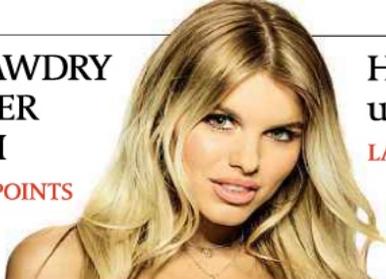


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What happened

Brexit showdown

Theresa May averted a humiliating Commons defeat on her flagship EU Withdrawal Bill this week, but was forced to cede ground to rebels. In order to quash an amendment that would have handed MPs a decisive say over the final stages of Brexit negotiations, she promised a fresh amendment that would offer a compromise position. Pro-EU lawmakers hope the move will effectively take a “no deal” Brexit off the table. It came at the end of a frantic day of horse-trading, during which the Government suffered its first Brexit resignation – of justice minister Phillip Lee.

Last week, it was the Tories’ pro-Brexit faction that was causing May grief. Her Brexit secretary, David Davis, threatened to resign unless a time limit was placed on the “backstop” proposal that will tie Britain to the EU customs union if no customs deal is reached. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, meanwhile, was secretly taped telling a private meeting that Brexit talks under May were heading for “meltdown”. Trump, he said, would do a better job.



May: circling the plane?

What the editorials said

“Not for the first time, a good day for May is a bad day for the nation,” said *The Independent*. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Tory whips, she scraped through this week’s votes, but all that can really be said for these victories is that they “kick the can down the road”. May’s entire focus seems to be on holding her party together, rather than achieving a decent Brexit deal, agreed *The Guardian*. Her stand-off with Davis – resolved through a meaningless “technical note” saying that the UK “expects” any customs backstop arrangement to last until the end of 2021 at the latest – was farcical.

The Brexit process is bogged down, said *The Daily Telegraph*. But the fault for that lies as much with meddlesome lawmakers as the PM. The Bill currently before Parliament “is not supposed to be a rerun of the referendum debate, but to enact the decision of voters to leave the EU”. The rebels are right that MPs should have powers of scrutiny and veto over the final Brexit deal, said *The Times*. However, the amendment regarding the “meaningful vote” went too far. The Commons “should not be in the position of negotiating a withdrawal treaty line by line. That is a task for government.”

What happened

The Singapore summit

A landmark summit between President Trump and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, ended this week with an agreement to work for the “complete denuclearisation” of the Korean peninsula. In a joint statement, the US also promised to provide Pyongyang with “security guarantees”, and in a later press conference, Trump made the surprise announcement that US forces would no longer conduct joint military exercises with South Korea, which were a long-standing cause of friction. But the statement, signed in front of the world’s press, had no details of any “denuclearisation programme”. It said only that Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, would meet North Korean officials to discuss implementing the “outcomes of the summit”.

The meeting was the first between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader. Trump described his counterpart as a “very talented man” who “loves his people very much”. He and Kim had formed “a very special bond”, he said.



Kim and Trump: a “special bond”

What the editorials said

Trump certainly has a talent for flattering “authoritarian thugs who crave respect and legitimacy”, said *The New York Times*. But it’s not at all clear what he has got out of this “comprehensive” agreement, as he calls it. The joint statement – barely a page in length – is “strikingly spare”. We don’t know what is meant by “security guarantees” or what the North Koreans mean by committing themselves to “denuclearisation”. Until we do, the plaudits must wait. Whatever happens next, North Korea is already the winner, said *The Guardian*. The very fact of Trump agreeing to a meeting has lifted Kim’s international status. Since the summit was announced, he has seen President Xi of China twice and may soon meet President Putin. His “diplomatic work has been done for him” by Trump.

Trump’s diplomatic style may be “questionable”, and what he won from Kim is admittedly “vague”, said *The Daily Telegraph*. But let us be clear: this was a meeting of “historic importance”. It won’t change the world in an instant: such meetings never do. But it starts a process. “Bringing Kim in from the cold is an accomplishment worth celebrating.”

It wasn’t all bad

More than 2,500 women from 23 countries stripped off on a secluded beach in Ireland last week, to smash the record for the world’s biggest skinny dip. The annual event on the sands at Magheramore, south of Dublin, was started by cancer survivor Dee Featherstone in 2013 to raise funds for cancer charities. This year it raised €312,000. “We are all different shapes and sizes and ages, and it was just super,” said Deirdre Betson, one of those who braved the 12°C waters.

A Sikh Coldstream Guard has become the first to take part in the Trooping the Colour in a turban. Charanpreet Singh Lall marched alongside more than 1,000 other soldiers at the annual parade in London to celebrate the Queen’s birthday last Saturday. The 22-year-old, who was born in Punjab, India, but grew up in Leicester, wore a black turban with the ceremonial cap star on it to match his regimental comrades’ bearskin hats. He said his family had attended the event and that it had brought tears to his mother’s eyes. “I hope that more people like me, not just Sikhs but from other religions and different backgrounds, will be encouraged to join the Army,” he said. “I have never been made to feel different or left out.”

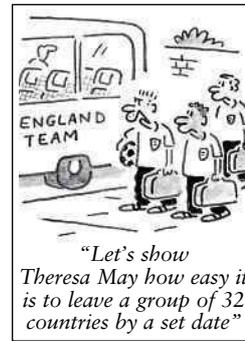


A man who fell in love with a derelict castle as an 11-year-old boy has now bought it so that he can preserve it for the nation. Mark Baker became entranced by Gwrych Castle in Wales while playing in its ruins 22 years ago. As a teenager, he wrote books about the 19th century Grade I building, and met the Prince of Wales and Tony Blair to discuss its future. He founded a charity to save it, and last week it was finally able to buy Gwrych. Now an architectural historian, Baker plans to restore the castle and open it to the public.

What the commentators said

History will “not look kindly” on our leaders’ handling of Brexit, said Rachel Sylvester in *The Times*. It beggars belief that, two years after the EU referendum, the Cabinet still hasn’t reached an agreed position on what the outcome should be, or even on the best customs arrangements. Labour is “equally incoherent”. The problem is that neither May nor Jeremy Corbyn wants to come clean to the public about the unpalatable choice facing Britain, said Rafael Behr in *The Guardian*. The Brexit plane is circling in the air because the horrible reality is that the flight can only end with either an “orderly arrival in a second-rate location” or a “fiery crash landing”. “That is what it means to honour the referendum. That is what it meant all along.”

Not so, said Daniel Hannan in *The Sunday Telegraph*. Had politicians ditched the “tribalism” of the referendum campaign and worked together, we could have “built a consensus that most Leavers and most Remainers could have lived with”. As it is, we seem to be “inching towards an open-ended transition period” in which we’ll still be bound by EU rules and still have to shell out “squillions” to Brussels, yet will have no seat at the table – the worst of all possible worlds. Brexiters are in universal despair about the current state of Brexit negotiations, said James Forsyth in *The Spectator*, but they’re divided over what to do about it. Two camps have emerged: the “hedgers” and the “ditchers”. The hedgers, who include Michael Gove, think we’ve left it too late to prepare for a no-deal Brexit, so the important thing is just to get to 29 March 2019, when the UK will have legally left the EU. They can then try to install a Brexiteer in the Treasury and push for a better deal. By contrast, the ditchers, represented by Boris Johnson, believe there has to be a drastic change of course now. By next March, they argue, the UK will have agreed to pay the divorce bill, thereby losing much of its leverage with Brussels, and politicians will be loath to reopen old debates.



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What next?

The fresh amendment that is expected to give MPs new powers over the final stages of Brexit will go back to the House of Lords next week. If peers endorse it, the EU Withdrawal Bill will finally become law.

Attention will then turn to two contentious trade bills that are due to be debated by MPs in July, reports *The Guardian*. These contain amendments that would keep the UK’s current customs arrangement with the EU. The “big battle”, warns one Tory MP, is yet to come.

What the commentators said

“What a difference a year makes,” said Nicky Woolf in *The New Statesman*. Not so long ago, “Armageddon seemed imminent” as Trump and Kim traded insults and threats of war. Yet after a working lunch behind closed doors, the two “former nemeses” were this week shaking hands and “smiling like old friends”. And it looks as if Trump’s “crazy guy” strategy has worked: through a show of dangerously unpredictable behaviour, he has forced his enemy into making concessions. Denuclearisation, at least according to Trump, will now begin “very quickly”. The usual “Trump-haters” are already complaining about the US doing business with a regime that cares so little for human rights, said Freddy Gray in *The Spectator*. And there’s no denying that Kim is a ruthless “tyrant”: there are 200,000 political prisoners in the Hermit Kingdom. But credit where it’s due. Barack Obama failed to make any progress on North Korea; Trump seems to be doing so. Even if his overtures come to nothing, he has “changed the realpolitik of the Korean peninsula” by bringing a communist enemy to the conference table.

Kim must be rubbing his eyes, said Jamil Anderlini in *the FT*. Trump’s concessions go far beyond anything Pyongyang can have expected. He not only offered to end military exercises with South Korea (apparently without consulting Seoul), he also indicated that he wants to see all US troops withdrawn from the South. And all Kim has given in return, said Jonathan Freedland in *The Guardian*, is a promise “to work towards” denuclearisation. No deadline, no timetable, no concrete plan. This is a world away from CVID – complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament – which has long been the bottom line of US policy on North Korea. The truth is Trump has less to show for his supposedly historic deal than the US negotiators who hammered out an Agreed Framework in 1994, said Nicholas Kristof in *The New York Times*. They managed to freeze the country’s plutonium programme “with a rigorous monitoring system”. Trump has just got smiles and vague promises. He has been “hoodwinked”.

What next?

Trump is still insisting that US sanctions on North Korea not be lifted until real progress is made towards denuclearisation. But the effectiveness of sanctions depends on the cooperation of the Chinese, and Beijing is now suggesting that sanctions should be eased in recognition of North Korea’s peace overtures.

A further obstacle to a full rapprochement with the US could be North Korea’s support for Syria’s Assad regime, which it has regularly supplied with arms. North Korea announced last week that Assad is soon to pay an official visit to Pyongyang.

THE WEEK

It’s not often you feel like cheering when reading commentaries on the week’s news. But that’s what I felt reading Nicky Woolf’s take on the North Korean summit (*see above*). It’s not because I share

his optimism: it’s because he’s such a rare example of someone breaking free from “tribe think”. With wearying predictability, Trump haters on the Left reject his initiative as dangerous folly, while their counterparts on the Right do the reverse. Yet here is a writer for *The New Statesman* prepared to argue that, despicable as he may be, Trump may have done something spectacular.

There is nothing new, of course, about the propensity of political commentators to let their conclusions be dictated by the creed of their political tribe. It’s not as if the world of journalism was ever one where dispassionate analysis reigned supreme, where people routinely credited good moves made by their opponents. Nor, given the human craving for the security found in group identity, is it realistic to expect this from journalists any more than football fans. But what does seem new in this age of identity politics is the rejection of the ideal of impartiality. We rush to assign ourselves to rival tribes and cling to them: we are either Remainers or Brexiteers. It’s not how you weigh complex trade-offs between political accountability and economic security that matters: it’s who you are. The conventions of debate give way to the culture of insult. In the end, as Matthew Syed argues on page 12, that has to be bad for the game.

Jeremy O’Grady

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Controversy of the week

Trump diplomacy

For a while it seemed as if last weekend's G7 summit in Canada "had gone rather better than expected", said Will Gore in *The Independent*. President Trump had set an antagonistic tone for the meeting by slapping tariffs on European and Canadian steel and aluminium in the run-up to the event. He then made matters worse by pointedly turning up late and calling for Russia to be readmitted to the informal group of leading economies. The gathered leaders nevertheless succeeded in agreeing a final communiqué that they could all sign. However, when Canadian premier Justin Trudeau, in a post-summit press conference, reaffirmed that his country would be imposing retaliatory tariffs on the US, Trump "went ballistic". He revoked his endorsement of the G7 communiqué, and branded Trudeau "very dishonest and weak". He later widened his attacks to European leaders, accusing them of ripping off the US on trade and not paying their fair share to Nato.



Angela Merkel takes on the US president

This is the moment Trudeau and EU leaders have dreaded, said Susan B. Glasser in *The New Yorker*. For months, they've tried everything – "from flattery to stonewalling to hours of schmoozing on the golf course" – to head off a clash with Trump. But it's now clear that "the rift between the world's great democracies that Trump's election portended is coming to pass". It seems Trump is indeed out to destroy the Western alliance, said David Leonhardt in *The New York Times*. How else to explain his decision to pick a fight with his allies over tariffs – even though US tariffs are at much the same level as those of the EU and Canada – while making excuses for Russia? "Maybe it's ideological, and he prefers Putin-style authoritarianism to democracy." Maybe the Kremlin does have compromising information on him. "Or maybe Trump just likes being against what every other modern American president was for."

But this isn't a case of Trump blowing up the entire post-Cold War world order. For now, it's merely a war of words, said Zachary Karabell in *Foreign Policy*. In any case, a shake-up of the global system would be no bad thing. The prevailing order evolved at a time when China was weak, the EU was in its infancy and the US really was the "indispensable nation". The world has changed a lot since then. We shouldn't "view the break-up of the existing system as a negative – provided that it's replaced with something rather than nothing". There's the problem, said *The Economist*. On the evidence so far, Trump's wrecking tactics will simply make life harder for allies, and easier for Russia and China. Trump and his supporters are right that the rules-based international order is in some ways outdated. "They are wrong that it is unnecessary – as a world of trade wars (*see page 11*), nuclear proliferation, fractured alliances and regional conflict may soon show."

The cost of Carillion

The collapse of construction giant Carillion is set to cost the taxpayer £148m, the National Audit Office (NAO) has said. In a report published last week, the Whitehall spending watchdog criticised the Cabinet Office's response to the collapse, saying it was unprepared despite a huge profit warning last July, and had continued to make deals with the company worth more than £1bn. The NAO said the Government must "understand the financial health of its major suppliers and avoid creating relationships with those which are already weakened". Since Carillion went bust in January, with debts of £1.5bn, 2,300 people have lost their jobs.

Gig economy ruling

In a ruling that could have implications for the gig economy, the Supreme Court has decided that a plumbing contractor should have workers' rights. The ruling means that Gary Smith, who for six years had worked five days a week solely for Pimlico Plumbers, is entitled to sick and holiday pay despite being classed as self-employed for tax. Frances O'Grady, the head of the TUC, welcomed the ruling, saying firms had been "using every trick in the book to deny staff basic rights".

Spirit of the age

Google has removed the hard-boiled egg from its salad emoji, to make it more "inclusive" for vegans. The change was highlighted by one of the online giant's "user experience managers", who cited it as evidence of Google's ongoing "big talk about inclusion and diversity".

Washing lines festooned with pants and socks have appeared outside houses and in shop windows all over the town of Colyton in Devon, in a show of support for a local woman who had received an anonymous letter asking her not to dry her family's laundry in front of her house. The letter to Claire Mountjoy, written "on behalf of local businesses", had asked her to dry clothes inside or to get a tumble dryer, to keep the town one we can "all be proud of".

Good week for:

Daredevilry, after a raccoon scaled the exterior of a 25-storey office block in St Paul, Minnesota. It was first spotted on a neighbouring building on Monday, before moving to the nearby UBS Plaza, where it continued to climb higher, using its claws to grip the sheer concrete facade. As thousands watched its nail-biting feat online, it finally reached the roof early on Wednesday.

Macedonia, which resolved its 27-year dispute with Greece over its name. If its MPs ratify the decision, it will henceforth be known as the Republic of North Macedonia. The republic took the name Macedonia when it broke away from Yugoslavia in 1991 – prompting fury from Athens, which argued that it was implying it had a claim over neighbouring Greek Macedonia.

Emma Thompson, who was made a dame in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to drama. Mary Beard, the classicist, was also made a dame, while 103-year-old Rosemary Powell, who has sold poppies for the Royal British Legion since 1921, was appointed MBE for services to charity.

Bad week for:

Vegetarians, after traces of meat were found in supposedly meat-free and vegan meals sold by supermarkets. Traces of pork were allegedly found in "meat-free" Sainsbury's meatballs, while traces of turkey were found in a Tesco vegan macaroni meal.

Sir George Gilbert Scott, with the removal of the revered Victorian architect's pews from Bath Abbey. Church officials decided to strip out the abbey's pews to create a large open space that can be used to host community events, concerts and dinners.

Poll watch

72% of people in England aged over 65 say they are proud to be English, compared with only **45%** of people aged 18 to 24. However, young people are the most optimistic about the country's future: **28%** say they believe England's best years are still to come, compared with **17%** of respondents as a whole. *YouGov/The Times*

56% of voters say the privatisation of Britain's railways has been a failure; **15%** say that it has been a success. **64%** would support bringing the railways back into public ownership. *BMG/The Independent*

39% of GPs in England say that they are likely to quit within the next five years, an all-time high figure. *National GP Worklife Survey/The Guardian*

Paris

Phone ban in French schools: French children up to the age of 15 are to be banned by law from using mobile phones anywhere in school grounds – including at break times – from September. French children are already banned from using phones in the classroom under legislation passed in 2010. The new, more wide-ranging law – which was passed by MPs last week and is expected to be approved by the senate – is aimed at improving pupils’ concentration; stopping them from playing on phones during lessons; helping to prevent cyberbullying, the sharing of pornographic images, and sexting. President Macron had made introducing a “detox” law, to wean children off their screens, one of his campaign pledges. However, it will now be up to individual schools to work out how to enforce the ban: critics have warned that because teachers have no legal right to confiscate phones, this could be difficult.

Madrid

Women dominate cabinet: King Felipe VI of Spain has sworn in the country’s new Socialist government – with a record number of women in the cabinet. Almost two-thirds of the posts (11 out of 17) are now filled by women, who preside over the finance and economy ministries, as well as defence and justice. The deputy prime minister is also a woman. The leader of the Socialist Workers’ Party, Pedro Sánchez, was sworn in as prime minister earlier this month after a vote of no confidence in the centre-right PM Mariano Rajoy over a corruption scandal. Women’s rights groups in Spain and elsewhere hailed the gender mix as a breakthrough. However, one of Spain’s most respected newspapers, ABC, caused annoyance and incredulity in some quarters by running a double-page “fashion special” assessing each of the new female ministers’ wardrobes, and giving them “advice” on what to wear in office, and how to do their hair and make-up.

Valencia, Spain

Migrant rescue: A ship carrying 629 African migrants set sail for the Spanish port city of Valencia this week, after Italy’s new populist government refused to let it dock there. The NGO-run MS Aquarius had rescued the migrants off the coast of Libya. Matteo Salvini, Italy’s new interior minister, from the right-wing League Party, decreed all Italian ports were closed to the boat and suggested instead that it should go to Malta, because it “takes in nobody”. In a tweet, he said: “Italy is done bending over backwards and obeying, this time THERE IS SOMEONE WHO SAYS NO #closethedoors.” However, Malta claimed it was not equipped to deal with the influx. Pedro Sánchez, Spain’s new Socialist PM, then defused the crisis by saying his country would welcome the migrants. Salvini hailed this as a “victory”, and said he would now block all NGO rescue ships from entry into Italy.

Milan, Italy

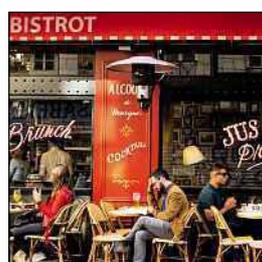
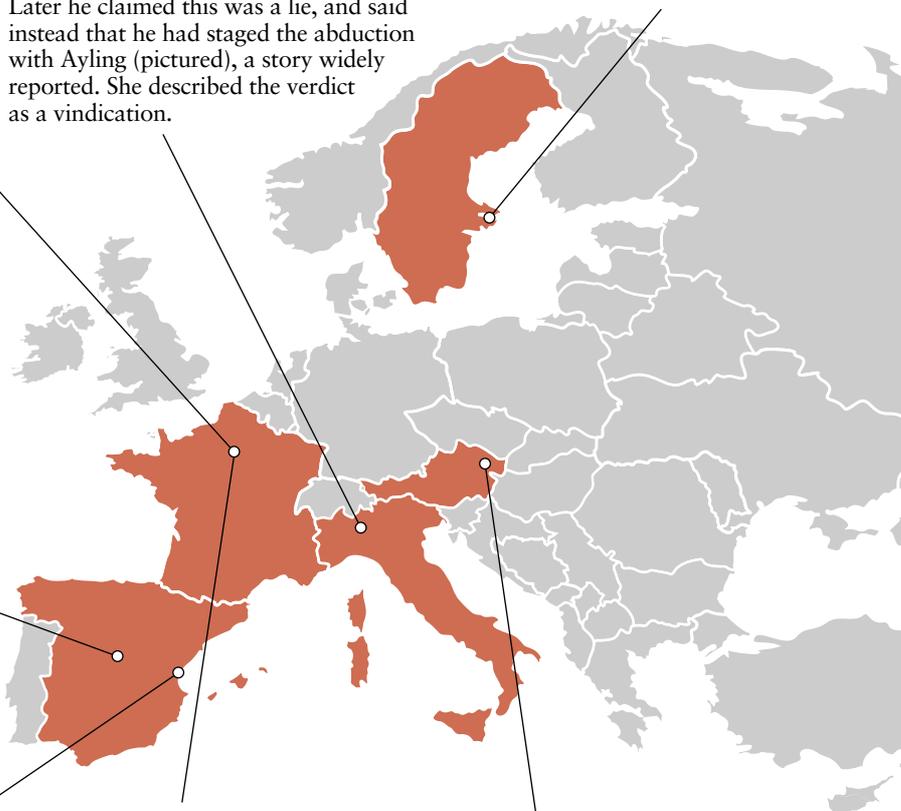
Kidnapper jailed:

A Polish man has been jailed for almost 17 years for kidnapping a British model in Italy in 2017. Chloe Ayling was lured to Milan by Lukasz Herba for a fake photo shoot, before he injected her with ketamine, bundled her into a bag and took her to a remote farmhouse where he held her for six days. He told her, and later police, that he was working for a gang who planned to sell her into sexual slavery. Later he claimed this was a lie, and said instead that he had staged the abduction with Ayling (pictured), a story widely reported. She described the verdict as a vindication.



Stockholm

Rape charges: Jean-Claude Arnault, the photographer at the centre of the sexual harassment scandal that led to the Nobel Prize in Literature not being awarded this year, has been charged with two counts of rape, dating from 2011. A prominent figure in Sweden, Arnault is married to Katarina Frostenson, a former member of the Swedish Academy, the body behind the prize. In November, he was accused by 18 women of sexual harassment or groping, with some of the alleged incidents occurring at academy-owned flats. In the ensuing furor, six members, including Frostenson, of the 18-strong body quit, and the remaining members decided not to award the prize while they rebuild confidence in the institution.



Paris

Protect the bistro: A French lobby group is seeking Unesco protected status for Paris’s bistros and pavement cafés, citing the role they played in bringing the city together after the 2015 terrorist attacks, and the contribution they make to popular culture. The association says Paris’s bistros are under threat from rising rents and multinational chains. Earlier this year, Paris’s *bouquinistes* – the second-hand booksellers who for 300 years have plied their trade from stalls on the River Seine’s banks – said they were also applying for protected status as an intangible cultural asset. They say they’re fast being replaced by purveyors of imported tourist trinkets.

Vienna

Clampdown on “political Islam”: Austria’s government – a coalition that includes the far-right Freedom Party – has ordered the closure of seven Turkish-linked mosques, and announced plans to expel up to 60 Turkish imams and their families as part of what it says is a clampdown on “political Islam”. Austria’s chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, cited laws banning the foreign funding of Muslim institutions to justify the order, and said that Austria would no longer put up with “parallel societies and radicalisation”, which have “no place in our country”. Images, published in April, showing children at a Turkish-backed mosque in Austria waving Turkish flags while re-enacting the Battle of Gallipoli have intensified the debate in the country over Turkish and Muslim integration. Ankara condemned the closures as “Islamophobic, racist and discriminatory”.



Toronto, Ontario

Ford wins: Doug Ford, the brother of the troubled former mayor of Toronto Rob Ford, has been elected premier of Ontario, Canada's most populous province (accounting for about 40% of the country's population). The late Rob Ford made global headlines for his myriad transgressions, including smoking crack cocaine while in office. Doug Ford (pictured) is a businessman who has been likened

to Donald Trump for his populist rhetoric, boastful style, lack of political experience and, according to opponents, shameless lies.

