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# First News

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THE UK'S ONLY  
NEWSPAPER  
FOR CHILDREN

## COULD COVID-19 CURE THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

### A GREEN RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE WORLD

**THE world has only six months to change the course of the climate crisis, one of the world's top energy experts has warned.**

by editor in chief **Nicky Cox**

Fatih Birol, from the International Energy Agency, says the coronavirus lockdown has led to a cut in carbon dioxide emissions across the world. But we need to keep going.

Emissions plunged by a global average of 17% in April – the sharpest drop in carbon output since records began. In the UK, the decline was about 31%. But, as countries slowly get back to normal activity, the decline has already bounced back to within about 5% of last year's levels.

That is still the biggest annual drop since the

Second World War, and much better than we've seen recently, with emissions rising by about 1% a year.

Emissions must fall to net zero by 2050 to meet the goals of the Paris agreement, signed up to by world leaders.

The experience of the pandemic so far has shown that changes in people's behaviour – such as not flying or driving, and working from home – is only part of the answer. The world still has a long way to go. Even with lockdown, most of the emissions have remained, so even bigger shifts are needed to the way the world produces and uses energy.

Fatih Birol says: "The next three years will

determine the course of the next 30 years and beyond. If emissions rebound, it is very difficult to see how they will be brought down in future."

That's why the IEA is urging governments to have green recovery packages for life after lockdown, with wind and solar power being a top focus.

And Lord Deben, chair of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), says we need new schemes to insulate homes, to raise carbon taxes, to switch to electric vehicles and improve broadband, to help the green recovery and cut emissions for good. He said: "We have to do this as rapidly as possible – this window of opportunity is closing clearly."

## ONLINE NATION

Brits are spending a quarter of their lives online, shows new research by Ofcom, the UK's communications watchdog. Its annual Online Nation report has found that the average Briton spends a quarter of their waking day online in some way. And lockdown may be partly to blame for the latest, higher than normal, figures. Ofcom says the average British adult is spending four hours and two minutes online every day, a 14% increase from last year's average of three-and-a-half hours every day. At least you're taking a break to read a newspaper!



## LOCAL LOCKDOWN

Leicester has become the first location of a local lockdown in the UK, after a recent spike in cases of COVID-19. The number of infections in the city has increased by 866 in just two weeks. The Government has said all non-essential shops must close, as well as schools (except for vulnerable children and the children of key workers). The easing of lockdown in England on 4 July, when pubs, restaurants and hairdressers can open again, will not apply to Leicester. The new restrictions will apply for at least two weeks.

## ROYAL COOKS



The Duke and Duchess of Sussex showed off their cooking skills when they helped make meals for a youth organisation in LA. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle joined Homeboy Industries to cook meals as part of their Feed Hope programme, which provides food for those in need during the coronavirus pandemic.

# QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

## COOKALONG 4 FAMILIES

Food manufacturer Danone has launched a new initiative to get families cooking together to raise money for charity. The series of live cooking tutorials for the whole family have been airing on the Danone YouTube channel. Called Cookalong 4 Families, the videos have been hosted by a bunch of different celebs, including The Saturdays' Frankie Bridge. For every viewer of the livestream, the company is donating £1 to the Family Action charity. The last one airs on 8 July.



## COVID-19 US CASE RISE

The US state of Texas has seen a huge rise in cases of COVID-19. The state was among the first to start lifting lockdown but has now seen one of the biggest surges in new US infections, with thousands of confirmed cases a day. Governor Greg Abbott has urged people to stay home for their own safety. Restaurants, shopping centres, bowling alleys and some other businesses can stay open, but with limits on how many people can visit.



## TIGER TREATS

Three tiger cubs at Whipsnade Zoo celebrated their second birthday with an unusual (and kind of yucky) treat – a giant ice lolly made of blood. The rare Amur tiger cubs, Dmitri, Makari and Czar, are almost fully grown now, so polished off the lolly quickly, which also helped keep them cool in the hot weather last week.

## ULTRA-RARE POKÉMON

An ultra-rare Pokémon card is expected to 'catch' a whopping £88,000 at auction next week. The card is one of seven given to the first-place winners of a Pokémon card tournament in Tokyo, Japan, way back in August 1999 – which means the card itself is very likely older than you! It's so rare that Heritage Auctions has referred to the Pokémon Super Secret Battle No 1 Trainer card as the "holy grail" for Pokémon collectors.

## PUNGENT POST

A suspicious smell coming from inside a German post office resulted in six workers being rushed to hospital and a mass evacuation. After a thorough investigation, local police and firefighters discovered a package of four Thai durian fruits lurking in the Schweinfurt post office. Despite being viewed as a delicacy in many areas of the world, durian fruit is known to be very smelly – so smelly, in fact, that it is actually banned in many hotels and across public transport in Asia.

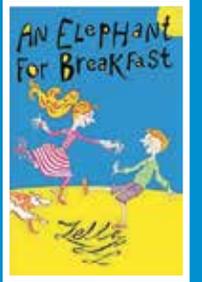
## HIDDEN FIGURE HONOURED

Mary W Jackson, an African-American engineer who saw little credit for her work as a NASA engineer, has been honoured by the space agency, which has renamed its headquarters after her. Sadly, she isn't around to see it today, as she died in 2005.



## READING FOR WILDLIFE

A new campaign called Reading for Wildlife is bringing together authors, artists, conservationists and industry leaders to raise awareness of the illegal wildlife trade by reading *An Elephant For Breakfast* by Zella. For 27 days throughout July, a different author, artist or activist will read a chapter of the book on the Reading for Wildlife by Zella YouTube channel. First News' own Editor in Chief, Nicky Cox, is one of the 27 readers taking part in the campaign! You can find out more at [www.zellahunter.com](http://www.zellahunter.com).



## #STOPHATE4PROFIT

Companies including Coca-Cola have pulled their ads from Facebook, saying the social media giant doesn't do enough to stop hate speech. Facebook makes its money from adverts, and is losing billions as a result of the action.

## BEYONCÉ SUPPORTS BLM

Beyoncé has voiced her support for Black Lives Matters (BLM) protesters, and called on supporters to "vote like our life depends on it". Beyoncé made the call to action during the BET awards, which celebrate black artists and sportspeople, after receiving the humanitarian award, given by former First Lady of the US, Michelle Obama.



## VOICES 2020

The 12th Doctor, Peter Capaldi, has been announced as the host of this year's virtual Voices 2020 Awards show. The creative writing competition for children in care and young care leavers will celebrate its fifth year with a special show, streamed on the Coram Voice YouTube channel, at 5pm on 5 July.



# 500 WORDS ON THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT



**500 WORDS** is the world's largest story-writing competition for kids.

More than a million stories have been submitted since 2011, in response to everything from technology to climate change. Now, the team behind it are bringing children's voices to the themes and issues emerging from the Black Lives Matter movement.

**But, be quick!** You've only got until tonight (11.59pm on Friday 3 July) to get your entries in. Children aged between 5 and 13 can enter in whatever way you wish, in no more than 500 words, in the form of a story.

The judges are keen for kids to draw on their own experiences and feelings to create a story that can be as imaginative and visionary as you want. Storytelling is a must!

From 13 to 16 July, four semi-finalists in each age group will be chosen. Then the judges will decide who will become the two finalists, and the eventual winner of the final on Friday 17 July.

The finalists will be invited to attend an exciting day of events with special guests, starting out at Chris Evans' Virgin Radio Breakfast Show with many special surprises to follow (as soon as lockdown guidelines allow it).

The words of many stories will be read out on air by special guests throughout the competition.

So, what are you waiting for?! Get writing and send your story via the online entry form at [500words.me](https://www.500words.me).

## LEFT WITHOUT FOOD IN LOCKDOWN



**GOVERNMENT** data has shown that the number of families reducing the amount of food they ate, or who relied on food banks, rose significantly during the first months of lockdown.

The data, which comes from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and only covered England, Wales and Northern Ireland, found that between 6.3 million and 7.7 million adults were forced to reduce portion sizes. Between 2.7 million and 3.7 million adults went to a charity for food or used a food bank, because they didn't have enough money to feed themselves during lockdown.

The FSA found that the majority of those with difficulties getting enough food were households with children, people with health issues and people aged 16-24. Older people aged 55-75 were found to be most able to feed themselves, with just 4% skipping meals in May.

