to justify my own existence. I was determined not to fritter my life away."



Tyson Fury is one of the world's most famous boxers. Six foot nine inches tall, descended from a string of bare-knuckle fighters and named after Mike Tyson, the Mancunian fighter has a fearsome reputation. He is also mentally fragile, said Bill Borrows in *The Times* – and lucky to be alive. In 2015, he was still a rank outsider when he beat Wladimir Klitschko to become world champion. He had climbed his Everest, and having battled severe depression for years, he knew that after that, he was likely to spiral. What he hadn't prepared for was fame and public scrutiny. In press interviews, the self-styled Gypsy King made a string of anti-Semitic, sexist and homophobic comments. Before long, he was the most hated sportsman in the world. Seeking refuge in cocaine and alcohol, he lost the will to live. One night in October 2016, he got into his Ferrari, and set off down the motorway planning to drive into a bridge. Edging beyond 180mph, he found himself engaged in an internal dialogue. "Don't do this, Tyson. Don't leave your kids without a father. Everybody will be telling them, 'Your dad took the easy way out.'" As he hit 190mph and with the bridge in sight he heard a voice say: "STOP!" "It was God," Fury, 30, says now. "God told me, 'Stop. Don't do this.' So I didn't. I listened. It was for the best. I pulled over and I got picked up. I said to myself, 'This is the time that I need to seek medical advice. Immediately.'"

Castaway of the week

This week's edition of Radio 4's Desert Island Discs featured Glastonbury Festival co-organiser Emily Eavis

- 1 *Madame George*, written and performed by Van Morrison
- 2 *Paranoid Android*, written and performed by Radiohead
- 3* *You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go*, written and performed by Bob Dylan
- 4 *High Tide or Low Tide* by Bob Marley, performed by The Wailers
- 5 *Landslide (live at Warner Brothers studios)* by Stevie Nicks, performed by Fleetwood Mac
- 6 *That's Life* by Dean Kay and Kelly Gordon, performed by Frank Sinatra
- 7 *Winterlude* by Bob Dylan, performed by Guy Garvey and Peter Jobson
- 8 *Crazy in Love* by Rich Harrison, Beyoncé Knowles, Eugene Record and Shawn Carter, performed by Beyoncé and Jay-Z

Book: *The Shadow of the Sun* by Ryszard Kapuscinski

Luxury: a carpenters' toolkit

* Choice if allowed only one record

Viewpoint:**Dad envy**

"Today we demonise dads of the recent past for being uncaring. For failing to change nappies, read stories, provide unconditional love. But as an anxious dad who is always desperate to impress his 15-year-old son, I envy the dads of old. They didn't worry about being a Good Dad or a Bad Dad. They were just... dads. And they didn't worry about boring their children, either. They'd drag them off for long, tedious Sunday car trips that ended in places of 'historical interest' that nobody found interesting but Dad. And did they care if their kids were asphyxiated with boredom? Not a bit. Children had not yet discovered that being bored was a violation of their human rights." *Cosmo Landesman in The Spectator*

Farewell

Judith Krantz, author who sold millions of bonkbusters, died 22 June, aged 91.

Brenda Maddox, biographer of James Joyce's wife, Nora, the "real" Molly Bloom, died 16 June, aged 87.

Sylvia Miles, Oscar-nominated actress, died 12 June, aged 94.

Charles Reich, law professor and counterculture icon, died 15 June, aged 91.

Peter Whitehead, documentary-maker, died 10 June, aged 82.



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Lambs to the slaughter?

In last week's TV debate, Jeremy Hunt suggested that British sheep farms could be "destroyed" by a no-deal Brexit. Was he right?

How significant is sheep farming?

In terms of its contribution to the national economy, it's pretty tiny. British farming as a whole represents less than 0.51% of national gross value added (final output minus costs of production), and sheep farming makes up a fraction of that. But the sector is vital in other ways. It's a mainstay of the rural economy, employing 34,000 people and a further 111,400 in allied industries. And Britain is by far the most important sheep producer in the EU, producing 300,200 tonnes of lamb and mutton a year, worth £1.2bn. The UK flock is about 33 million strong – larger than New Zealand's, though only half the size of Australia's; 98% of the flock is made up of breeding ewes and lambs aged a year or younger.



A flock of Blackface ewes in the Cheviot Hills

Why is Brexit such a threat?

Because the economic survival of sheep farming has become vitally dependent on three things integral to our relationship with the EU: the subsidies paid out under the Common Agricultural Policy; access to European markets; and high tariff protection against farm imports from non-EU countries. Last year, British sheep farmers exported 82,600 tonnes of meat, worth £365m – about a third of total production, of which 96% goes to the EU. Around half of that goes to France, whose own sheep industry has already collapsed, and about 14% to Germany. Brexit poses a real threat to this crucial and frictionless trade. Indeed, the National Sheep Association (NSA) says it could be "catastrophic", especially if we exit under no deal.

Where does sheep farming occur?

Britain's sheep farming areas are famously beautiful: they include nine national parks in England and Wales and vast tracts of Scotland and Northern Ireland. The rolling southwest is the region with the most sheep by number. But these areas are often challenging for farmers. Of the 72,000 or so UK farms involved in raising sheep, the majority do so because they're in hilly, upland and other areas where terrain and soil quality make the land unsuitable for other uses. However, the industry stretches across much of rural Britain. Farming to some extent still follows the traditional "stratified sheep system", split into three tiers: hill, upland and lowland; many sheep are bred on higher land and transferred to richer lowland farms to be fattened for market.

And is it a profitable business?

No. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs figures for last year found that 17% of UK farms failed to make a profit, and if generous EU subsidies were removed, about half of farms would have gone bust. For sheep farmers, particularly in the uplands, the figures are even worse. The average farm business income (i.e. profit) for a livestock farm in a "less favoured area" in England – which usually means an upland sheep farm – is £28,300, with average losses from farming of £12,000 compensated for by EU subsidies of £37,900 (and £2,900 in "diversified income", such as b&bs). Essentially, loss-making sheep farmers are paid large amounts of taxpayers' money to remain on, and care for, the land.

Why is it so precarious?

In part due to the falling demand for red meat that has caused UK lamb sales to drop by nearly two-thirds since 1990. (The price of wool, meanwhile, barely covers the cost of shearing.) Livestock farming is governed by commodity prices, which constantly fluctuate; and sheep farming – unlike cereal, poultry, pig and dairy farming – is hard to do intensively, which means it's difficult to compete on world markets. Farmers are also facing rising rents and land prices, cost-cutting by supermarkets and a weaker pound (which raises the cost of imported fuel, feed and fertilisers).

Why is a no-deal exit especially worrying?

A system of regulatory checks would seriously inhibit trade. British lamb has a reputation for quality, but selling at the premium end of the market usually relies on the product being fresh; border checks would endanger that. And the EU has warned that it could take six months to set the checks up, which would mean a short-term "embargo". Reverting to WTO rules, meanwhile, would mean the imposition of basic 12.8% tariffs on meat, plus other amounts depending on the cut: lamb leg faces an EU tariff of 48%. Unless a new trade deal is negotiated, this could render UK exports unviable – destroying livelihoods and leaving 4.5 million lamb carcasses unsold in British cold stores.

But couldn't Britain compete on world markets?

Discussions regarding exports to China and Japan are under way. However, the UK would face heavy competition from New Zealand and Australia, which are much closer and have much lower costs (New Zealand lamb costs about a quarter as much to produce, though EU subsidies bring the market prices of British meat down considerably). "Expecting wider world markets to absorb what currently goes to the EU in the short to medium term is unrealistic," says the NSA – which also worries that Britain would be flooded with cheap foreign imports if it were to liberalise trade.

How New Zealand became No. 1

Despite its remote position, New Zealand has a long and successful history of exporting frozen meat – first to Britain and then to the rest of the world. After 98 days at sea, the first shipment arrived in London on the Dunedin in 1882, a turning point for the Kiwi economy. Over the next century, transport costs were reduced and farm practices fine-tuned: geneticists, agronomists, soil scientists, and plant and animal breeders all helped drive efficiencies and economies of scale that – combined with the natural advantages of climate and vast areas of luxuriant grassland – gave it a competitive edge over European rivals.

In the 1970s, though, it encountered two major problems: Britain entered the EEC, so its market was no longer so open to New Zealand's exports; and the oil shock increased farming and transport costs.

In 1984-86, the government abruptly removed all subsidies, and the industry became very lean. Sheep numbers dropped from 70 million in 1982 (22 for each New Zealander) to about 30 million today, but productivity soared and new markets were found. New Zealand remains the world's top exporter of lamb and mutton – sending 30% to China, 20% (52,000 tonnes) to the UK and a similar quantity to the rest of the EU.

What will happen to subsidies?

That's the other big question. In theory, we could drop subsidies as New Zealand has (see box), and make the UK genuinely competitive – but that would mean short-term carnage. The UK Government intends to match EU subsidies until 2022. After that, it will change the system radically. Payments will be reduced, and instead of being based largely on the amount of land farmed, direct payments will be tied more closely to delivering environmental and other "public" goods, such as improving air or water quality, and habitats for wildlife; or preventing flooding. These reforms mean yet more uncertainty. Despite their strong support for Brexit at the 2016 referendum, many farmers now feel great concern as they face up to its reality.

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Britain must pick the US over China

Iain Martin

The Times

The SNP's windy rhetoric on renewables

Kevin McKenna

The Observer

A third runway is the road to hell

Simon Jenkins

The Guardian

The West's silence over Morsi's death

Robert Fisk

The Independent

A decade ago, Britain's governing class took a big and, it turns out, reckless gamble, says Iain Martin. It bet on China. Desperate to boost growth after the 2008 financial crisis, David Cameron and George Osborne sought to build lucrative trade links with the rising power. And the idea bore fruit: China is building the Hinkley Point nuclear power station; last year its companies completed transactions in the UK worth £3.7bn. But suddenly "the terms of trade" have changed. The US has made it clear we have to choose: it's either Washington or Beijing. We can embrace China, working closely with the likes of tech giant Huawei – or we can retain our special intelligence-sharing relationship with the US. We can't do both. Disentangling trade ties with China will be costly and difficult given how enmeshed they've become: the UK board of Huawei, for instance, is chaired by former BP boss Lord Browne of Madingley. But make no mistake, at some point we'll have to do it. If we have to choose between a democratic ally or a brutal, repressive regime, there's only one way to go.

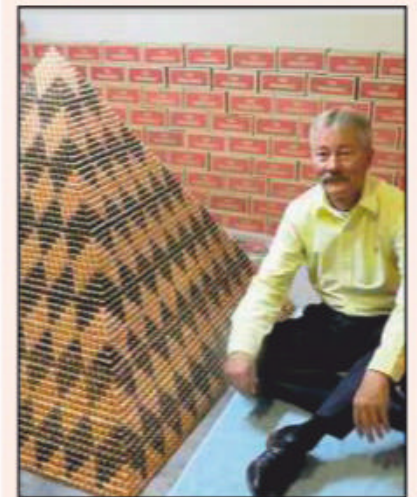
The promise of green energy jobs has "long mesmerised the political classes", says Kevin McKenna. Nowhere more so than in Scotland, where the Scottish National Party claimed in 2011 that the renewable sector could create 130,000 of them. Precious little sign of that so far, though. The planned new wind farm off the coast of Fife, for one, was meant to create at least 1,000 long-term skilled jobs in the area's struggling construction yards. But the French energy giant EDF, which last year bought the project from the previous owner, is planning to outsource manufacturing work to an Indonesian firm instead. The Holyrood government notably failed to get these jobs nailed down legally in the event of such a takeover. It's all too typical. There has been almost £5bn of investment in offshore renewables in Scotland to date, yet so far, according to the GMB union, this investment has delivered only 82 temporary jobs locally. "UK taxpayers are entitled to ask why they are paying fortunes to subsidise green energy and create jobs everywhere else in the world except here."

"Monstrous." That's the only way to describe Heathrow's latest plan for a third runway, says Simon Jenkins. It's proposing to send 700 more flights a day over people's houses; to pave over 1,000 acres of green-belt land; and to build the world's largest car park (for 50,000 vehicles). All this in an area already blighted by aircraft noise, congestion and air pollution – and at a time when we're meant to be taking urgent action to tackle climate change. It beggars belief. The airport insists it's essential for British business, but that's rot. Only about a third of Heathrow passengers are classed as "business". Given the vast expense of building the new runway (estimated cost: £30bn), it "would probably be cheaper to give every genuine businessman a private jet from City or Northolt airports". Heathrow expansion would also "make a mockery of policy on climate change and regional planning". Yet don't expect sanity to prevail. David Cameron and Theresa May both succumbed to Heathrow lobbyists after initially opposing a third runway – and judging by his recent comments, it looks like Boris Johnson will buckle too. So much for the public interest.

It was a shocking way to go, says Robert Fisk. Last week, Egypt's first and only elected president, Mohamed Morsi, dropped dead inside a cage in a Cairo courtroom. And the response from Western leaders? "Zilch; silence; not a mutter." No expressions of revulsion; no condemnation of the fact Morsi had spent six years in jail, much of it in solitary, deprived by Egypt's military strongman, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, of medical help and contact with his family. It was as if he'd never existed, "which is pretty much what Sisi wants the history books to say". It's inexcusable. Yes, Morsi was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood; yes, he was a poor president with maybe a few dictatorial ambitions of his own. But he wasn't "a bad man": he didn't lock up 60,000 prisoners like Sisi; he aspired to an Egypt "of values and civilisation", as he put it. And he deserved better. The West's "pusillanimous, disgraceful silence" over his death will have given great encouragement to the Assads, Bin Salmans and the other dictators in the region: it tells them "that their misdeeds will go unpunished and unthought of, that justice will remain unredeemed and history books unread".

IT MUST BE TRUE... I read it in the tabloids

A woman who dozed off on a flight from Quebec to Toronto awoke to find herself alone and stranded in a dark and freezing cold aeroplane. "As someone with an anxiety disorder, I can tell you how terrifying this was," said Tiffani O'Brien. To make matters worse, she couldn't charge her mobile phone to call for help; when she managed to find a torch and open one of the doors, she was confronted by a 45ft drop. She flashed distress signals and was finally rescued by a baggage handler. Air Canada said that it was "still reviewing this matter".



The world's largest coin pyramid has been built by a car salesman from Arizona using 1,030,315 American pennies. Cory Nielsen took three years to complete the project, separating out the dirty old coins from the shiny new ones to create a diamond pattern. "I enjoyed doing it, it was a good stress reliever," said Nielsen. But, he added, "It's always in the back of your head, hoping that there are never any earthquakes or tremors."

Officials in Washington state have spent more than \$27,000 prosecuting a cat. Four lawyers have clocked up the fees building cases against Miska the mackerel tabby, who has been accused of anti-social behaviour, including trespassing and attacking other pets, and has earned dozens of fines for its owner, Anna Danieli. Now Danieli has launched a counter suit, claiming that her pet is being victimised. "Even trespassing humans don't get as much prosecution in King County as Miska," said its attorney, Jon Zimmerman.

Trump's second term bid: "darker, whinier and more divisive"

President Trump formally kicked off his 2020 re-election campaign last week, said Michelle Cottle in [The New York Times](#); and judging by its launch in Florida, "season two of this political reality show promises to be largely a rehash of season one – except darker, whinier and even more divisive". Trump's 78-minute speech contained no great vision or updated policy focus for his second term. Instead, it offered the "usual brew of aggrandisement, aggrievement and demonisation of political foes". The president vilified the Democrats as "ruthless" and "unhinged"; he railed against his persecution by the purveyors of "fake news" and the deep-state rogues behind the Russia "witch hunt"; and he spent so much time attacking "Crooked Hillary", you'd have thought an aide had loaded one of his 2016 speeches onto the teleprompter. Clearly, Trump is not looking to expand his appeal this cycle. "He is digging in and doubling down with his base."

Trump has never really moved on from 2016, said Dana Milbank in [The Washington Post](#). Since his inauguration, he has mentioned or referred to Clinton or Barack Obama an average of 2.56 times per day, according to computations by the data analytics company Factba.se. Compare that to previous presidents. At the same point in their terms of office, "Obama had mentioned or referred to his opponent or predecessor once every 3.52 days, George W. Bush every 62.79 days, Bill Clinton every 3.38 days, George H.W. Bush every 6.56 days and Ronald Reagan every 58.6 days". Why does Trump dwell on the past so much? The



The president: "doubling down with his base"

answer is obvious: it distracts attention from his "woeful" record. The irony is that the president would improve his chances of re-election if he took a more positive tone, said the [Washington Examiner](#). Contrary to what critics say, he does have achievements to point to. He can "credibly make the case that, after years of relative stagnation under Obama, his deregulatory actions and tax cuts have allowed businesses to thrive". His hardball tactics have also pushed Nato countries to increase their defence funding, and Mexico to stem the tide of asylum seekers at America's southern border.

The standard rule of US politics, said Jon Healey in the [Los Angeles Times](#), is that White House incumbents can pretty much count on winning a second term if the economy's doing okay. Voters are "risk-averse" in this respect and generally opt to stick to the devil they know. On this basis, things look promising for the president: America's economy is doing well, with very low unemployment and low inflation. Were Trump to make the 2020 election about the economy, he'd be in with a good shot, said Jonah Goldberg in [National Review](#). Being Trump, though, he "wants it – and everything else – to be about him". And that's a problem, because "most people have made up their minds about him, and most of them don't like him". Recent polls show him lagging behind the Democratic front runners in several must-win states, such as Florida, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. To prevail in 2020, Trump "would have to stop acting like Trump and make the message about something other than him. That's a tall order."

Was Harvard right to banish the Parkland survivor?

America's universities are "irreparably broken", said Ben Shapiro on [The Daily Wire](#). If you don't believe it, consider the case of Kyle Kashuv. He is one of the survivors of last year's mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida, in which 17 students and staff members were killed. A gifted student who graduated second in his class, he was set to take up a place at Harvard next year. But then it came to the attention of the university that, when he was 16, he had engaged in racist banter with friends online. Challenged about this, Kashuv issued a heartfelt apology, explaining to the college how mortified he was about the posts, in which, he said, he had used offensive language purely for its shock value. He had, he added, grown up a lot since then, not least as a result of witnessing last year's traumatic event. In a sane world, Harvard would have accepted Kashuv's evident contrition over this juvenile lapse and moved on. Instead, it rescinded its offer of a place. Truly, the "inmates are in charge of the asylum".

Those of us who grew up before the internet age are lucky that no record remains of the "crazy-ass bullshit" we said to each other at school, said Libby Emmons on [The Post Millennial](#). That privilege is not available to today's youths. How sad that even old, private messages between friends can now derail a person's university hopes. It's outrageous, said Daniella Greenbaum Davis on [Spectator USA](#). "Institutions of higher



Kyle Kashuv: felled by "racist banter"

learning are predicated on the notion that young adults are capable of developing towards maturity." How can Harvard, an institution with ties to the slave trade that has sought to make amends over recent years for its own past racist practices, "reject the concept of growth" in this way?

Harvard isn't arguing that Kashuv cannot grow, said Zak Cheney-Rice in [New York magazine](#); it has just decided that his presence might harm its own evolving mandate. Perhaps it's overreacting, but that is its right. The reality is that "college admissions are

determined almost entirely by the minutiae of what applicants did and did not do in high school". Tens of thousands of students are rejected every year for all sorts of reasons; Kashuv can't complain. Harvard is of course entitled to change its mind about students in the light of new information, said Robby Soave in [Reason](#), but Kashuv's case is nevertheless "troubling". His offensive comments only came to light because they were dug up by former classmates who oppose his conservative politics: unlike other Stoneman Douglas pupils who have called for stricter gun controls, he is a vocal defender of Second Amendment rights who supports more armed guards in schools. By giving these people what they wanted, Harvard will have encouraged others to dredge up old dirt on their enemies in the same fashion. "We should be concerned about where this corrosive impulse to seek and destroy is leading us."

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Ebola: the outbreak raging in eastern Congo

For years, it has been plagued by warfare. Now the Democratic Republic of Congo is suffering an “unspeakable” new misery, said Jean-François Berger in *Tribune de Genève*. An outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus has infected more than 2,100 people in the remote eastern provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, causing more than 1,400 deaths since August 2018. The highly contagious disease, which can be spread through bodily fluids or passed to humans by animals, causes a high temperature and vomiting followed by internal and external bleeding and, in about 50% of cases, death by organ failure. But as World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Red Cross emergency workers – clad in “frightening” uniforms of full-body plastic suit, mask and goggles – struggle to contain the epidemic, their response has been hampered by another problem: the ongoing fighting between the army and local militias that has displaced about 300,000 people in the past month alone. So far this year, at least 170 attacks have been reported on healthcare facilities, during which five people have been killed and 51 injured.

It’s the second-largest Ebola outbreak in recorded history – after the 2014-16 epidemic that killed 11,300 in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, said Isaac Kasamani in the *Daily Nation* (Nairobi).



Health workers at a treatment centre in Beni, Congo

This time, aid workers have a new vaccine that appears to work, and the WHO has called for it to be deployed more widely. But experts worry “the worst is yet to come”, said *The New York Times*. This month, a five-year-old boy and his grandmother became the first to die across the nearby border with Uganda. With so many fleeing the country to escape the fighting, containment may become impossible.

And local paranoia is only making matters worse, said Nurith Aizenman on *NPR* (Washington). Voting in last year’s presidential election was suspended in the outbreak zone to stop the spread of the disease – but that robbed the opposition of a likely victory, leading to rumours that the crisis had been manufactured by the government. Another rumour circulating is that aid workers are deliberately infecting locals because they’re paid for every corpse they dispose of – a falsehood that means they often get chased away by stone-throwing mobs. The default approach in these situations is to rush in with cash and resources – but what’s needed here is a campaign to build trust, said Helen Barclay-Hollands in *Wiener Zeitung* (Vienna). The 2014-16 outbreak taught us that it is only by mobilising the wider population that we can defeat the disease. Much now depends on the ability of local and religious leaders to educate people about this deadly virus.