Washington DC

Migrant ruling: The US attorney general has decreed that victims of domestic and gang violence should not usually qualify for asylum. Jeff Sessions's ruling overturns a 2016 decision by an appeals court to grant asylum to a Salvadorean woman who said she had been repeatedly beaten and raped by her husband. Sessions said abused wives did not count as a persecuted "group", adding that the law was not designed to protect citizens from private crimes or to "redress all misfortune". A lawyer working with immigrants called the ruling "a death sentence to potentially thousands of people fleeing harm" in Central America and Mexico.

Washington DC

McGowan indicted: The actress Rose McGowan (pictured) – one of the first women to accuse Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault – has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of possessing cocaine. If convicted at a trial expected to start in January, she faces up to ten years in jail. The charges relate to an incident in January last year, when cocaine was found in a wallet she had left on a plane at Washington Dulles airport, en route to the Women's March. She insists the drugs were not hers, and suggested they could have been planted as part of a campaign to silence and discredit her. At that point, she had not publicly accused Weinstein, but had let it be known that a studio boss had raped her. He denies all charges.



Antigua, Guatemala

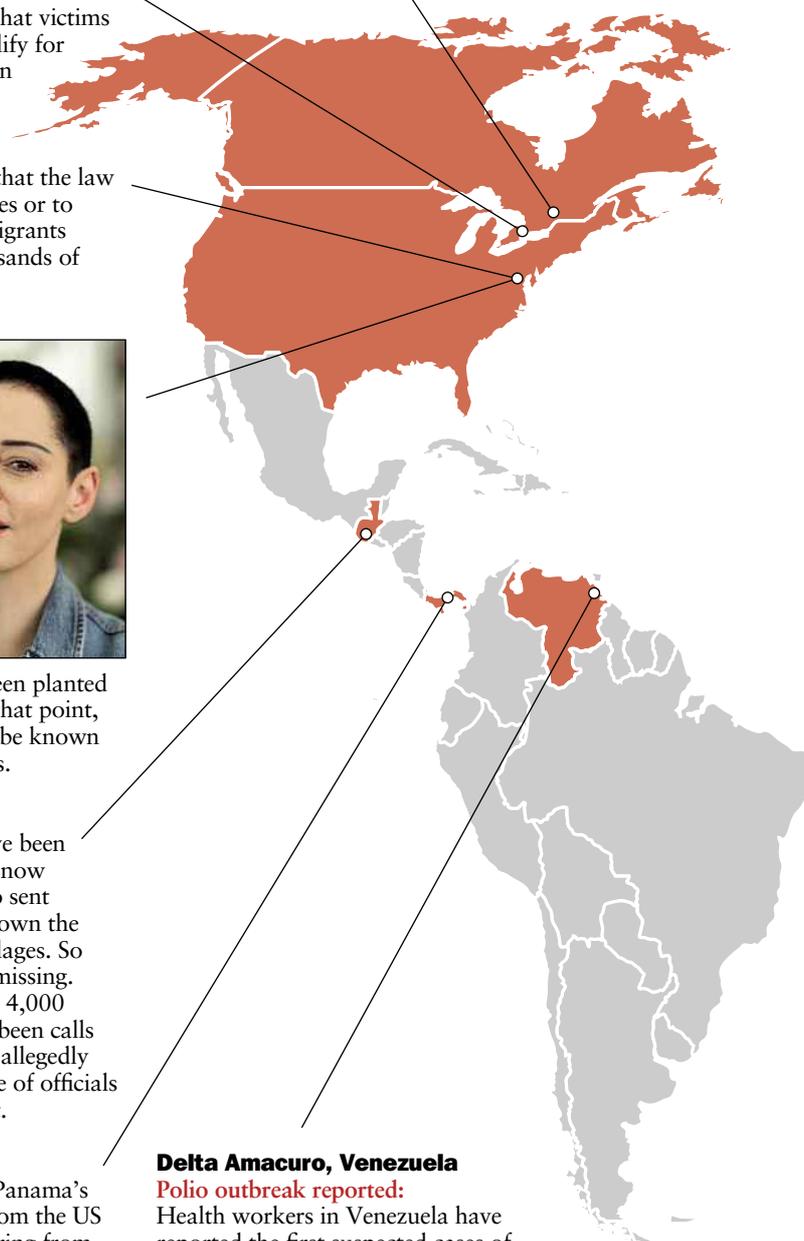
Death toll rises: The number of people believed to have been killed when a Guatemalan volcano erupted on 3 June now stands at about 300. The eruption of Volcán de Fuego sent pyroclastic flows of red-hot rock, dust, lava and gas down the mountain's slopes at high speeds, engulfing nearby villages. So far, 110 bodies have been retrieved, with 197 people missing. More than 12,000 people have been evacuated, about 4,000 of whom are living in temporary shelters. There have been calls for President Morales to resign over his government's allegedly incompetent handling of the emergency and the failure of officials to heed warnings that a major eruption was imminent.

Panama City

Ex-president arrives home to face trial: On Monday, Panama's former president Ricardo Martinelli was sent home from the US to face trial, only to be hospitalised the next day suffering from hypertension, coronary artery disease and anxiety. A 66-year-old supermarket tycoon, Martinelli served as president from 2009 to 2014, and fled to the US in 2015, just days after Panama's supreme court began a corruption investigation into his time in office. He was arrested in Miami in June 2017, and Panama issued a formal request for him to be extradited. Martinelli is accused of using public funds to illegally spy on more than 150 political rivals during his time in office. He denies the charges and claims he is the victim of persecution by President Juan Carlos Varela – Martinelli's former deputy turned bitter political foe.

Ottawa

Senate votes to legalise pot: Canada's senate has voted in favour of legalising the production, distribution and sale of marijuana for recreational use – putting Canada on course to become only the second country in the world, after Uruguay, to pursue full legalisation. Marijuana for medicinal use is already legal. The bill was introduced by PM Justin Trudeau's Liberal government last year, but many had predicted it would fall foul of Conservative opponents in the senate. In the event, the upper chamber passed the bill by 56 votes to 30, but proposed a number of amendments, including tighter advertising restrictions and giving individual provinces the right to decide whether their citizens may grow cannabis at home. Some of these amendments were rejected by the government on Wednesday, creating uncertainty about when legal sales of the drug will begin.



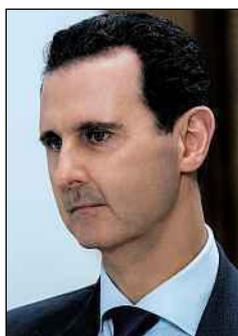
Delta Amacuro, Venezuela

Polio outbreak reported: Health workers in Venezuela have reported the first suspected cases of polio in the country since 1989 – and the first anywhere in the whole of the Americas this century. The non-governmental Venezuelan Society of Public Health has identified three suspected cases – all of them in children – in the northeastern state of Delta Amacuro, where, owing to the economic crisis, there has been no vaccination programme since 2016. Polio, which is usually transmitted via infected faecal matter, has been largely eradicated in recent decades; the Americas were declared polio-free in 1994. Venezuela has also suffered a surge in other diseases, including measles, diphtheria, tuberculosis and malaria.

Damascus

War over “within a year”:

Syria’s President Assad has predicted that the seven-year civil war in his country will be over in less than a year, and has vowed to take back “every inch” of territory. In an interview last weekend, Assad (pictured) also accused the UK, US and France of prolonging the war in the hope of “colonial” regime change. The UN has called for an inquiry into last week’s deadly air strikes on the rebel-held town of Zardana, in Idlib province, which killed at least 47 civilians. Russia has been blamed for the strikes.



Kabul

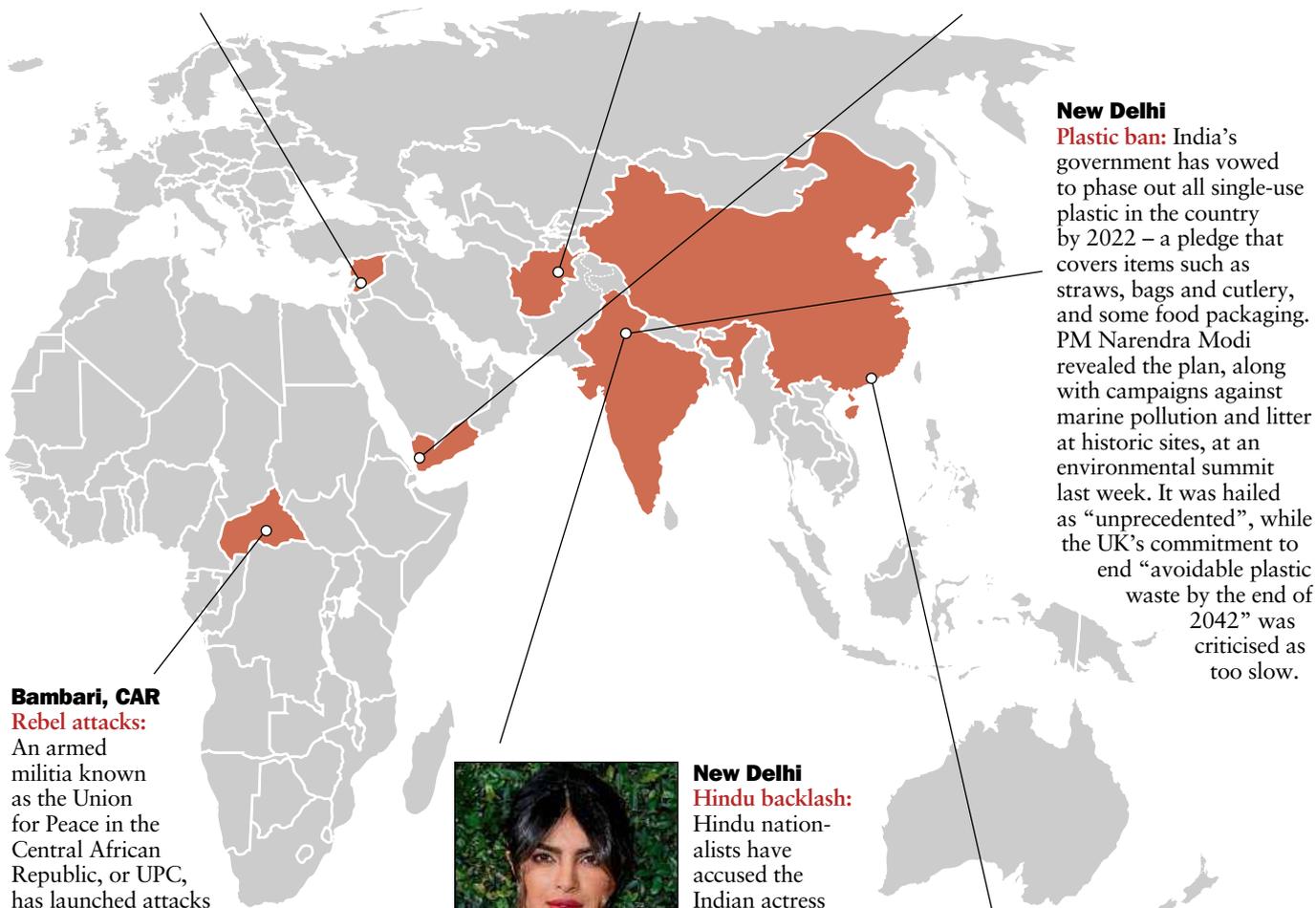
Taliban’s Eid ceasefire:

There were tentative hopes of a breakthrough in peace efforts in Afghanistan this week, after the Taliban announced a three-day cessation in its operations targeting Afghan forces, to coincide with the Eid al-Fitr religious holiday marking the end of Ramadan. If it goes ahead, the ceasefire, which the militants said would not apply to foreign forces, will be the first of its kind in the Taliban’s 17-year armed insurgency. In a statement, the group said that its commanders had also been instructed to release captives they were confident would not rejoin government forces. The move came after the Afghan government announced its own, unilateral, eight-day Eid ceasefire, which the US said it would respect; it applies only to the Taliban, and not to Islamic State or al-Qa’eda.

Hudaydah, Yemen

Port attack:

Saudi-backed forces began to attack the Yemeni port of Hudaydah this week, jeopardising vital deliveries of humanitarian aid. The port is the main entry point for aid to civilians in rebel-held areas and agencies warned that the assault could trigger a humanitarian catastrophe in an impoverished country already ravaged by three years of war. The conflict began in late 2014 when Houthi rebels, widely believed to be backed by Iran, captured much of the country, including the capital, Sana’a, and drove its president, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, into exile. Nine Sunni states, including Saudi Arabia, then launched a campaign to restore Hadi’s government. They claimed the rebels were using the port to smuggle weapons, and had set a deadline for their withdrawal, which expired at midnight on Tuesday.



New Delhi

Plastic ban: India’s government has vowed to phase out all single-use plastic in the country by 2022 – a pledge that covers items such as straws, bags and cutlery, and some food packaging. PM Narendra Modi revealed the plan, along with campaigns against marine pollution and litter at historic sites, at an environmental summit last week. It was hailed as “unprecedented”, while the UK’s commitment to end “avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042” was criticised as too slow.

Bambari, CAR

Rebel attacks:

An armed militia known as the Union for Peace in the Central African Republic, or UPC, has launched attacks on hospitals, aid workers and UN peacekeepers in Bambari in recent weeks, as part of a renewed effort to capture the strategically important town. Nine compounds housing aid workers were attacked and looted last month, and a UN peacekeeper from Burundi was killed in a gun battle last Sunday. Thousands of people have been killed in CAR since the current violence began in 2013; up to 80% of the country is under the control of armed groups. Both Séléka (a mostly Muslim coalition, of which the UPC is a splinter group) and the Anti-balaka (a mostly Christian militia) have been accused of committing grave atrocities.



New Delhi

Hindu backlash:

Hindu nationalists have accused the Indian actress Priyanka Chopra (left) of treachery, over an episode of her US TV series in which Hindu extremists plot to unleash

a terror attack in New York and frame Pakistan for it. As the main character in the series, *Quantico*, she thwarts the plot. Pictures of the actress were burnt at a protest in New Delhi last weekend, amid calls for her to be barred from India and “deported” to Pakistan. In response, Chopra said she was a “proud Indian” and apologised for any hurt caused.

Guangzhou, China

Sonic attacks: The US has issued an alert for travellers to China in response to alleged “sonic attacks” on US citizens. Last month, a worker at the US consulate in Guangzhou who had reported “abnormal sensations of sound and pressure” was found to have suffered mild brain trauma. The US state department has now withdrawn “a number of individuals” with similar symptoms, and warned US citizens to seek medical help if they experience unusual auditory phenomena. In 2017, there were fears that US citizens in Cuba were falling victim to sonic attacks.

A battle for gender

Leonne Zeegers recently won a landmark battle, becoming the first Dutch person to be legally recognised as gender neutral, says Nosheen Iqbal in *The Observer*. She was born in 1961 with male and female characteristics. Aged five, she wanted to be like her sisters – but rather than put her through surgery, her parents decided to bring her up as a boy. A star athlete, she competed as a man; she got married and fathered a son. In 2001, after a period of soul-searching, she had surgery and started living as a woman. But she still believed that she belonged in another category. “We don’t use that term [hermaphrodite] any more,” she says, “but we exist.” Zeegers, 57, reckons one in 1,000 babies are born like her. A few years ago, she began working in a bondage club, where she met several judges, and with their help she began building her legal case. “Sometimes I feel as a man, sometimes I feel as a woman,” she says. “Sometimes I don’t feel anything... Sex is between your legs, gender is your mind. The body is just a suitcase for carrying your gender.”

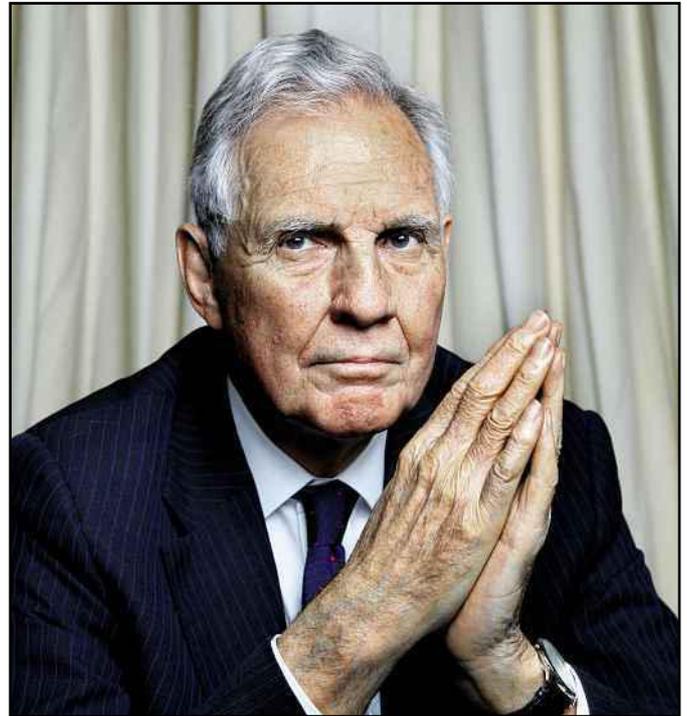
Judith Kerr’s positive spirit

Judith Kerr was nine years old when she fled Berlin in 1933. Now the writer and illustrator is 95, and she is still haunted by those times. One of her books is dedicated to the “one-and-a-half million Jewish children who didn’t have my luck, and all the pictures they might have painted”. Yet she

remains essentially positive, says Jessamy Calkin in *The Daily Telegraph*. It is, she thinks, characteristic of her generation. “During the Blitz I remember thinking, ‘I’m 17 and I’m never going to get any older. I’m never going to find out what sort of person I am, or the things I’m capable of’, but that didn’t happen. Hitler didn’t win the War, although at one point it looked as though he would. Then we were worried about nuclear war – but that didn’t happen. We have awful things on at the moment, of course... but on the whole, I’ve every reason to be an optimist. I managed to get to art school, which seemed very difficult at the time. Now I’m being paid for what I want to do. How lucky can you be?”

Two sides of Patti Smith

Patti Smith, 71, didn’t set out to be a rock star: she arrived in New York as a poet, says Chrissy Iley in *The Sunday Times*. “I began to perform, and because of my energy I just organically started merging rock ’n’ roll and poetry. I never expected to make a record. I thought I would go back and work in the bookstore.” She’d have been fine with that life: “Van Gogh was poor, Blake was poor. A certain amount of sacrifice was how it was meant to be.” Now, she gets booked into luxury hotels, which is nice. “But if it’s not cold or raining, I can sleep on a park bench. And that’s how I work. I can go in front of 100 people and do poetry, or 100,000 and rock ’n’ roll. Either one.”



As a child, Jonathan Aitken had severe TB and had to spend three years in an iron lung in a Dublin hospital. His saving grace was a nun, Mary Finbar, who cared for him and taught him to read. She told him: “You are being saved for some higher purpose.” It seems she was right, says Laura Pullman in *The Sunday Times*. Nearly 20 years after he was jailed for perjury, the former Tory MP is about to be ordained as a C of E minister and become a prison chaplain. He was in jail when he found God, and joined a prayer group cobbled together by an Irish burglar. “There was an armed robber, a blower (safe-cracker), a kiter (cheque forger), a couple of murderers and a dipper (pickpocket). His party trick was taking my watch off without me noticing. He was excellent at his art.” After his release he went to Wycliffe Hall, Oxford – “the only place in Britain that had worse food and plumbing than a prison” – to study theology, and might have become a monk had he not met his wife, Elizabeth. Now 82, and disabled by a brain haemorrhage, she is his “nearest, dearest and closest prayer partner”. Although no spring chicken himself at 75, he can’t wait to start his new job – but it will be gruelling. His day will begin with morning reports from the wings. “For example, it will be attempted suicide, a couple of self-harmers, someone that’s just had the news that his son’s died, and these are the guys who want to see a chaplain. It’s really pastoral ministry in the raw.”

Castaway of the week

This week’s edition of Radio 4’s Desert Island Discs featured cosmologist Carlos Frenk

- 1* *Der Hölle Rache* from *Die Zauberflöte* by Mozart, performed by Cornelius Meister with Anna Siminska and the Royal Opera House Orchestra and Choir
- 2 *El Son de la Negra*, traditional, performed by Mariachi el Zócalo
- 3 *Piano Concerto No. 20* by Mozart, performed by Enrique Barrios with Tere Frenk and the Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM
- 4 *Eleanor Rigby* by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, performed by The Beatles
- 5 *Gracias a la Vida* by Violeta Parra, performed by Mercedes Sosa
- 6 *Triple Concerto* by Beethoven, performed by Daniel Barenboim with Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman and the Berliner Philharmoniker
- 7 *Symphony No. 3* by Mendelssohn, performed by Joseph Swensen with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- 8 *Melodie* by Schumann, performed by Rico Gulda

Book: Complete works of Jorge Luis Borges

Luxury: planetarium

* Choice if allowed only one record

Viewpoint:**Class and food**

“The impenetrable confidence of the Eton/Oxford man is recognisable to any Yank who has met, say, a product of Groton/Yale. Equally familiar to me is the pride that comes with an English working-class background: the insistence that what is had, has been earned. In the UK as in the US, it is those in the middle who find themselves ill at ease. In recent years, it is the practice of the upper-middles in both countries to cement their belonging with an obsessive attention to food – demonstrating worldliness with exotic tastes and rejecting the processed foods the class priesthood has declared unclean.”

Robert Armstrong in the FT

Farewell

Anthony Bourdain, chef and author, died 8 June aged 61 (see page 35).

Maria Bueno, Brazilian tennis star with 19 Grand Slam wins, died 8 June, aged 78.

Eunice Gayson, the first Bond girl, died 8 June, aged 90.

Danny Kirwan, former Fleetwood Mac guitarist and songwriter, died 8 June, aged 68.

Jerry Maren, last of the actors who played a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*, died 24 May, aged 98.



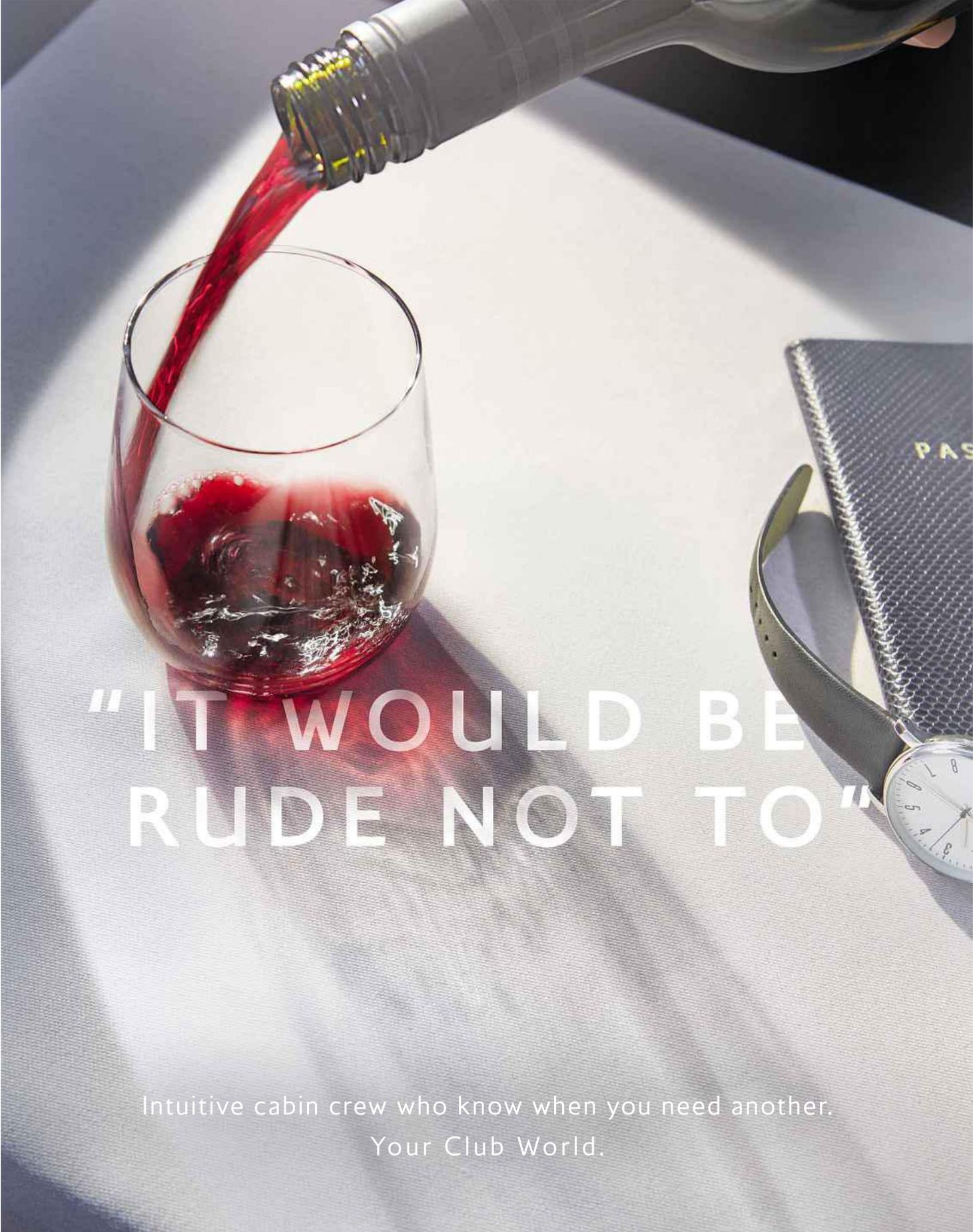
"FIVE MORE
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New bedding from The White Company,
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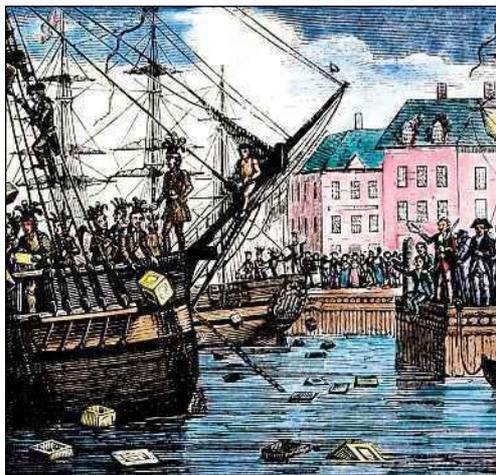
Currently rolling out on selected routes. Visit ba.com/yourclubworld for further details.