A Government spokesperson said: "To help those who are struggling to afford food and other essentials, we are supporting frontline charities and community groups with a grant of up to £16 million."

## A.I. ACTOR

**AN Artificially Intelligent (AI) robot actor has been given a starring role in a \$70 million movie (£56.4m).**

Meet Erica, the AI star of a new sci-fi film, called *b*, which is about an artificially intelligent woman, also called Erica, who escapes from the lab that created her.

Usually, Erica's part might be played by a CGI character, or an actor in make-up. Instead, the film-makers decided to work with Japanese scientists Hiroshi Ishiguro and Kohei Ogawa to actually build a robot actor.

One of the visual effects artists behind the film explained just what that meant. "She was created from scratch to play the role! [We had to] control the speed of her movements, talking through her feelings and coaching character development and body language."



### POLL OF THE WEEK

Would you watch a film that stars an AI actor? Go to [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls) to vote



## WOW!

NASA is planning on returning to the moon in 2024 and, while NASA's experts figure out the rocket science bit, they want your help in designing a new high-tech space potty that can fit on the new lunar landers.

The space organisation officially launched a challenge with crowdsourcers Hero X to find the next generation of moon toilets and, while it may sound silly, they're being very serious about it, offering huge prizes to the best design.

Winners of the Junior Design Challenge will be given a bunch of awesome space prizes – including a certificate from NASA. Those entering the more grown-up Technical Design Challenge could take home \$35,000 (£28,000)!

There are lots of guidelines around the lunar loo's design, so to find out more and enter your own space toilet's sketch, head to [www.herox.com/LunarLooJr](https://www.herox.com/LunarLooJr).

## JAIPUR, INDIA



Getty

A SWARM of locusts flies over the walled city of Jaipur. The invasion of these crop-munching insects is the worst that India has faced for decades.

## NEW YORK, USA



Getty

MOTORCYCLISTS with Black Lives Matter signs ride through New York City, as they take part in the 50th anniversary celebrations of the first ever Pride march. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, this year's official parade was cancelled, although some still took to the streets to celebrate.



## LONDON, UK

CONGRATULATIONS to First News' Managing Editor Keilly Swift and her husband Nick on the arrival of their second daughter, Elodie Robyn Eve. Elodie arrived on Sunday 21 June, weighing 8lb 3oz. Amelie is very proud to be a big sister!



Getty

## LOS ANGELES, USA

A pop-up art installation outside City Hall features nearly 1,200 teddy bears to send a powerful message. The Bear the Truth Organization aims to raise awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement and end racism.



Getty

## TORONTO, CANADA

OUTDOOR fitness classes take place inside domes to fit in with social distancing measures, to help control the spread of COVID-19.



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# WHAT ARE THE RULES?

**AFTER crowds crammed on to beaches during last week's heatwave, and football fans gathered on the streets of Liverpool to celebrate the club's Premier League win, Government and local officials are urging people to remember the social distancing rules and be sensible.**

The local council declared a 'major incident' at Bournemouth beach due to overcrowding – it would have been easy to think that the lockdown was over. But Health Secretary Matt Hancock threatened to close down beaches if social distancing rules weren't obeyed, while England's chief medical officer, Professor Chris Whitty, warned that if we don't all follow the social distancing guidelines then cases of COVID-19 will rise again.

From 4 July in England, if you can't stay 2m apart, you should stay 'one metre plus' apart, while reducing the risk, e.g. by wearing a face mask. In Northern Ireland, it will be 1m with restrictions, in Scotland and Wales it remains 2m. Two households can meet indoors (except in Wales) or outdoors, but they must follow social distancing. The number of people who can meet varies depending where in the UK you live. Playgrounds, restaurants, museums, cinemas and hairdressers can open if they follow the guidelines.

# THE FUTURE OF CINEMA AND THEATRE

**NO pick 'n' mix but there will be thermal imaging cameras. What exactly will it be like going to the cinema or theatre as lockdown starts to ease?**

Now theatres and cinemas have been given the go ahead to reopen, what will a trip to the movies or to see a musical involve? Here's what to expect:

- No pick 'n' mix
- No singalong screenings
- With the new 'one metre plus' rule there'll be a gap of two seats between different groups, but you will be able to sit with your family or friends
- Film start times will be spread out to make sure not everyone arrives at the cinema at the same time
- You might have to queue in the car park before going in

Things are not so straightforward with theatres though. Although they are allowed to reopen and start rehearsals for shows, as long as they stick to the social distancing rules, they are not allowed to stage live productions yet.

However, composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is planning on doing a trial of safety measures in July to show the Government that theatres can reopen without social distancing and help get live shows back on stage sooner. He's using similar methods to the ones they're using in a touring production of *The Phantom of the Opera* in South Korea. There, they've been using thermal imaging cameras to measure people's temperature and self-cleaning antibacterial door handle covers. The audiences have also been wearing face masks and using hand sanitiser. We'll have to wait and see if it works.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT



**THE coronavirus pandemic has been difficult for people all over the world.**

But, among all the bad news about it, there is a glimmer of good news – it might help the climate crisis (front page).

Now we've shown what can be done, it's down to all of us to try to keep up some of the behaviours of lockdown that have helped the planet – like fewer car journeys. And, it's also up to world leaders to adopt green recovery plans for their countries. Let's hope they don't waste the chance.

## GOOD WEEK FOR...

### MICHAEL ROSEN

THE children's author is back at home after being admitted to hospital with coronavirus at the end of March.



## BAD WEEK FOR...

### DENMARK'S PM

DENMARK'S prime minister, Mette Frederiksen, has had to postpone her wedding for a third time. This time it's to go to an EU summit about a COVID-19 recovery fund. She says that she hopes to get married soon.



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# MILLIONS CAN'T WASH THEIR HANDS

**WE all know how important it is to wash our hands, but did you know that one billion people in the world still don't have basic hand-washing facilities?**

One of the key ways to help stop the spread of COVID-19 is washing your hands properly, but charity UNICEF has revealed that people in the most vulnerable countries still aren't able to do it. In the 60 highest-risk countries, two out of three people don't have hand-washing facilities at home so are at more risk of catching the disease. UNICEF is launching a global initiative to make sure people get the help they need.



## ENGLAND

### ● Clap for Carers is back

Get ready to start clapping again, as the boss of the NHS would like the Clap for Carers to return to help celebrate the service's 72nd birthday. On 5 July at 5pm people are being asked to give the NHS a big round of applause. TV broadcasters will pause their transmissions as a mark of respect and public buildings will be lit up blue for the NHS.



Getty

## LONDON

### ● Sad anniversary

On 7 July, a remembrance ceremony will be held in Hyde Park to remember the 52 people who were killed in coordinated terrorist attacks in central London 15 years ago. Three bombs went off on the Tube, and a fourth on a bus. Three of the attackers were British and one was born in Jamaica, and they said that the attacks were revenge for the way that Britain treated Muslims around the world. Attacks like this are very rare. If you're upset by events like this, please talk to a trusted adult.



Getty

The 7/7 memorial in Hyde Park

## GLASGOW

### ● Police officer stabbed in city centre attack

A Sudanese asylum seeker was shot dead by police last week after he stabbed six men, including a police officer and two members of staff at the Park Inn hotel. Around 100 asylum seekers were being housed in the hotel during the lockdown, including the 28-year-old attacker, Badreddin Abadlla Adam. The three other victims were also asylum seekers, and all are being treated in hospital. Police aren't treating the incident as a terrorist attack and are investigating possible motives. One guest at the hotel said that Mr Adam was upset at his treatment. Remember that events like this are only in the news because they don't happen often.