POLAND

America is an expensive guest

Gazeta Wyborcza
(Warsaw)

The Polish president has been played by Donald Trump, says Paweł Wronski. Andrzej Duda touted his recent trip to the White House as a near-total success. The US, he declared, has agreed to add 1,000 troops to the 4,500 already deployed here. Poland will also host a new US divisional HQ, a joint US-Polish training centre and a squadron of drones. All this, he said, will guarantee our security by deterring Russian aggression. But it turns out that the \$2bn bill will be paid by Poland, not the US. And though Duda tried to stroke Trump’s ego by saying that a mooted larger-scale facility could be named “Fort Trump”, the US president crucially declined to commit to an official US base in Poland – instead holding to the 1997 Nato-Russia agreement that implies Nato can’t build permanent bases in the territory of the old Warsaw Pact. The upshot is that the US “will gain a new training area for free, using facilities built by Poles”. And in return, Poland has agreed to buy 32 F-35s – a super-modern fighter jet we have no foreseeable use for – for some \$4bn. It would have made far more sense to buy Patriot anti-ballistic missiles to defend against a Russian strike. When Duda gets home, “he will look into his empty wallet and wonder if he has bought what he really needs”.

FRANCE

The plan to concrete over Paris

Le Figaro
(Paris)

With a population density nearly equal to Mumbai, Paris desperately needs new green spaces, says Pierre Liscia. It has fewer than six square metres of green space per resident, compared with 45 in London, and came bottom in the recent Treepedia study of world cities’ tree coverage. So one would think the announcement by mayor Anne Hidalgo of “spectacular” new green investments is cause for cheer. She’s clearly responding to the Greens’ breakthrough in the recent European elections – they’ve been banging on for years about covering cities with “urban orchards” and shared gardens. The trouble is, her sudden conversion sits uneasily with her “unrealistic” pledge to build 10,000 new homes a year in Paris, which is putting green spaces under huge pressure. Local outcry has stopped some projects, but in Bel-Air, 60 trees were ripped up to make way for only five buildings – and in Grenelle, two large reservoirs are also to be filled in for housing. Meanwhile, planned green spaces next to new developments have been “reduced to a trickle”. It’s an “environmental scandal”. How can Hidalgo’s green plans possibly square with her zeal to concrete over the entire city?

CANADA

An island under siege by the sea

Toronto Star

Canada’s smallest province, Prince Edward Island, is getting smaller by the day, says Moira Welsh. Climate change has upped the rate of erosion. In the town of Alberton, one stretch of waterfront lost an average of two metres of land a year between 2004 and 2011. The Cape Egmont Lighthouse, built in 1884, has already been relocated inland – and 17 other lighthouses, along with 1,000 homes and 146 commercial buildings, are under threat. The reason? Unlike most of the country’s islands, Prince Edward Island – which sits just north of Nova Scotia – is underpinned not by hard rock, but by sandstone and sand. Rising sea levels and more powerful winds and storm surges are rapidly eroding that foundation. As temperatures rise, storms become stronger, “creating waves that smash against the coast and rip it away”. Warmer weather also means there’s less of the ice that once protected the coastline during winter, exposing beaches to harsh winter winds. Climate scientist Dr Adam Fenech has shown residents a 3D simulation of where the coastline is projected to be in 30 years. “I’ve seen men cry,” he said, when they realise their whole lives will “go underwater”.

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What the scientists are saying...

Benefits of a “dose” of nature

We all know that it's good to get some fresh air: countless studies have shown that spending time in parks and other green spaces has a positive impact on everything from stress levels to heart health, and in some countries, doctors prescribe it. Now, researchers have sought to work out just how much exposure to the great outdoors we need to reap maximum benefit – and the answer turns out to be 120 minutes a week. The team, from the University of Exeter, analysed data on more than 20,000 people who had been asked to record their activities in the past week, and to rate their overall health and well-being. They found that people who'd spent two hours a week in nature were significantly more likely to report being in good health and feeling satisfied with their lives than those who'd spent little or no time outside in green spaces. The impact of 90 minutes a week was much less – and spending more than two hours brought no additional benefits. “Two hours was the threshold for men and women, older and younger adults, people living in richer or poorer areas, different ethnic groups, and even for those living with long-term illnesses,” said study leader Dr Mathew P. White.

A snail-inspired reversible glue

Scientists have developed a type of glue that is strong enough to stick a human to a wall – but that is also reversible. The team at the University of Pennsylvania found their inspiration in snail slime, which in its viscous form is only moderately sticky (allowing snails to slide up walls), but which bonds quite strongly when it dries. This means that on a sunny day, the snail can lock itself in place on a wall – and protect itself from drying out. When the environment becomes moist



Snails: a hydrogel inspiration

again, this slimy epiphragm softens, allowing the snail to move freely. The new “hydrogel” is made from a polymer called pHEMA, which behaves similarly. When wet, it conforms to the grooves on a surface, which is what makes it sticky. But what makes it a strong adhesive is the fact that as it dries, it becomes completely rigid and – unlike most gels – it doesn't shrink. The team demonstrated the substance's adhesive properties by suspending a 13½ stone man from a harness that was held up by two postage-stamp-sized patches of the gel. And like snail slime, when you expose the gel to water, it becomes rubbery again and loses its stick. Its developers think it could have uses in its current form – enabling car manufacturers, for example, to assemble parts before they are irreversibly glued. But they acknowledge that for their gel to be useful more broadly, they'll need to adjust it so that its “switch” is not water, but specific chemicals or heat.

Why the zebra got its stripes

Camouflage, mate attraction, fly repulsion... theories abound as to why the zebra got its stripes. Now, a new one has been proposed: to help them stay cool. With only one stomach, zebras have often to keep eating through the day, meaning they're usually heavily exposed to the Sun. Like all equids, they cool themselves mainly by sweating – and it is this process that their stripes may aid. When former biology technician Alison Cobb and her husband, Dr Stephen Cobb, a zoologist at the University of Nairobi, took temperature readings from the stripes of two zebras, they found that on sunny days, the black stripes became, as one might expect, far hotter than the white ones. The difference between the two, they suggest, creates small-scale convection air currents that speed up sweat evaporation, helping zebras to maintain a body temperature of 37°C even when ambient temperatures top 40°C. The pair also observed that zebras sometimes raise their black hairs, leaving the white flat. In the *Journal of Natural History*, they suggest this further aids “evaporative cooling” by exposing more of the zebras' sweat to the “turbulent air”.

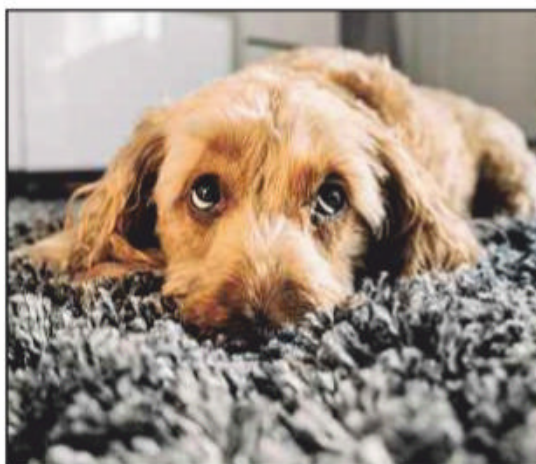
Anxiety drug warning

People taking gabapentinoids – a class of drugs widely used to treat anxiety, nerve pain and epilepsy – are up to 26% more likely to die by suicide, according to a new study of nearly 200,000 people in Sweden. Those aged 15 to 24 were found to be most vulnerable. The risks of physical injury or being involved in a car crash are also raised among people taking the drugs. With millions of people taking gabapentinoids in the UK alone, the authors of the study, led by Oxford University, have called for an urgent review of their safety.

The origins of “puppy dog eyes”

When dogs raise their eyebrows and gaze at us imploringly, the expression seems uncannily human, as if they have worked out exactly how to tug on our heartstrings. And in fact, a new study suggests that dogs did evolve their “sad eyes” to appeal to our nurturing side. The researchers compared the facial anatomies of dogs and their closest relative, the wolf. As dogs only split from wolves some 33,000 years ago, when they first became domesticated, comparisons between the species can help establish how dogs have been affected by their interactions with humans.

The UK-US team dissected six dogs (including a chihuahua, a labrador and a bloodhound) and four grey wolves, and found that while all the dogs had particular forehead muscles that would have enabled them to raise their eyebrows, these were absent in the wolves. Writing in the journal *PNAS*, the scientists suggest that eyebrow-raising conferred such a big advantage that the trait has spread to all dogs since domestication – a remarkably short period for such a major evolutionary change.



A trait favoured by humans

Anti-vax Europeans

Europeans are more likely than anyone else in the world to be suspicious of vaccinations, a new study has found. Overall, 79% of people worldwide “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that vaccines are safe, and 7% somewhat or strongly disagree; 84% agree vaccines are effective, while 5% disagree. But the rates vary enormously in different parts of the world. In North America, 72% agree that vaccines are safe. In Western Europe, 59% do, and in Eastern Europe, only 40% do. France – which is among the European countries currently battling a measles outbreak – was found to be the most sceptical nation by the Wellcome Trust research: there, 33% of people do not agree that vaccinations are safe (the highest rate globally). A further 19% of French people do not believe that they are effective, while 10% do not agree that it is important for children to be vaccinated.

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The Cost of Not Planning Ahead

Speaking to a financial adviser isn't necessarily top of most people's priority lists. But the sooner you get round to it, the sooner you can make sure you're not missing out on valuable financial planning that could save you money.

Many people who go to speak to a financial adviser already have some basic measures in place to secure their future financial security, say Jonathan Neale, Chartered Financial Planner, and Andy Cumming, Head of Advice, at Close Brothers Asset Management. This could take the form of a cash ISA, for instance, or a workplace pension. These make for a solid foundation on which to build. However, if you have just a few measures in place, you may be lulled into a false sense of security about exactly how prepared your finances are. And a surprising number of people have not yet put thought into their long-term financial plans. These people may be exposing themselves to potentially costly risks.

People come looking for advice on a wide range of topics, from how best to invest an inheritance and planning for income in retirement, to how to pass on money to beneficiaries tax efficiently. We always start by asking what they want to achieve. They are often very surprised by the solutions we can provide, and by what they might have missed out on had they not come in to speak with us. Financial planning is really all about the details – these can be complex, which is why it can really pay to talk to an expert.

Really, planning should start years before retirement, ensuring funds are invested in the most tax-efficient structures, making use of pension contributions, ISA allowances and annual capital-gains tax (CGT) exemptions, to name a few. We can ensure that when in retirement, you will be able to receive your income in as tax-efficient a manner as possible. Here are just a few of the different ways in which we've been able to help clients.



Optimising your retirement plan

We recently worked with a client who wanted advice on how to draw income from their pension fund in a tax-efficient manner. We gather every detail about a client's income, assets, personal status, liabilities, lifestyle and objectives prior to giving advice, and so we were able to identify a number of solutions for them. Our first step was to guide the client through how to better use CGT and income-tax allowances. They then asked us to take a look at their investment strategy, factoring in their appetite for risk. By applying our knowledge of legitimate personal tax allowances and reliefs, we were able to boost the net income they made from their investments. Finally, we applied our expertise in retirement planning to arrange for them to draw the tax-free element of their pension progressively through retirement, rather than as a one-off lump sum. This both saves money on income tax, and leaves more within the inheritance tax (IHT)-friendly pension wrapper. As well as growing capital, we look to protect it for future beneficiaries, and so we also advised the client on IHT and estate planning. The cumulative result of all of this advice and planning was an increase in the client's net income, at no greater risk.

Helping business owners plan for the future

Business owners need to think ahead to when they might want to sell their company. With one client, we were aware that while his money was tied up in the business, it benefited from Business

Property Relief (meaning it was protected from IHT). Upon the sale of the business, we were able to put a certain amount of money (up to £325,000) into a trust, which would only be liable for IHT if the client died within seven years. To protect against this, we took out life cover for the potential tax liability during the seven-year period. There are also investment solutions that can provide IHT relief after two years – however, due to the high-risk nature of these services, expert financial advice should be obtained. Because we worked with the client in advance of him deciding to sell his company, we were able to provide timely advice that saved him money in the long term.

Avoiding IHT pitfalls in your will

Finally, we have seen several clients whose wills contained a phrase which could have had serious IHT implications. If a client has set up a discretionary trust in their will, directing that half of their house (or the cash made from selling it) should be held in trust for their beneficiaries, these may be listed as children and grandchildren, but importantly, also include the words "and anyone else". Unfortunately, these three words would mean they were then unable to benefit from the "residential nil-rate band", an IHT allowance phased in from 2017 onwards. This is an extra allowance on top of the standard IHT nil rate band allowance, which applies where someone passes property, or proceeds from a property sale, on to direct descendants. Yet the significant phrase here is "to direct descendants" – if the client's will specifies other beneficiaries beyond these, the property value would not be eligible for the additional allowance. By alerting a client to this, and arranging for the necessary changes, we can potentially save them up to £120,000 in IHT.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which we can and have helped clients avoid costly financial pitfalls. It's painstaking work, which requires a detailed grasp of each client's individual situation and all the relevant regulations. But the peace of mind which results makes an expert financial review invaluable.

Tax benefits depend on your own individual circumstances and are subject to change. Your capital is at risk. Investments can go down as well as up. This article should not be construed as advice.

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Boris Johnson: the chaotic personal life of a PM-in-waiting

"The only person who can stop Boris is Boris himself." That's what the pundits were saying after Boris Johnson made it through the third round of voting in the Tory leadership contest. And his advisers knew it too: it's why for weeks, they had rarely let him out of their sight. But they couldn't follow him into his own home, and last Thursday night their strategy came tumbling down. At around midnight, Johnson, 55, and his partner Carrie Symonds, 31, were overheard having a blazing row, apparently triggered by him spilling red wine on her sofa (he has been living in her flat in Camberwell, south London, since splitting up with his wife Marina). During the crashing and banging, she reportedly screamed, "Get off me... get out of my flat", while he told her to "get off my f***ing laptop". Neighbours were so concerned, they dialled 999. They also took pains to make a recording of the shouting coming from downstairs, which they sent to The Guardian as soon as the police had gone away, satisfied that no one was at risk. The audio has yet to surface; but by Sunday morning, demonstrators had surrounded the property, apparently forcing the pair to temporarily move out.



Symonds and Johnson: blazing row

Let's face it: most couples have had the odd shouting match, said Simon Kelner in the *I* newspaper. They may even have thrown things (reportedly, there was the sound of smashing plates from the flat). You'd probably rather the neighbours didn't call the police; but if the couple in this case really were frightened by the noise, it was clearly the right thing to do (and other residents have concurred that the shouting and screaming was alarming). As to recording the row and leaking it to the press, Tory supporters say that this was a political act designed to stop Boris getting the top job. Well, "no shit, Sherlock". The Tories are about to elect a prime minister to lead us through a time of national crisis. Those of us who believe that Johnson should not be that PM will be grateful to this public-spirited couple for exposing the fact that "on top of everything else", he may be out of control and a bully.

Yet what about The Guardian's role in this, asked Brendan O'Neill on *Spiked*. Was it wrong to publish the transcript of a covertly recorded conversation in a private home? I wouldn't want to see it reprimanded for it: we have a free press. But it seems an unprincipled decision, for a paper that "led the moral crusade against tabloid phone hacking". Johnson himself feels his

privacy has been violated. He says his private life is of no public concern. But his character is very much our business, said Stephen Glover in the *Daily Mail*. And we'd be stupid to ignore such evidence that emanates from his private life – which is clearly dysfunctional, with his two failed marriages and many adulterous affairs, at least one of which produced a child. But it's not just about sex and relationships; it's also about trust and reliability. We know that at Oxford he posed as a supporter of the then-popular SDP to be elected president of the union; that as a young journalist at *The Times* he was sacked for fabricating a quote; and that he made his name at the *Telegraph* by telling extravagant lies about goings-on in Brussels. Then there is the darker episode, when he seemed to collude with his friend the fraudster Darius Guppy in his plan to beat up a journalist.

"You just don't care for anything because you're spoilt," Symonds is said to have screamed that night. "You have no care for money or anything." And in her anger, the truth came out, said Rachel Sylvester in *The Times*. "Irresponsible, disloyal and with a sense of entitlement", Johnson is like Tom and Daisy in *The Great Gatsby*: "They were careless people... they smashed up things and creatures and then... let other people clean up the mess." Johnson wants to be in charge of our national security, prosperity and economy, but he only cares about himself. He has betrayed the

women in his life, just as he has betrayed his colleagues. At work as at home, he is chaotic, undisciplined and thoughtless: there was something about the three parking tickets spotted on the dashboard of his untidy car that epitomised his belief that the rules don't apply to him. "A mass of contradictions", he craves the love of the crowd, but he lacks empathy and is a loner at Westminster. While people think of him as sunnily optimistic, he has a dark side to his personality, including a fierce, "uncontrollable" temper (according to his biographer and ex-colleague Sonia Purnell).

Will Tory members be swayed by this "scrape"? It's doubtful, said Adam Boulton in *The Sunday Times*. Johnson's flaws have been "priced in". But his supporters should bear in mind that among the graver of his vices is cowardice, said Max Hastings in *The Guardian*. He may not deliver what he promised. As for him, my guess is that if he becomes PM, he will regret it: it will only expose his total unsuitability for the job he has always craved.

"He says his private life is of no public concern. But his character is very much our business"

Pick of the week's Gossip

Pat Cash (pictured) has faced financial difficulties over the years, but he has a reliable friend to bail him out: God. "Whenever I need money, God sends some," the former Wimbledon champion told *The Mail on Sunday*. "Just enough to pay the bills. It happens all the time. Whenever I am in trouble or stuck, I get a new deal, renew a contract or am offered another income stream. This has happened



20 times. It's weird." It started when he was struggling after his divorce in 2002. "I

remember one day looking up to the sky and going, 'God, will you please take over all my finances?' Within hours, a friend called and asked me to play a tennis event which paid several thousand pounds and the highest fee I had ever earned for a set of doubles."

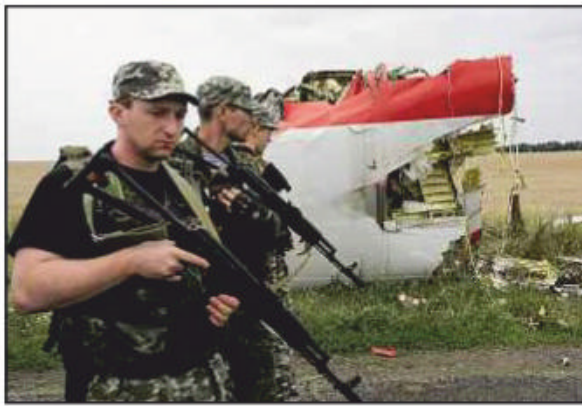
In the 1960s, The Beatles were bombarded on stage with women's underwear. **Mark Ronson** faces a different hazard: a hail of Curly Wurlys. When he moved to the US, the musician and DJ was asked what he missed most about England, and cited his favourite chocolate bar. Since then, his

more ardent fans have sought to make up for the deficit. "You know, [when] you throw a Curly Wurly at a festival, it picks up some speed," he says. "It might be a gesture of love, but it can be painful."

The late **John Bayley** could be forgetful, according to a new book by Peter J. Conradi. When the literary critic's second wife, **Audi Villiers**, asked him on their tenth wedding anniversary why the date was special, he paused for some while before coming up with the answer: "The murder of Richard III on Bosworth Field," he declared.

Flight MH17: a case of mass murder

“The scenes of death are etched in my memory,” said Ian Birrell in *The Times* – “bodies still strapped in their seats, burnt corpses... the limbless trunk, the hand stretching from the grass like something out of a horror movie.” These remains belonged to some of the 298 people (among them ten Britons) killed when



Pro-Russian militants at the site of the crash

Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down, en route from the Netherlands to Malaysia, by a surface-to-air missile launched from rebel-held territory in eastern Ukraine on 17 July 2014. Now, almost five years on, Dutch-led investigators have issued murder charges against four men in connection with the crime. The four – who include three Russian nationals with links to Moscow’s intelligence services – are alleged to have organised the delivery (and swift retrieval) of a Russian Buk missile system to the launch site in Ukraine, where others used it to shoot the airliner down, having mistaken it for a Ukrainian military aircraft. The Kremlin has made clear that it won’t agree to any extradition request, so they will almost certainly be tried in absentia when the case comes to court next year.

The shooting down of flight MH17 was part of the “shadowy” war that has killed more than 13,000 people since 2014, said *The Economist*. The horrific incident also marked a “breaking point” in Russia’s relations with the West.

Citing satellite data and other intelligence, governments around the world were quick to blame the Kremlin, which has long backed pro-Russian forces in Ukraine’s breakaway eastern region of Donbas. But despite “clear” evidence of wrongdoing, Moscow hasn’t wavered from its “default response”

of “lying – wilfully, methodically, shamelessly”, said *The New York Times*. It has tried to deflect blame onto Ukraine, and stonewalled all attempts by the victims’ families to seek justice. The effort seems to have had some effect: in 2014, a poll found only 1% of Russians hold their countrymen responsible – while last week, Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad said it was just “hearsay” that Russia had been involved.

That’s why next year’s court case is important, even if no one goes to jail, said Shaun Walker in *The Guardian*. It will start a “process of closure” for victims’ relatives. It also means that the truth will be “preserved for the record”. Today, President Putin is “angling for an improvement in Russia’s relations with the West” – and at this weekend’s G20 summit in Japan, he will seek “a partial easing of sanctions”, said *The Times*. He should be reminded that he can’t hope for “a new detente” without “accepting the responsibility for this appalling crime”.