A rough guide to trade war

Donald Trump has taken aim at the idea of free trade, and fired the opening shots in what could be a global trade war

How old is the idea of free trade?

Not old at all. Until relatively recently, much of the world was in a continuous state of trade war. From the 16th century until the early 19th century, mercantilism was dominant in Europe. Mercantilist thinkers posited, roughly, that military power came from wealth, and that wealth could be accumulated by minimising imports and maximising exports, particularly of manufactured goods. To this end, most countries imposed high tariffs on foreign imports. It was a zero-sum view of the world: rival powers all tried to accumulate trade surpluses at once. It led to both real war and colonial expansion, as nations vied to control natural resources and captive markets for manufactured goods.



The Boston Tea Party 1778: a trade war turns violent

And how did that situation change?

The discipline of economics was invented essentially to challenge mercantilism. Adam Smith argued that nations got rich not by trying to accumulate surpluses, but by gains in productivity – which result from the division of labour, new technology and economies of scale. By allowing free trade, nations make citizens shift resources towards industries in which they have an advantage: crudely, Britain should produce its own wool, and buy France's wine. After years of debate, in 1846 MPs repealed the Corn Laws – which, at the behest of landlords, had imposed steep duties on grain imports – initiating the first era of free trade.

Has free trade made the world richer?

Yes, massively. In the past two hundred years, there has been at least a 800% increase in average income. Much of this is down to free trade: different nations giving up the attempt to be self-sufficient, buying from others what they need and specialising in what they do best. Economists have often been accused of failing to reach clear conclusions, but they very consistently assert that free trade is almost always good for any economy – as a whole. It can, though, be very bad for owners and workers that lose out to global competition. Hence, as Thomas Babington Macaulay put it: "Free trade, one of the greatest blessings which a government can confer on a people, is in almost every country unpopular."

Why is it so unpopular?

It is counter-intuitive. In the words of Abraham Lincoln: "I don't know much about the tariff, but I do know if I buy a coat in America, I have a coat and America has the money – if I buy a coat in England, I have the coat and England has the money." In rich countries, people fear being undercut by cheaper foreign workers. In poor countries, they fear being out-competed by better technology. Free trade also offers "dispersed gains" and "concentrated losses". Letting in more cheap Chinese steel to the UK, for instance, would make many groups, from carmakers to consumers, better off. But a small number of steel workers would lose their jobs. Threatened producers and workers tend to be well organised and good at exerting political pressure.

So how did free trade advance?

Broadly, free trade has been pushed by dominant manufacturing powers that thought they could benefit from it: first Britain, then the US. (Hence Karl Marx called it "naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation".) The first era of free trade came to an end when, after the shock of the 1929 crash, US farmers and industry demanded protection. The US, always a reluctant free-trader, passed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in 1930, pushing the average tariffs on goods from roughly 25% to about 50%. Other countries retaliated and world trade crumbled. Economists disagree over the exact damage done, but between 1929 and 1933, US exports crashed from \$5.2bn to \$1.7bn, and most think this deepened the Depression.

And when did progress resume?

In 1947, the US and its allies established the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), instituting quotas and other barriers to trade in a series of elaborate horse-trading negotiations ("rounds"), during which nations mutually dropped tariffs. GATT and its successor, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), have succeeded in bringing tariffs down across most of the world – essentially ushering in true globalisation. In addition, most developed nations belong to regional free-trade areas, such as the EU, Nafta in North America and Mercosur in South America.

How free is world trade today?

Not that free. The WTO system allows national governments to suspend normal rules so as to protect their economies in certain cases: market disruption (a sudden surge of imports), national security (a rationale shamelessly exploited by Donald Trump), unfair practices (where other nations' exports are subsidised) and dumping (where firms export goods below cost to drive foreign competitors out of business). Agriculture remains subsidised and protected in much of the world, to preserve farming communities. Generally, there are so many ways of affecting free trade that low-level trade wars are constantly erupting.

Trump: a latter-day mercantilist

There's no doubt that President Trump's "America first" economic policies are popular, particularly in the rust belt: the US lost a million manufacturing jobs to Chinese competition between 1999 and 2011. But his policies fly in the face of centuries of economic orthodoxy. Like an 18th century mercantilist, he thinks exports are good and imports are bad. He sees only winners and losers in world trade; the winner being the nation that is left with the biggest trade surplus.

Last month, he imposed tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminium not only on China, long accused of unfairly subsidising its metal industry, but also the EU, Mexico and Canada. This measure will raise some tax and protect a small number of jobs. But far more significantly, it will penalise consumers and the industries that rely on steel imports. Even mercantilists knew that if you were using tariffs to boost the trade surplus, you should tax imports of finished goods, not raw materials, said Catherine Rampell in *The Washington Post*. Trump is a man who "can't even manage to get his guiding economic anachronism right". The wily EU, by contrast, has threatened tariffs on Kentucky bourbon and Harley-Davidson, to do the maximum economic and political damage.

Are Trump's grievances fair?

Yes and no. Some argue that the whole "free trade" system is biased against America. Certainly, China uses a whole range of techniques to keep its markets closed and its exports cheap. And WTO figures suggest that average US tariffs are 2.4%, lower than the EU (3%) and Canada (3.1%). But tariffs are only one part of the free-trade system. Taking into account non-tariff barriers such as safety regulations and other bureaucratic hurdles, the World Economic Forum found in 2016 that the US was only the world's 22nd most open economy (Singapore was first; Britain and Germany were eighth and ninth). In a sense, though, Trump's position (see box) is nothing new. Washington, like most governments, supports free trade as long as it clearly benefits. When threatened, it tends to retreat into protectionism.

Cheats prosper because we want them to

Matthew Syed

The Times

Diving. Elbowing opponents in the face. Modern footballers are a terrible bunch of thugs and cheats, says Matthew Syed. But this isn't down to oafish dressing room culture or overly lenient officials. No – it's down to us, the fans. In theory we deplore bad sportsmanship. In practice we condemn it only when it's done by the other side. Diego "Hand of God" Maradona may be reviled in England for using his hand to score a goal in the 1986 World Cup, but in Argentina he's a winner not a cheat. Real Madrid fans idolise Sergio Ramos, not despite but because of the brutal tactics that have caused him to be sent off more times than any other player in the history of La Liga. If players knew that they'd be booed by their own fans if they went down in the penalty box, or deliberately fouled an opponent, they'd stop soon enough. But the deep-rooted tribalism of football culture ensures that a player's popularity isn't hurt – and may even be enhanced – by breaking the rules. If we fans really want more honesty and probity in football, we first need to address our own hypocrisy.

High street shoppers aren't being served

Joely Chilcott

The Sun

It's carnage on Britain's high streets, says Joely Chilcott. Sales are down 2.2% on last year. House of Fraser is to close 31 of its 59 stores, M&S a hundred of its own. Retailers blame the meltdown on everything from the internet to rising business rates. Yet it's largely their own fault. The department store, once "the heart of the town", is now a "sign of stagnation". The very concept feels outdated: who today has the time or patience "to stand at the escalators of a vast building, reading a sign the size of a house" to see whether you need floor four or floor five? A good in-store experience can deter people from shopping online, but who wants "to spend hours in neon-lit, beige-walled warehouses soundtracked by dull muzak"? A few stores, like H&M, have innovated by getting a designer to create ranges that persuade us we can bag high-end products at high street prices. Yet most stores desperately need to rebrand: to introduce pop-up shops, say, and fresh decor, and a rapid turnover of new designs. I hate to say it, but until then, Grace Brothers, "Amazon has you outgunned".

Don't blame Oxbridge for society's flaws

Munira Mirza

The Sunday Telegraph

A disproportionate number of those dying in A&E wards from knife wounds are young black men, and if NHS hospitals don't correct this disparity they may be fined. That would be a truly perverse threat to make, says Munira Mirza, yet it's more or less the threat Universities Minister Sam Gyimah directed at Oxford and Cambridge last week for their "staggering" failure to admit more black students. True, only 1.9% of UK students admitted to Oxford in 2017 were black, even though black people make up 3% of the population. But equally true, the number who applied was tiny; black students tend to choose the most competitive courses; and a higher percentage than in other ethnic groups miss the grades contingent on the offer of a place. Is that the fault of the universities? Are they to blame for the poor schooling, economic hardships and cultural barriers that result in fewer black pupils making the cut? In the cynical political game of pass the "hot potato", politicians prefer to blame the institution that ends up recording the result of these inequalities. Is it so hard to grasp that unequal outcomes are not ipso facto proof of discrimination?

There's gold in displays of virtue

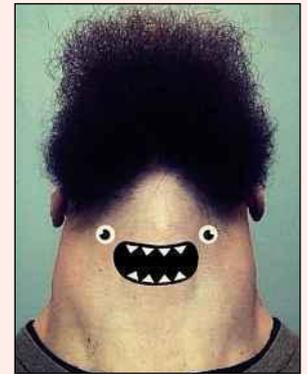
Catherine Bennett

The Observer

A bleeding heart is good for business. That's what the high street cosmetics company Lush has found, says Catherine Bennett. In 2017 it achieved a record turnover of £995m, thanks to its shop window campaigns evincing concern over badger culls, plastic dumping, the plight of Palestinians and a host of other causes. It has even taken to selling perfumed "bath bombs" with a message: a trans activist pink and blue "Inner Truth Bath Melt"; an orange "Guantanamo Garden" that contained images of two detainees listing how long they'd been in jail. It has as a result won a haul of "ethical awards". True, it's now had to remove its "#spycops" posters highlighting the misconduct of undercover police, but it has gained extra kudos in doing so by claiming its staff had been intimidated by ex-cops. However, Lush is noticeably selective in its virtue signalling: it has said nothing about Donald Trump's tax reforms, which don't help the poor but do help its profits; and nothing (with its three shops in Russia) about Vladimir Putin's excesses. If you want to know what Lush really cares about, don't gaze at its shop windows – look inside its annual financial report.

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

A city in China is tackling the menace of "smart-phone zombies", or phubbers, by giving them their own walkway. The 100-metre lane runs in front of a shopping centre in Xi'an, where pedestrians glued to phones were deemed at risk from traffic. While some locals said the move put their "minds at rest", social media users pointed out that the phubbers on the walkway may now be at a greater risk of bumping into each other.



Hirsute men are putting their beards to novel use. Photographs of men with their heads thrown right back so that their beards look like a shock of hair – some complete the effect by drawing faces on their necks – are being shared using the hashtag #beardsfrombelow. It started in 2016, but a more recent image of four especially good examples has been retweeted 46,000 times.

A US state department official was mocked for her poor grasp of history last week, when she brought up the Second World War to emphasise Washington's long, healthy relationship with Berlin. "Tomorrow is the anniversary of the D-Day invasion. We obviously have a very long history... and a strong relationship with the government of Germany," said Heather Nauert. Elsewhere, Donald Trump said he was "very seriously" considering pardoning the late Muhammad Ali, only to be told this was "unnecessary". Ali's conviction for evading the military draft was overturned in 1971.

How many troops do we need in Korea?

Hal Brands

Bloomberg

The Trump presidency has thrown into question many issues that the foreign policy establishment has long considered settled, says Hal Brands. One such is the US troop presence in South Korea. Trump has asked whether the US really needs to station 28,000 troops there and is considering using the presence as a bargaining chip in negotiations with North Korea. This has alarmed experts, who have cited it as another example of his “geopolitical recklessness”. But Trump isn’t the first president to address this. Jimmy Carter tried to withdraw US forces from the country altogether, and the size of the garrison has waned over time, down from 70,000 US troops in the 1950s. The deployment does serve a crucial deterrent function, but there shouldn’t be “anything sacrosanct about the current number”. When a French general was asked, long ago, how many Englishmen it would take to defend France, he replied: “One single private soldier, and we would take good care that he was killed.” The idea was that a single casualty would be enough to bring an outraged Britain to its ally’s defence. One US soldier in South Korea wouldn’t suffice. “But whether the right number is 28,000 or 18,000 or 38,000 can be profitably reconsidered from time to time.”

Does Melania simply want to be left alone?

Lena Felton and Taylor Hosking

The Atlantic

Where is Melania Trump? That question has cropped up a lot lately, say Lena Felton and Taylor Hosking, owing to the first lady’s recent 24-day absence from the public eye. The hiatus was partly explained by Trump having surgery for what was described as a benign kidney condition, but it’s part of a pattern of behaviour by the first lady, whose appearances have been “few and far between”. In her first year in the role, she has delivered eight speeches, compared with Michelle Obama’s 75. Pundits have come up with many theories to explain her low profile, but the most likely one is that, like some of her predecessors, she “simply wants to be left alone”. The best comparison may be with Bess Truman, who, like Trump, followed a popular, active predecessor – whereas Eleanor Roosevelt gave regular press conferences, Truman gave only one. “I am not the one who is elected,” she said. “I have nothing to say to the public.” Can Trump afford to adopt a similar approach? “Or have the expectations of the first lady grown into something so immutable as to render any deviation from recent precedent a failure?”



The first lady: a victim of heightened expectations

Obama’s grievance with America

Matthew Continetti

The Washington Free Beacon

America has “let Barack Obama down”, says Matthew Continetti. In a new memoir, former White House aide Ben Rhodes describes how President Obama veered between bouts of anger, self-doubt and resignation after Donald Trump’s shocking election victory. Rhodes recalls his boss asking aloud, “What if we were wrong?”, and adding: “Maybe people just want to fall back into their tribe.” It was, of course, precisely this smug condescension towards the ignorant folk of flyover country that helped fuel the conservative populism that Trump rode to the White House. Obama was wrong about a lot of things, like ramming an unpopular healthcare bill through Congress, ceding Syria to Russia and muscling Joe Biden out of the way so that Hillary Clinton could run for president. Rhodes quotes Obama as musing, “Sometimes I wonder whether I was ten or 20 years too early”. If he means too early to fundamentally transform America, then yes, he probably was, given that half the country didn’t agree with him. Poor Obama. A “paradigmatic liberal”, he was certain that progress towards his preferred policies was inevitable and irreversible. At least he can take comfort in telling himself he was simply “too enlightened, sophisticated and mature for his time”.

Why Google said no to the Pentagon

Earlier this year, Google CEO Sundar Pichai declared that artificial intelligence was going to have a more profound impact on the world than electricity or fire, said Tom Simonite in *Wired*. But last week, he promised that there would be one area in which Google would refrain from unleashing its vast potential: weaponry. Last year, the company appeared to go down this route by entering into its first major AI contract with the Pentagon. Project Maven, as it is known, uses machine learning to interpret video images from drones. But Google has now declared that it won’t renew the Maven contract when it expires next year, and will eschew any “technologies that cause or are likely to cause overall harm”.

This about-turn is not the result of an epiphany on Pichai’s part, said Ben Tarnoff in *Jacobin*. It’s the result of pressure from his own staff, thousands of whom protested against Project Maven. They weren’t won over by claims that this was a one-off project, initially said to be worth \$9m, with “strictly non-offensive purposes”. They rightly saw it as an “audition” for a much deeper collaboration with the Pentagon. It was part of Google’s push to win the \$10bn Joint Enterprise Defence Infrastructure (Jedi) contract. Described by some as

potentially the largest IT procurement project in history, Jedi is designed to set up a cloud computing system that can “network American forces all over the world and integrate them with AI”. Thankfully, tech workers have become “politicised” in the Trump era. They protested in 2016 against the idea of a “Muslim” database, and they’re equally horrified by the idea of autonomous weapons. As one Google employee declared in an internal Q&A session: “Hey, I left the defence department so I wouldn’t have to work on this kind of stuff.” The end of Project Maven is “a big win against US militarism”.

On the contrary, said Marc Thiessen in *The Washington Post*, “Google should be ashamed”. Do these people think the US military is “evil”? They fear Project Maven will make drone strikes more accurate, but if that means fewer innocent people are killed, it’s surely a good thing. Google has the Pentagon to thank for the peace and security America enjoys (and indeed, for much of the technological innovation that produced the internet). Yet now its staff want to deny the Pentagon the help that China’s military is receiving from Chinese tech companies – just so that they can sleep easily “in their Google ‘nap pods’, enjoy free massages and take free guitar lessons”.

China struggles to tame its “renegade province”

Fears of war on the Korean peninsula may be receding, said Jürgen Hanefeld on [Deutschlandfunk \(Berlin\)](#), but we must start worrying about a possible conflagration over Taiwan. China’s communist regime has viewed the island as a “renegade province” ever since 1947, when defeated nationalist forces made it their last stronghold. When the Taiwanese elected the leader of the fiercely anti-Beijing Democratic Progressive Party, Tsai Ing-wen, as their president two years ago, Beijing began stepping up its campaign of “intimidation”. China’s President Xi has declared that regaining Taiwan will be a priority for his second term. Chinese warships and fighter jets have been patrolling menacingly around it, and Beijing has been putting pressure on Taiwan’s few remaining diplomatic allies to cut relations. Last month, both the Dominican Republic and Burkina Faso switched allegiances to Beijing.

Foreign businesses are also feeling the heat, said the [South China Morning Post \(Hong Kong\)](#). Ordered by Beijing to cease referring to Taiwan as a “country”, global airlines and multinationals have rushed to comply, fearful of their business in China being crippled. Their websites now refer to “Taiwan, China”. Some firms, including Delta Air Lines and Marriott, have actually apologised for causing “emotional damage to the



President Tsai: “taking no chances”

Chinese people”. Clothes retailer Gap was forced to say sorry for having sold T-shirts that pictured a map of China without Taiwan, and pulled the offending items from stores around China. Taiwan has diplomatic relations with just 18 countries, and at this rate it will soon be none, said Yu Ning in the [Global Times \(Beijing\)](#). President Tsai is now playing the victim and fanning “anti-mainland sentiments” in a “final desperate plunge” to win over the public. So we must keep up the pressure and be prepared to reunify the island by force if peaceful efforts fail.

It would be wise to take Beijing’s threats seriously, said Tom Cheshire on [Sky News](#): an attempt at military takeover is not as unlikely as many believe. Certainly Tsai is taking no chances. She has ordered the army to conduct frequent drills; civilian groups are also taking part, and warning sirens have been heard in the cities. Beijing’s psychological pressure is unlikely to bear fruit, said Michal Thim in the [South China Morning Post](#). Under international law, lack of diplomatic recognition does not undermine a territory’s claim to statehood; in any case, it’s not as if the likes of Burkina Faso are Taiwan’s lifeline to the outside world. What counts is Taiwan’s enduring relationships with the US, Europe and Japan. It can undoubtedly count on these if China did seriously threaten its security.

FRANCE

It’s right to let this killer keep singing

L’Obs
(Paris)

Should a rock artist jailed for beating his girlfriend to death be allowed to perform in public again? That question has divided France, says Dominique Nora. In 2004, Bertrand Cantat was found guilty of killing, with indirect intent, the actress Marie Trintignant, after he beat her in a jealous rage. Released in 2007, after serving half of an eight-year sentence, he has been making records ever since, performing to acclaim from his fans, while being hounded by outraged activists spraying fake blood outside his concerts. But in the wake of #MeToo, a new twist has been added to the saga. Police, who decided not to press charges at the time, have reopened an investigation into the death of his ex-wife Krisztina Rády, who killed herself in 2010. Her friends have maintained that psychological pressure from Cantat drove her to it. So should he be allowed to carry on with his career? Indeed, he should. He may be a toxic personality, who “sows misfortune all around him”. But he has a perfect legal right to do so, and the #MeToo “tsunami” should not shake the rule of law. Nor should it hinder freedom of expression. Artists cannot be held to higher standards than the rest of us. If we expunged the work of “misogynists, homophobes, alcoholics and lunatics”, we’d have little culture left.

GERMANY

You’re roiling us, Mister Ambassador

Tagesschau.de
(Hamburg)

Germans are wearily resigned to Donald Trump’s taboo-breaking antics, but foisting an ambassador on us who behaves the same way is too much, says Daniel Pokraka. Trump selected Richard Grenell for the job last year, but Democrats, dismayed by Grenell’s dire record of misogynist statements, held up his nomination until April. But now he’s here and he’d no sooner got off the plane than he was tweeting an absurd demand for Germany to cease all business transactions with Iran. He followed that with an interview with the far-right news website Breitbart, in which he proclaimed his desire to help European conservatives. By this he didn’t mean Angela Merkel’s CDU: he was clearly referring to the extremist Alternative for Germany. Ambassadors are meant to avoid partisan political activity and many German politicians, furious at the breach of protocol, want him sent back. Yet all the foreign ministry has done is ask for “clarification”. This is pussyfooting: people like Trump and Grenell only respect people who talk tough. At the next provocation by Grenell, which is bound to be soon, the ministry should give him the dressing down he deserves.

AUSTRIA

Putin gives a virtuoso piano performance

Der Standard
(Vienna)

In Soviet times, Russian leaders accused of wrongdoing would usually respond with vague bluster and unconvincing denials. Not any longer, says Hans Rauscher. Vladimir Putin was in Vienna last week, confident of a royal welcome from a government that now includes far-right populists. The only awkward moments came in an interview aired on Austrian state TV, in which he faced tough questions from veteran journalist Armin Wolf. But Putin pushed back on every front: the Malaysian passenger plane shot down by a Russian rocket; annexing Crimea; covert warfare in eastern Ukraine; domestic repression – on each he offered arguments that actually seemed plausible and only revealed themselves as baseless on subsequent reflection. It was a masterclass in “planting confusion and doubt”. Visibly irritated by Wolf’s frequent interruptions, Putin adopted an ironic expression that told the world: “See how liberal I am to put up with this nonsense. We Russians are superior to you naive and weak Westerners, but I’ve no problem taking part in your amusing little interview.” One hates to admit it, but Putin can play Western public opinion “like a piano”.

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Investments

What the scientists are saying...

Universal cancer screening

A simple blood test that can detect ten types of cancer could herald a new era of “universal screening”, reports The Guardian. Known as a “liquid biopsy”, the test works by detecting tiny bits of DNA released by cancer cells into the blood. In a proof-of-concept trial involving more than 1,600 people, 878 of whom were newly diagnosed with cancer, it identified ovarian cancer with 90% accuracy, and cancers of the liver and pancreas with 80% accuracy. Presenting the findings at the conference of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago, Dr Eric Klein, from Cleveland Clinic’s Taussig Cancer Institute, predicted that the test would save many lives. “This is potentially the holy grail of cancer research, to find cancers that are currently hard to cure at an earlier stage when they are easier to cure.” However, it will take years of trials before the test is ready for general use. In any case, further refinement is needed, because the biopsy was less successful at identifying other cancers such as lymphoma, myeloma and bowel cancer.