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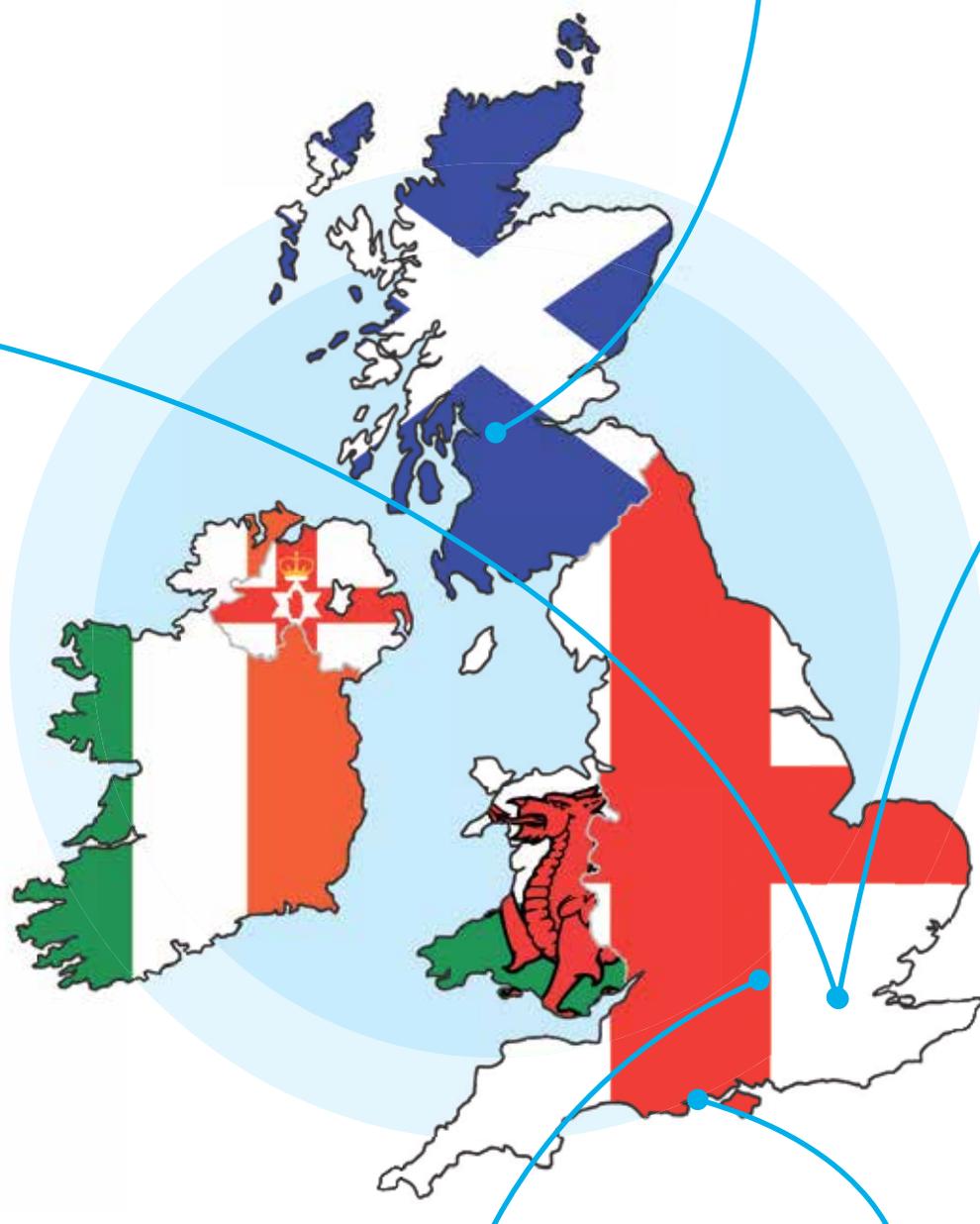
## UK

### ● Help for homeless

The Government has pledged £105m to councils to make sure homeless people have somewhere safe to stay after lockdown. During the pandemic around 15,000 rough sleepers were placed in hotels and B&Bs to help them self-isolate. But with hotels due to reopen on 4 July, charities are concerned that many people will become homeless again. The funding is intended to be used as a temporary solution until the Government has worked out longer-term plans.



iStock



## LONDON

### ● Police break up parties

The Met Police says it is "building relationships" with communities, following several illegal street parties in the capital in the past few weeks that resulted in police being attacked. Police Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick said the force had a "duty" to stop unlawful music events during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Snapchat

## OXFORD

### ● More diversity

Oxford University has revealed that, last year, one in five new undergraduates were from BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) backgrounds. The proportion of British students from BAME backgrounds is now 22.1%, up from 14.5% in 2015. However, some of the colleges and courses are more diverse than others. The university's Annual Admissions Statistical Report showed that between 2017 and 2019, 36% of students starting a medicine course were BAME, compared to 10.5% for biomedical sciences.



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## BOURNEMOUTH

### ● Beach crowd fears

A 'major incident' was declared at Bournemouth Beach as thousands of people went to the seaside on one of the hottest days of the year so far. There were concerns that the beach was so busy that people weren't able to social-distance properly and were at risk of spreading the coronavirus. There were an estimated 500,000 visitors in Dorset on Thursday 25 June, roads were gridlocked, beaches packed and there were reports of fights breaking out. After everyone left, 33 tonnes of rubbish had to be cleaned up from along the coastline.

# REBUILDING OUR SCHOOLS

**THE prime minister has announced a £1 billion fund to improve schools all across England.**

The new ten-year-plan will see new school buildings built and classrooms improved.

It's thought construction work will start on the first 50 new projects in September next year.

Although many welcomed the plans, there are concerns that it's still not enough. Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary of the National Education Union, said: "There are currently 3,731 school buildings in urgent need of immediate repair. In 2017, the National Audit Office estimated it would cost £6.7bn to bring the school estate up to standard; that figure will now be much higher because there has been three years of decline. The Government has cut annual expenditure on school buildings by more than £1 billion in the last two years."

The Government says that the "rebuilding projects will be greener, helping meet the government's net zero target".



# HOW HAS LOCKDOWN MADE YOU FEEL?



istock

**A CHARITY is warning that the coronavirus pandemic could be having a massive effect on young people's mental health.**

The Childhood Trust is worried that disadvantaged children are facing huge mental health problems due to lockdown. Young people interviewed during the pandemic by the charity revealed that they were really concerned about their family's health, schools being closed, a loss of routine, not being around other people and what the future holds.

The charity also revealed that young people living in abusive homes have become even more isolated during lockdown, as the places they'd usually go to for support, such as schools and youth clubs, are closed.

Dr Maria Loades from the University of Bath says in the report: "Current social distancing measures enforced on children

because of COVID-19 are likely to increase the risk of depression and probably anxiety, as well as possible post-traumatic stress."

Although mental health support for children has now adapted and become digital and virtual because of the pandemic, many disadvantaged children don't have access to computers so are not getting the help they need.

The Childhood Trust has launched its Champions for Children campaign to try to raise £3 million for 96 charities that help 17,000 young people in London.

If you're worried about your mental health and want to know ways you can look after it, check out FYI's video, *Mental health: how do I stay mentally healthy?* at [first.news/idgi](https://www.first.news/idgi).

# SCHOOL PLACES NEEDED FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

**A GROUP of charities have come together to ask world leaders not to give up on the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugee children who are still not in school.**

In 2016, world leaders pledged that all children who had been forced to flee the war in Syria would be given a school place within a year. However, four years later, almost 750,000 Syrian refugee children are still not in school.

While out of school, these young people are more at risk of things like early marriage and child labour.

In an open letter, charities including Save the Children and World Vision are calling on leaders around the world to help these vulnerable children get an education.



Getty

# PRICEY POOCH!

**MEET the world's most expensive sheepdog.**

Elan Valley Sally, a 19-month-old border collie from Brecon, was bought by an anonymous bidder at an online sale for a whopping £19,451.

The owner had posted videos of Elan Valley Sally in action on YouTube and Facebook so that buyers could see her super skills in action. The average price for a working dog is usually about £2,000.



Wales News Service

## POLAND



### ● Election division

Last weekend, voters in Poland held the first presidential election in the European Union since the pandemic started. Current president Andrzej Duda (pictured) took home 43% of the vote, which wasn't quite enough to win. He'll now face his closest challenger, Rafał Trzaskowski, in a second election on 12 July. Mr Duda's campaign has been criticised for being anti-LGBT rights.



## TANZANIA



### ● Gemstone jackpot

A Tanzanian mining boss has earned £2.7 million (7.74bn Tanzanian shillings) after discovering two record-sized tanzanite gemstones. The stones, found only in a small northern region of the East African nation, have been bought by the government to be put on show in Tanzania's national museum. The boss will share 10% of the money among the miners who found it, and the rest will go towards building a new shopping centre and school for the local area – after he's thrown a party!