Wit & Wisdom

“Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so.”
Douglas Adams, quoted in The Guardian

“I wear my enemies like medals.”
Norman Stone, quoted in The Sunday Times

“History is a slippery business; the past is not a constant but a landscape that mutates according to argument and opinion.”
Penelope Lively, quoted in Forbes

“Everybody was so gaga about Steve Jobs, but I picture him in hell running from demons who want a selfie.”
Jim Carrey blames the Apple founder for the popularity of selfies, quoted in the I newspaper

“It is impossible that a man who is false to his friends and neighbours should be true to the public.”
Bishop Berkeley, quoted in The Guardian

“People do not change, they are merely revealed.”
Writer Anne Enright, quoted in The Independent

“If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what then is an empty desk a sign?”
Albert Einstein, quoted in The Times

“The dragon in shallow water is the sport of shrimps.”
Gordon Reece, quoted in The Spectator

“Slow is the fastest way to get where you want to go.”
Actor André De Shields, quoted in The Hollywood Reporter

Fast fashion: the high price of cheap clothes

Online clothes retailers were offering some absurd bargains last week, said Sandra Laville in *The Guardian*. Boohoo had a body-con minidress for only £2.85, while Missguided took low prices even further by promoting a £1 bikini. Such items, churned out by companies and typically discarded by consumers within weeks, epitomise fast fashion. It’s a booming industry today, but there’s mounting concern about the hidden costs behind the cheap price tags. While it’s no secret that garment factories often underpay their workers, fast fashion also exacts a steep environmental toll. Globally, the textile industry is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than international aviation and shipping combined. It also consumes vast volumes of water and is a leading cause of plastic pollution – “as much as 35% of microplastics found in the ocean come from synthetic clothing”.



Boohoo’s £2.85 minidress

consumers in any other country in Europe, and send some 300,000 tonnes of clothes a year to be burnt or dumped in landfill. There was understandable outrage last week, therefore, when ministers rejected calls from the Environmental Audit Committee for a 1p levy on new garments to fund better clothing collection and recycling systems. The Government said it already had measures in place to encourage firms to embrace best practices.

The fashion trade is taking some steps to tackle its “sustainability problem”, said Gulnaz Khusainova in *Forbes*. Zara and H&M, for instance, allow shoppers to drop off clothes for recycling. But no amount of recycling will offset the rapid expansion of this industry. Ultimately, the only solution is for producers to stop churning out so many clothes in the first place. We shoppers also need to give more thought to the consequences of our consumerist excesses, said Lucy Siegle in *The Guardian*. We’re at risk of “having to explain to future generations that we missed the climate change targets because we couldn’t resist a £1 bikini advertised during *Love Island*”.

Fashion waste is a serious issue, said Elizabeth Paton in *The New York Times*, and one that the UK has a particular responsibility to address. Each year Brits buy more new clothes than

Statistics of the week

Cash payments in the UK dropped by 16% in 2018.

UK Finance/Daily Mail

More than 140,000 people were sent to prison in England and Wales in 2017 – the highest rate per head in western Europe, and almost twice as high as Germany.

Prison Reform Trust

Women's football: the World Cup turns sour

It was one of the darkest days in the history of the Women's World Cup, said Ian Herbert in the Daily Mail. There were moments, during England's 3-0 win over Cameroon in the last 16, when it looked as if the match might be abandoned altogether. On not one but two occasions, the Cameroonians were so angry at VAR (video assistant referee) decisions that they momentarily refused to play. But what was particularly shocking was the team's "unadulterated aggression, bordering on assault". There was the "nasty little elbow" delivered into Nikita Parris's face by Yvonne Leuko, the gob of spit that Augustine Ejangue directed at Toni Duggan's arm. These were scenes "straight out of the playground".



Nikita Parris and Yvonne Leuko

Both of the contentious VAR decisions were spot on, said Louise Taylor in The Guardian. The first came when England scored their second goal. Cameroon seized on the video replay, which showed that Parris was offside when Ellen White scored – but that was irrelevant, because Parris didn't play any part in the goal. Then, in the second half, a Cameroon goal was disallowed because Gabrielle Aboudi Onguéné had been offside when she delivered the crucial cross. It was marginal, yes, but offside is still offside. Women's football usually feels like "an escape from the worst of the men's game", said Paul Hayward in The Daily Telegraph. Matches at the World Cup have been merci-

fully free of aggressive chanting. But this may have offered a glimpse of the future: as the stakes get higher – and the action on the field increasingly intense – the game will only become "more volatile". Referees could help defuse tensions by actually explaining VAR decisions. At present, the team of VAR officials watching the match in a dedicated video operation room contact the referee if they think the wrong call has been made on a big decision – a goal, say, or a penalty. At big competitions like this, replays of the incident in question are often shown on the big screens, but nothing is said about why these "game-changing decisions" are made. It needs to be.

VAR is causing all kinds of trouble at the World Cup, said Emma Hayes in The Times. The system is being used in women's football for the first time, and a number of VAR officials appear not to have received "sufficient training". And then there are the interminable delays while we wait for a review. But these are only inevitable "teething problems", said Matt Dickinson in the same paper. Pretty much every time a VAR decision is disputed, it turns out that a rule has been correctly interpreted – it just happens to be an obscure rule. Technology can help officials make more accurate decisions, so it would be absurd not to use it. Sport will never truly be fair, "but we may as well remove the worst injustices if we can".

Is Hamilton's dominance killing Formula One?

The French Grand Prix was "not so much a race as a massacre", said Jonathan McEvoy in the Daily Mail. Lewis Hamilton dominated on Sunday from beginning to end, and finished a staggering 18 seconds ahead of his nearest challenger – his Mercedes teammate, Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton has won six of the season's eight races so far, and come second in the other two. He is now only 12 wins away from matching Michael Schumacher's record of 91 grand prix victories, a feat that once looked unmatchable. But Hamilton's "relentless" brilliance comes at a cost: it is "practically killing his sport". Formula One is plagued by issues, said Rebecca Clancy in The Times. The aerodynamics of the cars make overtaking difficult: the drivers who began Sunday's race in the top four spots finished in those same positions. And drivers are unable to "push as hard as they would like" because they're concerned about wearing out their tyres.



Hamilton: "relentless" brilliance

Hamilton isn't the first person to dominate F1, said Oliver Brown in The Daily Telegraph. In 2002, Schumacher sealed the championship in July, three months before the end of the season. But since the introduction of turbocharged hybrid engines in 2014, all five world titles have been won by a Mercedes driver – four of them by Hamilton – and the team is on track for a sixth consecutive double of drivers' and constructors' titles. "That is unprecedented." The sport urgently needs some kind of transformation, but the suits in charge keep "kicking the can down the road". The new rules that are due to be introduced in 2021 still haven't been agreed – and the top teams care more about protecting their own interests than encouraging "enthralling action". For now, we're left with races like the French Grand Prix: non-events that do "a disservice to the very concept of motor racing".

Commentary box

The bad boys of bowls

It's hard to think of a more sedate pastime than lawn bowls, said Jonathan Paige in The Times. But in Cornwall, bowlers are seeing red on the green. Umpires in the west of the county have been subjected to so much abuse during matches that they are threatening to pull out of officiating altogether, "unless players learn to control their tempers". A number of bowlers are being investigated, and could even face bans. But the "bad boys of bowling" aren't only limited to Cornwall. Last year, the Shropshire Crown Green Bowling Association introduced new fines to tackle heavy-drinking spectators who were "behaving more like football hooligans than bowling fans".



López and Murray: triumphant

Murray's winning return

Andy Murray's comeback "could hardly have gone better", said Mike Dickson in the Daily Mail. With his Spanish partner, Feliciano López, he won the men's doubles title at Queen's Club – fewer than five months after undergoing an operation on his hip. The signs are promising: the Scot's old returns and reflexes are still there, "even if his serve could stand improvement". True, there will be bigger tests to come: first the men's doubles at Wimbledon, and then, perhaps as soon as the US Open, "the far more physically taxing business of playing on hard courts as a singles player". But having missed out on so much tennis over the past two years, Murray is now "back as a functioning professional".

Sporting headlines

Racing At Royal Ascot, Frankie Dettori won the first four races on Ladies' Day, including a second successive Gold Cup victory on Stradivarius. Hayley Turner's victory in the Sandringham Stakes meant she became the first female jockey to win at Royal Ascot in 32 years.

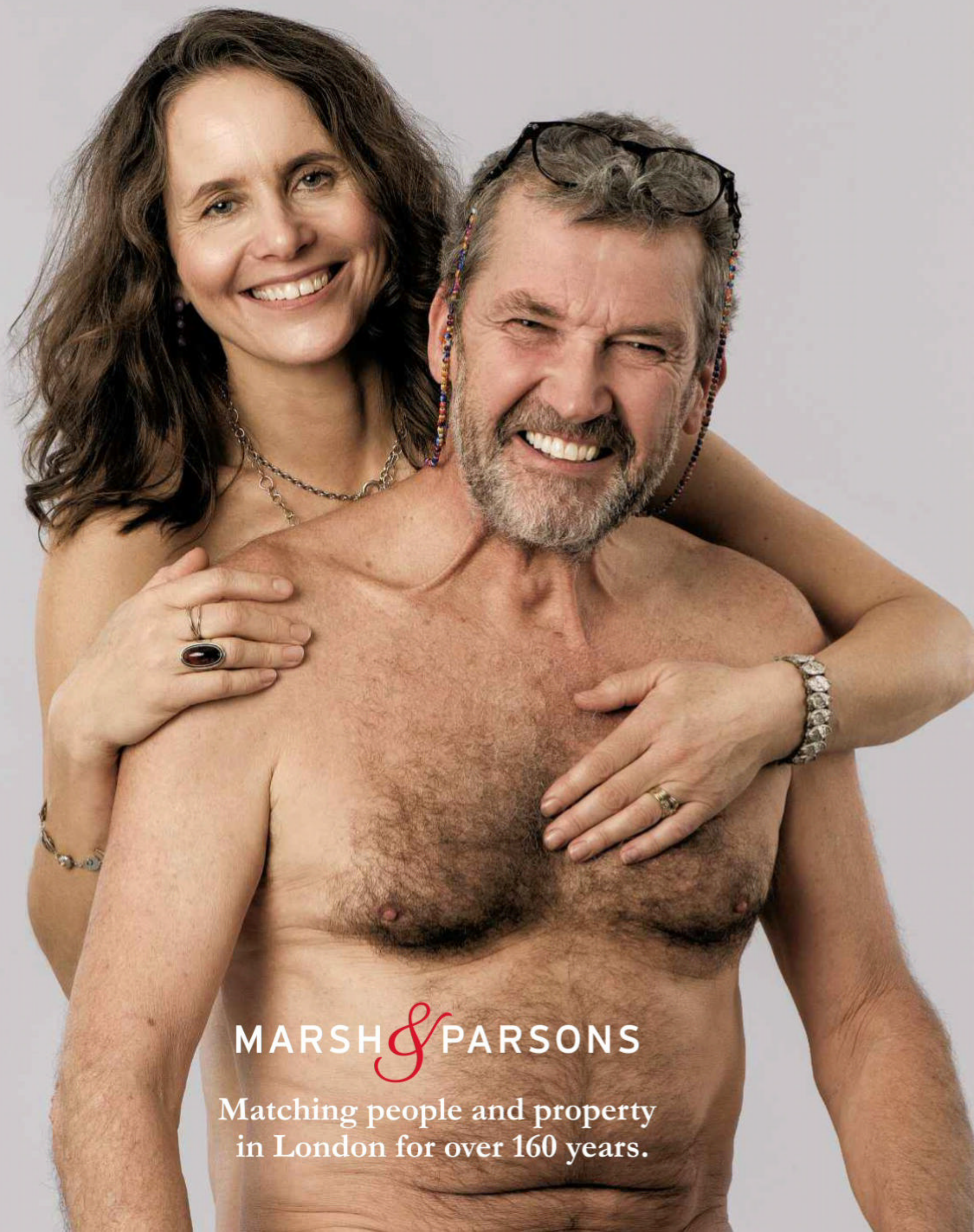
Football Newcastle United announced that their manager Rafael Benítez will leave the club next week.

Cricket England lost their second successive match at the World Cup when Australia beat them by 64 runs.

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Pick of the week's correspondence

No barriers to free trade

To The Daily Telegraph

Boris Johnson recently suggested that the best way to manage Brexit without economic disturbance was to use the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Article 24 to trade freely with the EU on a temporary basis, while a formal free-trade agreement is negotiated.

The BBC, certain politicians and even Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, appear to be almost wilfully misunderstanding this suggestion in order to deny its possibility. On the *Today* programme on 21 June, Carney was even pressed by the interviewer to say that Johnson's idea was "rubbish".

They are all being disingenuous. The plain fact is that Article 24 does permit tariff-free trade to continue pending the conclusion of a full free-trade agreement. All that is needed is for the EU to consent to a one-page agreement in principle. A basic tariff-free trade agreement is in the interests of EU exporters and consumers just as much as in those of the UK, if not more.

There is no need for the 500-page Withdrawal Agreement or any elaborate "implementation period". Theresa May's discredited deal, which some politicians are trying to resuscitate, is redundant. A no-deal cliff edge – the Remainers' bugbear – loses its last threads of credibility.

We challenge Carney, the BBC and any other commentators to refute any of the above statements.
Sir Richard Aikens, former member of the Court of Appeal, and five others

If it purrs, it leads

To The Oldie

Frances Welch's piece on local newspapers was both poignant and insightful. But her edgy editor, the late Ms Ollard, clearly understood her market when she prioritised a cat's paws being burnt over its owner dying in the fire.

My local paper once ran a full-page front-cover photo of a motorway bridge from which a kitten had been dropped by louts. In a tiny corner of the page was the story of a

Exchange of the week

The "dark arts" of the Tories

To The Times

Tory MPs certainly deserve their reputation as "the world's most duplicitous electorate" (report, "Threats and trickery as Team Boris tightened thumbscrews"). They gained it at the very first contest in 1965. The victorious Ted Heath compared notes with the defeated Reggie Maudling; they found that 45 MPs had pledged support to both of them. Airey Neave lulled Heath into false complacency in 1975 by telling everyone that Margaret Thatcher had no more than 70 backers when he was confident of 120. In November 1990, Bernard Ingham noted in his diary that Thatcher was safe as long as 15% of her backers were not lying, but as he noted sourly afterwards "the whole lot lied".

There have been other dirty tricks too. In 2003, when 29 letters were needed to trigger a leadership contest, 19 forgeries were submitted, five on Carlton Club writing paper. Fortunately they were spotted.

Lord Lexden, Conservative Party historian, House of Lords

To The Times

It is incredible that 90 Tory MPs used proxy voting to decide on the two candidates for the leadership of the party and future prime minister. The House of Commons was still sitting yet this cohort of Tory MPs were not present. Where were they, taking a sickie?

For a vote of such importance, surely there is a moral obligation for them to cast their vote in person.

Eunice de Vere Thorne, Bristol

To The Daily Telegraph

Why all this talk of "dark arts"? In a general election, it's called tactical voting.

Brian Jenner, Royston, Hertfordshire

grandmother being tied up in her home, and then subjected to an air rifle being fired up her nostrils. When I queried this with the editor, he said, "Rule number one for the local press: one kitten equals six grandmothers."

Mark Revelle, Southill, Bedfordshire

An unsustainable cut

To The Guardian

Your editorial mentions an 8% cut in funding per pupil in English schools since 2009. This is certainly not representative of some schools and colleges. The sixth-form college of which I was principal and am now a governor had £4,719 per student for the year ending August 2010 and £4,128 per student for the year ending August 2018 – a cut of over 12% in eight years. However, this ignores the effect of inflation. If the ONS figure for inflation is incorporated, the value of the 2018 figure drops to £3,315 in 2010's pounds – a cut of almost 30%. That this is

impossibly unsustainable should be clear to anyone. We are a wealthy country, yet we cannot afford to educate our young people – a shameful indictment of our Government and its priorities.

Dr Ambrose Smith, principal, Aquinas College, Stockport, 1989-2011

Not fit for an officer?

To The Times

The correspondence on baked beans reminds me of an incident one morning at the Royal Marines officers' mess in Poole years ago. I had barely taken my seat when a white-coated and white-gloved member of mess staff arrived silently at my side to take my order. "Good morning," I said. "May I please have baked beans on fried bread." I turned to read my newspaper when I realised that he had not moved. Believing that he had not heard, I repeated my order. "Yes, sir, I heard you the first time," he said. When I asked if there was a problem, he replied, very much Jeeves-like:

"The thing is, sir, that baked beans are not really an officer's vegetable."

Simon De'Ath, Upper Basildon, Berkshire

The reality of long hours

To The Independent

Regarding your reports that working a ten-hour day once a week increases your chance of having a stroke by a third – for information, nurses at the local general hospital work 12-hour shifts. It saves on handover time. The financial argument wins every time.

Ann Smith, Southport, Merseyside

Trolley economics

To The Times

For years, I have deliberately abandoned my supermarket trolley in the car park, ideally blocking a space. This mildly subversive act compels the stores to employ staff (usually disadvantaged or disabled people) to gather them up. Over the years, I must have created hundreds of hours of gainful employment for people who would not otherwise see the inside of such a store. It is, however, advisable to drive off promptly.

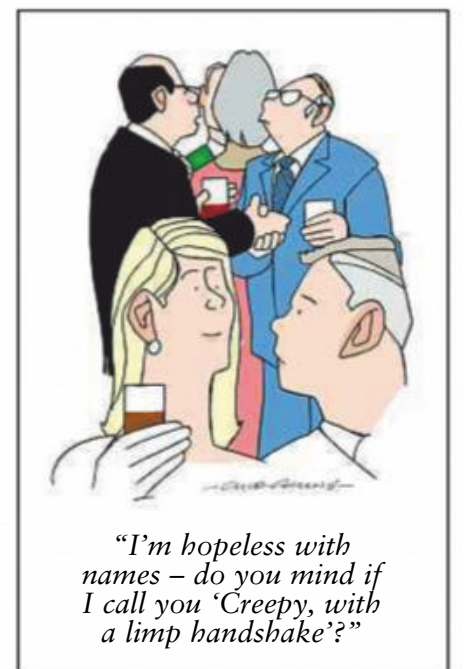
Professor Bob Peckitt, Norwich

A fair swap?

To The Sunday Telegraph

Apparently, when the (indefensible) third runway is built, anyone driving to Heathrow in a "more polluting" vehicle will face a charge. That should nicely offset the emissions from the additional 260,000 flights per year.

Jane Knott, Blandford Forum, Dorset



"I'm hopeless with names – do you mind if I call you 'Creepy, with a limp handshake'?"

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You can find all the books featured in each issue of *The Week* available to purchase via our bookshop. Take a look at our recent bestsellers...

Our Book of the Month

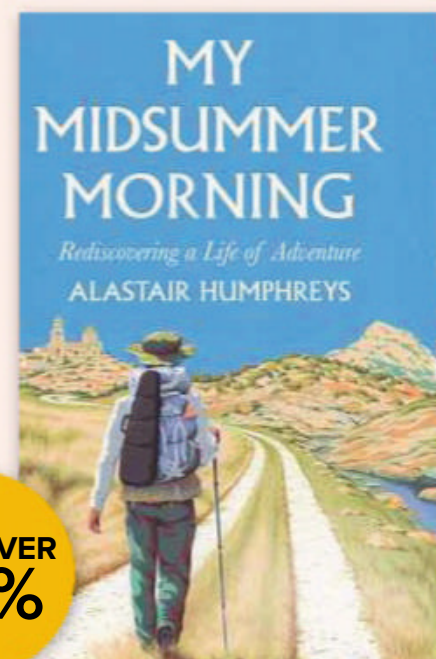
My Midsummer Morning: Rediscovering a Life of Adventure

by Alastair Humphreys

Inspired by the Laurie Lee book, *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*, seasoned adventurer Alastair Humphreys pushes himself to his very limits, busking his way across Spain with a violin he can barely play.

Laurie left the village he grew up in and embarked on his adventure in 1935, and for 15 years Humphreys had dreamed of retracing his footsteps, yet could never get past the hurdle of being distinctly unmusical. He decided to go anyway. The journey was his most terrifying yet, risking failure and humiliation every day and finding himself truly vulnerable to the rhythms of the road and of his own life. But along the way, he found humility, redemption and triumph.

~~£14.99~~ **£9.99**

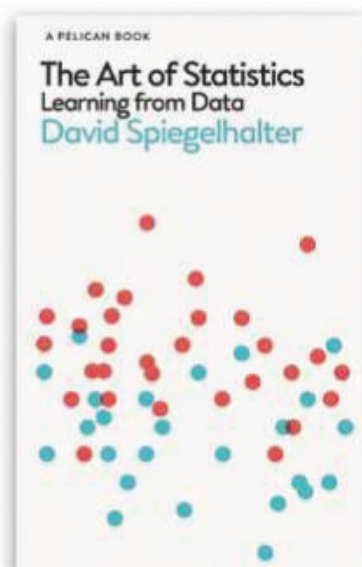


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The Art of Statistics

by David Spiegelhalter

Spiegelhalter guides the reader through the essential principles we need in order to derive knowledge from data. Drawing on real world problems to introduce conceptual issues, he shows us how statistics can help us determine the luckiest passenger on the Titanic, whether serial killer Harold Shipman could have been caught earlier, and if screening for ovarian cancer is beneficial.