Regenerating enamel

Tooth enamel is a remarkable substance: the hardest material in the body, it is resistant to heat, cold and acid, and can last for years – but it has a flaw, says The Times: unlike other tissues, it can’t regenerate. When this protective coating is lost, as a result of decay or injury, the best dentists can do is apply a filling or extract the tooth. However, British scientists say they have developed a means of regrowing tooth enamel, or something very like it. Enamel forms early in our development, when a matrix made from proteins encourages minerals to crystallise. Based on this, the researchers developed a protein



Is a large brood bad for your health?

matrix that can pull minerals out of saliva to grow a crystallised material very like enamel. They now want to apply it to real teeth, to see if it will bond there – allowing cavities to be filled permanently. “We envisage a thin bandage, a few microns in thickness, that you can position on top of the tooth in areas that are problematic,” said Dr Alvaro Mata, of Queen Mary University of London. “Then it will use the saliva, and in time we will have this regeneration taking place.”

Marshmallow test revisited

The famous “marshmallow test” – a supposed predictor of a child’s future successes – has been undermined by a new study. Devised in the 1960s by Stanford University psychologist Walter Mischel, the experiment involved giving 90 preschool children the option of eating one marshmallow there and then, or receiving two if they waited for 15 minutes. When

Mischel followed the children up in their late teens, he discovered that those who’d waited were more likely to exhibit a range of desirable traits, including emotional robustness and high SAT scores. As a result, the idea took hold that the ability to defer gratification aged about four is a key indicator of future promise. But when a team of US researchers replicated the trial with more than 900 children, and included factors such as parental income when analysing the results, they found far less evidence to suggest that an early ability to delay gratification brings benefits in later life. Among the offspring of women with college degrees, for example, the children who were patient did no better in the long term than those who tucked into the first marshmallow. They argue that children’s capacity to hold out for bigger rewards is shaped by their socio-economic background, and it is that – and not being patient – that makes the difference to their future outcomes.

More children, more heart risk

Bringing up a large family is more than just hard work: if you’re a woman, it could seriously affect your health. A University of Cambridge-led study, which looked at data on more than 8,000 American women, found that a woman’s risk of heart attack, stroke and heart failure all increase in line with how many children she has. Over a 30-year period, women with five or more children had a 40% greater risk of a serious heart attack than those with only one or two, a 30% increased risk of heart disease and a 25% increased risk of stroke. The study attributes this not only to pregnancies and childbirth putting a strain on the heart, but also to women with large families having fewer opportunities for self-care.

Pompeii evacuee loses his head

Almost 2,000 years after it was buried in volcanic ash, the Roman city of Pompeii is still giving up its secrets: last month, archaeologists dug up one of its human victims – a man who appears to have survived the eruption of Mount Vesuvius (his skeleton was lying on top of ejected rocks) only to be crushed by a huge stone as he fled. The man, who was at least 30 years old, had an infection in his leg that may have slowed his escape, and was carrying a pouch stuffed with bronze and silver coins worth about £450 in today’s money.



The archaeologists conducting the dig, near a newly discovered alley of balconied houses, speculate that he was a merchant, trying to get out with money to support himself or his family. “He wasn’t filthy rich, but neither was he poor,” said Massimo Osanna, the site’s general director. His headless body was found under the stone, which may have decapitated him. However, the archaeologists suspect that he was killed not by the stone, which was possibly a doorjamb that was thrown into the air by the volcanic cloud (a surging current of hot air and fragments), but by the cloud itself, which threw him backwards as he turned to look at it.

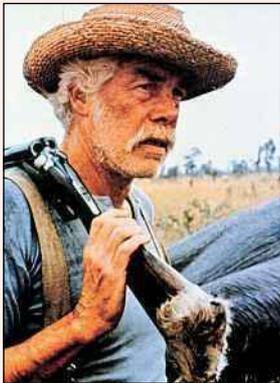
Worrying rise in STDs

Diagnoses of syphilis and gonorrhoea both leapt by 20% last year, rising to levels not seen for decades, says the Daily Mail. Figures released by Public Health England (PHE) show that there were 44,676 cases of gonorrhoea, up 22% from the previous year, and 7,137 cases of syphilis – the highest since 1949 and an increase of 148% compared with a decade ago. The rise in gonorrhoea was especially worrying, PHE said, given the recent emergence of an antibiotic-resistant strain of the disease. The reason for the spikes is not clear, but experts pointed to cuts to sexual health services as well as evidence of more risky sexual behaviour, especially among gay men. Overall, however, the number of cases of STDs in England remained stable, at 422,147, with the rises in syphilis and gonorrhoea being balanced out by a decrease in other infections, including genital warts.

Pick of the week's

Gossip

Both on screen and in real life, **Lee Marvin** (pictured) excelled in the role of an alcoholic hellraiser. However, when he appeared in the film of **Wilbur Smith's** *Shout at the Devil*, he astonished the cast and crew with his gentle pacifying of a baby. The child had been crying frantically, but was no sooner in Marvin's arms than it fell asleep. According to Smith, it took a while for everyone to work out what had happened: "Lee had breathed vodka fumes all over the boy, stupefying him instantly."

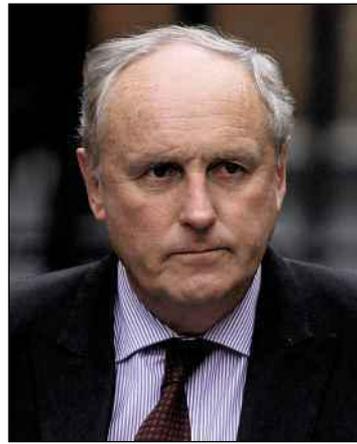


With **Debbie Reynolds** and the singer **Eddie Fisher** for parents, **Todd Fisher** had a wild Hollywood upbringing. Among his pets was an alligator; when it became too big, it was secretly released onto a local golf course. He was also allowed real guns and explosives, so that he and his friends could make home movies with convincing battle scenes. When he accidentally shot himself in the leg with a blank, his sister **Carrie** decided to make mischief. "Todd wouldn't brush his teeth," she told reporters, "so Mum shot him."

Bruce Forsyth had a favourite story about taking a London taxi with a friend, according to *The Times*. When the driver remarked that he looked like someone famous, Forsyth revealed his identity – but the man was unconvinced. "If you're Bruce Forsyth," he said, "I'm James Bond." At which point his other passenger, **Roger Moore**, intervened: "No," he said, "I'm James Bond."

The Daily Mail: will it get cuddlier?

"One of the last big beasts of Fleet Street" is departing, said Les Hinton in *The Sunday Times*. After 26 years at the helm of the Daily Mail, Paul Dacre announced last week that he will step down from his front-line role later this year to become chairman and editor-in-chief of the Mail's parent company, DMG Media. Few editors have had as much power, or a reputation as fearsome, as Dacre. An irascible manager given to expletive-filled rants – morning news conferences during his editorship became known as the "vagina monologues" – he has ruled his paper for the past quarter-century with "passion and fearlessness". You may object to the political positions the paper has adopted during his tenure; you may argue that it has indulged in irresponsible Brussels-bashing, belittled women or harked back to reactionary, 1950s values. But what you can't dispute is the newspaper's "technical brilliance", or the fact that Dacre "kept millions of readers happy".



Dacre: a "bogyman" for the Left

Dacre has certainly run a tight ship, said Roy Greenslade in *The Guardian*. And some of the Mail's campaigns, such as its fight for justice on behalf of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence, have been superb examples of journalism (it helps that Dacre had "at his

disposal the largest journalistic staff in national newspapers and a budget that makes rival editors' eyes water"). But none of this really compensates for all the years in which Dacre has shamelessly pandered to readers' worst instincts, reinforcing prejudices at every turn. Dacre has been a "poisoner of the national psyche", agreed Polly Toynbee in the same paper – the country's "bully-in-chief".

For many on the Left, Dacre has become "a bogeyman: a shadowy figure of malign intent who forces his audience to think like him", said Will Gore in *The Independent*. That's a mistaken, and highly patronising, view. Dacre hasn't been imposing his attitudes on gullible readers. Rather, his great skill has been instinctively understanding their existing concerns and reflecting these back to them. Some people appear to believe that Dacre almost single-handedly took Britain out of the EU. They're now celebrating his departure and hoping that the Brexit debate will change under his successor, Geordie Greig, the Remain-supporting editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, who is more aligned with the liberal Tory wing. They could be in for a disappointment. Dacre's departure "might (but only might) make the Daily Mail a moderately cuddlier beast, but you wouldn't bet your house on it".

Arron Banks: Bad Boy or Russian dupe?

We know he's a "bad boy", said *The Sunday Times*. He styles himself as such. And we know Arron Banks, the millionaire Brexit campaign donor, met Russian officials before the EU referendum: he described a "boozy lunch" at the embassy in 2015 in his buccaneering memoir, *The Bad Boys of Brexit*. But it seems Banks's links with the Kremlin were more extensive than previously disclosed. Emails obtained by *The Sunday Times* show that Banks, and his fellow Leaver Andy Wigmore, met the ambassador, Alexander Yakovenko, three times (with one of those meetings taking place only days after they returned from visiting Donald Trump in New York); that they discussed a business proposal involving gold mines in Siberia; and that they gave the Russians phone numbers for members of Trump's transition team. Banks denies that he either conspired with the Kremlin or profited from his meetings with the Russians. When a Commons committee asked him this week what he had hoped to gain, he replied: "A good lunch, and that's what I got." He also denied reports that he'd visited Moscow in 2016, as the referendum campaign raged. But the news is sure to spark further questions about Russia's interference in the campaign.

It's nearly two years since the Brexit vote, said Matthew d'Ancona in *The Guardian*. Many

voters may be so weary of the endless and apparently fruitless negotiation, they're past caring about the minutiae of a campaign fought and won so long ago: they just want the Government to get on with it. But they should care, because this isn't only about the Brexit vote; it's also about how a group of right-wing chauvinists allowed themselves – wittingly or otherwise – to be played by a corrosive regime, with barely a thought, it seems, for national security or Britain's long-term interests.

Russia exploits our greed and complacency, said Edward Lucas in *The Sunday Times*: states in the former Soviet bloc are familiar with Russian meddling and have got better at dealing with it. In Berlin, Washington and London, we're still getting used to the idea that the Kremlin is back to its old tricks. Its tactics include spreading propaganda and fake news to sow fear (across the West, anti-Americanism plays well on the Left, while "appeals to national sovereignty and to anti-migrant sentiment work on the Right"); covert political donations; sponsoring think tanks; and putting retired politicians on the payroll (an egregious example being Gerhard Schröder, the former German chancellor, who sits on the board of a Russian gas pipeline). It's a shape-shifting threat and we need to find a joined-up response to it.

Moped crime: the new scourge of our cities

“Ah, the famous sights of London,” said Clare Foges in *The Sun*: black cabs, double decker buses – and “thugs” on mopeds spreading fear and mayhem. Earlier this month, the comedian Michael McIntyre became the most high-profile victim to date of this new crime wave, when two men smashed the windows of his Range Rover with hammers and threatened him.



A hammer-wielding gang near Marylebone

Around the same time, footage emerged of moped riders pulling up alongside a car stuck in traffic on the North Circular road and jumping onto its bonnet, before terrorising its driver with a knife. In both cases, they got away with valuable watches. Elsewhere, people have been shot, stabbed, sprayed with acid and dragged along the ground. A jewellery shop in Regent Street has been raided twice this year, and two days before the Boat Race, a moped gang stopped the rush-hour traffic on Putney Bridge and attempted to cut down a BBC camera trained on the River Thames (succeeding later at Barnes Bridge). Last year, there were 23,000 recorded moped crimes in London – 63 a day on average and a 187.5% rise on the previous year.

It’s not just a London problem: police in other cities have reported a rise in “moped-enabled crime”, and knife crime generally has risen 22% in a year in England and Wales,

said Hamish McRae in *The Independent*. Possible explanations include cuts in police numbers, cash flowing to drug gangs owing to cocaine’s growing popularity, and people carrying expensive phones creating rich pickings for thieves. But it’s too soon to panic about a lawless Britain: violent crime in the long term is falling, and this “wave” will retreat as police develop counter strategies.

New technology would help. London is littered with cameras (some 500,000 of them), said Harry de Quetteville in *The Daily Telegraph*, but police struggle to process all the data – and it tends to be after the event: on the street, they’re mainly still reliant on radios and it can take half an hour just to do a criminal record check. By contrast, in New York beat cops get data in real time – from CCTV, number plate readers, chemical sensors, even microphones that “hear” gunshots – via mobile devices. Here, cheaper strategies are being developed or considered, said *The Guardian*, including the use of tyre-bursting spikes and reforms to protect police from prosecution if they crash while chasing mopeds. But ultimately, successful policing requires painstaking effort, and that costs money: if the new crackdown on moped crime is to work, our forces need to be properly resourced.

Love Island: “porn without the porn”

“It is a truth universally acknowledged that trashy television has to be artificially elevated before it can be acceptably consumed in Britain,” said Stig Abell in *The Sunday Times*. I’ve heard *Love Island*, reality TV’s annual summer hit, referred to as everything from “a bit like Jane Austen” to “Shakespeare in swimwear”. And while these lofty comparisons are a bit of a stretch – the show’s banality is hard to overstate – there must be a reason that three million “presumably sentient” people tuned in to watch its opening night, setting a record for ITV2. That’s not to mention the fact that 85,000 people applied to be contestants this year, more than twice as many as applied to Oxbridge.



Hayley: concerned about Brexit

Love Island is “the horribly unforgiving swipe-left culture of online dating made flesh”, said Gaby Hinsliff in *The Guardian*. It opens with the men being paraded “like beefy show ponies” in front of the women, who step forward if they fancy one of them. If the feeling is mutual, they become an instant “couple” (though the intrigue of the show lies in the constant “recoupling”). But it’s fair to say

that the #MeToo memo hasn’t yet reached the island, said Tanya Gold in *The Daily Telegraph*. In the first week, the women donned skimpy superhero outfits for a task entitled “Girl Power”, which involved them trying to squash melons using their bums.

“It’s porn without the porn,” said Hugo Rifkind in *The Times*. “It’s the absolute joy of getting a bunch of horrendously beautiful people and putting them in an

environment that is not so much sexually charged, but utterly decharged of anything else.” The contestants have to pair up – if they don’t, they get booted off – and we get to know them as we watch them attempt to speak about their thoughts and feelings. There’s Jack, who has shiny white teeth and sells pens; Niall, who was looking for love (which he defines as “liking somebody even when they’ve not got make-up on”), but has now left; and Eyal, a model, who wants “somebody who isn’t superficial”. “What does superficial mean?” asks fellow model Hayley, who also wonders if after Brexit, “we won’t have any trees”. With gems like these, no wonder people find the show irresistible.

Wit & Wisdom

“Imaginary evil is romantic and varied; real evil is gloomy, monotonous, barren, boring. Imaginary good is boring; real good is always new, marvellous, intoxicating.”

Simone Weil, quoted in The Guardian

“I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain.”

James Baldwin, quoted in The New York Times

“I was in a Steps tribute band. It was called Ramps.”

Britain’s Got Talent winner Lee Ridley, who has cerebral palsy, quoted in The Mail on Sunday

“I’ve been called worse things by better people.”

Former Canadian PM Pierre Trudeau, after Richard Nixon called him an “asshole”, quoted in The Guardian

“The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.”

Thucydides, quoted in The Sunday Times

“If they’ve never learnt to be alone, people develop only weak and fragile defences against the ways life decides to hurt them.”

Astrid Lindgren, quoted in The Paris Review

“The degree of civilisation in a society is judged by entering its prisons.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky, quoted in The Globe and Mail

“In America, anyone can become president. That’s the problem.”

George Carlin, quoted on BayToday.ca

Statistic of the week

91% of thefts from vehicles now go unsolved, along with 86% of muggings and 78% of domestic burglaries. There were 203,703 unsolved burglaries in 2017, a quarter more than in 2015.

Daily Mail

Rugby union: England's woes continue

In his first two years as England head coach, Eddie Jones could do no wrong, said Owen Slot in *The Times*. He led the side to two successive Six Nations titles; he won all but one of his first 25 Tests. Since then, however, England have been in a “downward spiral”. They have dropped from second in the world to fourth. And last Saturday in Johannesburg, they suffered a fourth Test defeat in a row when they lost 42-39 to South Africa. It was a “mesmerising, bewildering, pulsating classic”, said Chris Foy in *The Mail* on Sunday. With three early tries, the visitors “briefly touched the stars”: at one point, they were 24-3 ahead. But they were “soon brought back down to earth”, conceding four tries in just 19 minutes. Never has an England side squandered a bigger lead.



Kolisi: at the helm

This was England's for the taking. After all, said Robert Kitson in *The Guardian*, they were facing a “less than invincible” Springboks side missing its two best forwards. But for most of the match, they were barely capable of “putting a foot on the ball, tweaking their tactics or putting any prolonged pressure” on their hosts. There must be concerns, now, over the effectiveness of Jones's “selectorial touch” and his “autocratic style”. There are question marks, too, said Gavin Mairs in *The Daily Telegraph*, over his preparations. At 1,800 metres above sea level, Ellis Park is the highest stadium in world rugby. Playing at such

a high altitude can cause all sorts of problems: shortness of breath, dizziness, nausea. The trick is to spend the week before a match at altitude to acclimatise, or to arrive as close to kick-off as possible. But England did neither – they trained at sea level and arrived in Johannesburg two days before the match. That may explain why, after an “impressive start”, they floundered. But it's no use blaming the altitude, said Clive Woodward in the *Daily Mail*. The players have to start “taking responsibility for their own actions”. They conceded a “crazy” 12 penalties. Yet rather than “calling each other out” for this ill discipline, the players just shrugged it off.

For South Africa, this was a “monumental moment”, said Chris Jones on BBC Sport online. For the first time, a black player – Siya Kolisi – was “entrusted with the ultimate honour in South African sport”: captaining the Springboks. An “athletic” flanker, Kolisi was “born into poverty” and raised in a township; on Saturday, he addressed the press in Xhosa. This may have been Kolisi's day, said Stuart Barnes in *The Sunday Times*. But it was Faf de Klerk, who plays for the English club Sale, who was man of the match. He had fallen out of favour and didn't feature once for the Springboks last year; after “tormenting” England, however, he can be South Africa's scrum-half for “as long as he wants”.

Cricket: Scotland beat the Auld Enemy

It was only supposed to be a gentle warm-up for England's one-day international (ODI) side, said Elizabeth Ammon in *The Times*. They arrived in Edinburgh top of the world rankings, after six successive series wins; Scotland, by contrast, are ranked 13th and have failed to qualify for next year's World Cup. But on Sunday, the Scots confounded all expectations to win by six runs, pulling off “the most extraordinary victory” – their first over England. They hit 53 boundaries en route to their 371, their highest total in an ODI match; Calum MacLeod scored an unbeaten 140. It was surely the greatest moment in the history of Scottish cricket. The conditions were perfect for the batsmen, said Nick Hoult in *The Daily Telegraph*. The boundaries were unusually short, in order to accommodate the TV cameras and extra seating. And MacLeod seized his opportunity, reaching his century in only 70 balls. “He swept



MacLeod: an unbeaten 140

brilliantly against the spinners and was inventive against the seamers.” Scotland's impressive performance “sends a message” to the International Cricket Council (ICC), said Mike Atherton in *The Times*. At the very time when sides from smaller countries (which typically don't play Test cricket) are “growing ever stronger”, the ICC has decided to reduce the number of teams at the next World Cup from 14 to ten. On this evidence, Scotland – and other nations like it – deserve a place at the table.

For England, meanwhile, this loss was a “reality check”, said Paul Newman in the *Daily Mail*. True, they were playing without Chris Woakes and Ben Stokes, two of their best players. But their bowling was “toothless”. For the first time in an ODI, four different England bowlers conceded more than 70 runs apiece: seam and spin alike provided “little threat and no mystery”.

An 11th French Open for the King of Clay

When Rafael Nadal arrived at Roland Garros 13 years ago, winning the French Open on his very first attempt, it marked the beginning of “one of the greatest acts of domination in sport”, said Stuart Fraser in *The Times*. Since then, the Spaniard has been widely hailed as “the greatest clay-courtier of all time by some distance”. And on Sunday, he beat the 24-year-old Austrian Dominic Thiem in three sets to win the French Open for the 11th time. The one player in history who can equal that tally at a Grand Slam is Margaret Court, with her 11 Australian Open crowns; in men's tennis, only Roger Federer's haul of eight Wimbledon titles comes close. This year, as on so many previous occasions, no one came close to defeating Nadal: over the



Nadal: “dazzling”

fortnight, he dropped just one set – the first set he had lost at Roland Garros in three years.

Thiem was the one player who had a chance of beating Nadal, said Simon Cambers in *The Guardian*. He is the only man who has defeated the Spaniard on clay in the past two years, with victories in Rome last year and Madrid last month. This time, however,

it was barely a contest: Nadal “threw himself across the baseline, retrieving everything”. His forehand was as effective as ever; his “dazzling footwork still a marvel”, even at 32. Staggeringly, he has lost only two of his 88 matches at Roland Garros. On this evidence, who would bet against him picking up a 12th title in a year's time?

Sporting headlines

Formula One Sebastian Vettel won the Canadian Grand Prix to take a one-point lead over Lewis Hamilton in the drivers' championship. Hamilton finished fifth.

Tennis After losing her three previous Grand Slam finals, Simona Halep beat Sloane Stephens in three sets to win the French Open.

Boxing In his first fight since 2015, Tyson Fury beat Sefer Seferi.

Cycling Team Sky cyclist Geraint Thomas won the Critérium du Dauphiné. It was Sky's sixth victory in the event in eight years.

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Pick of the week's correspondence

Sea change on plastic

To The Independent

I am not surprised to read that all mussels around Britain contain microplastics – they are bottom feeders, filtering out the detritus at the bottom of our seas. This story merely adds to the tsunami of stories about plastic pollution in recent months, from which major facts are emerging: less than 10% of plastic produced in the past 50 years has been recycled, the rest sits in landfill, blowing in the wind, and sinking or floating in our rivers and oceans. We have been told that even highly purified tap water worldwide has minute traces of these materials.

But all of these stories simply show it is too late now to do anything about this, so let's drop the hysteria. Yes, we need to do what we can to stop plastic pollution getting worse, but the millions of tonnes already out there will not go away, and all we can do is console ourselves with the thought that, despite the ubiquitous nature of this pollution, there are few known direct health effects on humans. And I have not seen any data showing what percentage of the deaths of animals is caused by choking on large pieces of plastic. Is it 1%, 10%, 20% or what, does anyone know?

David Reed, London NW3

What about the workers?

To The Guardian

You rightly report rejoicing at the centenary of “some women winning the right to vote in 1918”. This right was enshrined in the Representation of the People Act 1918, which awarded the franchise to 8.5 million women aged over 30. We seem in most commentary now to forget that this act also newly enfranchised approximately five million men because it abolished the residential and property qualifications that had denied the vote to 40% of men. These included most of the poorest in society: soldiers, sailors and men such as adult sons living in their parents' houses.

I am delighted that we are celebrating the electoral advance of women and, in the midst of celebration, asking questions of our society about

Exchange of the week

Trump and the new world order

To The Times

You quite rightly say that Donald Trump is being “demonised” by the Europeans. The old order of liberal trade in a globalised world collapsed in 2008. The US paid for that arrangement by providing a rule-bound trade regime that allowed the EU to run a protectionist customs union, and paid for Europe's security. For Trump, that world has ended. The US can no longer pay for the free-riding Europeans, particularly Germany, while being lectured by them as to how the president should behave. Trump views the world not as a concert of Western powers orchestrated by the US, but as a series of bilateral relationships. It might be an idea for the world to listen to him more carefully than it is doing.

Lord Desai, House of Lords

To The Times

Trump and the Italian prime minister may have a point in trying to bring Russia back into the elite club. From a negotiation/mediation perspective, it is futile to exclude the opposing side from the table. If one group wishes to be heard, the effective way is to demonstrate that they are willing to truly listen to the other group. Megaphone diplomacy is counterproductive. The world is in flux, and Trump's shift from Western values to global values may reduce the number of “them and us” confrontations. Opposing visions are most successfully exchanged, explained and clarified in a “conductive and safe” environment.

Paul Randolph, mediation course leader, Regent's University London

To The Times

That Trump wants to bring Russia back to the table seems noble enough, but he appears to have forgotten that the expulsion of Russia was for invading Crimea. To let Russia return to the elite club without any show of contrition from President Putin would do little to improve negotiations. Rather, it would encourage the Russians to think that they are too important to be brought to account.