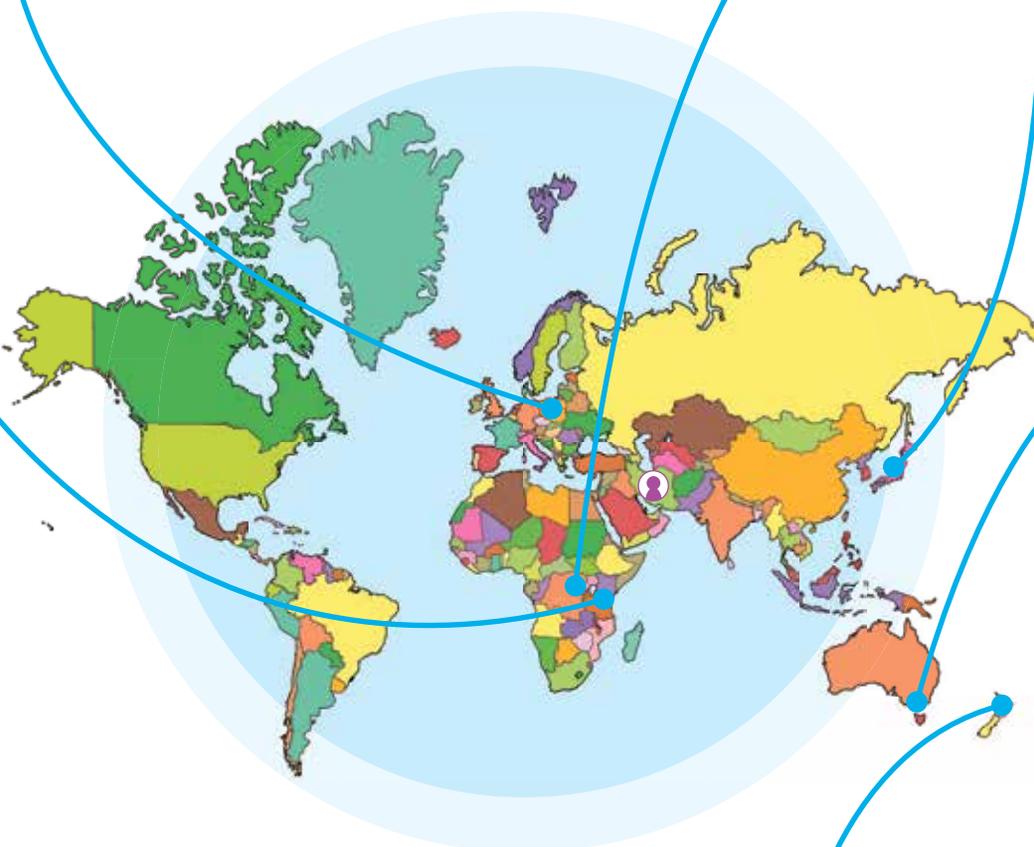


## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



### ● Ebola wiped out again

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has declared that its tenth outbreak of Ebola is officially over. More than 2,200 people have died since the latest outbreak began in August 2018. The World Health Organization says the end of the outbreak was the result of hard work across all parts of the government. More than 320,000 people were vaccinated against Ebola – the largest ever campaign against the disease.



## JAPAN



### ● Ninja studies

A Japanese university has awarded its first ever degree in ninja studies. Genichi Mitsuhashi, 45, completed his Master's course at Mie University in central Japan. Along with studying the history of the famously stealthy, black-clad warriors, Genichi Mitsuhashi learned how ninjas lived long ago. According to his research, ninjas were farmers during the morning, then trained in martial arts in the evening – so he did the same! "With this combination, I thought I could learn about the real ninja," he said.



## AUSTRALIA



### ● Panic buying returns

Several Australian shops have reintroduced limits on the purchasing of goods including toilet roll, hand sanitiser, eggs and pasta, following a surge in panic buying. Shoppers began buying the products in bulk after there was a spike in COVID-19 cases in the state of Victoria. The country's prime minister, Scott Morrison, said that there was no reason to panic buy.

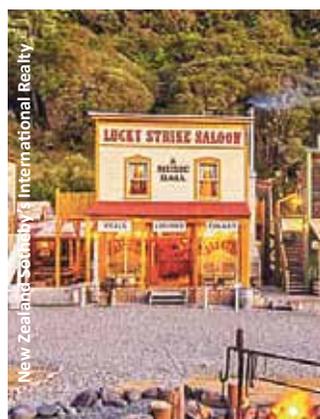


## NEW ZEALAND



### ● "Wild west town" for sale

Mellonsfolly Ranch is a replica of an 1860s frontier town in Wyoming, USA, and is available to buy for £9.4 million (\$11.6m) to those looking for an authentic western movie experience – in New Zealand. Along with getting their own town, the new owner would be allowed to move to New Zealand – something currently forbidden for foreigners looking to buy a home in the country.



## OUR WORLD



NAME: PARISA  
LIVES: IRAN



TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO  
[WWW.UNHCR.ORG/PROTECTREFUGEES](http://WWW.UNHCR.ORG/PROTECTREFUGEES)

### SHE may be four years older than the other girls in her class, but Parisa looks forward to going to school every day.

"I love school so much," says Parisa. "My favourite subject is maths, because maths is everywhere in the world."

Parisa, now aged 16, and her family fled Afghanistan ten years ago to escape fighters who were terrorising their neighbourhood. Arriving in Iran, they found safety, but barely had enough money to live on, let alone cover the fees for school.

But in 2015, Iran said it would allow all Afghan children to attend the country's state schools. Thanks to the government and UNHCR, Parisa got her first taste of a proper education when she was able to go to a brand-new primary school.

"I am so happy that I can study side by side with Iranian students," says Parisa, who wants to use her education to help children in her native country.





The balloon will drift to the edge of space

Space Perspective

# UP, UP AND AWAY

**VISITING outer space is still a distant dream for anyone who isn't an astronaut, but a day trip to the stars is already open for bookings!**

A new company, Space Perspective, is planning uncrewed tests next year. If successful, reaching the outer edges of the atmosphere could be as easy as flying abroad in a few years' time.

The plan will be for a crew and up to eight passengers to travel in Neptune, a pressurised capsule attached to a balloon the size of a football stadium filled with hydrogen.

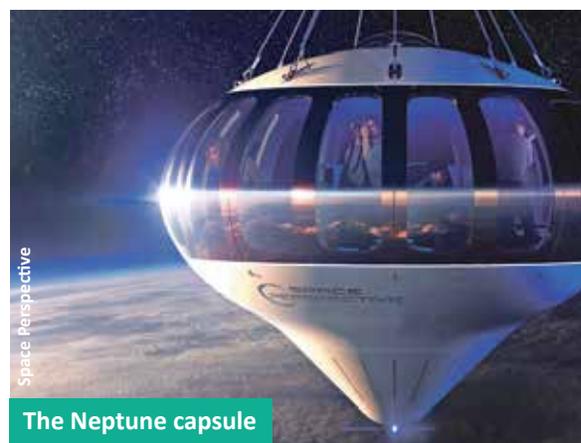
They will drift upwards right to the edge of space, 30km above the Earth. There, space tourists will be able to look back at the Earth and out to dark space and the sight of millions of stars. Although the price is yet to be fixed, the luxury flight, which will take six hours, is likely to cost over £100,000. Because the capsule remains within the Earth's atmosphere, no special suits or training are needed. It means that older people or those with health problems won't be excluded.

One downside (apart from the price!) may be the method of landing back on Earth. The balloon drifts back down from the stratosphere until it splashes down in the sea. Passengers, crew, capsule and balloon are then recovered by ship.

Space Perspective will run tests from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, but it has big plans to operate up to 500 flights from various sites across the USA by 2024.

The race to get tourists into space is hotting up. Neptune faces competition from the Stratollite, a balloon being developed by a company called World View Enterprises, while the super-rich Richard Branson, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk are all pouring money into developing commercial space vehicles. The advantage of the balloon is that it will be cheaper than a space plane or rocket.

Space tourism may soon be a reality, but how visitors get there is still a very open question.



Space Perspective

The Neptune capsule

# COAL CATASTROPHE



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**NEW evidence of previous global warming and mass extinctions is worryingly similar to what is happening now, one expert says.**

Professor Lindy Elkins-Tanton of Arizona State University in the USA believes that her findings show us how the Earth responds to massive change long-term. She thinks the recently discovered evidence should drive urgent change to save the planet.