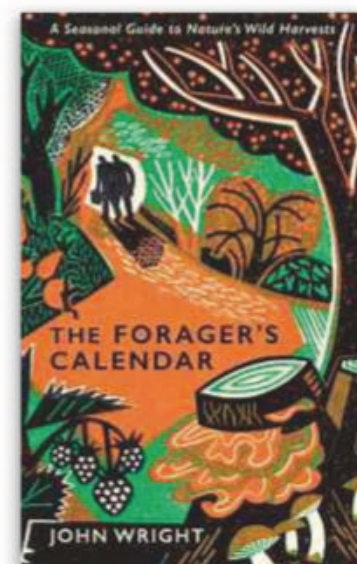


~~£16.99~~ **£13.99**

The Forager's Calendar

by John Wright

Look out of your window, walk down a country path or go to the beach in Great Britain, and you are sure to see many wild species that you can take home and eat. John Wright is the country's foremost expert in foraging and brings decades of experience (including as forager at the River Cottage) to this seasonal guide.

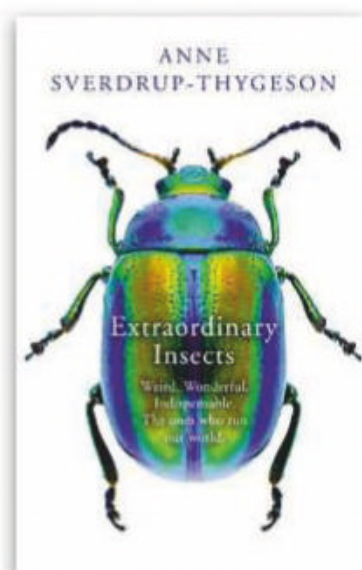


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Extraordinary Insects

by Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson

A journey into the weird, wonderful and truly astonishing lives of the small but mighty creatures who keep the world turning. Out of sight, underfoot, unseen beyond fleeting scuttles or darting flights, insects occupy a hidden world, yet are essential to sustaining life on earth. Insects influence our ecosystem like a ripple effect on water, and this is their extraordinary story.

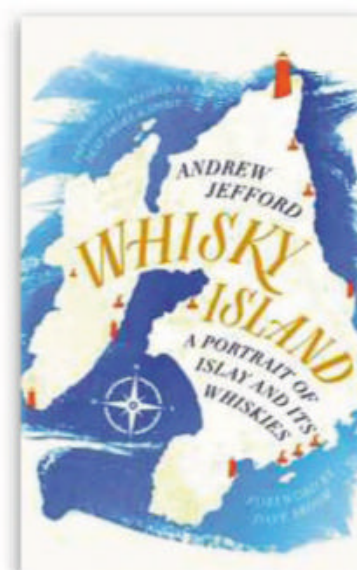


~~£14.99~~ **£12.99**

Whisky Island

by Andrew Jefford

"This is not simply an appreciation of whisky, but a voyage into the history and geography of a tiny Scottish island," *Daily Mail*. In *Whisky Island*, Islay's fascinating story is uncovered, whilst the flavour of each spirit is analysed and the differences between them teased out, as are the stories of the notable men and women who have played such an integral part in their creation.



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Review of reviews: Books

Book of the week

The Adventures of Maud West, Lady Detective

by Susannah Stapleton

Picador 320pp £20

The Week Bookshop £15.99

Susannah Stapleton is a historian by trade who also happens to be a fan of golden age crime fiction, said James Walton in *The Spectator*. One day, while reading a 1930s novel about a female detective, the thought struck her: were there any actual female private eyes around at the time? A Google search led her to Maud West (pictured), who ran a sleuthing agency between 1905 and 1939, and billed herself as “London’s only lady detective”. Stapleton discovered that as well as being a private investigator, West was a “bona fide tabloid celebrity” who penned articles presenting herself as a “gun-toting mistress of disguise” pursuing “dastardly villains across the globe”. The press knew her as “Miss Sherlock Holmes”. The reality was more prosaic: West’s activities were largely confined to England, and while she did deploy a variety of disguises (many male), her regular work was catching petty thieves and adulterers. Stapleton’s biography is nonetheless “hugely entertaining” – all the more so for her “indefatigable” detective work in exposing her subject’s frequent “whoppers”.



With her magnifying glass and box of costumes, West was both a “splendid one-off and yet somehow entirely of her age”, said Lucy Lethbridge in the *Literary Review*. She could pose as a “monocled dandy, a bearded old buffer or a washerwoman” – and once even impersonated Charlie Chaplin. Interweaving tales of her adventures with “fascinating” details about the era in which she operated, this is a “jaunty, engaging and witty” read.

Despite West’s claim to be London’s only lady detective, the capital at that time was positively teeming with female sleuths, said Rosamund Urwin in *The*

Sunday Times. Women aroused less suspicion than men, and could “go places where men could not”. Department stores employed them to spy on shoppers; they were installed as cooks in well-off houses; the police used them to infiltrate fortune-telling rings. While Stapleton’s own sleuthing is “impressive” (she discovers, for example, that West’s real name was Edith Maria Elliott and that she had a gonorrhoea-ridden husband and six children), she also goes into too much detail about these investigative efforts. Do we really need to know that, thanks to a tarpaulin covering, she cannot see the building where West’s office once stood on Google Street View? Stapleton does have a “slight tendency to pad”, said Ysenda Maxtone Graham in *The Times*. Overall, however, this story of “Miss Marple on the trail of Miss Marple” is a “charming, lighthearted” confection.

The Moon

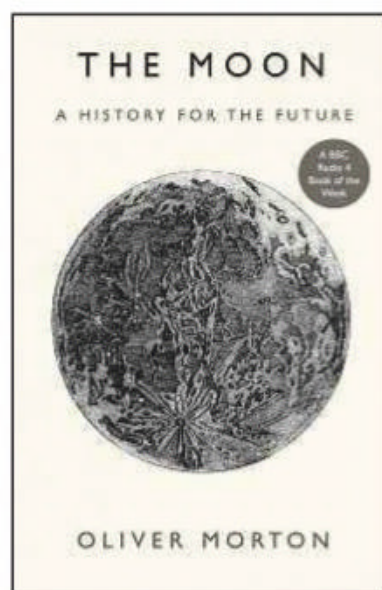
by Oliver Morton

Economist Books 352pp £20

The Week Bookshop £15.99

There have been only six crewed landings on the Moon, with the last taking place in 1972, said James McConnachie in *The Sunday Times*. Since then, “the Moon has sat neglected in space like a dusty museum piece”. But as Oliver Morton shows in this “brilliant” book, we are on the brink of a new era of lunar exploration. And this time, he writes, it “will be undertaken by men and women from many more places, and with more agendas, than were in the American vanguard of 50 years ago”. One key difference is that tomorrow’s more fervent “lunarnauts” will be the “giants of private enterprise”, said Tim Radford in *The Economist*. The technology entrepreneur Elon Musk plans to offer the first paid-for lunar flyby in 2023; others intend to extract valuable materials from the lunar surface. Not only is this a “very good book about the Moon”, it is also refreshingly “different”. Even when covering familiar material, Morton finds a way to be original: for instance, he retells the story of the Apollo missions with “clever use of dialogue spoken on the Moon itself”.

As well as being a fascinating “Moon primer”, this is also, inevitably, a book about Earth, said Gerard DeGroot in *The Times*. For the Moon has long functioned as an “empty vessel” into which we pour our “ambitions and animosities”. That was true of the Apollo missions – which were always more of an expression of “Earth-based politics” than “Moon-based science” – and it is likely to be true of future voyages. Although Morton can’t find a single “rational” justification for returning to the Moon, he nonetheless “trembles with excitement” about the prospect of doing so. Like many others before him, he has fallen victim to the Moon’s “siren lure”.



Novel of the week

Diary of a Somebody

by Brian Bilston

Picador 384pp £14.99

The Week Bookshop £11.99

“Is there anything better to sink into than a good comic novel,” asked Dominic Maxwell in *The Times*. To get a handle on *Diary of a Somebody*, imagine “Adrian Mole if he had grown up accruing Smiths LPs as well as rejection letters from the BBC”. The novel is “by and about” Brian Bilston, the Twitter poet who has a cult following for his “self-aware parody poems” (and is actually the creation of the writer Paul Millicheap). In the novel, we follow Brian over a year as he “battles with business jargon” in his terrible day job, and falls for Liz, a newcomer at his local poetry club. Packed with “understated jokes” (and plenty of poems), it’s great fun.

As a poet, Bilston turns the “base metal of comic verse into gold”, said Anthony Quinn in *The Guardian*. He is certainly a “magician with words”. Yet as a storyteller, he’s rather less accomplished: too many elements here are “on the level of a sitcom”. Still, *Diary of a Somebody* contains enough “individual brilliancies” – droll puns, whimsical riffs, deft parodies – to be well worth dipping in to.

THE WEEK Bookshop

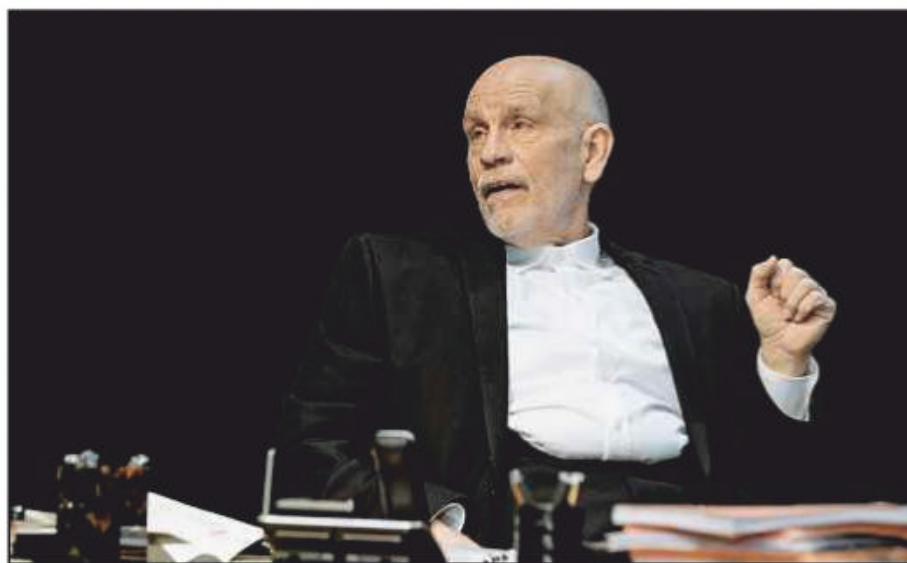
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Theatre: Bitter Wheat

Garrick Theatre, London WC2 (0330-333 4811). Until 21 September Running time: 1hr 50mins (incl. interval) ★★

This “ineffectual” and under-powered new play by David Mamet is supposed to be fiction, said Michael Billington in *The Guardian*. Any resemblance to living persons, we are told, is “entirely coincidental”. But given that the protagonist is an overweight movie tycoon – called Barney Fein – who is ruined by revelations of sexual misconduct, “coincidence clearly has a long arm”. Be that as it may, the truly dismaying thing about this play is the clumsiness of Mamet’s writing. Fein is made to be so unrelentingly vicious – he defrauds a screen-writer and sexually threatens a young actress – that it’s impossible to care what happens to him. He simply comes across as a power-addicted, cynical predator; and as a result, the drama falls horribly flat, despite a “formidable” performance from John Malkovich.

Bitter Wheat is a “bitter disappointment”, agreed Dominic Cavendish in *The Daily Telegraph*. “Where once Mamet’s lines zinged, too often they wheeze on Zimmers.” Directed by the playwright himself, the staging is lacklustre, the pace sluggish. But easily the most galling thing about the piece – and “believe me, there are many galling things”, said Natasha Tripney in *The Stage* – is how “tossed off” it feels. In previous outings, Mamet has given us “brutal dissections of American masculinity” and written about “Hollywood monstrousness”, yet this “sloppily



John Malkovich as Barney Fein: “formidable”

constructed” would-be farce offers “neither critique nor insight, nor satire, nor damnation”. And, shamefully, its focus is wholly on Fein, to the exclusion of the women’s perspectives.

This “half-cooked” play reads like a first draft, said Dominic Maxwell in *The Times*. Yet it’s worth seeing for Malkovich’s “repulsive yet fascinating” turn as Fein. You always know Malkovich will be good, yet he “still astounds with quite how sharp and unyielding and calmly powerful a presence he is, and how totally he embodies” his

awful character. Ioanna Kimbook as the actress and Doon Mackichan as Fein’s “intriguingly complicit” assistant both give impressive performances too, said Matt Wolf in *The New York Times*. Alas, we don’t hear nearly enough from those characters.

The week’s other opening

Blithe Spirit Theatre Royal Bath (01225-448844). Until 6 July Jennifer Saunders is a “sublimely ridiculous revelation” as the chaos-causing clairvoyant Madame Arcati in this “oak-solid” revival of the Noël Coward classic. It takes “no extra powers of perception” to conclude that the show could well enjoy a life after Bath (*Daily Telegraph*).

CDs of the week: three new releases

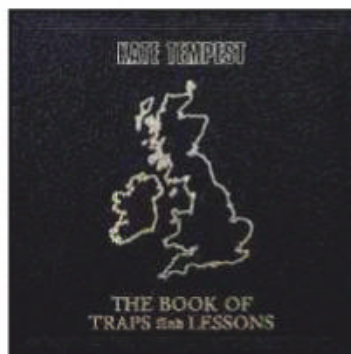
Enrique Granados: Goyescas
Harmonia
Mundi £17.90



This “vivid and atmospheric” recording of Enrique Granados’s hour-long opera was taken from a performance at the Barbican last year, said Stephen Pettitt in *The Sunday Times*. The opera – inspired by Goya’s paintings of working-class life in Madrid – premiered in 1916 in New York. (The composer died shortly after, when the ship returning him to Europe was torpedoed in the English Channel.) A colourful story of rivalry and vengeance, it provides a framework for “deftly orchestrated music of passion”. And conductor Josep Pons energises his forces “with electrifying power”.

Goyescas is rarely presented as a fully staged opera because the libretto is dramatically thin and predictable, said Andrew Clements in *The Guardian*. The work’s real attractions are the “abundance of melodic invention” and the “colourful scoring”, both of which come across vividly in this “energetic” performance. The BBC Singers and Symphony Orchestra are “outstanding”, and the soprano Nancy Fabiola Herrera is the pick of the soloists.

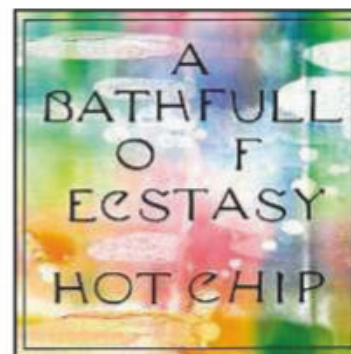
Kate Tempest: The Book of Traps and Lessons
Fiction £10



Kate Tempest’s first two albums – *Everybody Down* and *Let Them Eat Chaos* – were each “absorbing and impressive” enough to be Mercury-nominated, said Phil Mongredien in *The Observer*. Yet there was a sense that “at times their discordant post-dubstep soundscapes obscured the power of her lyrics”. For this third album, the south London performance poet and musician has teamed up with Rick Rubin, and the “effect is revelatory”. The reclusive US producer has stripped back Tempest’s sound, replacing the beats and prominent basslines that defined her early work “with minor chords, muted piano and sombre strings”. It’s an approach that seems to make us hear Tempest’s words afresh.

This is a collection on which “beauty squares up to ugliness”, said El Hunt on NME – and a “tenderness that previously lingered on the edges of Tempest’s work steps to the fore”. Themes of despair and anger remain part of the mix, but they are balanced by moments of optimism, warmth, beauty and joy.

Hot Chip: A Bath Full of Ecstasy
Domino £10.99



The London five-piece Hot Chip are the “band of choice for the intellectual raver”, said Will Hodgkinson in *The Times*. For the best part of two decades they’ve combined “banging dance music with Talking Heads-style adventurousness and wit”. This latest album is a belter: as “warm and appealing” as its title suggests. And it makes impressive use of robotic vocal effects, which tend to be overused in pop but sound great here. From the “shimmering, lighters-aloft balladry” of *Melody of Love* to the “house-music rush” of *No God*, this “beautiful” album is a “summer soundtrack with depth”.

It’s a “brilliant” collection on which Hot Chip’s “gift for melody and grasp of pop’s dynamics are tweaked into transcendent shapes” by The xx producer Rodaidh McDonald and the late French “house master” Philippe Zdar, said Damien Morris in *The Observer*. The first five tracks are “floor-ready bangers”, while the rest lean more towards “yacht pop” Daft Punk or Röyksopp. It’s Hot Chip’s seventh album – and is the equal of their very best.

Stars reflect the overall quality of reviews and our own independent assessment (5 stars=don’t miss; 1 star=don’t bother)

Book your tickets now by calling 020-7492 9948 or visiting TheWeekTickets.co.uk

Yesterday

Dir: Danny Boyle
1hr 56mins (12A)

Genial Richard Curtis
romcom

★★★

Imagine a world without The Beatles. It's not easy, even if you try, said Peter Bradshaw in *The Guardian* – unless, that is, you watch Richard Curtis's new comedy, which takes this as its premise. Himesh Patel plays a struggling musician, who regains consciousness after an accident to discover that John, Paul, George and Ringo never existed and no one knows their songs. He is thus able to pass them off as his own and gain instant stardom. If a team of consultants created a crowd-pleasing British movie, it would come up with something like this, said Brian Viner in the *Daily Mail*. It stars Lily James as the protagonist's best friend and is buoyed by a stream of Beatles songs. The pop star Ed Sheeran – who discovers our hero, only to be eclipsed by him – is amusing as a version of himself, said Dave Calhoun in *Time Out*. Yet director Danny Boyle brings little of his customary energy to proceedings. The pace dips in the second half, said Robbie Collin in *The Daily Telegraph*, but it builds to a moving finale. "*Yesterday* may be built on the hits of old, but it finds its own genially infectious groove."



The Captor

Dir: Robert Budreau
1hr 30mins (15)

Absurdist true-life thriller
with Ethan Hawke

★★★

This thriller begins by telling you it's based on the "absurd but true" story of a 1973 Stockholm bank heist, said Ian Freer in *Empire*. And indeed this tale of a hippyish robber (Ethan Hawke) who bursts into a Swedish bank waving a machine gun and shouting, "The party has just begun!" has a strong flavour of the ridiculous. In the siege that follows, the employees he holds hostage take his side. (It was this heist that gave rise to the phrase "Stockholm syndrome".) Trouble is, the film never settles on a tone that can reconcile the absurd elements with the terrifying elements of true-life jeopardy. But though "shaky in many respects", the film is held together by Hawke's performance, said Kevin Maher in *The Times*. His unusual mixture of braggadocio and vulnerability render the story "just about believable". Well, I found Hawke – and Mark Strong as his accomplice – a little "hammy", said Phil de Semlyen in *Time Out*. The film is clearly inspired by *Dog Day Afternoon*, but it lacks the "emotional sincerity" of that 1970s classic. Still "it's fun watching Hawke's oddball robber socking it to The Man".



Child's Play

Dir: Lars Klevberg
1hr 30mins (15)

Unapologetically trashy
horror reboot

★★

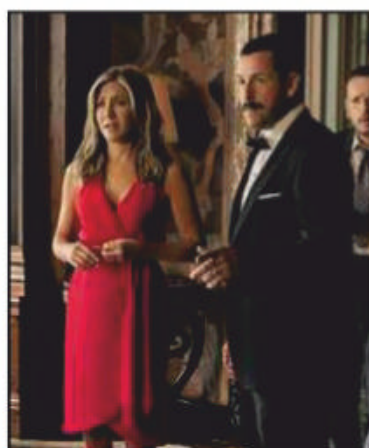
This lively remake of the 1980s horror film about a child's toy that goes on a killing spree "bubbles with entertaining bad taste", said Peter Bradshaw in *The Guardian*. A single mother who works at a toy shop (Aubrey Plaza) brings home a faulty product for her son, who is being bullied at school. It's a doll named "Buddi", with new AI technology that allows it to make its own decisions. Soon Buddi is targeting his owner's tormentors – first with swear words, then with more violent forms of retaliation. The best thing about this "smartly silly" horror film is that it knows it's trash and doesn't apologise for it, said Olly Richards in *The Sunday Times*. Lovers of gore will find their cravings fully satisfied. Mark Hamill (of *Star Wars* fame) is creepily good at lending his voice to the murderous doll, said Joshua Rothkopf in *Time Out*. Yet the film has little new to say and fails to develop its one fresh idea – that the doll can communicate with the voice-controlled smart gadgetry in our homes. It soon settles into a wearisome routine of "poor plotting, inept editing and a surprising lack of fun".



The movie stars haven't died – they've just migrated to Netflix

Traditionally, the streaming service Netflix has held statistics about its viewing figures close to its chest. It made an exception last week, however, with the announcement that 30 million subscriber accounts had streamed its new comedy thriller, *Murder Mystery*, in its first three days of release, said Leo Benedictus in *The Guardian*. Had it been released in the cinema, and if you imagine that, for each account, two people watched it, this would make it the third-best opening weekend ever.

Which just goes to show that "30 million couch potatoes can be wrong", said Melanie McDonagh in the *Daily Mail*. This Agatha Christie spoof stars Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler as a hapless American couple who get drawn into a glamorous if implausible murder mystery plot aboard a yacht on the Côte d'Azur. Alas, it's lacking in anything resembling suspense, emotional depth or even humour. Yes, of course the



Aniston and Sandler: amiable

film is clichéd, said Leo Benedictus, but that's the point of a spoof. And yes, Aniston and Sandler are both playing characters we've seen them do before, but this is what makes this amiable movie, which also features turns from Terence Stamp and Gemma Arterton, such a guilty pleasure.