Simon van Someren, London SW1

the extent to which gender equality remains to be achieved. I would, however, urge writers in *The Guardian*, which was founded 200 years ago in the wake of the Peterloo massacre of workers seeking the right to vote, to reflect also on issues of class and increasing economic inequalities. A good place to start would be by recalling as well the male enfranchisement of 1918.

Dr John Hull, Sheffield

Technically theoretical

To The Sunday Telegraph

Charles Holden, discussing the new technical T levels, says that “not so long ago, there were technical colleges that provided skills training for those not suited to academic progression”.

This perpetuates the spurious distinction between academic and technical

education, the second of which used to be called applied science. The true distinction is not between academic and technical, but between theoretical and practical.

When I was at high school in the mid-1940s, we were streamed. Unfortunately, the classically educated headmaster failed to understand that those entering the “technical” stream needed to be able to assimilate theoretical knowledge, and treated technical matters as less intellectually demanding than others.

Stanley Eckersley, Pudsey, West Yorkshire

End-of-life pain relief

To The Times

It is true that pain relief is much better now than it has been in previous decades. Data from 2015, however, shows that even today, about one in

eight people who die in hospice care had only partial or no pain relief at all in the last three months of life. This rises to one in three who die in a hospital, or one in two who die at home.

In addition, control is a more overriding motivation for those who campaign for assisted dying. And why not? Patients are being given more and more say over how they are treated by the medical profession, but the right to make that final decision is taken from them, perhaps when it is needed most. For many dying people, simply knowing that the option to control their deaths was available to them would be far more relief than any medicine could possibly grant.

Sir Graeme Catto, former president of the General Medical Council, Aberdeen

Runway's arrival time

To The Guardian

The battle for a third runway has been going on for much longer than your editorial's estimate of 31 years. It first gained government approval as long ago as 1946, but was abandoned by the incoming government in 1952. Since then there have been further attempts, and in 2009 it once again gained parliamentary approval. One year later, this was overturned by the coalition government when David Cameron declared: “No ifs, no buts, no third runway.” This might have been the end of the matter, but the “aviation mafia” is nothing if not persistent and never gives up.

Philip Sherwood, author, Heathrow: 2000 Years of History



“Hello, darling, I'm coming home by train. You should remarry and try to forget me.”

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Review of reviews: Books

Book of the week

Arnhem

by Antony Beevor

Viking 480pp £25

The Week Bookshop £22 (incl. p&p)

Antony Beevor is renowned for his gripping military histories, said Saul David in *The Daily Telegraph*. And in this “tirelessly researched and beautifully written” book, he looks at an episode of the Second World War that was “crying out for his storytelling talents”: the attempt by Allied troops in autumn 1944 to establish a route into Germany by seizing a series of Dutch bridges, including the one over the Rhine at Arnhem. Had it succeeded, Operation Market Garden, as the air and land mission was known, would have enabled Field Marshal Montgomery to “be the first Allied general into Germany” – and might even have brought the War to an end by Christmas.

“The plan consisted of two halves,” said Keith Lowe in *The Literary Review*. “Operation Market” involved dropping thousands of men and tonnes of equipment into German-held territory close to the bridges. “Operation Garden” – the ground attack – involved breaking through German lines and rushing “103km up a single road to outflank the enemy”. It was a mission, writes Beevor, that was “doomed from the very start”.



Arnhem 1944: a mission “doomed from the start”

Because the drop zones weren’t close enough to the bridges, “all surprise was lost” by the time the paratroopers reached them. And “any Dutch officer” could have predicted that the ground operation would run into trouble: the road the Allies had to travel up was so easy to defend that it featured as a question in their staff college exams.

Many Allied commanders, including the hugely overconfident Montgomery, expected Arnhem to be a “cakewalk”, said Gerard DeGroot in *The Times*. But the Germans put up more resistance than anticipated, the Allies lacked coordination and “lightning assault deteriorated into a battle of attrition”, which after nine days resulted in a desperate withdrawal. The suffering didn’t end there: the Dutch, who’d greeted the Allies as liberators, “were left to the mercy of the Germans, who no longer felt motivated to keep their captives fed”. Arnhem has been chronicled many times before, said Giles Milton in *The Sunday Times*, not least by Cornelius Ryan in *A Bridge Too Far* (turned into a film by Richard Attenborough). But Beevor’s version stands out for its stark honesty about the flaws of the main players and the brutality of the battle. Montgomery in particular comes across as “an insufferable bore with a highly inflated ego”. Beevor makes no bones about blaming him for the disaster, as indeed did Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who remarked at the time: “My country cannot afford another Montgomery victory.”

The Recovering

by Leslie Jamison

Granta 544pp £20

The Week Bookshop £18

This massive book achieves the remarkable feat of making a story of alcoholism and recovery come across as “fresh”, said Nilanjana Roy in the FT. American novelist Leslie Jamison (pictured), who fell for the “whiskey-and-ink mythology” in her teens and became a voracious drinker, describes the sense of wonder and liberation the habit gave her. By the age of 21, as she tells us, when she was attending the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, she spent her days “reading dead drunk poets” and her nights “trying to sleep with live ones”. But eventually the costs of addiction became clear: Jamison “spiralled into blackouts and the spin cycle of broken relationships and dangerous encounters”. Eventually, she began attending Alcoholics Anonymous, finding strength in the “uncrafted storytelling” of its meetings.

This is more than a record of one woman’s survival, said John Burnside in *The Literary Review*. Jamison weaves her own story into an “extraordinary work of literary and social history” that takes in numerous addicted artists, the “astonishing career of Bill Wilson”, the co-founder of AA, and the follies of the US “war on drugs”. Brave and “surprisingly generous”, it’s a book for addicts and non-addicts alike. No doubt it was written with “honourable intentions”, said Rick Whitaker in *The Guardian*, but sadly it falls prey to a “fundamentalism that reckons sobriety an absolute good and intoxication a sure sign of weakness”. And it’s a message that in any case is undercut by Jamison’s writing. The early chapters, dealing with drunkenness, are “rollicking and fun”, whereas later the writing seems to “almost slur its speech”, lapsing frequently into sentimentality. “If a sincere white woman’s literary love letter to AA is what you’re craving, this is your book.” If not, you may want to look elsewhere.



Novel of the week

The Female Persuasion

by Meg Wolitzer

Chatto & Windus 464pp £14.99

The Week Bookshop £13.99

Meg Wolitzer is a novelist of “beady intelligence” who, from the very first page, makes you “feel in safe hands”, said Craig Brown in *The Mail on Sunday*. Her new novel is an account of two generations of feminists, represented by Faith, doyenne of the “1980s women’s movement”, and Greer, part of a “new, angrier generation” of activists. The two meet when Faith gives a talk at the Connecticut college where Greer is a student and where she is involved in a campaign to have a serial groper ousted from campus. Upon graduating, Greer goes to work for Faith’s feminist foundation, but soon finds her “hero worship” coming under strain.

Wolitzer moves effortlessly between tragedy and comedy, said Ferdinand Mount in *The Spectator*, displaying a “marvellous evenness of sympathy” for her characters. “If Thackeray were writing a novel about feminism today, it would, I think, be not unlike *The Female Persuasion*.” It “slightly runs out of steam”, said Kate Saunders in *The Times*. But until then, this is a novel that’s “fun to read” and which depicts dilemmas that most women will recognise.

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Theatre

Killer Joe

Playwright: Tracy Letts
Director: Simon Evans

Trafalgar Studios,
14 Whitehall, London SW1
(0844-871 7632).
Until 18 August

Running time:
2hrs 10mins
(including interval)

★★★

Orlando Bloom has never had much asked of him on screen, said Ian Shuttleworth in the FT. He is famed for his roles in the Tolkien and *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchises, but in each he was little more than “cinematic eye candy”. Nor has he done much stage work either – just one appearance in London and one in New York – so it’s been hard to make a “reliable assessment of his chops as an actor”. But all the indications are that given the chance – as he has been by being handed the title role in this 1993 drama set among “Sam Shepadesque trailer trash” – he’s really quite impressive. Playing a Texas police detective who moonlights as a contract killer, Bloom “exudes the chilling control” of one of those characters in a Harold Pinter play “who suddenly arrive and take over”. It’s a coolly effective performance.

Bloom has “got the goods” alright: he commands the stage with “brutish impact”, said Kate Maltby in *The Sunday Times*. But neither he nor his impressive co-stars are enough to justify the “shallow voyeurism” of Tracy Letts’s “poverty porn” melodrama. The set-up involves an indebted drug dealer who, with his father’s help, plots to murder his mother for her life insurance. “Violence against women bookends the action.” Bloom’s character orders a young



Bloom: “exudes chilling control”

woman to strip, and her naked body is “showcased frontal for our viewing pleasure”. There’s also an act of forced fellatio involving a chicken leg. If you can accept all this then, sure, *Killer Joe* is “gripping”. But it won’t “enrich anyone else’s life”.

I, too, felt uneasy at the use of female nudity, said Michael Billington in *The Guardian* (although, perhaps in the interests of gender equality, we also get to see Bloom’s bare bottom). Even so, I would absolve Letts (who later wrote *August: Osage County*) from the charge of exploitation: he is “clearly making a serious point about a society caught between a dimly remembered Christian morality and an all-too-vivid cultural degeneration”. It’s uncomfortable to watch, certainly, but it’s also a “cleverly plotted” play that keeps you hooked from the start. In short, “queasily gripping”.

The week’s other opening

Capriccio Garsington Opera, Wormsley Estate, Buckinghamshire (01865-361636). Until 28 June
Tim Albery’s “delicious” staging of Strauss’s opera is a delight, boasting any number of superb performances from an “outstanding” cast, including the “much-loved” Swedish soprano Miah Persson (*Observer*).

Opera

Lohengrin

Composer: Wagner
Director: David Alden
Conductor: Andris Nelsons

Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden,
London WC2
(020-7304 4000).
Until 1 July

Running time:
4hrs 30mins
(including intervals)

★★★★

Wagner’s 1850 opera – best known for the *Bridal Chorus* still heard at weddings today – has always struck a chord with “those who have a thing about strong leadership”, said Richard Morrison in *The Times*. How could it not, given the way it exhorts the German nation to get behind a new “Führer” and slaughter the hordes from “the east”? Mussolini once “had it staged by 10,000 singers on a 300ft-wide stage”. The director of this thrilling and “unmissable” new staging for the Royal Opera House, David Alden, “flirts dangerously” with such ideas by relocating Wagner’s folkloric Knight of the Holy Grail plot to an unspecified 20th century authoritarian state. Yet he wisely resists making the piece into an anguished commentary on the rise of Hitler. Instead, the multistoried sets, vast crowds and “platoons of trumpeters” serve as a spectacular backcloth to what is ultimately a “very human story: a naive girl’s deluded love for a hero too self-absorbed to love her back”.

It’s 41 years since the Royal Opera produced a new *Lohengrin*, said Andrew Clements in *The Guardian* – and everything about the evening is “vividly detailed and thoughtfully cogent”. The focus is very much on the “power politics” of the piece, rather than the Dark Age



Davis: a star is born

Christian and pagan symbolism. The action is beautifully lit from low angles to produce “looming expressionist shadows” and sharp contrasts. Each of the protagonists is sharply defined. And Andris Nelsons’s “gloriously comprehensive” conducting of the excellent orchestra – quiet, rapt intensity, followed by soaring excitement – is superb.

As *Lohengrin*, the experienced Klaus Florian Vogt gives a “gracefully assured reading”, said Rupert Christiansen in *The Daily Telegraph*. But the real joy of the evening is Jennifer Davis’s consummately sung and beautifully acted performance as his beloved, Elsa. There are few

things more exciting in theatre than “watching a star being born”. The deafening “big-bang roar” that greeted Davis’s curtain call on opening night “was one such magic moment”.

CD of the week

Lily Allen: No Shame Parlophone £9.99
It’s four years since Lily Allen’s last album, *Sheezus*, and this excellent comeback is a reminder of just what we’ve been missing. Her trademark mix of “candour, earworm melody and that lilting, still underrated voice remains potent and persuasive” (*Sunday Times*).

Stars reflect the overall quality of reviews and our own independent assessment (4 stars=don’t miss; 1 star=don’t bother)

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Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

Dir: J.A. Bayona
2hrs 8mins (12A)

The reptiles run amok again

★★

“Two hours of running and screaming, or watching others do so, are just what we want from popular cinema in June,” said Nigel Andrews in the FT. And it’s what we get from this fifth movie in the blockbuster franchise in which dinosaurs are recreated by hubristic scientists, then inevitably run amok. Here, after their island home is threatened by a volcano, a team of environmentalists led by a swashbuckling Chris Pratt transport them to the supposed safety of a game park. Of course, all doesn’t go according to plan. The result is a furiously entertaining mash-up of monster flick and Gothic horror, as the park is overrun by the creatures, said Kevin Maher in *The Times*. I found it all a bit stale, said Peter Bradshaw in *The Guardian*: we just don’t get the same thrill from the CGI dinosaurs as we did in Spielberg’s 1993 original. And there are plot holes aplenty. But the film has such “momentum” it barely matters, said Geoffrey Macnab in *The Independent*. This is “a summer popcorn movie with all the trimmings – action, cheesy in-jokes, startling visual effects and a storyline with a moralising, eco-friendly subtext”.



The Boy Downstairs

Dir: Sophie Brooks
1hr 29mins (12A)

Slight but charming indie romcom

★★

If you like wry indie movies in which “nebbish youngsters” suffer unrequited love and “stammer dialogue” in the style of Woody Allen, then seek out *The Boy Downstairs*, said Nigel Andrews in the FT. Zosia Mamet shines as Diana, an aspiring author who moves into a New York apartment – only to find that the boy downstairs is Ben (Matthew Shear), the sweet-natured guy she broke up with to focus on her writing. She soon realises she’s still in love with him. Trouble is, he’s now going out with a snooty real estate agent (Sarah Ramos). That’s “literally it” on the plot front, said Tom Huddleston in *Time Out*. Nothing “reprehensible” in that, but some may find all the navel-gazing “off-putting”. The film’s “slightness” is “both virtue and vice”, said Peter Bradshaw in *The Guardian*. Its relaxed dialogue, which resists trying to make every line a zinger, serves as a reminder that “just talking can be intensely cinematic”. Overall, though, this is “a snack of a movie, rather than a meal”.



McQueen

Dirs: Ian Bonhôte and Peter Ettedgui
1hr 51mins (15)

Gripping documentary about the fashion designer

★★★

This excellent documentary tells the sad, fascinating tale of Lee Alexander McQueen, the mercurial fashion designer, said Brian Viner in the *Daily Mail*. A working-class lad from London’s East End, as soon as he was old enough, he walked into a Savile Row tailor’s and demanded a job. From there, we move to his meteoric rise to be chief designer at Givenchy in Paris; to the outrageous shows, with models parading in ripped, revealing clothes; and to his cocaine use and suicide at the age of 40. All this has already been well documented, said Kevin Maher in *The Times*, but the directors bolster the material with private camcorder recordings by friends and family. The jittery, amateur quality of this footage can be frustrating, but it creates a mood of paranoia that feels increasingly fitting as McQueen’s mental health unravels. Accompanied by a stirring Michael Nyman score, this is far more emotionally engaging than your typical talking heads documentary, said Geoffrey Macnab in *The Independent*. McQueen emerges “as an erratic and infuriating personality” – but one “touched with an obvious genius”.



Mahatma Brando? The wayward hunt for the right man to play Gandhi

In Richard Attenborough’s 1982 biographical film of Mahatma Gandhi, Ben Kingsley plays the title role and won an Oscar for it. But according to archivists cataloguing the late director’s voluminous correspondence – there are 70 boxes of letters relating to the making of *Gandhi* – Kingsley was far from being the first choice. Attenborough it seems, had agonised over the casting, and in desperation had even considered Marlon Brando for the role. This despite the fact that Gandhi was a spindly figure, emaciated by hunger strikes, whereas, by the late 1970s, Brando was monstrously overweight.



Kingsley at Gandhi

Attenborough’s determination to bring the life of the father of Indian independence to the big screen began in the early 1960s. “I would pursue this quest for 20 years,” he wrote in 2008, “suffer all sorts of rejection in trying to raise the finance and very nearly bankrupt myself.” And the first person he approached for the part, said Debbie White in the *Daily Mail*, was Alec Guinness. “I’m too big,

grey, fat and blue-eyed,” Guinness had replied, adding that in his view, “Gandhi should be played by a Hindu.” Yet even after getting funding for his project, Attenborough was still confining his search to a list of white actors, including Dustin Hoffman, Albert Finney, Al Pacino and even Peter Falk (best known for playing TV detective Columbo).

It was only after John Hurt did a screen test for the part and expressed his dismay at how ridiculous he looked, that Attenborough became convinced he needed someone of Indian descent as Gandhi, said Robert Mendick in *The Daily Telegraph*. Soon after, he chanced to see Kingsley – who was born Krishna Pandit Bhanji to a British mother and a father of Gujarati descent – performing at the Donmar Warehouse. He called in the actor and, having seen his screen test, reportedly sighed, “Well, I suppose you’d better play it then.” Kingsley replied, “I shall be the film’s most humble servant.” *Gandhi* went on to win eight Oscars.

Exhibition of the week **Summer Exhibition 2018**

Royal Academy, London W1 (020-7300 8090, www.royalacademy.org.uk). Until 19 August

In the years after its inception in 1769, the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition became an exciting forum in which the likes of Turner, Constable and Stubbs "competed for attention". But it soon ceased to be a "cultural force", said Jonathan Jones in *The Guardian*, and in the past few decades it has been nothing more than a stuffy event in which workmanlike contributions from established artists traditionally hang side-by-side with "so-so" efforts submitted by the general public. It is a formula that has generally proved dull and predictable.



Co-curator Grayson Perry with a "wildly incongruous riot of works"

This year, however, things are different. To mark the Royal Academy's 250th anniversary, Grayson Perry has been invited to co-curate the show, and he has turned the RA "inside out and upside down", making little distinction between "throwaway rubbish" and great art. It has made for a wilfully anarchic display, one that "obliterates definitions" of artistic worth, giving bizarre exhibits like a fibreglass sculpture of the Pink Panther, or a "deadly serious and adoring" portrait of Nigel Farage, equal footing with work by David Hockney and Paula Rego. It is "the most liberating exhibition of new art I've seen for ages". It's clear from the outset that Perry is breaking with tradition, said Mark Hudson in *The Daily Telegraph*. The first room of the exhibition

usually contains work by its "biggest and most credible artists". Here, by contrast, we are confronted with a "hideous" cloth sculpture by Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos, and an array of "quirky" paintings, many by amateur artists. The walls of the second gallery are painted a "screaming yellow" and packed with a "wildly incongruous riot of works", from some "meticulous" garden views and portraits to a likeness of Jeremy Corbyn presented as a "seaside postcard pastiche". It's all good fun, but as ever there is

far too much to digest. And it has to be said that the general spirit of wackiness can become slightly trying.

But the good news, said Rachel Campbell-Johnston in *The Times*, is that the "usual vast acreages of mandatory but dull inclusions" are nowhere to be seen. Instead, we get highlights such as a video art room showcasing work by Bill Viola and the great American experimentalist Bruce Nauman, and a "particularly striking" architectural display featuring models of the renovated Westminster Abbey tower, and some "Martian-style dwellings". There are some disappointments – Perry himself is barely represented – but on the whole, this year's summer show is an "enthusiastically democratic spectacle that breathes a gust of new life into long-standing tradition".

Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Flowers

at *Ordovas*

Since ancient times, artists have been using flowers as vehicles for symbolism, using them to represent everything from fertility to political allegories to mortality itself. And while flower painting may not be something closely associated with the avant-garde, the subject continues to fascinate contemporary artists. This intriguing show presents about a dozen works created between the 1940s and the present day, taking in everyone from Lucian Freud to Wolfgang Tillmans. If this sounds a little dry in theory, the works it contains are anything but. Freud is represented by a wonderful 1964 still life of a bunch of cyclamens against the grubby wall of his flat, a work juxtaposed with a blurry, photorealistic image of a bouquet by Gerhard Richter. Elsewhere, there is



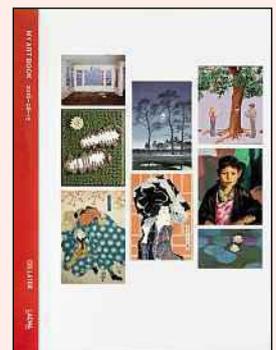
Wolfgang Tillmans's *Anemone* (2003)

a typically noirish picture by the great street photographer Weegee and, best of all, a stunning, plant-like Alexander Calder mobile dangling in front of a violently pink screen print of hibiscus blossoms by Andy Warhol. Prices range from £5,000 to £25,000.

25 Savile Row, London W1 (020-7287 5013). Until 28 July.

Curate your own art catalogue

The trouble with visiting art galleries is that their catalogues seldom highlight the pictures that catch your eye, and you end up forgetting them. But now an American museum and a Korean car company have come up with a scheme that could transform all that.



Rather than buy a catalogue put together by curators, visitors to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art can now create their own, says *The Art Newspaper*. The Collator system, developed with the help of Hyundai, allows you to browse more than 1,000 high-resolution images of the pictures you've seen in the museum, select the ones you like best and arrange them in a book; you can then devise a cover (see above) and add a title. Prices vary according to size, from a minimum of 24 pages (\$18.95) to a maximum of 288 (\$70), though the gallery only ships to the US at present. Works by van Gogh, Rembrandt, Monet and Whistler are just some of those on show.

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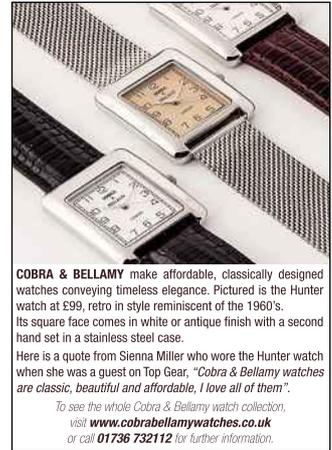
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Best books... Peter Tatchell

Peter Tatchell, who has been championing LGBT and human rights causes for more than 50 years, picks his favourite books. He is director of the Peter Tatchell Foundation: www.petertatchellfoundation.org

Animal Liberation by Peter Singer, 1975 (Bodley Head £17.99). One of the most important books of the past 100 years. It expands our moral horizons beyond our own species – a major evolution in ethics. Singer popularised the term speciesism to describe human oppression of other animal species. He showed that animal rights and human rights have the same goal: to end suffering.

Edward Carpenter: A Life of Liberty and Love by Sheila Rowbotham, 2008 (Verso £32.99). A biography of Edward Carpenter, the prophetic gay English poet and philosopher. Decades ahead of his time, he advocated green

socialism, women's suffrage, pollution controls, recycling, sex education, prison reform, workers' control, vegetarianism and gay liberation.

Malcolm: The Life of a Man Who Changed Black America by Bruce Perry, 1991 (out of print). Malcolm X's ideas of black consciousness, self-reliance and community empowerment have a universal relevance. The book's revelation of his youthful bisexuality created a furor.

The Last English Revolutionary by Hugh Purcell, 2004 (Sussex Academic Press £22.50). Tom Wintringham was Britain's most popular

democratic communist, whose call for guerrilla tactics against Nazism was adopted by Churchill. He was erased from history by the communists because he opposed their Stalinist party line, and by the establishment, who feared he'd give communism mass appeal.

OutRage! An Oral History by Ian Lucas, 1998 (out of print). The story of one of the most successful non-violent direct-action groups in UK history and how, from 1990-96, it challenged anti-LGBT institutions: outing homophobes and hypocrites; forcing policy changes by the police, schools, military, business, church, media; changing attitudes towards LGBT people.

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

The Week's guide to what's worth seeing and reading

Showing now

My Beautiful Circus at Oxford University Parks, Oxford (www.giffordscircus.com). Retro-chic Giffords Circus returns with a show that includes startling acrobatics, performing turkeys and a troupe of dachshunds. Until 25 June; then Chiswick House, London W4, 28 June-9 July, and Windsor and on until 30 September.

Pressure at the Ambassadors Theatre, London WC2 (020-7395 5405). David Haig stars in his own "gripping" play about the Scottish meteorologist, James Stagg, who persuaded Eisenhower to postpone the D-Day landings (Times). Ends 1 September.

Book now

The wonderfully acerbic American singer-songwriter **John Grant** is touring his forthcoming album: Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-780 3333) on 16 August; then Bangor, Edinburgh, and on (www.johngrantmusic.com).