There was a mass extinction of almost all animal life 252 million years ago (the Permian-Triassic extinction), but the cause has challenged scientists for years. There have been many theories about how it happened.

One of the most widely believed was that the burning of coal on a huge scale had caused climate change, which in turn was catastrophic to existing life. Professor Elkins-Tanton and colleagues turned their attention to a volcanic region of Siberia, Russia where it was known that magma and lava flows had burned their way across the landscape.

They collected over 500kg of volcanic rock and were surprised to find plenty of burnt material, including wood and coal. Professor Elkins-Tanton said: "We found towering river cliffs of nothing but volcanoclastics [rocks created by explosive volcanic eruptions] lining the river for hundreds of miles. It was geologically astounding."

It suggests that the heat of volcanic material burned coal in the ground and plant life in big enough quantities to create air pollution that caused climate change. The Earth suffered massive global warming at the time, which increased the temperatures of the seas and eventually killed off 96% of all marine life on the planet.

# MEET THE SLOTHBOT!

**CONSERVING endangered animals could be helped by the arrival of the SlothBot.**

Currently being tested before being put to work, the cute-faced robot designed by scientists at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the US will monitor animals and plant life. It is powered by solar panels and hangs on a wire suspended between two trees. The energy-efficient SlothBot moves slowly like a real sloth, collecting information such as the temperature, weather and the carbon dioxide levels of the area.

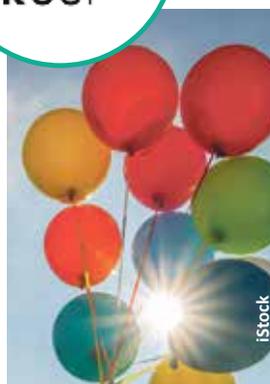
With its strong outer casing that protects the machinery inside, the Slothbot can be left in place for months, saving scientists years of field research.



Rob Felt, Georgia Tech

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London



iStock

**HAVE you ever been given one of those balloons that float away when you let go?**

These aren't the sort you blow up yourself using air, but are in fact filled with a gas called helium.

But what do we know about helium? Well, imagine the balloon. We know that what's inside it is a gas because it is filling up all the space inside the balloon and, when you squeeze it, it bounces back into its original shape.

The balloon also rises in the air, and if you push it down it comes back up. This tells us that the gas inside the balloon is lighter than air.

You can learn more on the BBC iPlayer, where the Science Museum Group and BBC Bitesize Daily bring you some jaw-dropping science demonstrations and experiments to try at home. See [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p089nk5f](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p089nk5f).

THE research shows a mixed picture of lockdown life for teenagers, showing a big increase in snacking, fresh enthusiasm for cooking and a new enjoyment of eating as a family.

The study of more than 1,000 teenagers, by Bite Back 2030 and the Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, also shows a gap between the rich and poor when it comes to diet, with an appetite among young people for a fairer food system.

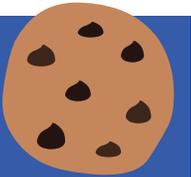
Christina Adane is co-chair of Bite Back, a youth-led organisation campaigning for good food and good health for every child and young person growing up in the UK. She said: "I want to be part of a world where our health is the priority of the food industry. There are enough people that think the same way for this change to happen; we just need to take the opportunity that lockdown gave us to have a fresh start."



# HUNGRY FOR CHANGE

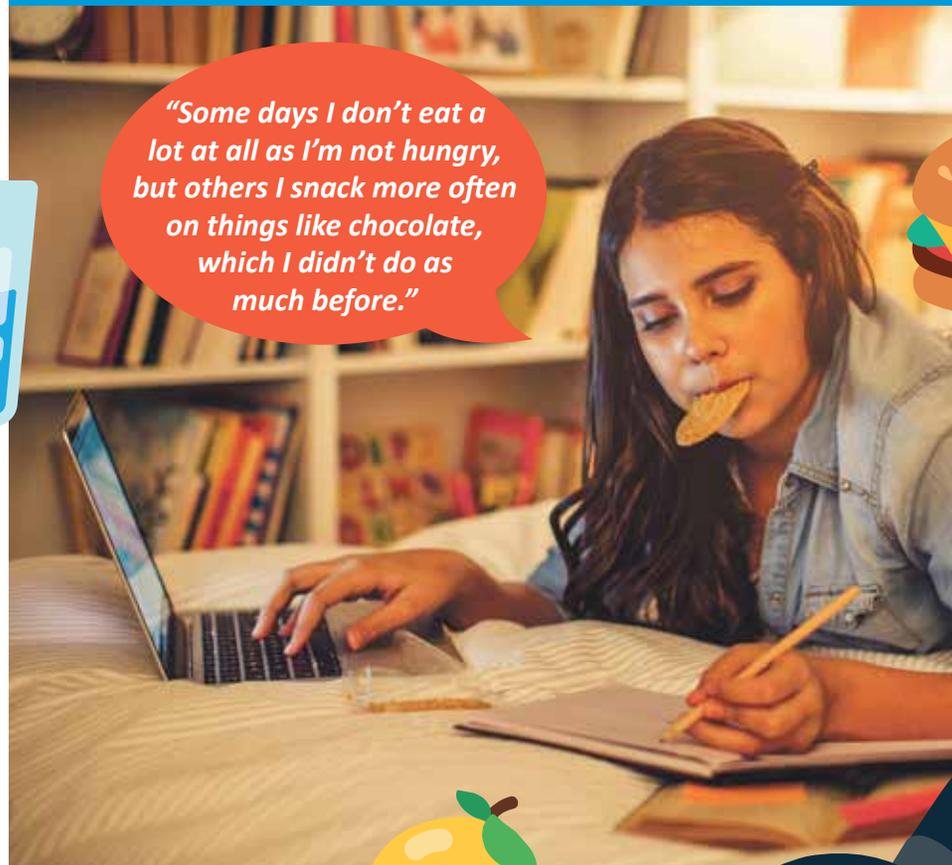
## BITESIZE

Despite more home-cooked meals, not being in school led to an increase in snacking, with 40% snacking more – often on crisps and chocolate – under lockdown. The research showed that children in poorer homes were more likely to snack and less likely to eat fresh fruit and vegetables than those in wealthier homes.



First News has been looking at a new report showing how young people's eating habits have changed during lockdown.

"Some days I don't eat a lot at all as I'm not hungry, but others I snack more often on things like chocolate, which I didn't do as much before."



"I feel I am drinking more water than I was before lockdown. I guess it's the only thing I can really drink right now easily."

## BITESIZE

One of the good effects of lockdown has been an increase in the amount of water being drunk by teens. The research showed that, because it was less easy to get out to buy drinks, the taps at home had encouraged more than half of young people to drink more water.



Following the research, Bite Back 2030 wants the Government to think about these five things ahead of new anti-obesity plans expected to be announced later this month:

1. Ensure no child goes without a decent meal in the school holidays, no matter where they live
2. Make healthy foods cheaper than unhealthy foods
3. Make it easier to get drinking water, wherever they are
4. When it comes to advertising, put healthy options centre stage and take the spotlight off junk food
5. Redesign the high street to include healthy, safe spaces to hang out



## BITESIZE

Some 60% of young people feel eating as a family has improved their health and wellbeing while in lockdown.



"When I have nothing to do I usually prepare myself food if I'm hungry. Since my parents are key workers, I feel like I should help out more with cooking."

"Food during this period allowed me to reconnect with members of my family; we have been cooking together and enjoying meals together. I'd love to continue doing it."



## BITESIZE

A third of teens reported cooking more, although those from poorer families were stepping up to take responsibility for preparing meals for key worker single parents rather than cooking for enjoyment.



# BEAT THE HEAT

**TIGERS, elephants, sun bears and a whole host of other species have been filmed taking advantage of a jungle pool to beat the heat in Thailand.**

Camera trap footage filmed over a month in Thailand's Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary found a wide variety of species used the water hole – from large predators such as tigers, to smaller species of bird, like the jungle fowl. Conservationists are thrilled by the variety of species they filmed using the natural pool in the sanctuary, after spending years trying to protect and conserve the vast Western Forest Complex of national parks and sanctuaries in Thailand and Myanmar.

The project was a collaboration between the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Thai government, to protect the forest and to increase ranger patrols in the area. Tigers in particular have benefited, as the increased patrols have helped protect them from poachers and seen their numbers increase.