What *Murder Mystery* really proves is that, contrary to reports, the movie star is alive and well – he or she just isn't to be found on the big screen anymore, said Benjamin Lee in *The Guardian*. In the cinema, the biggest hits – like Marvel's *Avenger* movies – rely on franchise momentum more than the draw of individual actors. But stars like Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck, whose big screen record has been patchy, have found a new lease of life on Netflix. When Sandler signed a multi-movie deal with Netflix, pundits took it as proof the actor was washed up. On the contrary, it looks like he was just ahead of his time.

Exhibition of the week **Paula Rego: Obedience and Defiance**

MK Gallery, Milton Keynes (01908-676900, mkgallery.org). Until 22 September

Paula Rego is one of our greatest living artists, said Rachel Campbell-Johnston in *The Times*. Born in Portugal in 1935, she grew up in the dark years of Salazar's fascist dictatorship before moving to London to study art in the 1950s. The paintings she created in the years that followed never bowed to "fads and fashions", instead cleaving to a distinct figurative style that explored subjects few others dared to tackle – violence and tyranny, gender discrimination and sexual abuse. Perhaps as a result, she never received the same respect as lesser contemporaries, and it is only now that the 84-year-old is at long last getting the recognition she deserves. For anyone unfamiliar with her "powerfully authentic" paintings, this riveting exhibition offers an opportunity to view her career in context. The show includes paintings and drawings created between the 1960s and the present day, focusing on her life-long dedication to political and feminist causes and containing dozens of works that will be among "the most viscerally truthful" you will ever see. It is an astonishing testament to the "sheer persistent power" of Rego's vision.

Rego is a lifelong "crusader" for the causes she believes in, said Alastair Sooke in *The Daily Telegraph*. And unlike most political



Angel (1998): one of Rego's "powerfully authentic" paintings

artists, she has genuinely made a difference: her "monumental" *Abortion Pastels* (1998-99) helped to overturn Portugal's laws forbidding the practice in 2007. Elsewhere, her "explosive" early works are "surrealistic" compositions that translate her "disgust" at the Salazar regime onto canvas, while other paintings react to injustices including colonialism, female genital mutilation and the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Yet laudable as it is, her work can often feel heavy-handed, its symbolism a touch too literal. In the final analysis, it lacks the "mystery" that defines truly great art.

Rubbish, said Martin Gayford in *The Spectator*. Rego's work is never less than "truly powerful" – and, what's more, she just keeps getting better. Although she was "enormously talented from the beginning" – the painter L.S. Lowry, for one, was bowled over by her student work – the show underlines how her art has only become stranger and more fascinating over the past 25 years. Take 1998's *Angel*, for example, a depiction of a female angel shooting a "piercing"

look back at the viewer, or 2004's *Pillowman* series, in which a "huge, blubbery" figure slouches helplessly as a crowd of girls and women tend to him. These are just two highlights from an indisputably "remarkable" exhibition. Do not miss it.

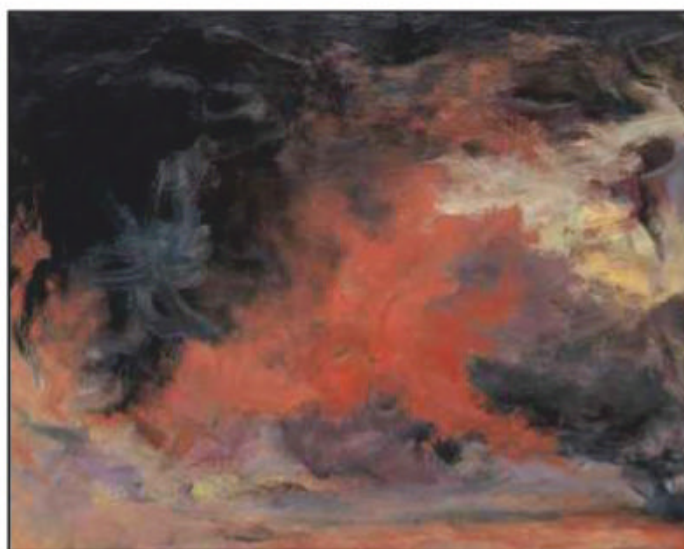
Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Jon Schueler

at Waterhouse and Dodd

Jon Schueler (1916-1992) was a painter fascinated by the sky. Born on the shores of Lake Michigan, he served as a navigator on a B-17 bomber in the Second World War and his experiences clearly made a deep impression on his subsequent artistic career. After studying under the great abstract expressionist Clyfford Still, he travelled widely and eventually set up a studio in Mallaig, on Scotland's west coast, where the intense weather patterns inspired him to create some large and thunderously dramatic paintings based on the light and cloud formations he observed there. This show, entitled *Skyscapes*, brings together about two dozen of these



Storm (1962), 137cm x 183cm, £48,500

skyscapes, which evoke not only the mystical canvases of Still, Joan Mitchell or even Agnes Martin, but also the hazy near-abstract of late Turner. In some, billowing clouds form into a fog of almost psychedelic colour, while others present the sea and sky as a progression of subtly darkening grey bands. It's extremely stirring stuff. Prices range from £6,850 to £60,000.

47 Albemarle Street, London W1 (020-7734 7800). Until 12 July.

A long-lost Velázquez

It had been missing for almost 300 years, says Harriet Sherwood in *The Observer*. But now a portrait of "one of history's most formidable women" by "one of the world's greatest painters" has been rediscovered at last. Painted around 1650,



Diego Velázquez's *Portrait of Olimpia Maidalchini Pamphilj* (pictured) depicts "the most influential, avaricious and manipulative woman in 17th century Rome". Reputed to be the lover as well as the sister-in-law of Pope Innocent X, Donna Olimpia was nicknamed "papessa" (lady pope) because of her power over the Vatican, where she chose cardinals and framed policy. The portrait disappeared in 1724 and resurfaced again in the 1980s – but was believed to be the work of an anonymous Dutch artist until the seller took it to Sotheby's recently to have it revalued. After a hidden cipher was spotted on the reverse, the jigsaw fell into place "bit by bit", said the auction house's James Macdonald. "Everyone was amazed this picture had risen from the ashes." Valued at £2m-£3m, it goes under the hammer on 3 July.

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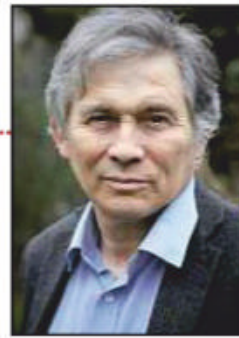
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Best books... David Kynaston

The historian who wrote *Austerity Britain* picks five great memoirs about postwar Britain. His latest book, *Engines of Privilege: Britain's Private School Problem*, co-authored with Francis Green, is published by Bloomsbury at £20



Walking in the Shade by Doris Lessing, 1997 (Fourth Estate £9.99). This is Lessing's non-fiction counterpart to *The Golden Notebook*, her landmark 1962 novel of political and feminist engagement. Like a dog with a bone, she wrestles with her relationship with communism – the defining issue of the 1950s generation, as Brexit has perforce become to ours. A memoir of moral weight and human quiddity.

The Centre of the Bed by Joan Bakewell, 2003 (Sceptre £10.99). A classic postwar meritocrat, going from working-class Stockport to a starring role on BBC's *Late Night Line-Up* – a cultural touchstone of the 1960s.

Bakewell gives a shrewdly observed, non-egocentric account of that emblematic journey. The long secret affair with Harold Pinter is a bonus, but no more.

This Boy by Alan Johnson, 2013 (Corgi £8.99). Arguably the finest memoir by a postwar politician, this works at every level: heroic mother and sister battling against adversity; impoverished Notting Hill long before Hugh Grant et al; and the formative shaping of a public figure of rare authenticity in the modern era.

Margrave of the Marshes by John Peel and Sheila Ravenscroft, 2005 (Corgi £9.99). The most literate of

Radio 1's DJs, and the maestro of Radio 4's *Home Truths*, Peel was still writing this when he died in 2004. His widow, Sheila, completed it, and the result is a cherishably detailed memoir embracing austerity Britain and counterculture Britain, a rare achievement.

Joining the Dots by Juliet Gardiner, 2017 (William Collins £9.99). Most memoirs by historians are dull affairs, but this is the exception. At its heart a story of adoption, the chains of Home Counties conventionality and the forging of a new life in the 1960s, it also offers a hard-won take on the changing role of women against a backdrop of family responsibilities.

Titles in print are available from The Week Bookshop on 020-3176 3835. For out-of-print books visit biblio.co.uk

The Week's guide to what to see at the Edinburgh Festival

Book now

James McArdle is the titular **Peter Gynt** in David Hare's 21st century version of Ibsen's drama about a man's quest to understand himself. It is playing at the Festival Theatre from 1-10 August (eif.co.uk), where it's taking a break from a three-month run at the National Theatre, London SE1 (27 June-8 October).

Sydney Theatre Company's multi-award-winning version of Kate Grenville's historical novel **The Secret River** is at King's Theatre from 2-11 August (eif.co.uk), before transferring to the National Theatre, London, on 22 August.

Sheila Atim was mesmerising in Conor McPherson's *Girl from the North Country*; she now stars in her own play, **Anguis**, about the death of Cleopatra. 31 July-26 August, Gilded Balloon Teviot (edfringe.com).



Peter Gynt at the Festival Theatre

Cardboard Citizens, whose theatrical adaptation of *Cathy Come Home* was widely acclaimed, is staging **Bystanders**, a compendium of stories about the lives and deaths of homeless people. 31 July-25 August, Summerhall (edfringe.com).

Helen Pickett choreographs the premiere of Scottish Ballet's version of Arthur Miller's **The Crucible**. It is danced to a live score by the aptly named Peter Salem. 3-5 August, Edinburgh Playhouse, then touring (scottishballet.co.uk).

Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker is performing his new project **JARV IS...** at the Leith Theatre on 22 August (eif.co.uk).

There's comedy from, among many others, Jessie Cave, Zoë Coombs Marr, Richard Gadd, Nick Helm, Eddie Izzard, Phoebe Robinson, Phil Wang and Lou Sanders. Various venues (edfringe.com).

Television

Programmes

The River: A Year in the Life of the Tay Nature writer Helen Macdonald traces the journey of Scotland's longest river. Wed 3 July, BBC4 21:00 (90mins).

Anna: The Woman Who Went to Fight Isis The story of 26-year-old Anna Campbell from East Sussex, who fought with Kurdish forces. Wed 3 July, BBC2 21:30 (60mins).

Serengeti Star Wars actor John Boyega narrates this six-part series that follows a year in the life of some of the Serengeti's most extraordinary animals. Thur 4 July, BBC1 20:00 (60mins).

100 Vaginas Laura Dodsworth aimed to normalise vulvas by photographing 100 of them. In this acclaimed, moving and funny documentary, first shown earlier this year, she talks to 18 of her subjects about their attitude to their vaginas. Thur 4 July, More4 22:00 (60mins).

Films

David Brent: Life on the Road (2016) In this film spin-off of *The Office*, David Brent – now a sanitary product salesman – goes on a self-funded tour with his band. Sat 29 June, BBC1 22:20 (90mins).

The Great Beauty (2013) Set in Rome, Paolo Sorrentino's drama follows an elegant roué (Toni Servillo) whose 65th birthday causes him to reflect on his lavish life. Wed 3 July, Film4 00:40 (175mins).

A Bigger Splash (2015) Thriller starring Tilda Swinton as a recuperating rock star whose idyll on an Italian island is interrupted by the arrival of a brash music promoter, a brilliant Ralph Fiennes. Fri 5 July, Film4 01:00 (155mins).

Podcasts of the week

Books to Live By... with Mariella Frostrup Stars including Dominic West, Cate Blanchett and Brian Cox tell the broadcaster how books have shaped their lives. "A treat" (Observer).

Decomposed American concert pianist Jade Simmons explores the creative and personal lives of the great composers, from Clara Schumann to Tchaikovsky. "Magnificent" (New Yorker).

The Archers: what happened last week

Neither Jazzer nor Alistair have heard from Jim since he left. Tony and Lilian discuss Peggy's proposal. Tony thinks it will tear the family apart and is going to try and make Peggy see this. Philip moves in with Kirsty and encourages her to apply for the job with Dorsetshire Wildlife Trust. Kirsty is mindful that it's less pay than Grey Gables, so she wouldn't be able to contribute as much financially to the relationship. Philip assures her he doesn't care. Tom tells Tony about his and Natasha's sustainable farming idea. They want to turn Ambridge into an orchard village, planting fruit trees on every free bit of land. Tony thinks Tom's being disloyal. Shula and Alistair are sad to hear Dorothy's split up with Dan. Adam offers Jazzer the aquaponics job. Tony tells Peggy that Bridge Farm won't be putting in a bid and begs her not to go ahead with her plan. Peggy thinks he's being short-sighted. Tom and Natasha's party is a success. Pat gets Tony to join in and forget about Peggy. She thinks they should consider the farm's future, though. She wants Tom and Natasha to sign a post-nup.

Striking town houses



▲ **Dorset:** South Lodge, South Walks, Dorchester. This Grade II* Georgian house in the heart of town was designed by the famous Bastard brothers and built circa 1750. Master suite with dressing room, 5/6 further beds, family bath, shower, kitchen, recep hall, 4 further receps, flower room, laundry, cloakroom, study, pantry, cellar, store, garden. £1.5m; Savills (01202-856800).

▼ **Nottinghamshire:** Regency House West, The Ropewalk, The Park, Nottingham. Arranged over five floors, this refurbished house is in easy reach of the city centre. Master bed, 4 further beds, 2 baths, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 2 receps, second kitchen, study, cellar/gym, sun terrace, garage, off-street parking. £880,000; Savills (0115-934 8020).



▲ **London:** Old Queen Street, St James's Park, Victoria. Set over eight floors, this Grade II Georgian house overlooks St James's Park and the garden has direct access to Birdcage Walk. Duplex master suite with study, 4/5 further suites, open-plan kitchen/dining/family room, 4 receps, media room, butler's kitchen, shower, service kitchen, laundry room, terraces, lift, garden. £17.75m; Knight Frank (020-3866 2971).



► **North Yorkshire:** 122 The Mount, York. Built around the 1850s, this Grade II house has been improved and extended over the past nine years by the current owners, and sits in a desirable location close to the city centre. The Mount is set over five floors, and includes a self-contained apartment on the lower ground floor. 5 beds, 3 baths, kitchen/breakfast room, hall, 2 receps, garden room, 2 WCs, 1-bed flat, garden, double garage with office above. £1.3m; Savills (01904-617820).

► **Shropshire:** The Old Dentist, Broad Street, Ludlow. A Grade II town house with a beautiful walled garden. For decades the house was used as a dentist's surgery and offices, but has been fully renovated over the past four years to create a family house. Third-floor master suite, 4 further suites, kitchen/breakfast room, hall, 3 receps, study, cellar, laundry, WC/shower, 140ft-long garden. £1.35m; Strutt & Parker (01584-873711).





▲ **Oxfordshire:** The Clock House, Wantage. A Grade II Georgian house in the centre of this market town. The property is thought to date back to the 1720s, with accommodation set over three floors. 3 double beds, 1 single bed, family bath, shower, kitchen/breakfast room, mezzanine study, 2 receps, garden. £730,000; Laurette Read (01494-725121).

◀ **Lincolnshire:** No. 4 St Mary's Place, Stamford. An elegant Georgian town house with a private walled garden in the centre of Stamford. Master suite, 5 further double beds (3 en-suite), family bath, kitchen/breakfast room, hall, 2 further receps, study, cloakroom/boot room, snug, utility, cellar with historic undercroft, wine cellar and plant room; private courtyard. £2.35m; Savills (01780-484696).



► **Suffolk:** 2 Chequer Square, Bury St Edmunds. A Grade II refurbished town house overlooking the Norman Tower and the cathedral. Second-floor master bed, third-floor bed, family bath, kitchen, 2 receps, study, conservatory, basement bed/cinema room, shower, 2 WCs, walled garden, shed. £600,000; Bedfords (01284-769999).



▲ **Norfolk:** 36 Elm Hill, Norwich. A fascinating 16th century, Grade II* town house, with 18th century additions, on this cobbled street in the heart of Norwich's medieval quarter. Master suite with walk-in wardrobe, 3 further beds, family bath, kitchen, double recep, 2 further receps, garden room, guest WC, stores, cellar, private walled courtyard garden. £795,000; Strutt & Parker (01603-617431).

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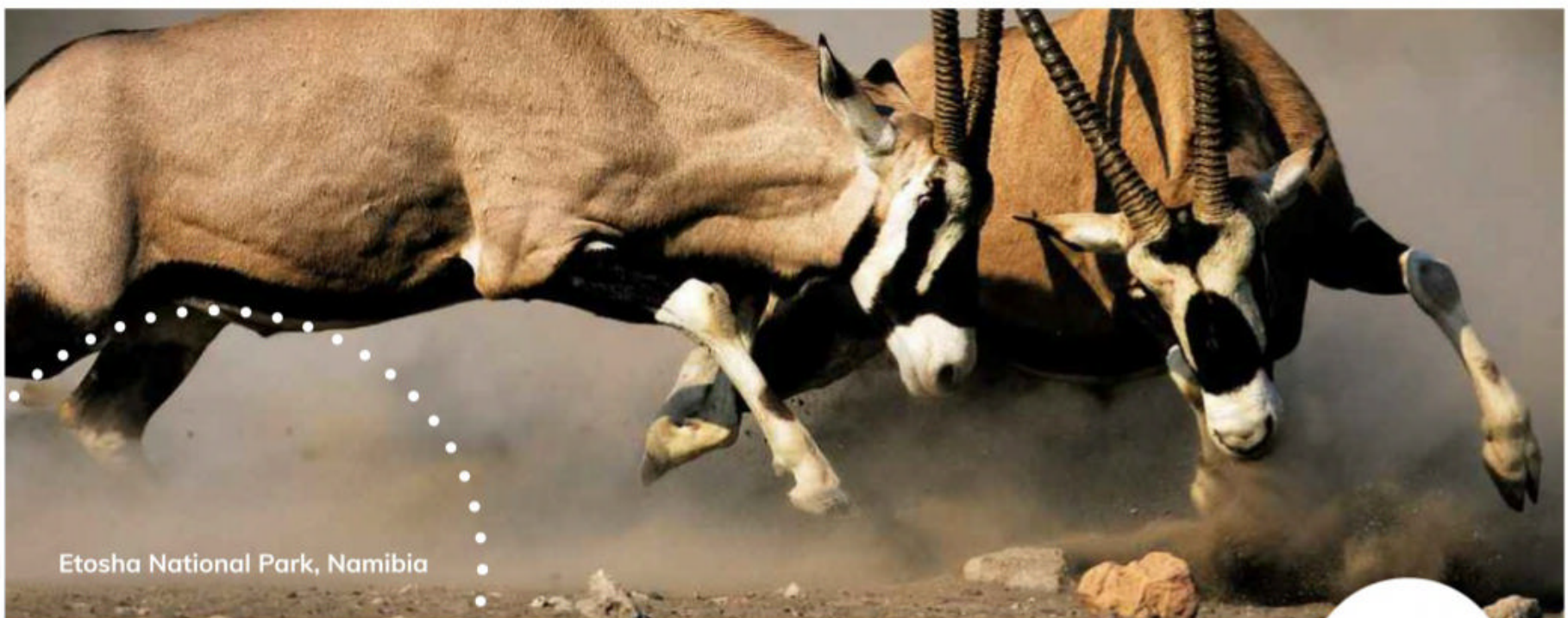
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What the experts recommend

Pick Up Pintxos at the Waiting Room

Harbour Arm, Folkestone, Kent
(folkestoneharbourarm.co.uk)

Gianni Modena learnt his trade at Arzak, the three-Michelin-starred San Sebastián restaurant that often graces lists of the world's best. I've never been to Arzak, says Giles Coren in *The Times* – but the three dishes that Modena cooked for me at this restaurant in Folkestone “were the three best Basque things” I've eaten anywhere. Hand-formed *croquetas* were golden, crisp and hot – and filled with a béchamel that oozed from the centre “like the serrano-scented lava of an eruption on Mount Olympus”. Salt cod fritters were stunning: cubes of sweet, lightly salted fish in “batter shaped like a cartoon explosion” – and sat in a perfect bright yellow aioli. And then a rhombus of the freshest hake in parsley sauce half covered in a powder of serrano ham, half in an olive powder that “met the serrano beautifully, angrily, in the middle”. Sensational stuff, but this is not the only belter in town: in the evening, we ate at a Nepalese restaurant called Annapurna that serves “delicious and incredibly cheap” *momos* (dumplings). “Folkestone rocks.” *Snacks from £2.50.*

Endo at the Rotunda *The Helios, Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, London W12 (020-3972 9000)*

I'll level with you: Endo ain't cheap, says Tom Parker Bowles in *The Mail*



Endo at the Rotunda: “revelatory cooking”

on Sunday. We chose the 18-course tasting menu at this new, super-high-end Japanese restaurant on the eighth floor of the old Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush – which you reach via a private lift, and where the 200-year-old *hinoki* wood counter is planed down after every service – and it came to £180 a head. But for food this consistently thrilling, that price is worth paying. It was “easily the best sushi and tempura I've eaten in London”: we were “struck blissfully dumb” by the art of Endo Kazutoshi, “culinary ringmaster and third-generation sushi king”. We had sea bream *nigiri*, the rice “every bit as memorable as the stuff on top”; divine

monkfish tempura, cooked before us; nori seaweed, hand-toasted over charcoal and filled with ten-day-aged *otono* tuna; and Dutch eel wrapped in nori. Singly, all these dishes delight. Taken as a whole, “Endo dazzles. This is revelatory cooking, verging on the sublime. Prepare to be astounded.” *Menus at £150 and £180, or à la carte.*

The Woodsman 4 Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (01789-331535)

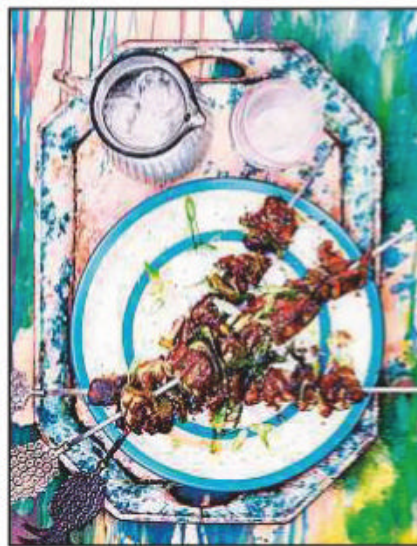
The Woodsman is a “den of pleasure that gives gratuitous feasting a good name”, says William Sitwell in *The Daily Telegraph*. The setting is splendid: a Grade II building from 1500 in which wood panelling and ancient beams merge with modern decor. The focus on hospitality is impressive: every member of staff made us feel thoroughly welcome, from the barman who mixed a daiquiri as though it was “his birthday treat”, to the waiter who cleared plates so smilingly you'd think “he'd won the lottery”. I started with “mighty fine” charred leeks with flecks of ricotta in a buttery sauce, and followed them with a perfect board of pink Hereford beef with bone marrow and a “lovely” faggot. My companion had a fallow deer T-bone, which didn't look the most appealing cut, but turned out to be “the most beautiful venison I have tried”. We couldn't manage puds, alas, but “vowed to return” sharpish. *Dinner for two, £70 plus drinks.*

Miso-glazed aubergine, shiitake and smoked tofu skewers

These excellent skewers abound with Asian flavours, say David and Charlotte Bailey. We use miso paste all the time for soups, stocks and marinades, and are particularly keen on the brown rice miso from Clearspring. We tend to use Taifun smoked tofu

Serves 4 8-10 metal or bamboo skewers 500g aubergine, cut into roughly 3cm cubes salt and black pepper 1 green pepper, cut into roughly 3cm squares 2 blocks of smoked tofu (about 200g), cut into roughly 2cm cubes 6 spring onions, cut into 4cm batons, plus 1 finely sliced to garnish 150g shiitake mushrooms, trimmed and cut to a similar size as the other skewer items 2 tbsps vegetable oil, for brushing 65g fresh ginger, peeled and grated 2½ tbsps brown rice miso paste 2 tpsps sesame oil 1 tbsp tamari 1 tsp brown rice vinegar 1 tsp unrefined brown sugar 1 tbsp sesame seeds, toasted, to serve

- If cooking indoors, preheat the oven to 220°C. If cooking outdoors, prepare the grill. Meanwhile, soak the bamboo skewers (if using) in water as this stops them from burning when they hit the barbecue.
- Place the aubergine cubes in a large bowl and sprinkle with a couple of pinches of salt. Leave to one side for about 15 minutes to draw out the water. Rinse with cold water in the bowl, then drain in a colander and pat dry with paper towels.
- Assemble the skewers, leaving about 7 centimetres free at one end. We thread on a piece of aubergine, then a piece of pepper, smoked tofu, spring onion, shiitake and so on until the skewer is full. Brush the skewers with the vegetable oil.