A musical version of Alison Bechdel's graphic coming-of-age memoir **Fun Home** – a multiple



My Beautiful Circus: at Oxford University Parks

Tony Award-winning hit on Broadway – is opening here. "Musical theatre at its best" (Huffington Post). 18 June-1 September, Young Vic, London SE1 (www.youngvic.org).

Just out in paperback

Pale Rider by Laura Spinney (Vintage £10.99). An account of the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic could be dreary, but Spinney focuses on both the people and the quack cures. "I've seldom had so much fun reading about people dying" (Times).

Television

Programmes

The Eagle Huntress

Controversial documentary about a 13-year-old nomad girl training to become an eagle hunter in Mongolia. Critics felt it was too fairy tale-like to be entirely true, but its director, Otto Bell, insists he simply recorded what he saw. Sun 17 June, BBC4 19:00 (80mins).

Julius Caesar

Phyllida Lloyd's all-female, modern-day staging of Shakespeare's drama, set in a women's prison. With Harriet Walter. Sun 17 June, BBC4 21:50 (115mins).

Trevor McDonald: Return to South Africa

McDonald was the first person to interview Nelson Mandela after his release from prison in 1990. He returns to South Africa to mark the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth. Tue 19 June, ITV1 21:00 (60mins).

Britain's Refugee Children

Documentary following six Syrian refugee children over six months as they adapt to new lives in Wales. Wed 20 June, C4 22:00 (60mins).

Unsung Heroines:

Danielle de Niese on the Lost World of Female Composers

A look at five female composers who were famous in their lifetimes, but then forgotten. Fri 22 June, BBC4 20:00 (60mins).

Films

The Help (2011) During the Civil Rights Movement, a white journalist seeks to expose the racism experienced by black maids at work. Sat 16 June, BBC2 23:45 (140mins).

Marshland

(2014) Thriller. In post-Franco Spain, a pair of mismatched cops search for two missing girls. Wed 20 June, Film4 00:55 (130mins).

Documentaries on Netflix

November 13: Attack on Paris

The film-makers who witnessed 9/11, Jules and Gédéon Naudet, turn their gaze to the November 2015 attacks in Paris. Those caught up in the atrocity recount the night in detail. Streaming now.

The Staircase

This bingeable true-crime series follows the trial of Michael Peterson, an American novelist who was charged with the murder of his wife Kathleen. Streaming now.

The Archers: what happened last week

Will can't understand why Mia has quit football and is falling behind at school. Jake says she's tired because Poppy's been getting into her bed every night. Will had no idea. Brian holds an emergency meeting without Kate, who's still in Arizona. He says they'll need to sell 300 acres of land, some of it adjacent to Spiritual Home. Elizabeth quizzes Freddie about Lily and Meredith. A remark of Freddie's makes Elizabeth suspect they're more than friends. Lily isn't happy when she hears this, but Freddie says it's the perfect cover for her affair with Russ. Shula cooks for Alistair and they laugh about Kate's goat yoga. Shula says she'll miss these moments and Alistair asks if she's in love with him again. Shula says no, and Alistair tells her to keep her pathetic regrets to herself. Kate's horrified to hear about the groundwater contamination. She doesn't think Spiritual Home will survive more disruption. Elizabeth tells Lily that her relationship with Meredith is fine by her. Lily awkwardly thanks her. Assuming that Brian's talked to Kate, Adam mentions the area they're selling next to Spiritual Home. Kate orders Brian to stop the sale, but he's shaken hands with the buyer. Kate vows to stop it.

Arts and Crafts houses



◀ **Suffolk:** Wissett Hall, Halesworth. This Grade II house, set in nearly 17 acres at the end of a tree-lined drive, was built in the Arts and Crafts era, but has parts dating back to the 17th century. 4 suites, 6 further beds, family bath, dressing room, kitchen/breakfast room, 6 receps, study, utility, cellars, coach house, garaging, workshops, stabling, former farm buildings, tennis court, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, greenhouse, lake, paddock, and walled garden. £1.95m; Savills (01473-234800).



▲ **Devon:** Cliff House, Torquay. Situated on its own promontory and designed in the style of Lutyens, Cliff House is a fine example of the late Arts and Crafts period. Master bed with balcony, 4 further beds, family bath, 2 showers, 3 WCs, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 receps, cellars, garage, summer house, steps to beach, garden, 0.75 acres. £1.85m; Strutt & Parker (01392-215631).



◀ **Perth and Kinross:** Nether Tillyrie House, Milnathort. A beautiful country house with self-contained apartment and fine views. Master suite with dressing room, guest suite, 3 further beds, family bath, kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, 2 receps, pantry, larder, boot room, games room/playroom, butler's pantry, laundry, cellars, integral 3-bed flat, 2 garages, garden with woodland coppice. £775,000; Galbraith (01738-301815).





◀ **Gloucestershire:** The Thatched House, Tunley. An important Grade II Arts and Crafts house – which has been sympathetically restored by the present owner – set in an elevated position overlooking its own lovely gardens, in an idyllic valley setting. The house was created from two 18th century cottages by Alfred Hoare Powell, a pupil of the famous Arts and Crafts architect John Dando Sedding. Master suite, 1 further bed, shower, dressing room, kitchen, hall, 3 receps, media room, study/office, mezzanine library, cloakroom, boot room/utility, laundry, gardens, garage, artist's studio, workshop, 1.4 acres. £1.95m; Butler Sherborn (01285-883740); Knight Frank (01285-659771).



◀ **Scottish Borders:** Maplehurst, Galashiels. Dating from 1906 and now run as a boutique guest house, Maplehurst is full of elegant Arts and Crafts period features and sits in 1.35 acres of landscaped gardens. 8 suites, kitchen, recep hall, 4 further receps, butler's pantry, library, roof terrace, laundry, wine cellar, stores, garage/utility block. OIEO £825,000; Knight Frank (01578-722814).



◀ **Somerset:** Brookfield, Castle Cary. With many original features, this house is tucked away in lovely walled gardens in the centre of the town. 6 beds, family bath, shower, large attic (with potential for conversion), kitchen/breakfast room, 3 receps, WC, cellar, utility, hall, pantry, garage and secluded gardens with a brook running through. £925,000; Lodestone (01749-605099).



◀ **Lincolnshire:** Drummond Road, Skegness. A characterful house, typical of the Arts and Crafts period, set in the heart of Seacroft and close to the coast, with commanding views of the golf course. Master bed, 3 further beds, family bath, shower, kitchen/breakfast room, 2 receps, sun room, conservatory, utility, pantry, front and rear gardens, outbuilding with work room and store. £340,000; Fine & Country (01522-287008).



▲ **Somerset:** Chindit House, Glastonbury. An imposing Grade II town house close to the town centre. 3 suites, 4 further beds, 2 further baths, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 receps, hall, utility, cloakroom, laundry, boot room, cellars, box room, garage, garden, 0.93 acres. £1.45m; Knight Frank (01935-812236); Roderick Thomas (01749-670079).


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What the experts recommend

Alchemilla 1126 Argyle Street, Glasgow (0141-337 6060)

On Argyle Street, Glasgow's "intriguing independent bistros gather in flocks", says Jay Rayner in *The Observer*. If you're visiting the city and don't know where to eat out, head to this stretch and "window-shop the menus". If you can't find something that appeals from the range on offer, that is "your fault, not theirs". At the "seriously good" Alchemilla, there are "high ceilings, tattoos, a beard or two" – and head chef Rosie Healey, whose training with Yotam Ottolenghi has clearly served her well. On the menu there's an outstanding dish of roasted cauliflower dressed with *zhoug*, a spiced Yemeni herb sauce, and sprinkled with a salty hit of black olives and "the sweet-soft of raisins". There's also a beautifully cooked globe artichoke that comes with a generous dish of thickly emulsified vinaigrette for dipping – "one of food's great, consuming pleasures". A flavourful cut of onglet is cleverly paired with clams, and a pud of flourless chocolate and walnut cake is "intense and serious". This is not "intricate or precise" cookery; it is merely "fabulous to eat" and "hugely satisfying". *Meal for two, about £30-£70.*

Bright 1 Westgate Street, London E8 (020-3095 9407)

The kitchen at Bright in London Fields – "Brit/Italian with a Japanese aesthetic" – produces "hit after hit", says Tim Hayward



Bright: "completely seductive"

in the FT. And the vibe, which somehow combines a "savage work ethic" with the "laid-backness" of the truly confident, is "completely seductive". A plate of roasted duck hearts is served with a homemade XO sauce with "just enough fishy funk" to balance the meat. A "platoon" of grilled scarlet prawns are perfectly cooked and astonishingly fresh. "I think if I'd talked to them with enough sympathy, they'd have perked up and scuttled away." There's a "juicy, marbled" Swaledale pork chop, and a brilliant and bang-on-trend bowl of what I think of as a "wet salad" – a "melange" of chopped raw scallop and

strongly flavoured celery served with an invigorating apple vinegar-based broth. "It's clean tasting, lets every ingredient speak, and if I could have got them to sell me a bottle of the stuff, I'd have spiked it with gin for the trip home." *Starters from £6; mains from £11.*

Noma Refshalevej 96, 1432 Copenhagen K, Denmark (noma.dk)

The new, relocated incarnation of Noma, reopened by René Redzepi after a year's hiatus, is "part-commune, part-cult" and a "philosophy made edible", says Tom Parker Bowles in *The Mail on Sunday*. "It's also a damned good place to have lunch." With lots of pale wood and clean lines, the room is "stealth-wealth rustic" – "Nordic farmhouse" as if built by an eco-billionaire. The food is still "once-in-a-lifetime" great, but with fewer "cheffy flourishes and culinary tricks", and more "pared-down purity". A sea snail broth, sipped from the shell, is "silken and lusciously rich". Vibrant trout roe, arranged like a starfish, "explodes exuberantly" in the mouth, with shards of dried plum skin in egg yolk sauce. On and on we go: wild oyster, "meaty and marvellous"; king crab cooked in seaweed, the "very essence of full fathom five profundity". As an expression of Nordic terroir, Noma is "unparalleled. But as a paean to the pleasures of eating, it's out of this bloody world." *Set menu costs £265.*

Anthony Bourdain: the rogue-ish cook behind *Kitchen Confidential*

Anthony Bourdain, who has died aged 61, did not profess to be a great chef. While he ran several New York restaurant kitchens he was, he said, just a "competent line cook". Yet in 2000, he took the food world by storm with his brutally honest memoir *Kitchen Confidential*. In vivid prose, he exposed the seamy "underbelly" of the restaurant industry, said *The Daily Telegraph* – the pressure-cooker atmosphere in its kitchens, and the cast of lowlifes and losers, drug addicts, alcoholics and thieves who work in them. Modelled in part on George Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London*, the book also detailed his own addiction to cocaine and heroin, and contained some useful advice to diners – in particular, about which items on the menu to avoid. These included Monday specials (especially fish), brunch ("old, nasty odds and ends") and hollandaise (a "Petri dish of biohazards").



Bourdain: rock-star status

The book – "not exactly *Delia*", as one review noted – became a bestseller and Bourdain used his new-found fame to launch a second career as a TV presenter, travelling the world in search of culinary adventures. His series, such as *A Cook's Tour* and *No Reservations*, were "as memorable for the host's swaggering manner, macho charisma and foul mouth as they were for the sight of him tucking into such local delicacies as sheep's testicles". Hugely admired, he attained near rock-star status, yet remained painfully self-aware. In a second memoir, *Medium Raw*

(2010), he called himself "the very picture of the jaded, overprivileged 'foodie'... that I used to despise", a "one-note asshole who's been cruising on the reputation of one obnoxious, over-testosteroned book for way too long".

Born in New York in 1956, Bourdain grew up in New Jersey, the son of a French father, who worked in the music industry, and an American mother, an editor at *The New York Times*. It was his parents who inculcated his love of French cuisine on a family holiday. By his teens, however, he had developed a drug habit and was seeing a psychiatrist. He went to Vassar College, but dropped out and enrolled in cookery school. He spent 20 years working in restaurants, ending up as executive chef of Manhattan's *Brasserie Les Halles*. Always fascinated by the demi-monde, he wrote two thrillers before producing the *New Yorker* article – *Don't Eat Before Reading This* – that formed the basis of his first memoir.

Separated from his second wife, Bourdain had a daughter whom he adored, said *The New Yorker*, and was dating Asia Argento, an actress who has accused Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault. He said hearing her "awful" story, and those of other women, had led him to become an ally of the #MeToo movement and to re-examine his own past. "In these current circumstances, one must pick a side," he said.

New cars: what the critics say



DS 7 Crossback
from £28,095

The Guardian

This is the first car DS has built from scratch since it split from Citroën in 2014 (the others have been spruced-up Citroëns). It is billed as a “premium” brand (France’s President Macron was driven to his inauguration in this car) and its many special features – such as ice cube-shaped LED blocks in the lights that “swivel and pivot in a choreographed dance” when you unlock it – are effective.

Auto Express

But the Crossback lacks the “breadth of talent” of many of its “posh SUV” rivals. The 2-litre diesel and 1.6-litre petrol engines have more than enough power, and it feels as fast as its 0-62mph figure of 8.3 seconds suggests. But there’s no 4x4 option, and others on the market are much sharper to drive. It’s “frustrating” that the ride in this car spoils what is a very “nice place to sit”.

Autocar

True, the car’s focus is “more on comfort than outright dynamism”. But the active suspension is impressive: its camera analyses the road ahead and prepares the dampers accordingly. There’s even a night-vision system to warn you of pedestrians and animals. Inside, the Crossback is fairly luxurious and spacious, but DS hasn’t done quite enough to make it a “standout option”.

The best... hiking gear

◀ **Deuter Futura Vario**

A great all-round backpack, the 50+10-litre Vario is good for day hikes and longer trips. It’s made of stretchy fabric and a steel frame, and is kitted out with a wet laundry compartment and air circulation to keep you cool (£160; www.deutergb.co.uk).

▶ **OEX Bandicoot II** This semi-geodesic, two-man tent is sturdily built yet light to carry. It weighs 3.2kg, has aluminium poles and is designed to stand firm even in storms (£180; www.goooutdoors.co.uk).



▶ **Garmin fenix 5S** The fenix 5S GPS watch is filled with navigation features including an electronic compass and a barometric altimeter. You can also use it for fitness in general – it’ll give you tips on improving your routine (from £389; www.johnlewis.co.uk).



▲ **Tecnica Forge S** These high-tech boots can be moulded to the exact shape of your foot and ankle in the shoe shop, which should ensure a near perfect fit (£235; www.tiso.com).

◀ **Mountain Hardwear HyperLamina Flame**

For a warm, dry night, this sleeping bag is hard to beat. Its insulation is distributed to concentrate heat where it’s most needed – around the core and feet. It compresses well and, at 1.11kg, it’s pretty light (£152; www.wiggle.co.uk).



Tips of the week... how to bring birds to your garden

- A big part of attracting birds is attracting insects, so don’t tidy your garden too carefully. Leave some cover for insects in the form of stacks of leaves or branches.
- Always have an area of long grass somewhere in the garden, although you can shift it around with the seasons.
- Put up a nesting box – ideally made from wood rather than metal or plastic, to stop it from overheating – two to five metres above the ground. It should be sheltered from rain and wind, and have a couple of holes in the bottom for rainwater to drain.
- Don’t just leave out food for birds; they’ll appreciate fresh water too.
- Plant shrubs in your borders and grow woody climbers, like roses, honeysuckle or wisteria. Also plant plenty of berries, especially a hawthorn shrub.
- Stop your cat from creeping up on birds by giving it a collar with a bell.
- Hedges are helpful, but don’t trim them in nesting season (March to August).

SOURCE: DAILY MAIL

And for those who have everything...



The struggle to find shoes to match your outfit is over, thanks to Balenciaga and its Pantashoe. The Spanish fashion house has created a pair of skinny spandex trousers that seamlessly terminate in stiletto boots – as seen on Rihanna and Kim Kardashian.

£1,780; www.net-a-porter.com

SOURCE: HARPER’S BAZAAR

Where to find... kids summer camps

Wickedly Wonderful in Sussex runs a multi-activity camp where children can enjoy kayaking, crabbing, sports, and jelly and water fights. There are also separate sailing and pony camps (ages six-13; £545 for four nights; www.wickedlywonderful.com).

Founded 40 years ago, Somerset’s **Mill On The Brue** builds confidence and problem-solving skills through archery, raft building and orienteering (ages eight-15; £599 per week; www.millonthebrue.co.uk).

At **Camp Wilderness**, which has sites in six counties, kids make fires, build shelters and sleep under the stars. Shorter stays are available for those nervous about leaving home (ages six-15; £415 for five nights; www.campwilderness.co.uk).

Camp Kernow in Cornwall uses adventures to teach children to be environmentally conscious. They can try wild-food foraging, animal tracking, wall climbing and working with a local blacksmith (ages seven-14; £510 for six nights; www.campkernow.org.uk).

SOURCE: THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

This week's dream: a *Swallows and Amazons* summer in Canada

One of the largest waterfalls on the planet, Niagara is beautiful, but marred by big crowds, high-rise hotels and souvenir stores. If you're visiting Toronto, it's only two hours away, so you may as well "see it, but get out quick", says Aaron Millar in *The Times* – because Ontario's real pleasures lie elsewhere, in its countless lakes. Fringed by forests, rocky crags and fine beaches, they are "the perfect offbeat destination for active families", like a North American *Swallows and Amazons*, "with maple syrup and moose instead of cream teas and Coniston Water". Best of all, this natural wonderland is remarkably unknown outside Canada.

Voted the country's No. 1 "hidden gem" by Canadians, Georgian Bay is a vast inlet on the northeastern shore of Lake Huron, the second largest of the Great Lakes. At Tobermory, a tiny harbour of "colourful clapboard houses" and fish and chip shops, winter storms can swell the waves up to 30ft, but the lake is calm in summer, and at



Muskoka, Ontario: "no plans, no rush"

its Fathom Five National Marine Park, you can go snorkelling over century-old shipwrecks in waters that are so clear you feel like you're flying. Other nearby delights include the white sands of Wasaga, the world's longest freshwater beach – like a low-rise "Canadian Benidorm", great for children – and Manitoulin Island, where guides from the First Nation Anishinaabe people lead visitors up steep forest paths to rock plateaus commanding huge views of the surrounding wilds.

Loveliest of all is perhaps Muskoka, an area of lakes where Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Justin Bieber all own homes. Activities on offer here include canoeing, jet-skiing,

wake boarding and waterborne obstacle courses. But with a "staggering" 8,699 miles of shoreline, absolute peace is also easy to find – "no plans, no rush", just sunsets, swims and the sound of waves lulling you to sleep at night. For more information, visit uk-keepexploring.canada.travel.

Hotel of the week



Casa Mãe, Algarve

Run by a French-born, London-based former investment banker, this stylish but "low-key" hotel sits within the old walls of Lagos, a charming town with a sandy 4km-long beach about an hour from Faro, says Condé Nast Traveller. Featuring a mix of vintage and contemporary furniture, the 30 rooms are spread across an old town house, three cabanas in a vegetable garden and a new, low-rise building that's also home to Orta, a farm-to-table restaurant and bar, and a lifestyle shop where all the stock is made in Portugal. A map of the owner's favourite local spots features stylish bars as well as several tiny coves and beaches.

Doubles from £80. 00 351 968 369 732, casa-mae.com.

Getting the flavour of...

Shepherding in the Himalayas

Each spring, the *anwal* – the last-remaining migrating shepherds of the Indian Himalayas – herd their flocks from the valleys of Uttarakhand to the pastures around the country's second-highest peak Nanda Devi. Now visitors can accompany them on the trek, says Juliet Rix in *The Daily Telegraph* – walking with "knowledgeable" guides and sleeping in community-run guest houses created by the tour operator Village Ways. The path starts where the road ends, in the village of Supi, winding upwards past shrines and hilltop temples to within a few miles of the Tibetan border. The vegetarian food on offer is "exceptionally good", there are spectacular birds and animals to spot (snow leopards harass the flock) and the views – particularly from the highest camp – can be "awe-inspiring". *Village Ways* (01223-750049, www.villageways.com) has a ten-night trip from £1,052pp, excluding flights.

A divine feast in Burgundy

Few things have contributed as much to human happiness as Burgundy's natural produce, says Anthony Peregrine in *The Sunday Telegraph*. And these can be enjoyed on a brief tour of its cheeseries and vineyards. Starting at Mâcon, in the south, you can sample the goat's cheese at the Chèvrerie la Trufière before stopping at Fuissé, where the Vincent family produce top-notch

Pouilly-Fuissé. From there, the Grand Cru route wends through the Côte de Nuit and Côte de Beaune vineyards. At Brochon, the Gaugry factory runs tastings of great cheeses, including the "glory" that is Époisses. Others can be sampled at the Pierre-qui-Vire and Cîteaux abbeys, where each cheese is stamped "Prayer & Work", to make your gluttony feel "godly". *London to Dijon is about five hours by train, from £86 return* (0844-848 5848, www.voyages-sncf.com).

Smuggler adventures in Norfolk

It's "the most exciting adventure you can have on the British coast this summer", says Chris Haslam in *The Sunday Times* – a course into the seamanship and fieldcraft of north Norfolk's 18th century smugglers. Led by Henry Chamberlain, a former Royal Marine "with experience in matters he's reluctant to discuss", the Coastal Exploration Company's smuggling weekends are "part escape-room puzzle, part Anrika Rice game show, but a lot more tense". Setting out from Wells-next-the-Sea in a converted whelking boat, you go for a one-mile "survival swim", perform a navigation exercise, and forage for mackerel, mussels and samphire in the area's coastal marshes, before a mysterious encounter in a pub sets you on the trail of the contraband. *Courses for six people cost £300pp* (07970-276397, www.coastalexplorationcompany.co.uk).

Last-minute offers from top travel companies

Greek beach holiday

Escape to the Greek island of Lefkas with a week's stay at the family-run Palm Trees Hotel. From £749pp b&b, including Manchester flights. 020-8758 4758, www.sunvil.co.uk. Depart 15 July.

All-inclusive Tunisia break

Spend 7 nights at Les Orangers Beach Resort & Bungalows, in the popular seaside town of Hammamet, from £749pp, including London flights. 01733-224808, www.thomascook.com. Depart 24 July.

5-star Cairo

Six nights at the Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino costs from £1,100pp, room only, including flights. 020-8843 4400, www.traveltrrolley.co.uk. Depart 30 July.

B&b stay in Portugal

Located near Lisbon and the Tagus Valley, the SANA Sesimbra Hotel offers a 4-night stay from £609pp b&b, including Cardiff flights. 020-3788 4844, www.ebookers.com. Depart 2 August.

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Wildlife filmmaker Richard Brock says:

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*As part of the BBC's prestigious Natural History Unit, Richard has witnessed the changing threats to the natural world first hand. His credits include work on the landmark series **Life on Earth** and **The Living Planet** alongside David Attenborough.*

Richard Brock

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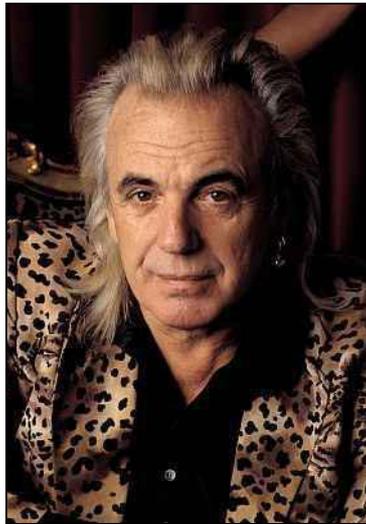
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The thong-wearing mullet-haired “King of Clubs”

Peter Stringfellow
1940-2018

Peter Stringfellow, the self-styled King of Clubs, also known as Stringy, was Britain’s “lap-dancing supremo”, said Jane Fryer in the Daily Mail. An enthusiast for gold lamé, Krug champagne, leopard print shirts and tiny thongs, he partied with everyone from Jack Nicholson and Princess Diana to Stephen Hawking, rarely went to bed before 5:30am, claimed to have slept with 2,000 women and “possessed one of the worst mullets in the history of hair”. He made a fortune by commercialising sex and objectifying women in his “gentlemen’s clubs”, and incurred the ire of moral campaigners and feminists alike. But in person, Stringy, who has died aged 77, could be charming and funny, with a good line in self-deprecation. The journalist Jan Moir once spotted him at Gatwick turning up to catch an Easyjet flight to Majorca. “Where’s the queue for C-list celebrities?” he cried as he approached the check-in desk.