## REEFS NEED PROTECTION

A NEW study has found that just 2.5% of the world's tropical coral reefs are officially protected by law.

Conservationists are concerned about the lack of protection for such important habitats and ecosystems around the world, particularly in areas where there is a lot of contact with people. They are urging governments and other organisations to make official marine protection areas a priority.

More than 500 million people around the world rely on reefs and the fish that live in them. If reefs aren't properly protected then it won't be long before the number of fish living there becomes dangerously low. The full study is published in the latest edition of the journal *Marine Policy*.



## SEAHORSE SURPRISE



### WOW!

A WOLF has been spotted in northern France for the first time in over 100 years. The animal was caught on CCTV wandering through the town of Londinières. A small number of wolves are known to live in France, but much further south and in the Alps.

A NEW species of pygmy seahorse has been discovered in South Africa.

The tiny seahorse is no bigger than a grain of rice and has a set of sharp-tipped spines on its back. It has been named the African or Sodwana Bay pygmy seahorse, after the region where it was found.

Researchers working in the area were surprised to find the species, as most of the other pygmy seahorse species are found more than 8,000 kilometres away in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.

Michael Markovina

Dr Richard Smith

# Some of you may be going back to school and things will seem a bit different

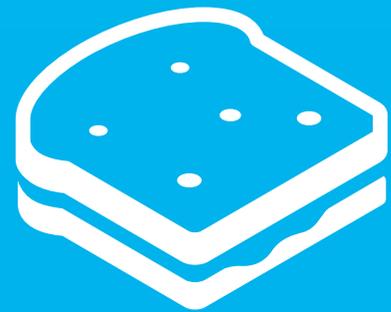
We have looked at how schools can open in a safe way.



reducing the size of classes



keeping children in small “bubble” groups without mixing with others



having staggered break and lunch times, as well as drop-offs and pick-ups



more cleaning



reducing the use of shared items



schools using outdoor space as much as they can



not travelling to school on public transport if possible

**All together** >

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

# THE BIG PICTURE



Lockhart Maclean

**AFTER 48 days at sea, the crew of the Ocean Voyages Institute ship S/V Kwai successfully removed a record 93.4 tonnes of fishing nets and other plastic junk from the sea.**

The operation was carried out in the part of the Pacific Ocean commonly known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, or North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone, to give it its official name. This area is the centre of what's known as a gyre, which is a circular current. The way the current moves leads to a build-up of rubbish in the middle, which can be targeted by clean-up expeditions like this one.

"The oceans can't wait for these nets and debris to break down into microplastics," said Mary Crowley, the founder of the Ocean Voyages Institute. "There is no doubt in my mind that our work is making the oceans healthier for the planet and safer for marine wildlife, as these nets will never again entangle or harm a whale, dolphin, turtle or reef."

# SWEET AND SOUR

A European honeybee in its hive

istock

IN recent years, it's become clear that many bee species are in trouble, due to the increasing effect that humans are having on the environment. As well as providing us with honey, bees (and other insects) also pollinate most of the crops that the world relies on.

Dr Martin Kunz is on the management committee of the International Bee Research Association (IBRA). He also keeps bees as a hobby, and he wrote this piece for us about the difficult challenges that these amazing creatures are faced with.

## COLLECTING NECTAR

To produce 1kg of honey, honeybees must collect nectar from four million flowers. So, obviously we need a lot of flowering plants if we want honey. Someone suggested that each person in London should plant one flower – but those nine million blossoms would only provide nectar for 2.5kg of honey, which isn't enough, even though each blossom is visited multiple times. Bees need meadows full of flowers, and in particular they need trees: I don't think anyone has ever estimated the number of blossoms on a chestnut or linden tree.

But it's not only a question of quantity [amount]. In spring, of course, all those fields with yellow flowers (from rapeseed plants) provide a lot of nectar, but once they're gone most of the countryside is like a food desert for bees for the rest of the year.

The second problem with such a mono-diet (eating just one thing) is that it is unhealthy. Imagine that you were only fed cheese on toast, day in and day out, for weeks. Not only would it be boring, but the chances are that you'd also feel or even get sick. It's the same for bees: they need a variety of food. Bees even self-medicate [treat themselves with medicine]: if they have an upset stomach (it happens!), they know which plants to visit. Although bees living in urban areas may have a wider choice of flowers, there are still not enough of them.

It's estimated that there are around 5,000 bee colonies in London alone – and despite all the parks and gardens, there may simply not be enough food for them all.



These beehives are on the roof of a high-rise building in Manhattan, New York

© M. Kunz



Two European honeybees in the USA approach a stingy cactus

© M. Kunz

## UNDERSTANDING BEES

And that's just one of the problems bees face. Like humans, when too many things go wrong and don't work, they get stressed and can fall ill, and they may even die. When all the bees in a hive die, it's called a colony collapse.

When we try to understand bees, it's important to look not at one individual bee, but at a whole colony. In the summertime there is one queen and up to 50,000 worker bees, which are all female and do all the work, including raising the young, cleaning and defending the colony, and foraging. There are also a couple of hundred drones, which are males whose only purpose is to mate with a queen. This colony, a so-called 'super organism', acts like one animal. When apple and other trees are flowering, known as nectar flow, bees store as much food as possible. They also try to feed and raise as many young bees as they can. A summer bee usually only lives for six weeks, so there is a constant renewal, both of individual bees and colonies.

Remember, a colony acts like a single animal – and it gives birth to a new one.

This is called swarming, and is very different from, say, a dog having a pup. You may have seen thousands of bees hanging from a branch – that is a swarm. What's interesting is that unlike humans, where the young generation usually moves out when finished with school and training, among bees it is the older bees that leave their hive. That way, they give the next generation a better chance to start the cycle all over again. A swarm only has two or three days in which to find a new home. After that, the honey they took with them in their stomachs runs out and they starve.

Increasingly, swarming bees find it hard to find suitable new homes. Before the human population became so large, bees had it much easier and could find an old tree with a nice hole, possibly made and left by a woodpecker. Nowadays, bees settle for gaps between wall insulation, for example. It's not good for them, and usually not good for the people living in that house either.



This swarm shut down a construction site. It needed to be pushed out of the pipe before it could be rehoused

## PROBLEMS FOR BEES

Other problems bees face, apart from food and housing issues, are also related to the changing environment. Many farmers try to protect their crops from hungry insects that nibble, munch and suck, and many garden owners try to protect their flowers. To do this, they both spray pesticides, which do what they are supposed to do: they kill insects. To a farmer or a gardener, the bugs that eat their crops or garden plants are ‘pests’, but there are also beneficial insects like bees that have a good effect. It is becoming more and more obvious that these poisons also harm us humans when they end up in our water and our food.

Climate change, too, makes the life of bees harder. With spring beginning earlier, plants may flower earlier than before, when bees may not be ready yet. After all, they had to huddle in their hives for months over the cold season. In winter, a colony usually has fewer than 10,000 workers and just one queen but no drones, as they all get kicked out of their hives before the end of the summer. When days get longer, it takes time to grow the colony to its full summer size, and if the blossoms are finished before the colony has achieved full strength, it may starve.

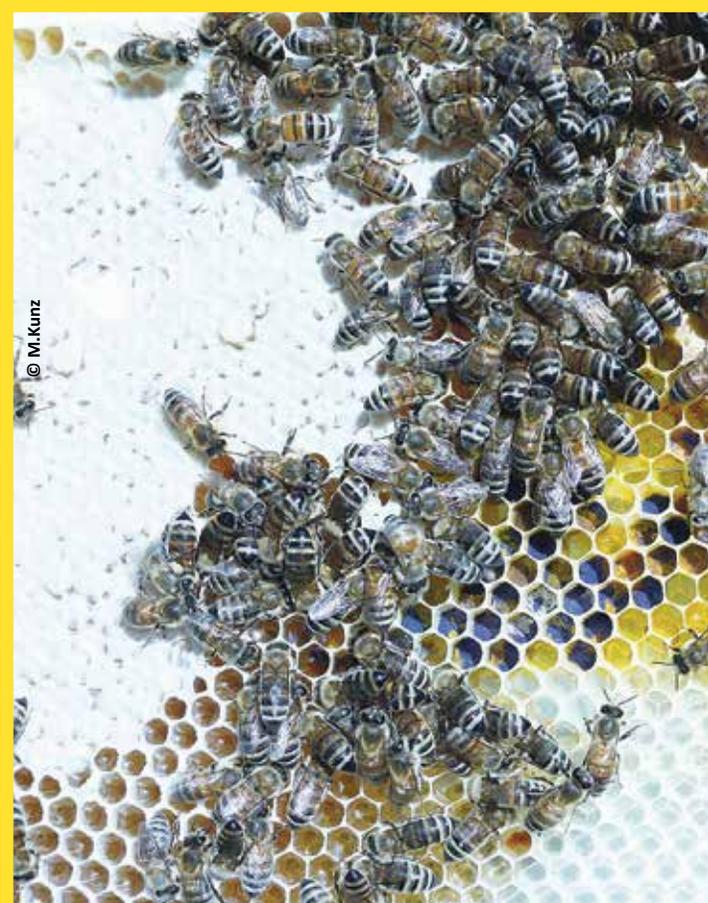
Then there are a growing number of pests and diseases that increasingly make life difficult for our bees. You may have heard of the Asian hornet, one of which can easily eat dozens of honeybees. Imagine what a colony of those can do in an afternoon to a hive of honeybees. These threats reach us as a result of internationally-traded goods and because of climate change.