- If cooking outdoors, place the skewers onto the hot grill and cook until they're almost done on all sides. If indoors, put the skewers in a roasting pan and cook for about 15 minutes on one side, and then turn and cook for a further 15 minutes until they appear almost done. At the end of the cooking time, turn your oven grill on full blast.
- While the skewers are cooking, make a glaze by mixing together the ginger, miso, sesame oil, *tamari*, rice vinegar, brown sugar, and a little salt and black pepper in a bowl. Once the skewers are nearly cooked, brush liberally with the glaze. Put them back in the oven or on the barbecue, and grill, turning regularly, until they're charred.
- To serve, sprinkle over the finely sliced spring onion and toasted sesame seeds.

Taken from Fresh Veggie BBQ: All-natural and delicious recipes from the grill by David and Charlotte Bailey, published by Pavilion Books at £14.99. To buy from The Week Bookshop for £11.99, call 020-3176 3835 or visit theweek.co.uk/bookshop.

New cars: what the critics say



Jeep Renegade
from £19,705

Auto Express

Jeep has given its small crossover a facelift, in an attempt to make it more “environmentally conscientious” without sacrificing its off-road prowess. The new one-litre and 1.3-litre petrol engines are welcome additions to an otherwise diesel-heavy range, and the car’s “rugged charm” and “true SUV styling” remain intact. Still, there are rivals that are better built and “sharper” to drive.

The Daily Telegraph

Inside and out, the Renegade is “charismatic”. Care has been “lavished” on details from the chunky central screen to its air vents, making it feel “a bit more special” than similar cars. But while there’s plenty of headroom, it’s quite narrow. Both legroom and boot space are “at a premium”; and you’ll want to opt for at least a midrange version, as the entry-level spec is “stingy”.

Top Gear

There’s a complicated line-up of engines, but in general the unfashionable diesels are still better than the petrols. The new one-litre in particular feels “like a city car engine struggling to move a 4x4”. The handling is “ponderous”, and the car’s boxy shape creates a “titanic” noise. All in all, this “bonsai Rambo” isn’t the obvious car to choose, but it does score for personality.

The best... pet accessories



◀ **Suck UK Pet Cardboard Turntable**

Arguably more entertaining for you than for your pet, this turntable scratch mat will make your cat look like a DJ (£17; amazon.co.uk).



▶ **Max Bone Dog Bow Tie Collar**

If your pooch needs to dress up for an occasion, one of these bow tie collars, which come in a range of colours and patterns, would spruce it up nicely (£35; aurorapets.co.uk).



▶ **Dog Hide n' Slide**

This hide-and-seek game is made by Nina Ottosson, who believes dogs need to exercise their minds as well as their bodies. Dogs have to slide and swivel the components to find hidden treats (€24.90; nina-ottosson.com).



▲ **Vinyl Dog Raincoat Acid Yellow**

A raincoat to keep fashion-forward dogs dry and visible on dark afternoons. It’s from a range of stylish canine clothing by the American brand Ware of the Dog (on sale at £18; leadthewalk.com).



◀ **SureFeed Microchip Pet Feeder**

Ideal for people with multiple cats or dogs who get into each other’s food bowls, this smart bowl has a lid that only lifts when the sensors are triggered by a specific pet’s microchip (£63; amazon.co.uk).

Tips of the week... how to survive wild encounters

- If you’re in crocodile territory, avoid going to places where animals gather to drink. That’s where the crocs tend to lurk.
- Hippos are very territorial – and deadly (they kill more humans in Africa than any other mammal species). If you see one, run as fast as you can to higher ground; they’re not good at getting up hills.
- Most snakes (with the exception of some particularly vicious and territorial vipers) will avoid you if you make a lot of noise.
- Big cats will often come at you from behind. In parts of Bangladesh, local workers wear masks on the backs of their heads to ward off leopards and tigers.
- With sharks, try to use a hard object like a rock or stick to push it away, so your scent doesn’t excite it too much. If you don’t have anything, punch it on the gills or eyes (its nose is dangerously close to its jaws).
- You’re less likely to be attacked by a wild animal if there are more of you, so try not to wander off alone and away from trails.

SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN

And for those who have everything...



BeauEr’s futuristic caravans can be contracted into a disc shape only six feet wide for driving. Once on site, flick a switch and they’ll expand like a telescope. In the 3X model, the floor space triples, and a double bed and dining area fold out.
from £20,000; beaueruk.com

SOURCE: DAILY MAIL

Apps... for travel

Every time you get an email about flights, accommodation or anything else you’ve booked for your trip, you can forward it to **Triplt**, and it will collect everything into one simple itinerary (free; Android, iOS).

If you like to hop around spontaneously on your travels, **HotelTonight** is a great place to find last-minute deals on nearby hotel rooms (free; Android, iOS).

While TripAdvisor is used by tourists the world over, **Yelp** is where you’re more likely to find restaurant reviews by locals, who may be more discerning. Or try **Foursquare** (free; Android, iOS).

If finding the perfect coffee is an essential part of your trip, you can use **Beanhunter** to explore coffee shops in 180 cities and read the recommendations of fellow aficionados (free; Android, iOS).

With a **Monzo** card, you can pay in any currency at Mastercard’s exchange rate, with no fees or charges (free; Android, iOS).

SOURCE: WIRED

A sculptor's medieval manor house in Dorset

A “striking” talent in an era when female artists often struggled to gain recognition, the sculptor Mary Spencer Watson lived and worked for most of her life at Dunshay Manor, on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset. Using the local freestone from which the manor itself is cut, she produced a string of public works in the postwar period, including large pieces for Wells Cathedral, says Helen Barrett in the FT. Now, 13 years since her death at the age of 92, the manor has been “meticulously restored” and made available as a holiday let by the Landmark Trust – the charity to which she bequeathed it in her will.

Dating back to the 13th century, and with views from its fields of the ruined Corfe Castle, the house was bought by Spencer Watson's parents George, a society portrait painter, and Hilda, a dancer, in 1923. Wealthy and well-connected, they mixed in artistic, bohemian circles, and their guests at Dunshay are thought to have included the psychiatrist and philosopher Carl Jung and the poet



Dunshay Manor: former home of Mary Spencer Watson

Rupert Brooke. When they moved in, they had the house “updated” in the voguish Arts and Crafts style by the Dorset architect Philip Sturdy. It is to this period that the Trust has attempted to restore the house, using Sturdy's original drawings, although care was taken to ensure that all the remaining older features survived, including a 16th century fireplace in one of the comfortable living rooms and medieval flagstones in the kitchen. Furnishings, though not original, are “elegant” and typical of the period. There is plenty of art on display, and on the shelves are some of Hilda and George's books, which were found – damp and mottled – in an outhouse and rebound by a

local volunteer. There is no work by Spencer Watson left here: the pieces that once littered the grounds were sold by the other beneficiaries of her estate. But in her studio, in a former dairy, there are photographs of them, and of her at work in old age. *Four nights at Dunshay Manor from £605; landmarktrust.org.uk.*

Hotel of the week



Hampton Manor West Midlands

Set in the village of Hampton in Arden (between Birmingham and Coventry), Hampton Manor was developed by Robert Peel's son Frederick. It's a beautiful house, with Gothic turrets, mullioned windows and 45 acres of grounds, and it's now also a fine hotel, says Richard Mellor in The Times. Its restaurant has been awarded a Michelin star for “scintillating” seasonal dishes. Rooms are “huge” and “effortlessly stylish”, with retro rocking chairs, bubble lamps, leaning ladder shelves and William Morris wallpaper. It's generally “blessedly quiet”, though the drone of low-flying planes sometimes “irks”.

Doubles from £190 b&b. hamptonmanor.com.

Getting the flavour of...

Birding in the wilds of Colombia

With more avian species than any other country, Colombia is paradise for birdwatchers. For a long time, tourists were deterred from its wilder areas by the unstable political situation, but since the Farc peace accord of 2016, these have opened up, says James Lowen in The Daily Telegraph. Birding guides can be found in several places, among the best of which is the Montezuma Ecolodge in the Tatamá National Park in the western Andes. There's often a “chaos” of hummingbirds around the lodge itself – purple-bibbed whitetips, Andean emeralds, collared incas, tourmaline sunangels – all as jewel-like as their names suggest. Deeper in the rainforest, many-coloured tanagers teem. And high in the cloud forest, there's a good chance of spotting endangered species such as the glittering starfrontlet, one of the world's rarest hummingbirds. *Nature Trips Colombia (naturetrips.co) runs wildlife tours.*

Gourmet thrills in Appalachia

It has long been stereotyped as one of America's most poverty-stricken backwaters, but Appalachia is a beautiful region with a rich culture – and it is in the grip of a foodie revolution, says Jane Black in Condé Nast Traveller. The seeds were sown 30 years ago at Blackberry Farm in eastern Tennessee, where chef John Fler began sourcing the

region's most distinctive ingredients for his “subtle” takes on local cuisine. At its nearby sister hotel, Blackberry Mountain, guests are invited to forage for their lunch. And 120 miles east, in the hippyish city of Asheville, North Carolina, some excellent restaurants have opened. At Sovereign Remedies, Graham House serves ramps (fragrant wild onions) with pink quince petals, salted strawberries, Jerusalem artichokes and pistachio cream, whereas at the more down-home Aux Bar, Steve Goff favours the sort of food grandma might serve if grandma were a seriously good cook.

A glorious island in the Adriatic

In the 19th century, the Croatian island of Lošinj was a major shipping hub and a favourite health retreat of the Austro-Hungarian aristocracy. It still promotes itself to tourists as an “island of vitality”, says Bella Pollen in The Sunday Telegraph – and the sobriquet is fairly earned. Less visited than the Dalmatian islands to the south, it is “astonishingly pretty” and wonderfully wild, with a rocky coastline that's great for hiking, cycling and swimming. The island's rolling hills are carpeted with more than 1,200 species of herbs, some of which you can distil and mix into an (allegedly) anti-ageing skin cream at the five-star Hotel Bellevue. Alternatively, stay at the Alhambra, a little way further around Cikat Bay.

Exclusive tours from The Week Travel

Cornwall with Nick Bailey

The TV presenter and garden designer will join you for a day on this fabulous 4-day tour of the county's finest gardens. From £995pp. 01334-441976. Depart 13 September.

D-Day with Dan Snow

A memorable 6-day river cruise from Paris to the D-Day beaches with the renowned historian and presenter, from £1,495pp. 01858-588725. Depart 4 October.

Cruise with Sir Ranulph

Experience the Northern Lights on this 12-day cruise along the Norwegian fjords with Sir Ranulph Fiennes, from £1,849pp. 020-3993 8664. Depart 12 December.

India with Jeremy Paxman

Enjoy an immersive 15-day tour of the Golden Triangle and join the journalist on a luxury Ganges cruise, from £4,699pp. 0808-239 8947. Depart 28 November.

For full itinerary and T&Cs for each trip, visit theweektravel.co.uk/explore

Hard-living historian with a taste for controversy

Norman Stone
1941-2019

A former professor of modern history at Oxford, Norman Stone, who has died aged 78, was one of the most prolific of the “media dons” who came to prominence in the 1980s, and the most notorious, said The Daily Telegraph. Known to his admirers as a brilliant historian and linguist, and to his detractors as a “reactionary loudmouth”, he held strong views, and was not afraid to share them – whether on students (“smelly and inattentive”), his fellow academics (“a dreadful collection of deadbeats”) or homosexuality (“a deviation”). Other pet hates included the welfare state, Edward Heath (a “flabby-faced coward”) and men with beards.

He was dubious when Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was a fellow, started admitting female undergraduates in 1978. And he was known for making advances on female students, which angered the university authorities; as did his drinking: even his admirers admitted this went beyond acceptable limits. His students – who included Niall Ferguson and Andrew Roberts – sometimes found him comatose in his study, and he once passed out at Margaret Thatcher’s feet. Charitably, she chose to believe his explanation that this sudden loss of consciousness was a side effect of jet lag.

A huge admirer of Thatcher, he was one of her favourite historians, said The Times. He wrote some of her speeches and advised her on European policy, including German reunification. Thatcher feared that the latter would create a “Fourth Reich”. Stone was able to reassure her that in taking over the GDR, West Germany was getting “six Liverpools”. He was at Oxford from 1984, where he continued to drink heavily, and where he was also accused of neglecting his academic work in favour of his second career as a media commentator, and allegedly became known as



Stone: a huge admirer of Thatcher

a groper. Nevertheless, many were surprised when he announced in 1997 that he was leaving to take up a post at Bilkent University, outside Ankara. His new university may have been relatively obscure, but the pay was better, and the moment he touched down, the chain-smoking contrarian knew he would fit in: as he walked through the airport, he saw six policemen “grimly smoking away” beneath a sign saying “No Smoking”.

Norman Stone was born in Glasgow in 1941. His father, who had fought in the Battle of Britain, was killed in a training accident the next year, and Norman was brought up by his mother, a teacher and a Labour voter. Thanks to a charity set up by his father’s old squadron, he was able to attend Glasgow Academy, and from there, he went up to Gonville & Caius, Cambridge, to study modern languages. A skilled linguist, he would eventually speak nine languages, including Russian and Polish, but

after a term he switched to history. From 1962, he worked as a research student in Vienna and Budapest, and spent three months in a Czech jail for trying to reunite a man with the woman he had fallen in love with, by smuggling him across the Austrian border.

He was offered a fellowship at Cambridge in 1971, and produced his first book, *The Eastern Front 1914-1917*, in 1975. It won the Wolfson Prize, and remained the standard work for two decades. Later books included *Hitler* (1980) and *World War One: A Short History* (2007). Stone was married first to Nicole Aubry, a Haitian who was the niece of Papa Doc Duvalier’s finance minister. They had two sons before divorcing acrimoniously in 1977. He had a third son with Christine Booker, who predeceased him. Their marriage was “open”. He left Turkey after the failed coup of 2016 (apparently the university had tried to stop him drinking) and spent the last few years of his life in Budapest.

Style icon who was the original “poor little rich girl”

Gloria Vanderbilt
1924-2019

Gloria Vanderbilt, who has died aged 95, was the original “poor little rich girl”: having inherited millions from her father before she was even two, she found herself, aged ten, at the centre of a custody battle that gripped 1930s America, said The Guardian. Creative, beautiful and charismatic, she later made a fortune of her own, selling designer jeans (a concept she invented). Married four times, she counted Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando among her lovers, and Charlie Chaplin and Truman Capote among her friends. Capote is said to have used her as the model for Holly Golightly, the character in his 1958 novella *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*.



Vanderbilt: invented designer jeans

Gloria Vanderbilt was born in New York in 1924, the only child of Reginald Claypoole Vanderbilt and his second wife, Gloria. Her mother was a teenage socialite. Her father was a playboy who had already squandered most of his \$25m fortune when he died in 1925, leaving her half of a \$5m trust. Gloria went to court to secure a large income off the trust, which she used to support her own opulent lifestyle. Little Gloria, as she was known, trailed around after her, looked after by nannies, until a paternal aunt – Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney – won custody of her niece, by claiming her mother was neglectful and a lesbian. Life on the Whitney compound proved more stable, but it was no more

loving: her aunt was a cold woman, and Gloria mainly communicated with her through lawyers.

At 17, Gloria joined her mother in Beverly Hills and launched herself into Hollywood society. Shy and insecure but stunningly attractive, she embarked on an affair with Howard Hughes. She would have married him, she said, but he didn’t propose. So instead she married his press agent – a mob associate who beat her and poured scorn on her artistic ambitions. They divorced in 1945, and soon after, she married the conductor Leopold Stokowski, 40 years her senior. They had two sons, and she started working as an artist and painter, but that marriage didn’t last either. By the time she split up with her third husband, the director Sidney Lumet, much of

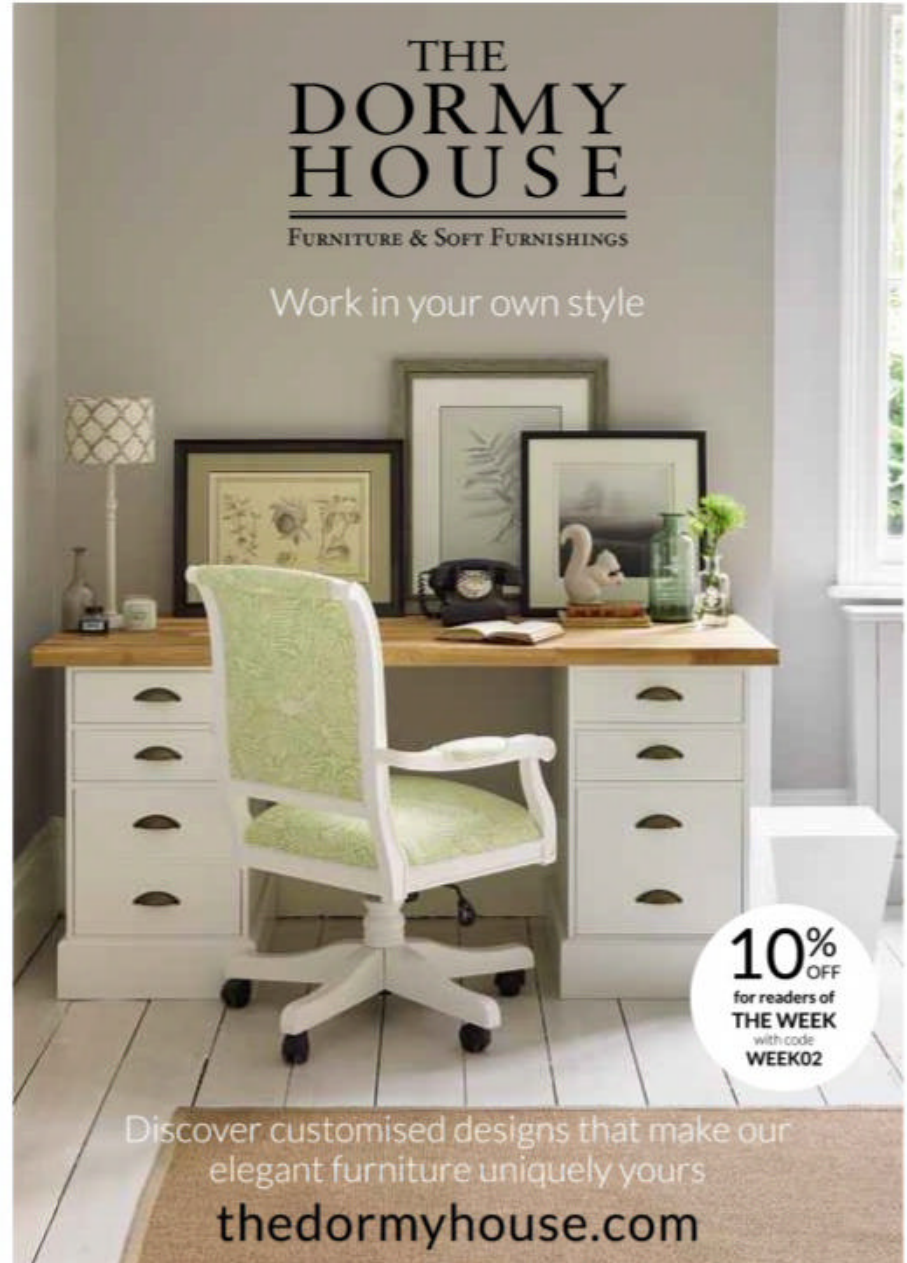
her inheritance had gone – on lavish living and divorces. It was the deal she made with the Murjani group to sell her Vanderbilt-branded jeans that rescued her: they were hugely popular, and within a few years she had earned more than she had inherited. But tragedy struck in 1978, when her beloved fourth husband, the writer and actor Wyatt Cooper, died following a heart attack; ten years later, one of their sons fell to his death from her balcony, in an apparent suicide. Then she found that her lawyer hadn’t paid her taxes for years, and she had to sell her houses. Yet she refused to give in to self-pity: she wrote memoirs, carried on with her art and made a film about her life with her son Anderson Cooper.