Stringfellow: prisoner to millionaire

Peter Stringfellow was born in a suburb of Sheffield in 1940. His father was a steelworker and money was tight. They had no bathroom (in later life, he made sure his bathrooms had whirlpools, TVs and buckets of champagne on ice), and his bedroom was an attic that he shared with his three brothers. Having failed his eleven-plus, he left school at 15. After a stint in the merchant navy, he fell into sales jobs (“I was flash,” he said), only to end up in jail, having been caught stealing his employer’s stock and selling it on. By then, he was married to his first wife, Norma (with whom he later had a daughter), and cheating on her with her cousin. He hated prison, and described his eight-week term as the shock that spurred his success. On his release, he struggled to find a job, so decided to go into business himself as an impresario: in 1962, he hired a church hall on Friday nights, booked some local acts and turned it into the Black Cat club.

Early in 1963, he booked The Beatles, then known only in Liverpool. By the time the concert came around, they were in the charts – so he hired a bigger hall and sold tickets to twice as many people as the venue was licensed to hold. He made £300, said The Times; the Beatles went home with about £10 each.

He hosted an array of bands that went on to be famous, including The Kinks, Jimi Hendrix and Pink Floyd. His clubs in Sheffield, and later Leeds and Manchester, made him a millionaire in the 1970s. But it was the opening of Stringfellows in London’s Covent Garden in 1980 that made him famous. In that “loadsamoney” decade, rock stars, film stars and bankers flocked to his doors. Even Margaret Thatcher popped in, for a Tory fundraiser (Stringy – a Tory donor – made sure his dancers were off-duty that night). In 1983, he took over The Hippodrome (then The Talk of the Town) in Leicester Square, where he launched its first gay night, before expanding to the US. At one point, his US operation was valued at \$25m, but it was badly hit by the recession, and in 1991 it went under. Stringfellow was distraught, but by then, a friend had taken him to a lap-dancing club in Miami. This, he perceived, was “the future”. Returning to London, he put in action a plan to turn his Covent Garden venue into the country’s first topless table-dancing club. Later he obtained a licence to have nude acts – a first for Westminster.

In 1967, two years after leaving Norma, he married Coral Wright, with whom he had a son. Although he cheated on her constantly, she stuck with him for 17 years. Then in 2001, he fell in love with Bella Wright, a Royal Ballet ballerina 42 years his junior, and the playboy declared that his womanising days were over – they married in 2009 and had two children. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2008, but kept his treatment for the disease private.

Fashion designer whose name became a byword for style

Kate Spade
1962-2018

Kate Brosnahan was working at Condé Nast’s Mademoiselle magazine in Manhattan in the 1980s when – as accessories editor – she became exasperated by the choice of handbags on the market, said The Guardian. They were all too complicated, overdesigned and rarely practical; she wanted one that was simple, sophisticated and functional – so she set about designing her own. She created prototypes from paper and sticky tape, sourced materials and found a manufacturer; then with her boyfriend (and later husband) Andy Spade she formed a company. They called it Kate Spade. In 1993, she hired a small stand in a distant corner of a large trade show, and to her surprise a buyer from the high-end retailer Barneys put in an order. The night before the show, she’d decided the bags needed something to make them more eye-catching – and had come up with the idea of taking the Kate Spade logo from inside the bag and sewing it to the outside, thus creating an instantly recognisable name brand. By the late 1990s, Kate Spade had become a byword for American style, and a global business generating \$28m in revenue.



Spade: accessible luxury

grow up steeped in fashion: her first ambition was to be a TV producer. At college in Arizona in the early 1980s, she studied journalism and met Andy Spade while working in a shop. After graduating, they moved to New York. At Mademoiselle, she was known for her lively spirit and sense of fun: in the early days of Kate Spade, her journalist colleagues helped pack up the hundreds of boxes of bags stacked up in her tiny flat, ready for shipping.

They proved an almost instant hit, and the first Kate Spade shop opened in New York in 1996; three years later, Neiman Marcus bought 56% of the firm for \$30m, said The New York Times, and it started producing everything from homeware to shoes and jeans, all in a sharp, upbeat, preppy style that straddled the “thin line between accessibility and luxury”. In 2007, the

Spades sold their remaining stake in the firm to Liz Claiborne, and Spade – having lost the rights to her name – retreated from the fashion world to raise her daughter, Frances. A decade later, she returned with a new accessories brand, Frances Valentine.

Kate Spade sometimes intimated that she found happiness elusive. Her husband revealed last week that she had suffered from depression and anxiety for years. However, he said that her death – an apparent suicide – had come as a complete shock nevertheless. He and Frances, 13, survive her.

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



Seven days in the Square Mile

The US **Federal Reserve** was expected to raise interest rates for the second time this year with market attention focused on the pace of further rises. The **Turkish lira** led a fresh retreat in emerging-market currencies, reflecting investors' nerves about the impact of a stronger dollar and continued trade tensions. In Britain, Dave Ramsden, a deputy BoE governor, also hinted at a **rate rise** in August, noting that "the period of unusually subdued growth in wages appears to be coming to an end". UK inflation in May held steady at 2.4%; its fall was halted by a rise in fuel costs.

Dixons Carphone admitted a huge data breach involving 5.9 million payment cards and 1.2 million personal data records after a hacking attempt that began in July last year. **PwC** was hit with a record £10m fine, and one of its partners received a 15-year ban, for auditing work carried out on **BHS** before its controversial sale by Philip Green.

A federal court in Washington gave the go-ahead for **AT&T's** \$85.4bn bid for **Time Warner**, clearing the way for a spate of US mega-mergers. **National Savings and Investments** slashed the limit that savers can deposit in its most popular accounts, from £1m to £10,000: **NS&I** guaranteed-growth and guaranteed income bonds are so popular, there was a risk of overshooting the finance limit imposed by the Treasury. **Amazon** took its first steps into live football broadcasting after winning UK rights to show 20 Premier League matches until 2022.

House of Fraser: old ghosts, modern ghouls

Maybe we shouldn't read too much into the travails of House of Fraser, whose survival now apparently hinges on closing 31 of its 59 stores at the risk of 6,000 jobs, said Alistair Osborne in *The Times*. Angst over the death of the high street is nothing new: The Specials penned *Ghost Town* in 1981; and the number of large department stores in Britain has fallen by a quarter in a decade. The 169-year-old chain has also suffered "perpetual changes of ownership". Having latterly been bought by one Chinese investor, Sanpower, it's now being sold "in shrivelled form" to another. Historic regional stores like Frasers (Darlington), Rackhams (Shrewsbury) and Howells (Cardiff), which together comprised HoF, are indeed "ghosts from the retail past", said Zoe Wood in *The Observer*. But the current management's insolvency survival stratagem is very much of the moment. "Landlords are in open rebellion" over the company voluntary agreement (CVA) proposed by HoF, which will allow it to ditch struggling stores, because they claim it is "an unfair cherrypicking exercise". Yet, however reluctantly, creditors will probably vote to back the CVA, said Ben Marlow in *The Sunday Telegraph*. But what next? Beyond the store closure programme, there doesn't seem to be much of a plan, bar a few platitudinous statements. At any rate, it's a stay of execution.

Poundworld: founder to the rescue?

More than 5,000 jobs are also at risk at Poundworld, said Caitlin Morrison in *The Independent*. The Yorkshire-based discount chain went into administration this week after last-ditch rescue talks failed. Bought three years ago for £150m by US private equity group TPG, the low-cost emporium has struggled with the usual issues of declining footfall and increased costs. Individually, each of these failures can be explained away, but their cumulative effect is concerning. Indeed, growing numbers of retailers are taking drastic action after being "trapped in long store leases" and hurt by rising costs, taxes and the shift online, said Jonathan Eley in the *FT*. That's why New Look, Mothercare and Carpetright have all adopted CVAs (see above), under which creditors agree to a reduction in their claims so that the company can continue trading; many other companies are closing stores. The tills at Poundworld may yet keep ringing, said *The Guardian*. Chris Edwards, who founded the business in Wakefield in 1974 before selling it to TPG, is thought to be keen on buying it back.

Carmakers: tariff troubles

European car bosses have rounded on President Trump over his threat to impose 25% tariffs on vehicles imported into the US, said Peter Campbell in the *FT*. They warn that the move, specifically aimed at harming the German manufacturers Trump accuses of "eating into the market of domestic premium brands", will have damaging repercussions across the sector. The latest White House rumblings have raised questions over "whether they need to produce more vehicles in the US to avoid being stung by the tariffs". The manufacturing map is also changing in Europe, said Alan Tovey in *The Daily Telegraph*. Jaguar Land Rover is moving the manufacture of its Discovery off-roader from Solihull to a "giant new factory in Slovakia", resulting in several hundred job losses. The future at Solihull is electric: the plant is being retooled for electrically powered Range Rovers.

BT: pulling the plug on Patterson

"Few FTSE 100 chief executives have seen their star rise and fall quite as rapidly as Gavin Patterson", who has been ousted abruptly by the BT board after five years in the job, said Jim Armitage in the *London Evening Standard*. "The handsome, open-neck-shirted marketeer" could once "do no wrong". Shares rocketed when he launched "the dreary former state telecoms monopoly" into Premier League football and mobile phones, via the purchase of EE in 2016. But then his "troubles came in battalions". The Openreach division's "snail's-pace roll-out of fast broadband", combined with poor customer service, left BT rapidly becoming a target of public loathing. "The narrative cast by many was that Patterson spent a fortune on football when he should have been investing in better broadband."



Patterson: left investors unsatisfied

Attacks on the TV strategy aren't entirely fair. "Without sport, BT would never have been a contender in home entertainment." But

even so, paying almost £1bn for football rights in 2015 was a dicey move, said Lex in the *FT*. "The shares have more than halved since", and in a massive restructuring attempt last month, Patterson announced 13,000 job cuts. Meanwhile, the pensions deficit stands at £14bn. Investors should steel themselves for a dividend cut.

Patterson's mistake was "trying to reconcile the impossible trinity" of dealing with the pensions deficit, maintaining the dividend, and responding to political and regulatory pressures, said Jeremy Warner in *The Sunday Telegraph*. "He skimmed on all three and

thereby satisfied no one." His as-yet-unknown successor needs to "grasp the nettle" by separating BT into its wholesale and retail components, and channelling the dividend cash into long-term investment. That won't please income investors. "But it is as plain as a pikestaff that the status quo is unsustainable."

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PAST PERFORMANCE

	Apr 13 – Apr 14	Apr 14 – Apr 15	Apr 15 – Apr 16	Apr 16 – Apr 17	Apr 17 – Apr 18
Fidelity European Values PLC Net Asset Value	7.3%	14.0%	-3.1%	25.5%	10.3%
Fidelity European Values PLC Share Price	6.5%	19.3%	-4.3%	25.8%	6.8%
FTSE World Europe ex-UK Index	14.8%	7.0%	-3.9%	28.8%	7.4%

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns.

Source: Morningstar as at 30.04.2018, bid-bid, net income reinvested. ©2018 Morningstar Inc. All rights reserved. The comparative index of the Investment Trust is FTSE World Europe ex-UK Index.



Issue of the week: Sorrell's sleaze file

The former WPP chief's alleged activities could damage both his old company and his new venture

When Martin Sorrell stunned the City a fortnight ago by audaciously launching a new venture, he boasted of having “a clean sheet of paper” that would allow him to operate “without being a prisoner of history”. Wrong: the ad king's past “is already catching up with him”, said Alex Ralph and Philip Aldrick in *The Times*. Claims that Sorrell was ousted from WPP after allegedly misusing company funds on a visit to a Mayfair brothel “have threatened to torpedo” his new venture S4 Capital “before it has even got off the ground”. Sorrell denies the allegations. He had won backing from high-profile investors including Lombard Odier, Schroders, and Lord Rothschild's Five Arrows Investments, plus pledges from other investors to provide some £150m more. At least one of these is now seeking “reassurances”.



Martin Sorrell: claims of misuse of company funds

It isn't just the alleged sex that is causing concern, said Madison Marriage and Matthew Garrahan in the *FT*. What has emerged since Sorrell's departure in April “is a picture of routine verbal abuse of underlings”, and a worrying “blending of corporate and private life”. There has been criticism, too, of WPP's handling of his departure – “in particular, the lack of disclosure over the reasons for his exit” and the fact he was able to walk away with his multimillion-pound incentive arrangements

intact. Initial disquiet in the company turned to anger when Sorrell, who had no non-compete clause in his contract, announced the launch of a potential competitor. Indeed, all the elements were in place for a humdinger of an AGM this week, said Simon Goodley in *The Observer* – particularly given a brewing shareholder rebellion against WPP chairman Roberto Quarta, whom some investors accuse of kowtowing to Sorrell and covering up his reasons for leaving.

Quarta can't disclose “the priapic details of Sorrell's life” as it would breach privacy laws, said Alex Brummer in the *Daily Mail*. He also claims “he has done a sound job in taming Sorrell”

– “guiding” his annual pay down from £70m to £14m. But in these affairs, the “cover-up” often “proves more toxic than the underlying problem”. WPP's worry is that “the trickle of demands for publication” of the report detailing the reasons for Sorrell's departure “becomes a torrent”. The company is “prepared to fight Sorrell tooth and nail”, and may seek to claw back some £20m in options if he poaches WPP talent or data relating to potential bids. “The greatest punishment of all”, however, is that when Sorrell's business obituary is written, “the narrative of the builder of an advertising colossus will be obscured by his downfall in the sleazier parts of Mayfair”.

Making money: what the experts think

● A bonanza for bears

A hedge fund run by Crispin Odey, the London-based investor “who has in effect bet his entire fund on a spectacular market collapse”, has gained 19.9% this year – helped by “outsized bearish bets on equities and government debt”, said the *FT*. Having watched the value of his fund, Odey European, crumble by 60% from its peak three years ago, after a series of ill-timed “short bets”, Odey is now presiding over one of “the world's best-performing” hedge funds. More volatile market conditions have also helped other doomster hedgies regain ground. And others, such as Third Point and Bridgewater Associates – the largest hedge fund in the world – are “growing increasingly bearish” and increasing their short positions. The latter's founder, Ray Dalio, worries about the threat of trade wars, and the risk of what he calls a “bigger impending conflict” likely to be triggered by growing income inequality, economic stress, populism and shifting power in the world.

● European questions

A central question for many investors, spooked by political events in Italy and Spain, is what to do about Europe, said Mark Atherton in *The Times*. Despite



Ferrari: overseas revenues

easing tension in bond markets, Christopher Jeffery of L&G argues that “the situation still has the potential to turn toxic”. But it's worth putting Italy's problems in perspective. As Jason Hollands of Tilney Group points out: “most UK private investors will have very little, if any, direct exposure to Italian bonds, and most European equity

funds typically hold only modest exposure to Italian companies”, which comprise only 5.1% of the MSCI Europe ex UK index.

● Roaring ahead?

Some European fund managers hoped to take advantage of the crisis to up their exposure to Italian stocks, like Ferrari, which derives much of its revenues overseas, said Kate Beioley in *FT Money*. Indeed, Miton European Opportunities, which gives the largest weight to Italy of any UK open-ended fund, “has not changed any of its positions” throughout Italy's election process. Meanwhile, European equity markets remain “substantially cheaper” than the US and have a higher 2.9% yield, said Mark Atherton. If you remain unspooked, funds to look at include Fidelity European Values, Jupiter European Opportunities, Schroder European Alpha Income and BlackRock European Dynamic.

Money and morals

The London Stock Exchange reports that the number of exchange-traded funds focusing on green or socially responsible investments hit a record high last month, said *The Times*. There are now 31 such index-trackers, with £4bn of assets under management – and they're packing a punch. Until fairly recently, punters “hoping to combine profits with their principles” risked disappointment. But as Ben Faulkner of EQ Investors notes: “over the past three years, the average ethical fund has outperformed its non-ethical rivals”, returning 36% compared with 31%. The appetite for these investments comes partly from private investors, especially millennials, but also from pension funds “under pressure from members to adopt an ethical approach”.

If you're keen to follow suit, you could also support a more “eclectic mix of things that aim to make society better”. One is the Wellcome Trust's huge health-focused endowment fund, which supports scientists across many fields. Another is Bazalgette Finance, a bond that raises money for the Thames Tideway Tunnel – a “super-sewer” that will stop overflow pollution. Environmentalists may also back the holiday network Center Parcs, which “works hard to reduce the environmental impact of its sites”, or Paprec, a fast-growing recycling specialist currently shaking things up in France, where the percentage of waste recycled is far lower than elsewhere in Europe.

Is it time to split up Amazon?

Jeremy Warner

The Sunday Telegraph

A rotten time for being a Hells Angel

Editorial

The Economist

Why television won't win the World Cup

Simon Kuper

Financial Times

All aboard the "Rocket Man rally"

Alexandra Stevenson

The New York Times

Apparently the one thing that makes the usually "mild-mannered" Amazon boss, Jeff Bezos, go "ballistic" is talk of breaking up his online behemoth. But with Amazon's "invasive market power" across a host of sectors under ever closer political and regulatory scrutiny, he may "have to get used to it", says Jeremy Warner. As "traditional bricks-and-mortar retail dies on its feet, eroding a significant part of the UK tax base", we have to ask whether it's "politically acceptable" to have "such a large chunk of consumer spending dominated by a single, foreign-controlled retailer". Margrethe Vestager, the EU competition commissioner, is shortly to impose "another blockbuster fine" on Google for supposedly blocking rivals. But making a similar case against Amazon would be much harder: "Bezos has been clever; he doesn't actually have a monopoly position in anything". Still, given the "increasingly hostile" environment on both sides of the Atlantic, it's easy to see where this is going. "At some stage, enforced asset separation, or even sequestration, looks all too possible."

Hells Angels have been some of Donald Trump's "noisiest supporters" since the early days of his election campaign, says *The Economist*. "Alas, the love affair may be heading for the rocks." Trump's trade policies have put their favourite bike-maker, Harley-Davidson, "in a double bind". Rising manufacturing costs are a given now that US tariffs on foreign-sourced steel and aluminium have led to higher prices for locally made metals too. Meanwhile, the EU is planning retaliatory tariffs on Harleys – a huge blow for a company that "had bet on a continued boom in European sales", which account for about 16% of its total. The EU's action is one of several taken by America's trade partners: they've also targeted US pork, fruit and dairy farmers. Indeed, "the trail of potential harm to companies – both from US tariffs and from retaliation by others – shows how globalisation makes a mockery of attempts to aim tariffs precisely at foreigners". And of course consumers lose too. "The EU's proposed tariffs on motorcycles, jeans and whiskey amount to a cruel tax on Hells Angels across Europe. The innocent always suffer."

Football's World Cup has clung on as the last "appointment to view" – an occasion for people to get around the TV together, says Simon Kuper. But the threat of digital disruption isn't far away. TV still has a big role to play this summer: the expected cumulative global audience is 10.8 billion, 14% more than in 2014. But millennials in particular will "consume" the World Cup differently. Few will "follow every kick of the ball": most will instead be plugged into the constant "stream of football content" and punditry coming out of social media – much of it far removed from the action on the field. As their central asset, match footage, becomes "less central for viewers", broadcasters and Fifa "risk going the way of the record labels that once dominated the music industry. Football is slipping from their grasp." Some have partnered with "new actors in the football economy": the BBC has embraced Snapchat and Twitter. But, "as so often with technological change, one issue has not yet been resolved: how to make money out of it". That's a question for the next World Cup.

Earlier this week, President Trump "dangled visions" of what North Korea "could win" if it came in from the cold. "They have great beaches," he said. "Boy, look at that view. Wouldn't that make a great condo?" Some intrepid businesses and investors are also "setting up internal task forces" to investigate tapping "one of the world's most isolated countries", says Alexandra Stevenson. The prize looks tempting. Were North Korea's economy to open up, they'd get "a shot at East Asia's last untapped growth market". True, that economy is only half the size of South Korea's sixth-biggest city. But the North has a relatively young population, "an underground entrepreneurial bent", and abundant resources like "rare earths and iron ore". It also has a modernisation plan that includes building railways and power plants. Company officials are loath to discuss their plans publicly: even "initial feelers" risk violating current sanctions. What's more, even if diplomatic progress is made, they'd still be dealing with "an unpredictable dictator". Yet for all that, shares of companies that may profit are starting to rise. Welcome to the "Rocket Man rally".

City profiles

Paul Pester

The TSB chief is resisting calls to step down over his inept handling of the bank's IT meltdown. But with the crisis now in its seventh week, says Rosamund Urwin in *The Sunday Times*, "the knives are out for Paul Pester". TSB customers, the City and MPs – who grilled him again last week – are all arguing that he must go. Pester, 54, appears to have "cemented his status as the new villain of banking". Tension between TSB's management and its Spanish parent, Sabadell, is also reported to be "acute". Described as "the master of the qualified apology", Pester grew up in Cornwall and "still rides the same waves" in Newquay that "he did as a boy". Clearly all that surfing has "taught him a lot about clinging on".

Mike Coupe



The Sainsbury's boss was mocked in April when he was filmed singing *We're in the Money* before a TV interview about the merger with Asda. "An unguarded moment," Mike Coupe called it. He got that assessment right, says James Burton in the *Daily Mail*. Coupe, 57, "who masterminded the blockbuster £7.3bn tie-up", enjoyed a 46% pay boost to £3.4m in the year to February, although profits fell by 19% over the past year. The supermarket chief enjoys "letting off steam by playing guitar" and doesn't mind looking like a plonker when called upon to play. At one morale-boosting company convention – in a bid to boost enthusiasm for seafood sales – he strummed a version of James Blunt's *You're Beautiful* to a staff member dressed up as a crustacean named Dawn the Prawn.



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It's not just rosé that makes an ideal summer drink – a crisp sauvignon blanc can be perfect, along with staple wines from

the Liberty List such as their Gavi di Gavi. Liberty is renowned for its superb range of Italian wines but their expertise extends across the globe. The quality of The Hundred Grenache from South Australia is remarkable and given that it is made in such tiny amounts, it almost qualifies as a "Garage Wine". The weather may tempt us to spend more time outdoors, but there are plenty of stimulating options to drink once the sun has set and it's time to retire inside.

Bruce Palling
Wine Editor – *The Week Wines*

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Gavi di Gavi "Montessoro" 2016, La Giustiniana, Piemonte, Italy

This is one of the most renowned single vineyard wines from Gavi di Gavi, which has been going through a renaissance recently. Donato Lanati, one of the leading Italian wine academics and consultants, has been involved here for two decades, which is why it is the Gavi di Gavi of choice for many Michelin-starred restaurants. With its straw colour, floral nose and mineral backbone, it's ready to drink now, but could easily age for a decade or more. Perfect with oysters.

£23.99
£19.17



Cuvée Alexandre Rosé 2017, Chateau Beaulieu, Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence, France

Apparently, rosé has become the summer wine of choice for Millennials. Its refreshing taste and easy drinking characteristics make it very popular. Ch. Beaulieu certainly ticks those boxes, but beyond that has extraordinary depth and flavour. This is more in the style of the greatest rosé made by Domaine Ott or Chêne Bleu – wild strawberries mingled with peach. It was a small vintage, which has intensified its concentration – it is perfect either as an aperitif or with white meats or shellfish.

£15.99
£12.99



Zapallar Syrah 2016, Outer Limits by Montes, Chile

From one coastal wine to another, several thousand miles away in Chile, only this time it is 100% Syrah, the wine of choice in the Northern Rhone. Somewhat dark and quite intense ripe black berry fruit with an overlay of smokiness. Aurelio Montes makes a point of planting wines at the edge of their comfort zone – hence the Outer Limits description – which is a sound practice as often the best wine comes from vines that have to struggle for sustenance. This wine is ideal with red meat or game.

£21.99
£17.50



Sauvignon Blanc 2016, Blank Canvas, Marlborough, New Zealand

This is far more up front than the French equivalents from the Loire Valley. Winemaker Matt Thomson has worked with Liberty Wines for nearly a quarter of a century, first as a consultant and latterly as a producer. Blank Canvas comes from a single vineyard near the ocean at Dillons Point in Marlborough, home of the greatest New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs. It is intensely floral but beautifully balanced and shows saline hints within the mineral aftertaste, adding to its charm.

£17.99
£15



The Hundred Blewitt Springs Grenache 2015, Willunga 100, McLaren Vale, South Australia

What a discovery – this Grenache wine is nothing like a Southern Rhone and shows superb harmony only three years into its life. Something of a rarity as only 600 cases are made from 85 year-old vines. The tannins are very fine and there is a delicate floral nose to this high altitude wine. I only wish more Australian reds could show this balance and elegance for such a reasonable price. Doubtless it will improve with bottle age, but there's no need to wait given how much pleasure it imparts already.