Fortunately, when we look at the number of honeybee colonies in the world, we see their numbers are increasing. That’s because they are so resilient and because there are still plenty of areas where there aren’t so many people, and where agriculture is not as industrialised as in Europe.

Until the middle of the 19th century, bees were mostly kept in woven skeps, sometimes with mud covers. When it’s too hot, bees form a ‘fan’ outside and use their wings to blow cool air into their hive



© M.Kunz



© M.Kunz

Here you can see honey stores (top left: white already with a lid; bottom left: open) and cells with pollen (centre). The hexagonal structure provides maximum strength with the minimum of material



© M.Kunz

An *A dorsata* (a rock bee) on a cotton flower. The bee is the size of a European hornet

A stingless bee (bottom right) approaching an onion flower. Note how tiny it is!



© M.Kunz

## BEES AROUND THE WORLD

We’ve only talked about one honeybee species – *Apis mellifera*, the European honeybee. There are about a dozen other types of *Apis* honeybees, all of which live only in Asia, and all of which are in serious decline because their habitats are under threat.

And don’t get me started on bumblebees and the solitary bees (which do not form colonies). All in all, scientists count some 25,000 bee species globally. While very little detail is known about most of them, what is increasingly clear is that their numbers are declining as a result of human activities. So, if we want to help not just our honeybees, but bees, insects and animals in general, we need to protect trees, plants and rivers. In short, we need to protect OUR planet.

# INTO THE UNKNOWN

FOR the first time in forever, *Frozen* fans are being invited to see behind the scenes of *Frozen 2* with a brand-new docuseries about the making of the hit animation.

*Frozen* fans are going to want to venture over to Disney+ this week to check out the new docuseries, *Into the Unknown: Making Frozen 2*. The new six-part series will give *Frozen* fans a never-before-seen sneak peek behind the curtain of the wizards at Walt Disney Animation Studios in action, as they use their magic to add the final touches to *Frozen 2*.

The series started shooting at the end of 2018 and was filmed continuously in the months leading up to the world premiere of *Frozen 2* in November 2019. The film-makers, voice cast, artists and songwriters all opened their doors for the cameras to reveal the astonishing amount of work that goes into making such an epic family film (spoiler alert: it's a lot).

*First News* was invited to a virtual press conference last week to learn more about the series from the film-makers, as well as Idina Menzel (the voice of Elsa) and Josh Gad (who plays Olaf). The team offered us a flurry of juicy *Frozen* goss – check out the best bits below!



## FROZEN SECRETS DEFROSTED

Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Bobby Lopez – who wrote all the songs we love from *Frozen* and *Frozen 2* – appear in the new series. They spontaneously broke into song during the press conference, performing a rendition of *Some Things Never Change*, the first song that appears in *Frozen 2*.

Elsa's song, *Show Yourself*, caused a huge amount of stress for the film's animators, directors and composers! You'll get to watch this creative journey in the documentary series.

The cameras filmed Josh Gad as he recorded musical lines for Olaf in the recording booth. Josh recently admitted that the cameras "intimidated" him, so much so that he had to re-record his singing parts once the cameras had left! Josh added: "I'm not Idina! She performs in front of 50,000 people and is like: 'That was a small audience!'"

When asked about the new Disney+ series, Idina Menzel said: "Josh [Gad] and I, and the whole cast, we come in [to the studio], we do our own thing, we have a great time, but we get to be reminded of how talented all the other [film-makers and composers] are. They're always so collaborative and allow us to see their process – I'm just awestruck. And, you know, it humbles me being in something like this, where you see just how much work goes into it. Getting to admire everyone's talent made work fun."

One of Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Bobby Lopez's biggest regrets from *Frozen* is that they never wrote a song for Kristoff (voiced by Jonathan Groff). For this reason, Kristoff was given his own ballad in *Frozen 2*, *Lost in the Woods*.

The new Disney+ documentary series was shot over the course of 115 days!



The topic of *Frozen 3* found its way into the conversation. Although there's no official announcement yet, it's nice to know that it's definitely a possibility!

Stream *Into the Unknown: Making Frozen 2* on Disney+ now!

THIS WEEK

**1** Disneyland Paris has announced a phased reopening from 15 July 2020, starting with both theme parks, Disney's Newport Bay Club hotel and Disney Village. New health and safety measures will be introduced for cast members and guests, and the numbers of visitors each day will be limited. All Disney parks were forced to shut their gates in March 2020, in response to the global coronavirus pandemic. Disneyland Paris has been closed since 16 March.



**2** Netflix has confirmed that a *Chicken Run* sequel is set to hatch on the streaming service in the near future.



Netflix announced the news on social media, saying: "POULTRY NEWS: Exactly 20 years to the day since the original was released, we can confirm there will be a *Chicken Run* sequel coming to Netflix!" Egg-cellent!

**3** English National Ballet School has announced that this year's Summer Performance and Graduation Ceremony will be streamed online for the first time in its history via the school's website on Saturday 11 July from 7.30pm.

PIGS OF THE WEEK

NETFLIX and Pearl Studios have released the first trailer, as well as never-before-seen images, for their new animated musical, *Over The Moon*.

There's been a huge amount of buzz around the new musical movie recently. Not only did Netflix and Pearl Studios release first-look images and a trailer for the upcoming musical treat, but they also held a virtual press conference with the film's A-list cast. *Over The Moon* tells the story of a bright young girl who builds a rocket to go to the moon to prove the existence of a legendary Moon Goddess. She ends up on an unexpected quest there and discovers a land of fantastical creatures.

*Over The Moon* will be released on Netflix this autumn.



GABRIEL BATEMAN



THE actor tells us about his character Oliver in the new film, *Think Like A Dog*.

What is Oliver like?

Oliver is a sensitive, intuitive kid who is just basically a normal kid, besides the fact that he is an engineering genius. He has a really special connection with his parents and his dog and that is what really drives the film, his connection with those people.

Oliver invents a machine that allows him to talk to his dog. What would you like to invent?

Something that would help you talk to your dog, like in this film, would be pretty cool. There are so many cool things you could do. If flying is on the table or teleportation, I'd love to be able to do that!

Do you have any pets that you'd like to talk to?

I grew up with a lot of dogs but I don't have any dogs right now; right now I have a cat. I guess I would ask him if he is happy because you can't really tell all the time with animals. I'd ask him what he does like and what he doesn't like. It would be really interesting to understand how he thinks.

What was it like working with a dog on a film set?

You would think it would be hard but the dog trainers were so amazing that JC, the dog, was always doing the right thing and perfect to work with. Outside of that, just having a dog around in



a professional environment just lifts everyone's spirits. It's so nice to have a dog in an environment that can sometimes be tense or stressful.

What made you want to be in this film?

I just really liked the message that it sends about appreciating the little things. I think it tells a really beautiful story about family and the trials that you can go through and how appreciating simple things can help that. I also really liked Oliver as a character. I had never played a tech genius before so I thought that was really interesting!

Think Like A Dog is on digital download from 6 July and DVD from 20 July



# GET CREATIVE WITH MAPED HELIX!

HAVE YOU EVER WISHED THAT YOU COULD DESIGN  
YOUR OWN PIECE OF STATIONERY?