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Companies in the news ...and how they were assessed

Patisserie Valerie: further arrests

The Serious Fraud Office's probe into the collapse of the café chain Patisserie Valerie has claimed more scalps, said Sabah Meddings in The Sunday Times. Ex-finance director Chris Marsh was arrested and bailed last October, and in a "swoop" last week, five more people were collared; they don't include ex-executive chairman Luke Johnson. PatVal's shares were suspended last year after the discovery of a £40m hole in its books. It later emerged that "cheques worth millions had been used to artificially inflate the company's cash reserves" and that "forged company minutes had helped run up secret overdrafts of almost £10m". The scandal has engulfed accountants Grant Thornton, whose role as auditor is being investigated – but not, it seems, Johnson, said Matthew Vincent in the FT. "People familiar with the old operation speak of problems in management structure, a breakdown in the corporate culture and decisions taken behind closed doors. If an executive chairman is not responsible for this, then what is he responsible for?" Johnson has returned to print as The Sunday Times's business guru. Like his "political namesake" Boris, he seems keen on having his cake and eating it.

Southern Water: what a sewer

So it's official, said The Daily Telegraph. Following a "large-scale investigation", Ofwat has determined that Southern Water "was being run with scant regard for its responsibilities to society and the environment" – and has hit the company with a £126m "penalty package". The water regulator, headed by Rachel Fletcher, uncovered evidence of "shocking" spills in the firm's sewage treatment sites. There had also been "coordinated efforts" to "deceive customers" over the poor performance. The company – owned by a consortium of pension and infrastructure funds known as Greensands Investments – "manipulated its wastewater sampling process", the better to appear squeaky clean. This isn't the first time that Southern, which replaced its top brass in 2017, has been punished for misreporting information about its performance, said BBC Business: it was also rapped on the knuckles in 2007. This time round, £91m of the record fine will be paid directly to customers, each of whom will receive a £61 rebate spread over five years. That won't stop some environmental protesters claiming that Southern has got off lightly.

Monzo: doubling up

Monzo, the "app-only bank", has raised another £113m of funding, more than doubling its valuation to £2bn "in fewer than eight months", and cementing its reputation as "one of the UK's most valuable tech start-ups", said Ben Chapman in The Independent. The digital bank, led by 33-year-old Tom Blomfield, has caught the eye of investors including Y Combinator – the US-based incubator best known for backing the home-rental platform Airbnb. Monzo, which has two million current account customers in Britain, will use the cash to fund "its imminent launch in the US", said Katherine Griffiths in The Times. Y Combinator reckons that banking there is "archaic" and "needs to be drastically redesigned". Who better than Monzo "to redefine the modern banking experience"? Its fundraising efforts – notably a recent attempt to crowdfund £20m by encouraging customers to run up an overdraft to buy shares – have "attracted criticism". Still, anyone who bought in then is sitting on a "substantial" paper profit.

Seven days in the Square Mile

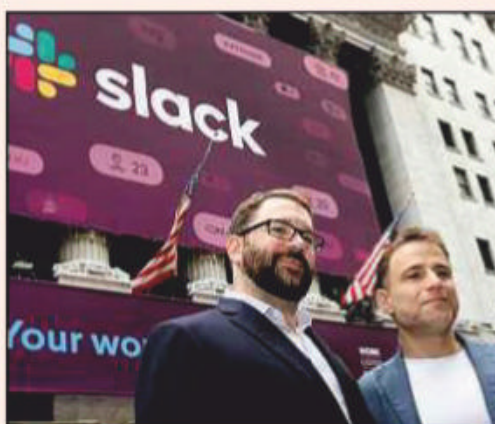
The US **Federal Reserve** signalled it is ready to cut interest rates to bolster the American economy, sending US stock markets to a new record high. Having clawed back the ground lost in May's mini sell-off, the S&P 500 is now on course for its best half-year since 2010. The **Bank of England** kept interest rates on hold and cut its forecast for second-quarter growth to zero, warning that the risks to the economy are rising. In a generally positive week for markets, **gold** and **bitcoin** also made big gains. The latter soared to nearly \$13,000/unit – partly on the back of hopes that **Facebook's libra** could prove a game-changer for cryptocurrencies.

The **BoE** governor, Mark Carney, warned that some 150,000 UK businesses are still not ready to keep exporting to the EU in the event of a no-deal Brexit. Some 30 people were reported to have applied to replace Carney as governor when he leaves in January. The favourite remains the Financial Conduct Authority boss, Andrew Bailey.

The FCA fined **HBOS**, now part of the **Lloyds Banking Group**, £45.5m for failing to disclose suspicions of fraud at its branch in Reading in 2007. Former **Barclays** boss John Varley was cleared of fraud charges relating to a 2008 fundraising with Qatar; three other defendants now face a retrial. **Ikea** is contemplating building homes in Britain. The furniture retailer's **BoKlok** subsidiary is in talks with Worthing Council to construct about 162 affordable homes.

Slack: an uplifting debut for the workplace messaging company

"Slack by name but not by nature" – that was the considered view of investors in New York last week as they cheered the "stellar debut" of the Silicon Valley workplace messaging company, said James Dean in The Times. Slack took off like a rocket – admittedly helped by the cheerful broader market mood following a conciliatory meeting of the US Fed. Shares closed at \$38.62 on their first day of trading, valuing the still loss-making outfit at \$20bn – more than triple its value just nine months ago. What a contrast to the battering recently meted out to fellow tech unicorns Uber and Lyft.



Henderson and Butterfield: uplifting

Like Spotify before it, Slack chose to go for "a direct listing" – meaning that no new shares were issued and no money raised. So why bother, asked Lex in the Financial Times. The "obvious answer" is that the move allows Slack's venture capital backers – as well as co-founders Stewart Butterfield (see page 46) and

British-born Cal Henderson – to cash out. But going public is also a "useful publicity boost" for the company. Slack's "workplace chat app" perfectly fits the current trend for remote, collaborative working and is beloved by trendy start-ups. But much of the rest of the world "is still hung up on email". Moreover, Slack faces a giant-killing battle overcoming Microsoft – whose similar free service, Teams, is currently "more widespread".

Still, no one was worrying too much about that last week, said The New York Times. Slack's uplifting float shows that "public-market investors are" still interested in tech. More significantly, it may mark the "emergence of a trend". If this successful direct listing sets a template that others (Airbnb, say) follow, it's bad news for investment bankers who have traditionally made a killing from float fees. For them, perhaps, slacker times lie ahead.

The economics of a snap election

Larry Elliott

The Guardian

Britain's "struggling economy" presents the next PM "with an electoral teaser", says Larry Elliott. Could the Tories win a snap election? Plenty in the party think they could, citing the example of 1992 when John Major "won an overall majority against all the odds". Back then, after all, the economy was in a worse state than now, yet it didn't seem to matter. Indeed, the lesson drawn was that "when times are tough, voters are fearful of change". And if they wouldn't back Neil Kinnock in 1992, why would they elect Jeremy Corbyn now? Things may not be so simple this time – after a decade of austerity, the Tories won't "automatically win on economic competence". Still, the new PM will have two things going for him: wages are growing faster than inflation, and "the public finances are in better shape than they were" – giving scope to raise spending or cut taxes in the autumn budget. From an economic perspective, next spring is a better bet than the autumn for an election. By then, voters will have had "almost another year of rising living standards". We may even be out of the EU.

Opportunity knocks in Germany

Matthew Lynn

The Daily Telegraph

Another day, another crash in German shares, says Matthew Lynn. It's a measure of the malaise facing Europe's "industrial powerhouse" that Germany's Dax index is "the most accident-prone major index in the world". More than half its big companies – Deutsche Bank, Thyssenkrupp, Volkswagen, "are in some form of crisis". Bayer's \$63bn acquisition of Monsanto "has turned into possibly the most calamitous acquisition of all time"; Siemens is recovering from a bribery scandal and Lufthansa has just issued yet another profit warning. The market "has a very simple mechanism" for companies that underperform: the takeover. "Germany is full of big, established companies, with some fantastic technology and brands ripe for the picking" – and there are opportunities here for their UK peers. Barclays or HSBC could take control of Deutsche Bank, British Airways's owner IAG could snap up Lufthansa, the London Stock Exchange should finally buy Deutsche Börse. Germany's establishment will fight back. But British companies and funds should seize the day.

The dubious ethics of sponsorship

Catherine Bennett

The Observer

Stephen A. Schwarzman, the US financier behind Blackstone, has donated £150m to Oxford University to set up the "Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre". Apparently it will major on the humanities and "the study of ethics", says Catherine Bennett. But the alacrity with which the university accepted his cash suggests that when big donors call, "ethics fly out the window". Schwarzman – worth an estimated \$11.6bn – grew fantastically rich on the back of Blackstone's "rapacious business model", which caused untold hardship through cuts and redundancies. He was able to do so, as he noted during the 2008 financial crisis, because the best time for private equity players like him to turn a profit is when economies "are on their back". In future, however, it may not prove so easy for the likes of Schwarzman to whitewash their business dealings through philanthropy. There are signs are that cultural institutions are recovering their principles. BP's sponsorship plans are under threat; the V&A recently turned down a donation from the Sackler family, whose fortune is derived in part from opioids. Once again, Schwarzman may have grabbed himself a just-in-time bargain.

The perils of "woke-washing"

Jason Karaian

Quartz

"It's hard to fake authenticity," says Jason Karaian. "That doesn't stop the advertising industry from trying" – and at last week's Cannes Lions festival there was a lot of talk about "values, purpose and authenticity". Listening to the assembled marketing gurus and agency bigwigs drone on, you might forget that the "real purpose" of their campaigns is to sell more shoes, razors or video games. The inevitable backlash was provided by Unilever's CEO, Alan Jope, who suggested that corporate "woke-washing" is now so bad it is, as he put it, "polluting purpose". Henceforth, he said, the consumer goods giant's huge ad budget – worth over \$8bn annually – will be withdrawn from any company dealing in "false purpose". It certainly can feel "grubby", mixing corporate marketing "with issues like race, gender and the environment", but research shows that consumers are indeed "taking a brand's social mission" into account when making buying decisions. The global ad industry is worth nearly \$600bn a year. It's a fine line to tread, but some of that could be used "to make the world a better place (while, yes, selling more shoes)".

City profiles

Stewart Butterfield

In Silicon Valley, they say that coming up with a viral hit product is "like catching lightning in a bottle", said Richard Waters in the FT. Slack founder Stewart Butterfield, 46, has managed the trick twice: an earlier hit was the pioneering photo site Flickr. A philosopher by education and temperament, Butterfield has always had a knack for reinvention. Born on a remote commune in British Columbia, Canada – where his father had fled to escape the Vietnam draft – he changed his name at 12 from "Dharma" to "the more prosaic Stewart". One fan puts Butterfield's success as a software designer down to his "deeply humanistic" streak. "If he'd lived in the Middle Ages [he] would have produced the perfect leather bag, with just the right stitching – he's a craftsman."

Clare Gilmartin



Talk about taking the fast train to Profitsville. The boss of train ticket website Trainline, Clare Gilmartin, has scooped more than £50m after its storming market debut last week, said the Daily Mail. Shares surged by nearly 20%, valuing the business at £2bn – "higher than the market capitalisations of First Group, Go-Ahead and Stagecoach". Dublin-born Gilmartin, who held a 2.8% stake, joined in 2014 after making her name at eBay, and is clearly no slouch. On her watch, Trainline has expanded into 45 countries. The float, the City's second largest this year, "bucked a recent trend of weak debuts" and has further enriched Trainline's US private equity owner, KKR, said The Guardian. What a pity the consortium of train operators who founded the business in 1997 missed the gravy train.

An aerial photograph of a sandy beach. In the top left, a lounge chair with a blue and white striped towel is visible. In the middle left, two people are sitting on lounge chairs; one is on a pink towel and the other on a blue towel. In the bottom left, a man in yellow shorts is walking towards the water, holding a beach ball. In the middle right, a man in a grey shirt and red shorts is jumping in the air, reaching for a blue ball. The ocean waves are visible at the bottom of the frame.

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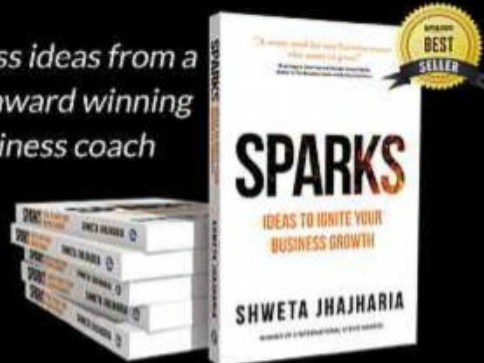
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Issue of the week: the trouble with H2O

It's ironic that H2O is the latest fund to spook investors with concerns about "liquidity" – but it's unlikely to be the last

"Step aside Neil Woodford", the "investment legend" whose empire collapsed recently amid liquidity issues – and make way for French bank Natixis, said Tyler Durden on ZeroHedge. Shares in the bank have plummeted because of concerns over the safety of a London-based subsidiary, H2O Asset Management. The latter was plunged into turmoil after the FT reported its funds hold more than €1.4bn of illiquid bonds, linked to Lars Windhorst – an "enigmatic and flamboyant German financier" with a history of legal troubles and insolvencies. This week, investment manager Morningstar suspended its rating of H2O's Allegro fund, citing concerns about "liquidity" and a possible "conflict of interest". The group has attempted to assure investors the fears are "groundless". But a few weeks back, Woodford himself said much the same thing about a run on his fund – resulting in an "unprecedented gating" of £3.7bn of investors' cash. No wonder H2O investors promptly pulled some €1bn from its funds.



Windhorst: "enigmatic and flamboyant"

retail investors, and the assets relating to Windhorst amount to only €1.4bn. What's more, performance of late has been "impressive" – one of the group's funds "jumped by nearly a third" last year. There's a possibility that market-watchers have over-reacted, said John Stepek on Money Week. Woodford's troubles means journalists are now "looking under rocks they might previously have ignored". Doubtless H2O's position as a majority holder of Windhorst's debt posed worries: the bonds are "exceptionally hard to trade" (i.e. illiquid) "partly because of Windhorst's reputation". Illiquidity in itself is not necessarily a problem – except when the fund manager has to sell in a hurry. The situation gets particularly sticky when instant-access, "open-ended funds" (like unit trusts) are involved, because when investors pull their cash out, managers are forced to sell assets quickly to repay them.

The goings-on at H2O don't look pretty – it transpires that the group's boss, Bruno Crastes, has joined the board of Windhorst's investment firm, Tennor Holding. But is the situation that worrying for investors? On the face of it, not really, said Lex in the FT. H2O manages about €30bn across six funds open to

H2O's issues "appear less extreme" than Woodford's, said Patrick Jenkins in the FT. Nonetheless, the fund group's predicament "should ring alarm bells" about the prevalence of illiquid holdings more generally. Policymakers have begun warning that "mass-appeal" emerging market and high-yield bond funds may be "the next victims of illiquidity". If Woodford was one "canary in the coal mine", H2O is certainly "another".

Making money: what the experts think

● A little too green?

In a speech to City leaders this week, the shadow chancellor, John McDonnell, confirmed Labour's draconian plan to "delist companies that fail to meet environmental criteria from the London Stock Exchange", said Anna Isaac in The Daily Telegraph. The move – among a host of policies that Labour has branded its "Green Industrial Revolution" – is part of a wider shift to "divert investment away from fossil fuels". But it went down like a lead balloon in the Square Mile. Not least because McDonnell's planned review of how the City is responding to the "climate emergency" will also take in the "full gamut of institutions from hedge funds to asset managers and commercial banks".



McDonnell: "draconian plan"

overseas". New York, Hong Kong, Singapore and several EU countries would be only too happy to oblige – without insisting, as Labour plans to in Britain, that 10% of the shares are gifted to a workers' "ownership fund". However well-intentioned, McDonnell's reforms must also withstand

an encounter with reality. "Wanted: a Labour-leaning City-type who can deliver some facts of life about markets."

● Golden dawn

"Every asset on the planet has been having fun" since the US Fed outlined that an interest rate cut may be coming "as early as next month", said John Stepek on Money Week. That includes gold. Last week, the price of the yellow metal hit a five-year high, shooting through the technical "resistance" level of \$1,360 an ounce – a big deal for market followers. The gold market has endured many false dawns, but conditions do now look ripe for "a proper bull run". If you don't own gold, "get some" – a properly diversified portfolio should always contain insurance against financial disaster. If you own gold already, it might be time to increase your holding from "under-" to "overweight".

● Reality check

McDonnell's promise to make companies focus on carbon emissions is welcome, said Nils Pratley in The Guardian. But it's bonkers to argue, as he does, that delisting delinquents means "investors can be confident that their money is not going on making the world uninhabitable for their children". Companies won't "disappear" if they're delisted from London – they'll just "rehouse themselves on stock markets

Summer reading part one

A pick of some of the best business and finance books to take to the beach

Zucked by Roger McNamee (HarperCollins £16.99). McNamee, a pioneering investor in the social media site, "argues forcefully that Facebook has become a sinister and dangerous phenomenon", says The Sunday Times. The FT's Andrew Hill calls his account "one of the best inside stories of the unravelling" of Facebook's reputation.

Possible Minds: 25 Ways of Looking at AI by John Brockman (Penguin Press £23.99). "An intriguing selection of essays" from leading thinkers about artificial intelligence, says John Thornhill in the FT. While Jaan Tallinn predicts the end of the "human-brain regime", Alison Gopnik reminds us that AI cannot yet solve problems that a four-year-old can answer with ease.

Russia's Crony Capitalism: The Path from Market Economy to Kleptocracy by Anders Aslund (Yale £25). A "superb book" showing the catastrophic nature of Putin's regime and the long-term stagnation it is inflicting, says Martin Wolf in the FT: "it is death to Russia".

High Performance by Peter Grimsdale (Simon & Schuster £20). The "gripping story" of British sports cars in the 1950s and 1960s – "when they led the world in innovation", says The Sunday Times.

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Sweat

Rated ★★★★★ in The Week

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There's a passage early on in *Sweat*, Lynn Nottage's "superlative" 2015 drama about working-class lives in a Pennsylvania steel town, in which a lively bar-room conversation turns to the unlikely subject of Nafta, said Tom Birchough on *The Arts Desk*. The year is 2000, and the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement is about to hit the industrial heartlands of the US. If talk of trade negotiations makes *Sweat* sound "remote", it is anything but. This is a humane and richly-textured drama of the first rank, in which Nottage shows what happens when the ties that bind a closely-knit world are loosened to the point where "its community is sundered almost beyond recognition".

If you still don't understand how Donald Trump got elected, go and see this "desperately sad and invigoratingly even-handed play", said Dominic Maxwell in *The Times*. That's not to say that *Sweat* has the smack of "homework": it will chime with "anyone who has felt their certainties turn to dust". The action takes place mostly in a local bar, where the (mostly female) factory

workers come to "unwind, celebrate, brag, mourn, joke", fight with their drug-addict husbands, fall out and fall apart. We watch as the women's solidarity splinters into ugly factions, and we empathise with their embrace of desperate measures, from opioids to "false prophets". *Sweat* is "a play for today. And it's truly terrific."

Lynette Linton's brilliantly performed production has "harrowing force", said Henry Hitchings in the *London Evening Standard*. The American actress Martha Plimpton gives a "thrillingly volatile" performance as Tracey, a worker who "greet[s] her fate with a ferocious cynicism". Leanne Best totally convinces as Jessie, drinking herself into oblivion. And Clare Perkins is "superb" as Cynthia, their African-American colleague who finds herself on the "wrong side of the barricades" as events turn nasty, said Sarah Hemming in the *FT*. Let's not mince words: *Sweat* is "magnificent": a "humane, heartbreaking and necessary play".

Originally reviewed in The Week, 22 June 2019.



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Who's tipping what

The week's best shares

Ashtead Group*Investors Chronicle*

A strong US market has helped the equipment rental firm offset the subdued UK scene, and it is supplementing organic growth with acquisitions. There's a promising nascent Canadian market too. Buy. £20.19.

Capita*The Times*

The outsourcer's shares are weighed down by sector unpopularity, but what sets Capita apart is its focus on technology. Speculative, but recovery progress isn't yet reflected in the price. Buy. 102p.

Merlin Entertainments*The Times*

Merlin operates more than 130 attractions, including Madame Tussauds, Legoland parks, and resort parks with hotels and holiday villages. Revenue and visitor numbers are up, thanks to investment in new projects. Profits should rise. Buy. 389p.