£18.99
£16



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Who's tipping what

The week's best buys

Oxford BioMedica

The Sunday Times

The gene therapy specialist's stock has doubled this year, fuelled by deals with large drug makers. Loss-making, but it's expanding facilities and is well placed to benefit from the growth of DNA treatments. Buy. 961.8p.

Legal & General Group

Investors Chronicle

The need to take the risk out of future pension payments is driving demand for the life insurer's products. Cash generation is improving, thanks to the retirement and institutional businesses, and it yields over 6%. Buy. 273p.

Quiz

The Times

Fashion is "famously fickle", but Quiz, which floated a year ago, has revealed double-digit growth with online sales up 158%. Quiz operates in 19 countries, with 163 concessions and 73 stores in the UK, and it is expanding. Buy. 171p.

Savannah Resources

The Mail on Sunday

Savannah's early-stage mine in Portugal is set to produce 14 million tonnes of spodumene for lithium battery production. Demand should outstrip supply as the trend for electric vehicles increases. Buy. 8.25p.

Segro

The Times

Segro owns an £8bn portfolio of giant, sophisticated warehouse "sheds" – including five million sq ft of industrial property at Heathrow, where the potential for rent upgrades is huge now the third runway is approved. Buy. 666p.

Strix Group

The Daily Telegraph

Strix makes "boring but essential" kettle control and safety devices. It's the leader in a niche field, claiming some 40% of the market, with strong patent protection. The prospective 5%-plus yield is well covered. Buy. 143.2p.

Directors' dealings

Ryanair Holdings

€



The absence of a Brexit aviation deal has prompted the airline's boss, Michael O'Leary, to sell £28.9m in shares. If an agreement isn't struck before September, scheduling next year could be affected. O'Leary retains a 3.8% stake.

SOURCE: INVESTORS CHRONICLE

...and some to hold, avoid or sell

AO World

Investors Chronicle

Sales continue to accelerate at the electrical retailer. However, it faces "aggressive" competition, losses are widening as it expands rapidly, and high marketing costs weigh on profitability. Sell. 160p.

Cineworld

The Daily Telegraph

"Excellent US performance" is reassuring after the risky £2.7bn takeover of Regal Entertainment. A strong slate of 2018 film releases should offset the risk of a trading blip posed by the World Cup. Hold. 257p.

Royal Bank of Scotland

The Daily Telegraph

Shares in RBS gained a "respectable 7.4%" in a year, but have fallen since the Government sold a sizeable stake, swamping the normal level of demand. Dividends and further sales are expected. Hold. 266p.

B&M European Value Retail

Investors Chronicle

Sales are ahead at the variety discount chain, but volatile weather has led to uneven trading. Despite its strong position in a changing market, the group faces a year of tough comparative figures. Hold. 410.12p.

Glencore

Investors Chronicle

The miner faces growing political risk: from American sanctions on Russia as well as in the febrile DR Congo. Its coal assets are overhyped, and there's a possible Serious Fraud Office probe. Sell. 384.8p.

WPP

The Mail on Sunday

The future of the advertising empire – "thrown into turmoil" after founder Martin Sorrell left amid misconduct allegations – is still uncertain. Berenberg has taken a negative stance, naming a target price of £10.75. Sell. £12.37.

Form guide

Shares tipped 12 weeks ago

Best tip

Trinity Exploration & Production

The Times
up 50.84% to 23.38p

Worst tip

Just Group

The Times
up 4.42% to 142.8p

Market view

"If the world is risk-off you're not going to buy an EM country."

Deutsche Bank's Alan Ruskin warns that emerging markets could take a beating from trade tensions. Quoted in the FT

Market summary

Key numbers for investors

	12 June 2018	Week before	Change (%)
FTSE 100	7703.81	7686.80	0.22%
FTSE All-share UK	4248.85	4233.76	0.36%
Dow Jones	25345.85	24739.78	2.45%
NASDAQ	7703.83	7614.21	1.18%
Nikkei 225	22878.35	22539.43	1.50%
Hang Seng	31103.06	31093.45	0.03%
Gold	1299.60	1295.45	0.32%
Brent Crude Oil	76.40	74.87	2.04%
DIVIDEND YIELD (FTSE 100)	3.83%	3.85%	
UK 10-year gilts yield	1.40	1.28	
US 10-year Treasuries	2.96	2.91	
UK ECONOMIC DATA			
Latest CPI (yoy)	2.4% (May)	2.4% (Apr)	
Latest RPI (yoy)	3.3% (May)	3.4% (Apr)	
Halifax house price (yoy)	+1.9% (May)	+2.2% (Apr)	
£1 STERLING	\$1.332	€1.134	¥147.368

Best and worst performing shares

WEEK'S CHANGE, FTSE 100 STOCKS		
RISES	Price	% change
Evraz	551.80	+7.15
Marks & Spencer Grp.	304.30	+5.55
NMC Health	3608.00	+5.07
Centrica	150.00	+4.90
Next	6202.00	+4.83
FALLS		
Fresnillo	1197.50	-8.97
Old Mutual	222.50	-4.47
Antofagasta	1067.00	-4.22
Paddy Power Betfair	8540.00	-3.94
Ferguson	5987.00	-3.67
BEST AND WORST UK STOCKS OVERALL		
Malvern Intl.	5.15	+390.48
Autins Group	53.00	-35.37

Source: Datastream (not adjusted for dividends). Prices on 12 June (pm)

Following the Footsie



Harold Wilson's long-suffering wife and the love triangle at No. 10

As the historian Dominic Sandbrook reports, Mary Wilson, who died last week aged 102, thought she was destined for a quiet life as the wife of an Oxford don. Instead, her husband's career took her to Downing Street and brought another woman into their lives

For the best part of two decades, Mary Wilson was the most reluctant public figure in Britain. As the wife of Labour prime minister Harold Wilson, she was at his side during no fewer than five turbulent general election campaigns in the 1960s and 1970s. Even though she rarely gave interviews or spoke in public, she became a familiar sight on the nation's television screens. Yet the irony is that she hated politics and loathed living at 10 Downing Street.

Far from craving the limelight, Mary – who has died at the age of 102 – had married Harold in the belief that he would be content with life as an Oxford don, having become one at only 21 years old. Unfortunately, she found herself plunged into the hurly-burly of political life in an age of extraordinary tumult, with Britain beset by record inflation, crippling strikes, terrorist atrocities and a pervasive sense of national decline. As if all that were not bad enough, she also found herself involved in one of the most peculiar and mysterious love triangles in British political history. To Westminster gossips, she was the silent but long-suffering wife, neglected by a prime minister who had fallen under the sway of his Machiavellian political secretary, Marcia Williams. Later, even Harold's closest aides struggled to explain his domestic arrangements. Some claimed he and Marcia had enjoyed a brief sexual affair, though all parties denied it. The truth will probably never be known.

For Mary Wilson, of all people, to find herself at the centre of such allegations was cruelly incongruous. Unpretentious, unassuming, a woman who loved poetry, flowers and the simple pleasures of home and family, she must sometimes have felt trapped in a terrible nightmare. Her early life, which could hardly have been more different, seems like something from a Britain that vanished long ago. She was born during the First World War, on 12 January 1916, in the quiet Norfolk town of Diss, the daughter of a Congregationalist minister, the Reverend Daniel Baldwin. Mary's early family life was characterised by impecunious respectability. Her father earned £190 a year – the equivalent of £16,000 today – on which he had to support a wife and four children. Mary had to attend chapel at least twice, and sometimes as many as four times, on Sundays, when she was also banned from such frivolities as reading novels.

At the age of six, having exhausted the pleasures of reading her father's hymn books, she began amusing herself by writing verses. Poetry remained her greatest hobby for the rest of her life,



Harold and Mary Wilson: childhood sweethearts

“A woman who loved poetry, flowers, and the simple pleasures of home and family, she must have felt trapped in a nightmare”

although intellectuals loved to sneer at her supposedly middlebrow tastes. But the moment that transformed her life came in 1934, after she had started work as a shorthand typist at the Lever soap factory at Port Sunlight in Cheshire. She was playing tennis at a local club when she met another teenager, a clever, good-humoured boy called Harold Wilson.

Within three weeks, Harold had announced that he was going to marry her. Later, their family joked that if she had known it was serious, she would have called it off. But the two had a lot in common, or seemed to. They were earnest, well-meaning sorts of people; they both liked plays, Gilbert and Sullivan and going to church; and both had simple,

unpretentious lower-middle-class tastes. Although Harold's quick mind took him to Oxford, where he became an academic superstar, first as a student and then a don, their relationship never wavered, and on the first day of 1940 they married, her father presiding over the ceremony. Mary's future seemed assured. Life in Oxford had everything she wanted, she later said: “Very old buildings and very young people. There is everything anyone could want: music, theatre, congenial friends, all in a beautiful setting, and within a four-penny bus ride. It symbolised so much for me.” But almost immediately, things started to go wrong. Her husband became a civil servant, then a thrusting young Labour MP. They left Oxford and moved with their two young sons, Robin and Giles, to Hampstead Garden Suburb in north London, where Mary tried to settle into an ordinary suburban family life.

Even as Harold clambered up the political ladder, joining the cabinet, courting the party's powerful left wing and becoming shadow chancellor, the couple kept up their unassuming lifestyle. They holidayed in the Isles of Scilly, read Agatha Christie novels, played Meccano with their boys and had meals with HP Sauce. Their snobbish London neighbours, such as the louche Labour politicians Hugh Gaitskell and Roy Jenkins, sneered at them. But of course these were the small-c conservative tastes of millions of ordinary British people – which is one reason why, when Harold became Labour leader after Gaitskell's unexpected death in 1963, he proved so good at winning elections.

By this point, however, a much younger woman had entered the Wilsons' lives. Marcia met Harold while working for the Labour

Party in the 1950s, and soon became his indispensable private secretary. To her admirers, she was bright, loyal and ruthlessly efficient; to her critics, such as Harold's press secretary, Joe Haines, she was domineering, tempestuous and egotistical. But Haines recognised that, for Harold, Marcia "met for a great many years a deep craving within him for someone else to whom politics was meat and drink and the very air that was breathed". Marcia was obsessed with politics and devoted to the Labour Party.



Marcia, Harold and Mary in 1966

By this point, Mary's patience with politics was exhausted. She was deeply opposed to her husband's commitment to keeping Britain in Europe, and voted No in the 1975 referendum. "I just couldn't do it," she said later, remembering that her husband – who, deep down, was never keen on Europe himself – was "very sweet about it". Rather than moving to Downing Street after the 1974 election, she insisted on staying put in nearby Lord North Street and devoted herself to writing poetry. When a magazine offered to pay her £33 for some of her poems, she was advised by a civil servant that it could

By contrast, it is only a slight exaggeration to say that Mary hated politics and could not have cared less about the party. Of course, Mary did have opinions of her own. She was opposed to Britain's nuclear weapons and regretted that, because she was Harold's wife, she had never been able to go on one of the Aldermaston CND marches. But when Harold became prime minister in 1964, Mary cut a disconsolate figure. This was definitely not the life she had signed up for, and she hated living in the dingy flat above No. 10. "She started with a deep suspicion that everyone disliked and despised her," commented one official. "She walked about looking terribly unhappy." In particular, she loathed state functions. On one occasion, a civil servant's wife found her in tears in the ladies', sobbing: "I can't take it any more!"

When Harold called a snap early election in 1966, Mary had to trawl dutifully around the country with him yet again. Many thought there was no need for her to do so, because the Tory leader, Edward Heath, was a bachelor. But Harold saw an electoral advantage. "The Tories are deliberately leaving [Mary] out of the campaign because Heath has no wife," he told Richard Crossman, a Labour colleague. "It's a positive advantage to us that I and Mary appear together and Heath has nothing. So I would like to see her brought back into the campaign." Her husband was oblivious to the misery this caused Mary, telling Crossman she loved going to political rallies. When Crossman asked Mary if it was true that she had enjoyed it, she stared at him in horror. "Enjoyed it?" she said, with "agonny on her face". "Who told you that? That man?" By "that man", of course, she meant her husband.

In the meantime, Harold and his secretary were closer than ever. As Mary withdrew into the shadows, Marcia was effectively playing the part of Harold's political partner. The great mystery is whether their relationship was ever consummated. Haines wrote that whenever Harold and Marcia fell out – which happened often – she would "lift her ever-present handbag", tap it meaningfully and announce: "One call to the Daily Mail and he'll be finished. I will destroy him." Haines (whose accounts were labelled "a book of tall tales" by Labour's Roy Hattersley) also recalled Harold telling him that after a particularly blazing row, Marcia had burst in to see Mary and announced: "I have only one thing to say to you. I went to bed with your husband six times in 1956, and it wasn't satisfactory."

Although Harold always denied the affair, he seemed to confirm it later that day in a comment to Haines: "Well, she has dropped her atomic bomb at last. She can't hurt me any more." However, when the BBC repeated these claims in a drama, they had to pay an out-of-court settlement of £75,000 to Marcia. Yet despite all this domestic turmoil, Harold's electoral record was extremely impressive. Although the British people, exasperated by his failure to get a grip on the shambolic economy, booted him out in 1970, he clawed his way back into office four years later, after his rival Heath had been humiliated by the striking miners.

be interpreted as trading on her husband's position and she turned the money down. Her first poetry book had been published in 1970. Highbrow critics sneered at her "amateurish, housewifely jottings", but the public loved them, buying 75,000 copies, and John Betjeman, the poet laureate, became a close friend.

As for Harold, he was more than ever in Marcia's thrall. Once, when he and Haines bunked off a House of Lords reception, she tracked them back to Downing Street. "You little c*!t!" she shouted at the prime minister of the United Kingdom. "What do you think you are doing? You come back with me at once!" For Harold's aides, things had gone too far. In a development too lurid for fiction, his doctor, Joseph Stone, allegedly told Haines he could murder Marcia with sleeping pills "in such a way that

it would seem to be from natural causes". He would sign the death certificate and "there would not be a problem".

The murder plan never came to fruition. Although Mary never knew about it, she did know

that her husband's health was cracking under the strain of office.

When Harold unexpectedly resigned in 1976, many suspected some sort of scandal. And when he published a hugely controversial honours list, which handed out gongs to various dodgy business cronies, the papers claimed that Marcia had written it herself on lavender-coloured notepaper – an allegation she strenuously denied. In fact, Harold was already a much-diminished man, his famously sharp mind dimmed by the early symptoms of Alzheimer's. He and Mary vanished into the shadows, with Marcia, now Lady Falkender, trailing behind.

For Mary, retirement came as a relief. Free from the attentions of the press, she spent her time reading poetry and caring for her husband, who endured a long, sad decline until his death in 1995. To some observers, it seemed odd that in her waning years she became close friends with her old rival, Marcia, the two women often lunching quietly together at the House of Lords. But it was typical of Mary's modest but stubbornly independent nature that she did not care what people thought. After all, Marcia was a familiar face – and they had Harold in common.

In her final years, Mary drifted out of the public consciousness, which was just as she liked it. Even in the history books she is largely absent, eclipsed by her wily husband and his controversial secretary. But it says a great deal about Mary's fundamental decency that after so many years in the spotlight, no one had a bad word to say about her. It is hard, though, not to feel sorry for a woman who never got the life she wanted. She had dreamt of a happy existence in suburban Oxford, closer to friends and family. Instead, she was at the centre of one of the most miserable and conflicted administrations in our modern political history. "Of course I hate it," she once said. "I always have. But I do my job."

*A longer version of this article first appeared in the Daily Mail.
Dominic Sandbrook © Daily Mail*

Daily Mail

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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 25 June. Send it to: The Week Crossword 1111, 2nd floor, 32 Queensway, London W2 3RX, or email the answers to crossword@theweek.co.uk. **Tim Moorey** (www.timmoorey.info)



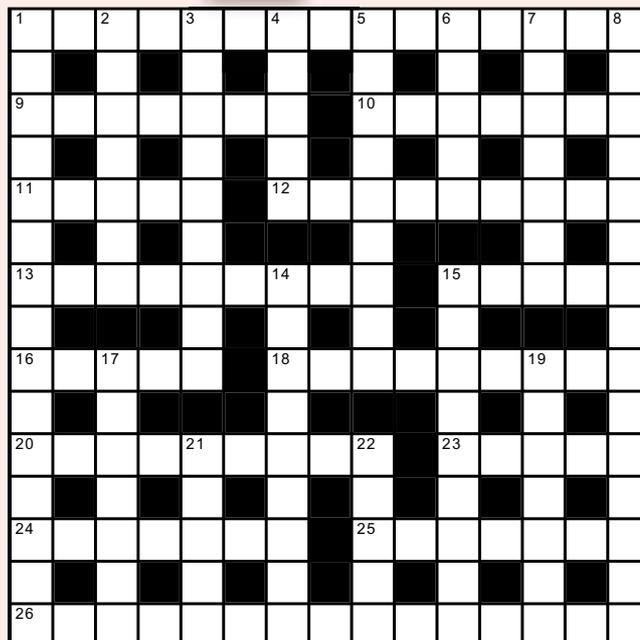
This week's winner will receive an Ettinger (www.ettinger.co.uk) Bridle Hide Double Travel Pass Case in green, which retails at £110, and two Connell Guides (www.connellguides.com).

ACROSS

- 1 Training for Pret A Manger team members? (8,7)
- 9 Only part of a film but about right (7)
- 10 David's son beaten by mob, alas (7)
- 11 Looks and sounds like dogs (5)
- 12 Sudden rush left opening in fortified place (5,4)
- 13 Most limited Tories warn about sacking head of industry (9)
- 15 Sage supplied from dismal small shelter mostly (5)
- 16 Relaxes Conservative charity (5)
- 18 Long time to get into alternative working (9)
- 20 Sort of security device daily newspaper against initially (9)
- 23 Back on motorway, fit again (5)
- 24 Hamburger perhaps latches onto English as appropriate (7)
- 25 Turn out with cricket side and soccer team (7)
- 26 Welsh contend spin out of place in a musical number (4,2,3,6)

DOWN

- 1 Big alterations for a daily? (8,7)
- 2 Type of power that's ambiguous when first couple of letters exchanged (7)
- 3 Hot in Notts town's studios (9)
- 4 The skin is snipped first (5)
- 5 Fruit pudding for Church? (9)
- 6 Peacemakers, for example retract (5)
- 7 Manchester City making girl cross (7)
- 8 One's content with enormous tums at wrestling? Try these! (4,11)
- 14 Running away from little work in natural environment (9)
- 15 Writs involved with El Al flight space (9)
- 17 Try Montreal miles away? Not now (5,2)
- 19 Endlessly sweating conceivably (2,1,4)
- 21 Some mouth a liking for an Indian meal (5)
- 22 Idea in Goethe mentioned (5)



Name

Address

.....Tel no

Clue of the week answer:

Clue of the week: Concluding part of Gettysburg address? (3 first letter Z, 4)
The Sunday Times, Dean Mayer

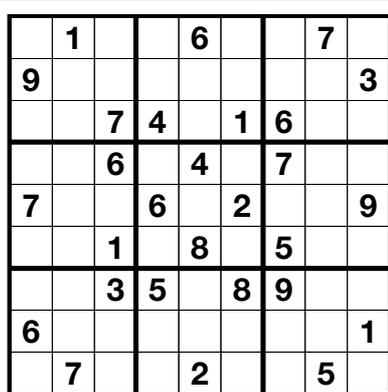
Solution to Crossword 1109

ACROSS: 7 Tiramisu 9 Trying 10 Plea 11 Intertwine 12 Ardent 14 Rooster 15 Daddy-long-legs 17 Strauss 19 Lesson 21 Supersonic 22 Avid 23 Esprit 24 Equities
DOWN: 1 Pillar 2 Raga 3 Ministry 4 Stereo 5 Eyewitness 6 Ensnare 8 Utter nonsense 13 Elderberry 15 Disguise 16 Golf club 18 Upsets 20 Oliver 22 Asti

Clue of the week: I may get by once free outside (2-3 first letter E)
Solution: EX-CON (BY = X INSIDE ANAGRAM OF ONCE)

The winners of 1109 are Mr & Mrs Taylor from Waterthorpe

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Sudoku 655 (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 654

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



Charity of the week



Suicide Crisis is a registered charity which runs a suicide crisis centre, providing intensive face-to-face support to people who are at risk of suicide. A combination of an accessible crisis centre, home visits and emergency phone lines creates a "safety net" around clients.

The charity has a "zero suicide" achievement: in the five years that it has been providing services, there has never been a suicide of a client under their care. This has attracted the attention of the Government, shadow ministers and the Health Select Committee. The charity was set up by someone with lived experience of mental health crisis. Receiving no statutory funding, the service relies heavily on donations. **To find out more, or to volunteer or donate, please visit our website www.suicidecrisis.co.uk or contact us on 07975-974455.**

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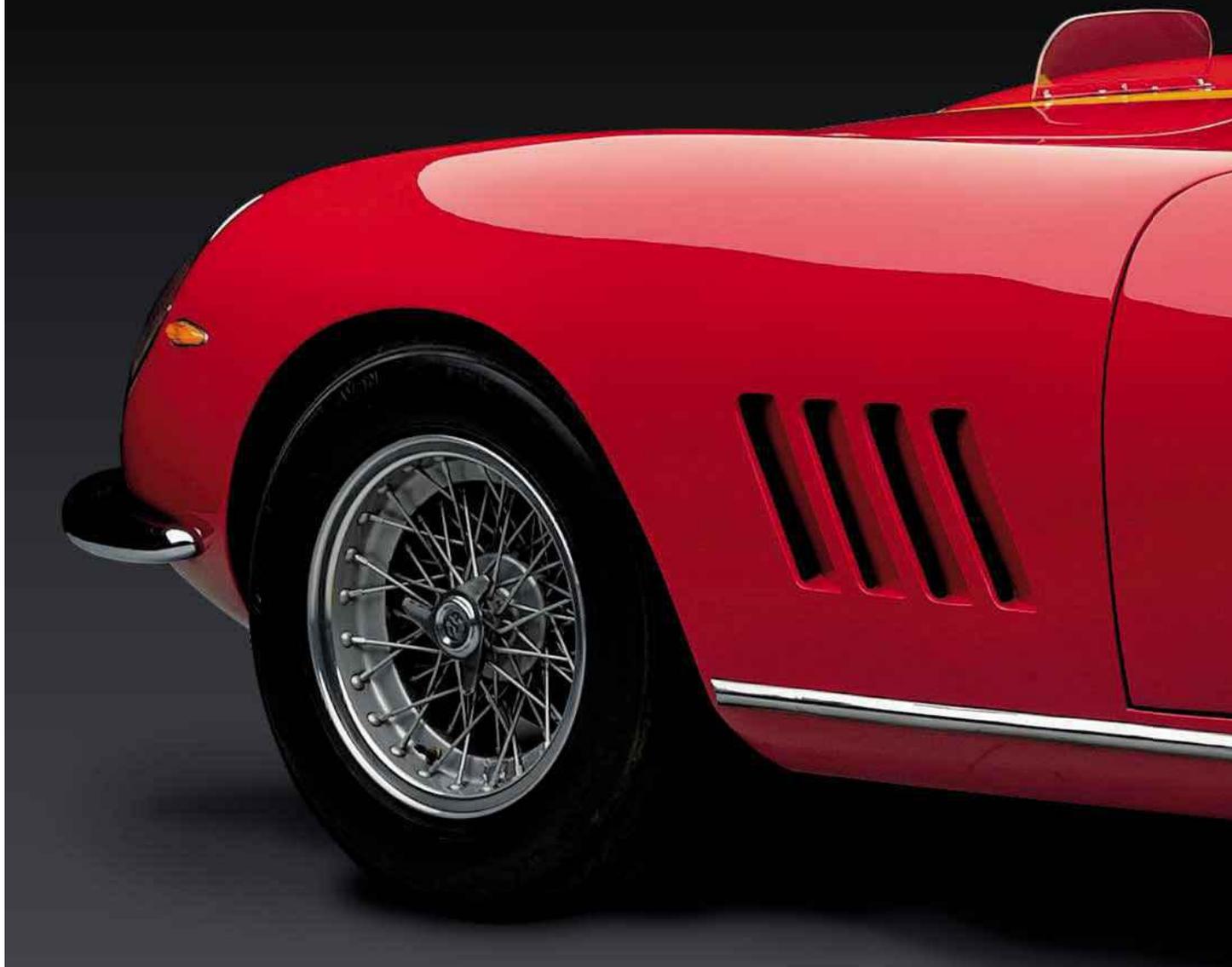
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