Restore*Investors Chronicle*

This document management firm's purchase of TNT, which operates pan-governmental records contracts, is a game changer. Highly cash-generative with strong margins and cross-selling opportunities. Buy. 400p.

Sequoia Economic**Infrastructure Income Fund***The Mail on Sunday*

Sequoia has a growing portfolio of defensive firms with high returns. Focused on infrastructure such as schools and airports, the fund has a good record and cash to grow. Yields 5.7%. Buy. 110p.

Telecom Plus*Investors Chronicle*

Customer numbers have jumped "meaningfully" as the multi-utility provider rolls out new services. A sustainable pricing strategy makes it well placed to tackle "a challenging competitive backdrop". Buy. £14.94.

Directors' dealings

Experian

Having acquired an aggregate of 1.07 million shares when awards vested, a trio of senior directors (the CEO, CFO and COO) opted to sell £11.14m worth. Shares at the credit services firm are pricey, but there's no slowdown in sight.

SOURCE: INVESTORS CHRONICLE

...and some to hold, avoid or sell

AstraZeneca*Investors Chronicle*

Patent expirations have led to the pharma's revenue streams drying up. News that its Lynparza ovarian cancer treatment has gained further clinical approval is encouraging, yet shares are still too pricey. Sell. £63.80.

BT Group*The Sunday Telegraph*

Shares have sunk in line with revenues, but BT is axing costs, progressing with its broadband roll-out, and the mobile arm EE is prospering. The new CEO has preserved the dividend. Hold. 201.3p.

Funding Circle*The Times*

The online lender, which links investors with businesses, is growing fast – but is unlikely to turn a profit until 2021. There are concerns about resilience: default rates could double in a recession. Avoid. 251p.

Majestic Wine*Investors Chronicle*

The vintner's strategy of selling the retail business to focus on its online arm, Naked Wines, is understandable. But unless customer numbers rise dramatically, it leaves a much smaller, only narrowly profitable company. Sell. 272p.

T. Clarke*The Mail on Sunday*

T. Clarke is a one-stop shop for many hotels, hospitals, schools, offices and homes: installing everything from heating and security to internet services. Shares have soared, but expansion into data centres promises "more to come". Hold. 116p.

WANDisco*The Sunday Times*

The software developer has ambitious plans to help firms move data to the cloud. But it has suffered boardroom turmoil, falling sales and rising losses amid a fiercely competitive market. Sell. 504p.

Form guide

Shares tipped 12 weeks ago

Best tip**Keywords Studios***The Sunday Times*

up 48.62% to £17.18

Worst tip**B&M European Value***Shares*

down 13.78% to 319p

Market view

"This late in the cycle, you don't want to stick your neck out in equities."

David Lafferty of Natixis, claims investors are "completely addicted to very easy monetary policy". Quoted in the FT

Market summary

Key numbers for investors

	25 June 2019	Week before	Change (%)
FTSE 100	7422.43	7443.04	-0.28%
FTSE All-share UK	4049.83	4060.63	-0.27%
Dow Jones	26678.82	26433.15	0.93%
NASDAQ	7949.56	7962.28	-0.16%
Nikkei 225	21193.81	20972.71	1.05%
Hang Seng	28185.98	27498.77	2.50%
Gold	1405.70	1341.30	4.80%
Brent Crude Oil	65.29	62.08	5.17%
DIVIDEND YIELD (FTSE 100)	4.34%	4.33%	
UK 10-year gilts yield	0.80	0.81	
US 10-year Treasuries	1.99	2.05	
UK ECONOMIC DATA			
Latest CPI (yoy)	2.0% (May)	2.1% (Apr)	
Latest RPI (yoy)	3.0% (May)	3.0% (Apr)	
Halifax house price (yoy)	+5.2% (May)	+5.0% (Apr)	
£1 STERLING	\$1.248	€1.099	¥134.093

Best and worst performing shares

WEEK'S CHANGE, FTSE 100 STOCKS

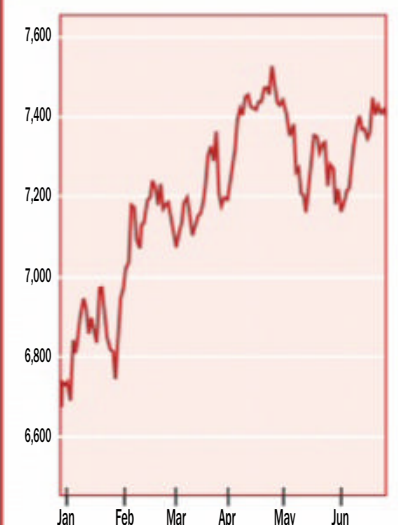
RISES	Price	% change
Fresnillo	893.00	+7.38
Ashtead Group	2229.00	+7.11
3i Group	1098.5	+5.12
Admiral Group	2194.00	+5.08
Spirax-Sarco Engr.	9315.00	+4.72
FALLS		
Carnival	3412.00	-15.36
Evraz	639.00	-8.69
Marks & Spencer Grp.	205.70	-7.43
BT Group	196.52	-5.97
Sainsbury J.	187.90	-5.39

BEST AND WORST UK STOCKS OVERALL

Invesco MSCI Eur. ESG	3568.75	+895.80
Nanoco Group	11.65	-68.04

Source: Datastream (not adjusted for dividends). Prices on 25 June (pm)

Following the Footsie



6-month movement in the FTSE 100 index

Vertical farming: welcome to the future of agriculture

It sounds like the stuff of fantasy – but many scientists now believe that crops grown in high-tech, multistorey containers could help us solve many of the world's biggest problems, from climate change to loss of biodiversity. Tom Whipple reports

There is a part of Dundee where the sun always shines. In a tall and windowless shed, beyond the stormy mouth of the River Tay, this little bit of Scotland lies untouched by dreich and drizzle. Here, a light breeze keeps the air fresh, a heating system keeps the temperature constant and the dark northern winter never ruffles the Mediterranean plants within.

It is not, though, an environment easily confused with the south of France. Sometimes, when David Farquhar goes in to inspect the crops in his vertical farm – each plant in racks that lie, one on top of the other, stretching far above his head – the sun is purple. Sometimes, it is pink. Often, the light is the full white spectrum we get from the sun, only with the green taken out. Green light, after all, is just the sun being wasteful. Leaves are green because they reflect green light – why waste energy making something that just bounces off them? Then when each plant is ready, sunned by synthetic light, irrigated by synthetic rain, in a process controlled by robots, it finds itself an agricultural paradox: the least natural crop in the world, but also – with its luscious pest- and pesticide-free leaves – the most organic.

Is this the future of food? Will we soon be farming not just in fields that cover the surface of our crowded planet, but also in ones that take advantage of the third dimension to stretch into the sky, too? Amanda Little, a professor at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, thinks so. In her new book, *The Fate of Food*, she argues that with the global population growing and agricultural land running out, “It stands to reason that eventually we’ll need to grow our food upward as well as outward”. Alternatively, as sceptics claim, will the energy required to create Farquhar’s pink and purple sun always make this kind of farming a niche activity?

Some 12,000 years ago, humanity underwent its first great technological revolution. In Mesopotamia, where the Euphrates meets the Tigris, nomadic groups began to settle down. Rather than scavenging for grasses and laboriously gathering seeds, they happened upon an innovation that would change the course of history: they grew them in one place. Tending their crops, breeding them, cherishing them, they ultimately prospered from them. Seven billion humans rely on those advances for their existence today. But the revolution is incomplete. With their wheat, corn and rice, our Neolithic ancestors freed us from seeking out food, but not from the greater constraints of the rest of nature. We still need soil, sunlight, weather and – most



Dundee's Intelligent Growth Solutions: “the least natural – but most organic – crop”

“If we want to save the planet we need to use less land. Vertical farming enables us to produce as much food as we want”

human would have no problem understanding the most fundamental technology of all: farming.

Soon though, many scientists believe, that first revolution will reach its logical conclusion. When it does, humans will be freed not only from the constraints of finding food, but of finding land too. By stacking crops, and precisely controlling the environment,

we will, proponents argue, at a stroke solve problems ranging from climate change to water shortage to loss of biodiversity. On the space taken today by a single field, a vertical field could grow 30 times the produce.

By some accounts, the idea of vertical farming first appeared in a Life magazine article of 1909, where an illustration showed stacks of fields and farmsteads, laid out one on top of another. They existed in a metropolis of mile-high skyscrapers served by flying taxis and were captioned with a mock real-estate advert: “Buy a cosy cottage in our steel-constructed choice lots, less than a mile above Broadway... all the comforts of the country”. It was not, in other words, the product of serious thought. Which is why some advocates, surprisingly perhaps, trace the vertical farm’s true origins to Tiberius. The Roman emperor’s twin passions, as far as we know mercifully kept separate, were sexual depravity and cucumbers. To satisfy the first, he employed little boys in his pools to pretend to be minnows and “nibble” him as he swam. To satisfy the second, he did something far more extravagant. In his gardens, he created glasshouses using sheets of rock crystal that could grow cucumbers year-round. He effectively became the first person to control climate.

Dickson Despommier, a professor at Columbia University in New York, chooses a different date for the start of vertical farming. He likes instead to begin the practical history much later, with an earthquake. On 11 March 2011, a tsunami crashed into Japan,

of all, for a population that is still growing – space.

Our modern, connected, technological world, with its smartphones and satellites, still relies, either directly or through the need for livestock feed, on clearing patches of land, putting seeds in holes and waiting to see what turns up. This is strange. A human from 10,000BC would see that computing had moved from counting stones to silicon, warfare from bows and arrows to nuclear weapons, travel from feet to aeroplanes. These advanced technologies would, in the words of Arthur C. Clarke, be indistinguishable from magic. Yet the same

sweeping away houses, roads and crucially, in the area of Sendai, farmland. Further along the coast, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor was swamped: 370 square kilometres were evacuated, while the radiation released meant Japanese-grown food was shunned. “In one hour they lost 5% of farmland,” says Prof Despommier. “In supermarkets, food was left rotting on the shelves. Japan’s government contacted manufacturers and universities, and said, ‘What do we do about this?’” The answers that came back were that the country needed to free itself from the land. Special economic zones were created; empty warehouses were requisitioned; irrigation and lighting was installed. A new kind of farming had at last begun.



Square Roots: not just for hipsters

A year earlier, Prof Despommier had written a book. For over a decade he had taught a popular course on vertical farming – the book, *The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century*, was the result. But he had no photographs to put in it. “There were no vertical farms then. None.” In 2011, though, the paperback version came out. “I found we had three pictures of vertical farms.” Now he keeps a map of the world on his wall and puts a red dot wherever he knows there is a vertical farm. Some dots supply salad to airliners, so that first-class passengers can be fed lettuce picked that day. Some grow herbs for restaurants, who want to boast of growing local (even if consumers might imagine that means something rather more bucolic). In China, there are “pig apartments” in tower blocks, next to pig-fodder farms in another tower. In New York, whose hipster foodies might object to high-rise pigs, there are shipping containers cultivating basil that competes on price with the shipped-in alternatives – and do so while recreating the precise climate of northern Italy. In Singapore, meanwhile, there is even vertical fish farming, a multistorey carp park.

Taken together, Prof Despommier says, all these red dots mean “the northern hemisphere looks like chickenpox. It has been a miracle that the idea has caught on so rapidly.” Vertical farms are, in other words, a technology of futurists no more. It is easy to see why. If you want local food, a shipping container in your car park couldn’t be more local. If you are concerned about waste in shipping, well there’s no need to ship at all. If you have almost any environmental concern, in fact, vertical farm evangelists will argue they can solve it. Some 70% of freshwater used by humans is reserved for agriculture, most evaporating in the process. Grow the crops inside and you lose no water. Pesticides in industrial farming are destroying biodiversity – but crops grown in a sterile environment can be completely organic. Crop failure due to drought is a major cause of poverty globally. Controlled climates provide the right conditions year-round.

But the biggest problem it solves is space. Officially, the population density of Singapore, one of the world’s most tightly packed countries, is 8,000 people per square kilometre. Really though, the ratio of people to land use is rather different. Indeed, as with every country, it is impossible for it to be anything less than around an acre per person – or 250 people per square kilometre. It’s just that in Singapore this true figure is hidden, because they import their food. The space humans take up is not in their housing, it is in their eating. A quarter of the Earth’s ice-free surface is used for grazing, a tenth for arable farming. The issue with farming, all farming, is land. “The best reason for wanting to do this,” says Prof Despommier, “is it removes soil as a limiting factor to make food. If we want to save the planet we need to use less land. That is why money is starting to flow into

this from all directions; it enables us to produce as much food as we want, without using the natural landscape as a victim.” If agriculture did not need land, he argues, “we could rewild the entire planet”. All of which can make you wonder, why is his map merely a chickenpox of red dots? Why has he not turned the globe pink, as he creates an empire of vertical farming on which the (also pink) sun never sets? The answer, or one answer at least, is sunlight and energy.

David Farquhar did not begin his career managing an eerily lit farm in Tayside. Before he became CEO of Intelligent Growth Solutions, which works with the James Hutton Institute in Dundee to develop prototype indoor farming

systems, he spent three decades in the technology sector. Nowhere, though, has he seen excitement like this. “I’ve never come across a proposition that has attracted so much interest globally,” he says, before adding. “I’ve also never seen a sector filled with so much BS.”

It takes a lot of energy to replace the sun. That means the crops worth growing are currently limited. “If you want to grow things at a market-acceptable price, you are talking about baby greens, microgreens and salads,” says Farquhar. These are plants that are physically light, so need little sun to build biomass, and also perishable, so have high wastage if not grown locally. The staples, which are dense and easy to transport, aren’t viable yet and some think never will be. According to Farquhar: “People are making

claims about the wider and wider range of crops that can be grown at a profitable price. Our fear is there will be high-level casualties, who have had a lot of money put into them. That does not do the industry any good.”

“Think what a mobile phone could do 20 years ago. That’s where we are at. Now think what a mobile phone can do today”

He is right to be worried. Even as Amazon’s Jeff Bezos and Google announce investments in farming start-ups of \$200m and \$90m respectively, some of Prof Despommier’s other red dots have already disappeared – lost to economics, hype and hubris. Yet this month, another start-up, Square Roots, signed a contract to work with a major US food distributor growing herbs at each of its depots. This wasn’t about novelty, but something far more exciting: rational economics. Or as Tobias Peggs, the British entrepreneur who runs it along with Elon Musk’s brother Kimbal, says, it is “not just about feeding foodie hipsters in Brooklyn”.

Their company specialises in using refurbished shipping containers that have the built-in ability to mimic a climate of your choice. “For instance, I can hit the ‘basil’ button, and the lights will go on at the same time the sun rises in Genoa,” Peggs says. “You can grow literally the best basil in the world, located in New York City.” This works, he concedes, because basil is expensive. But, he says, five years ago it was still uneconomical. “We are right at the very beginning of a technology journey.”

Farquhar, though cautious, agrees. Take away soil, take away the weather, and extraordinary things can happen. Yes, staple crops are not there yet – but strawberries are approaching economic viability. “Think about what a mobile phone could do 20 years ago,” he says. “That’s where we are at. Now think what a mobile phone can do today.” Vertical farmers are already trialling potatoes, the crop equivalent of a first-generation iPhone. “In one way or another we will find a way to grow everything – wheat, barley... and coconuts.” The Caribbean is coming to Dundee.

A longer version of this article appeared in The Times.
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THE WEEK CROSSWORD 1164

An **Ettinger travel pass case** and two **Connell Guides** will be given to the sender of the first correct solution to the crossword and the clue of the week opened on Monday 8 July. Send it to: The Week Crossword 1164, 2nd floor, 32 Queensway, London W2 3RX, or email the answers to crossword@theweek.co.uk. **Tim Moorey** (timmoorey.info)



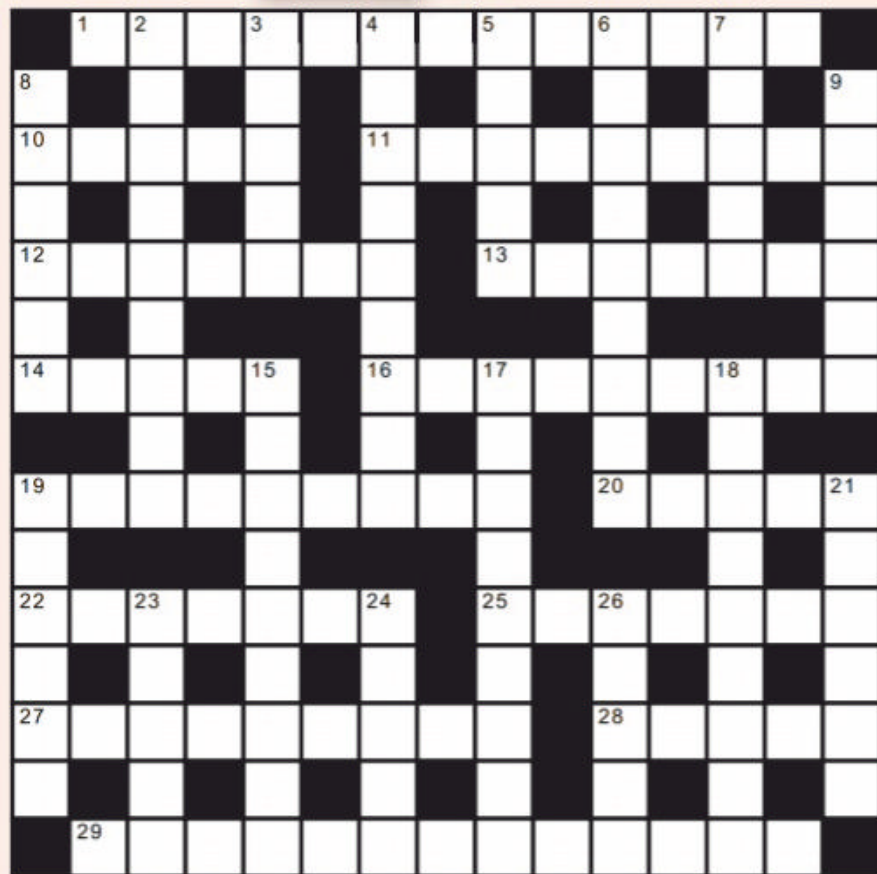
This week's winner will receive an **Ettinger** (ettinger.co.uk) Sterling travel pass case in turquoise, which retails at £105, and two **Connell Guides** (connellguides.com).

ACROSS

- 1 Audacious enterprises in a part of St Paul's (13)
 10 English novelist associated with hard US sect (5)
 11 New London line in port (9)
 12 Part of King's Speech released in palace chambers, one's heard (5,2)
 13 Short school Miss organised breaks (7)
 14 British survive explosion (5)
 16 Command stories from hospital workers (9)
 19 China, Austria and Norway lament litter (9)
 20 Workplace clubs rejected place for booze down under (5)
 22 Flyer in a communist election (7)
 25 Funny man needing love after complaint (7)
 27 Star cosmetic salesperson, American returns (9)
 28 Pick needed for some concrete tiles from the east (5)
 29 Vote with relish wearing unorthodox clothing (5-8)

DOWN

- 2 Cleaner letters printed herein? (5,4)
 3 Non-conformist church needing no introduction for a lady (5)
 4 Arrangement of three comes before four? One's heard so! (9)
 5 Borders surrounding English city (5)
 6 Mother's champion in very big hit (9)
 7 Joins gathering of riders (5)
 8 Composer needing street atlas going around capital (6)
 9 Monkey rushes all over the place (6)
 15 Curry house entrances one going in for these dishes (9)
 17 Rubbish gathered in skips, no end of trash (9)
 18 Disease? Do confine it! (9)
 19 Group of notes composed in E sharp? (6)
 21 Oldie has work for day? I'd scarper (6)
 23 One caught in CID operation? (5)
 24 Singular male high-street banker? (5)
 26 Deliveries finished by son (5)



Name _____

Address _____

Tel no. _____

Clue of the week answer: _____

Clue of the week: What might enhance my dire robe? (10) *The Observer*, Azed

Solution to Crossword 1162

ACROSS: 8 Mull 9 High priest 10 Ascertain 12 Arson 13 Rarely 14 Hysteria 15 Back to square one 18 Law court 20 Murder 22 Nines 23 March past 25 Serviceman 26 Acne

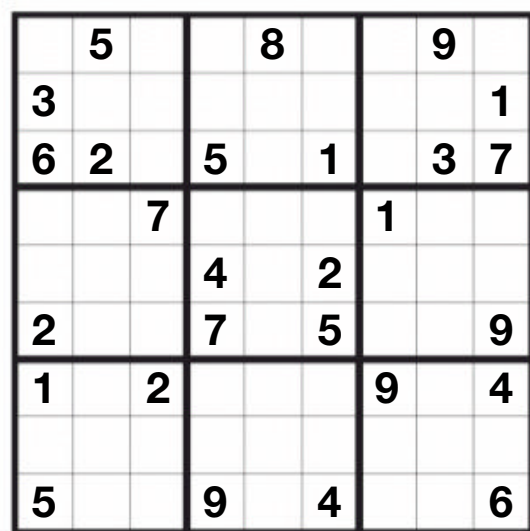
DOWN: 1 Impair 2 Electric 3 Lima 4 Thank-you 5 Breakthrough 6 Geyser 7 Stone age 11 Relationship 15 Balinese 16 Strumpet 17 Ordnance 19 Wintry 21 Rotter 24 Roan

Clue of the week: Male attached to palindromic female (4, first letter A)

Solution: ADAM (Ada + m = male)

The winner of 1162 is **Lorraine Wilson from Badger**

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Sudoku 708 (very difficult)

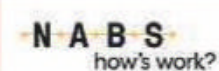
Fill in all the squares so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9

Solution to Sudoku 707

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

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Charity of the week



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