## THE COMPETITION

TO celebrate the summer holidays coming up, Maped Helix is tasking you to channel your inner creativity and design your dream stationery item!

How about a pen that checks your spelling for you as you write?  
Or an eraser that can rub out ink and crayon as well as pencil?

Demonstrating imagination, style and individuality, your stationery design needs to stand out from the crowd with cool colours, fun patterns and something unique that the judges have never seen before!

## WIN COOL PRIZES

## THE PRIZE

The **lucky winner** will receive an exclusive bundle of exciting **Maped Helix products for themselves worth £50** and a **huge stationery pack for their school worth £150!**

This super-smart bundle includes everything you need to be top of the class, from a range of colouring items perfect for up-and-coming creative geniuses looking to design, draw and create, to school essentials such as pens, highlighters, erasers and sharpeners.

## HOW TO ENTER

To enter, send a drawing and a short description of your dream piece of stationery to [marketing@mapedhelix.co.uk](mailto:marketing@mapedhelix.co.uk) with the subject line First News Stationery Design Competition. Include your name, age and school name in your entry. The closing date is 14 July 2020.

**Terms and conditions:** The winner will get a super-smart bundle of stationery products, worth £50 for themselves and a bumper class pack worth £150 for their school. All of the competition details and full T&Cs can be found at [www.mapedhelix.co.uk](http://www.mapedhelix.co.uk)

Join us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with other fun news and competitions

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[@maped\\_helix\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/maped_helix_uk)

Please be aware of age restrictions on social media websites



# THE GOLDEN GOLDEN RETRIEVER

**MEET August, the world's oldest golden retriever.**

August, also known as Augie, turned 20 in April. That's pretty impressive considering the average lifespan for her breed is 10-12 years!

GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue in Maryland, USA, says there are some accounts of retrievers reaching 17, 18 and even 19. But they reckon Augie is the "oldest known, oldest living golden retriever".

Augie was born on 24 April 2000 and lives with her owners Jennifer and Steve in Tennessee, USA.

Despite her age, Augie can still move around well (although she's apparently a bit shaky when she first gets up) and enjoys daily walks around the yard.

Congratulations, Augie. You don't look a day over 12!



Well, she's had a fair few years to perfect those puppy-dog eyes, hasn't she? Aww!

GoldHeart Golden Retrievers Rescue via Facebook

## PERFORMING TO A PACKED HOUSE (OF PLANTS)



Gran Teatre del Liceu via Facebook

**BARCELONA'S opera house recently celebrated the lifting of lockdown by performing to a packed house – of potted plants.**

The Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona held a very special concert last Monday to celebrate COVID-19 restrictions being lifted in the bustling Catalan city. The live performance featured the UceLi Quartet playing for an audience of 2,292 potted plants.

However, the rendition of opera composer Puccini's *Crisantemi* was also livestreamed to human music-lovers. The plants were acquired from nearby nurseries and all 2,292 have now been donated to healthcare workers from the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona.



## LIFELONG FRIENDS



@\_woollyback via Twitter/Dolphin Research Center, 2

**SNAPS of two besties – who just happen to be a dog and a dolphin – have gone viral online.**

It's like something out of a Disney film, isn't it? Except this unlikely friendship is so much better because it's actually real!

A number of pictures of Gunner the dog and Delta the dolphin have warmed people's hearts this week, including these two here.

The pair met at a dolphin sanctuary in the USA.

## Paper Boy!

Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



# WIN! CONSERVATION CRISIS

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle and fill in the numbers one to nine?

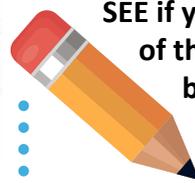
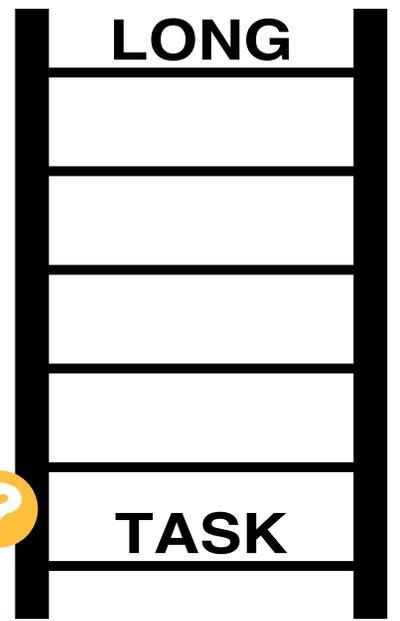
Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win a copy of *Conservation Crisis* – can you save an endangered species? Families can now play to really help save endangered species with *Conservation Crisis*, the board game that raises money for four animal conservation charities with every sale. Testing players' conservation skills as well as their moral compass, the game sees people tackle the real-life challenges of saving wildlife while balancing local communities' needs, and facing potential corruption.

*Conservation Crisis* is available from Amazon and [www.tunzagames.com/shop](http://www.tunzagames.com/shop).



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

# WORD LADDER



SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.

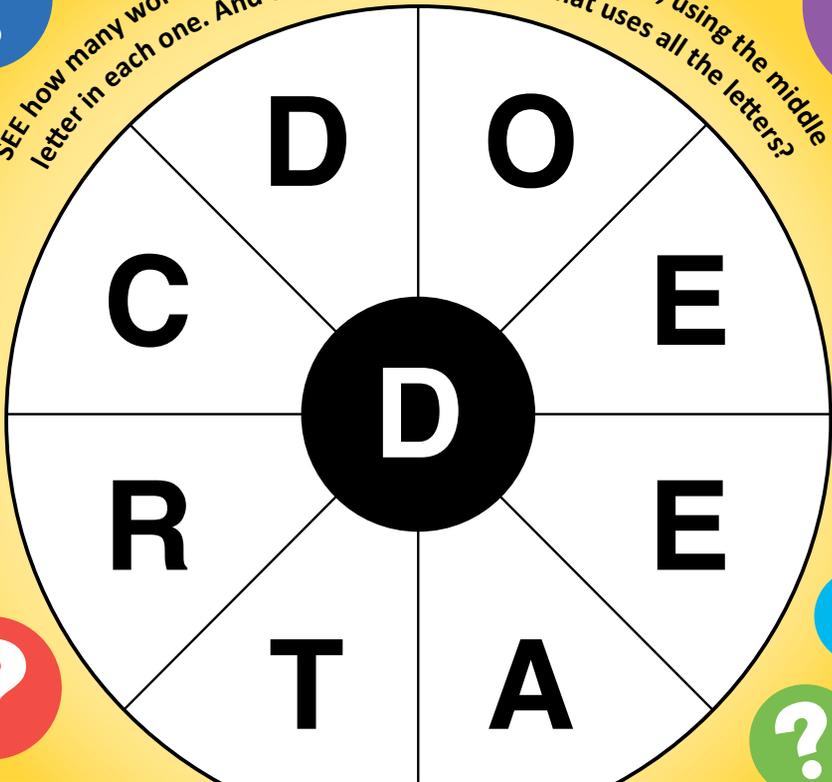
# CROSSWORD

JUST for fun this week! Can you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

	1	2		3		4		5	
6						7			8
9					10				
				11					
12		13					14	15	
						16			
17							18		
				19					

# WORD WHEEL

SEE how many words of three or more letters you can make, using the middle letter in each one. And can you find the word that uses all the letters?



### ACROSS

- 1 Break in the middle of a play (8)
- 6 Birds of prey (5)
- 7 Metal object used to join things together (5)
- 9 Unit of land area (4)
- 10 A holiday in Africa to see wild animals (6)
- 12 Put inside (6)
- 14 Cut with scissors (4)
- 17 Large waterbirds (5)
- 18 A furry mammal with webbed feet (5)
- 19 E.g. a brother or mother (8)

### DOWN

- 2 More recent (5)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 4 Related to sight (6)
- 5 Insect stage (5)
- 6 Title (7)
- 8 Cry softly (7)
- 11 George \_\_\_ : author of *Animal Farm* (6)
- 13 Guide or control the movement of a vehicle (5)
- 15 Game of luck (5)
- 16 Put in order (4)

# 21. BOREDOM BUSTERS!

**HOW TO ENTER:** Send your finished puzzles by email to [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk). Don't forget to put **Puzzles 733** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 9 July 2020**.

# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

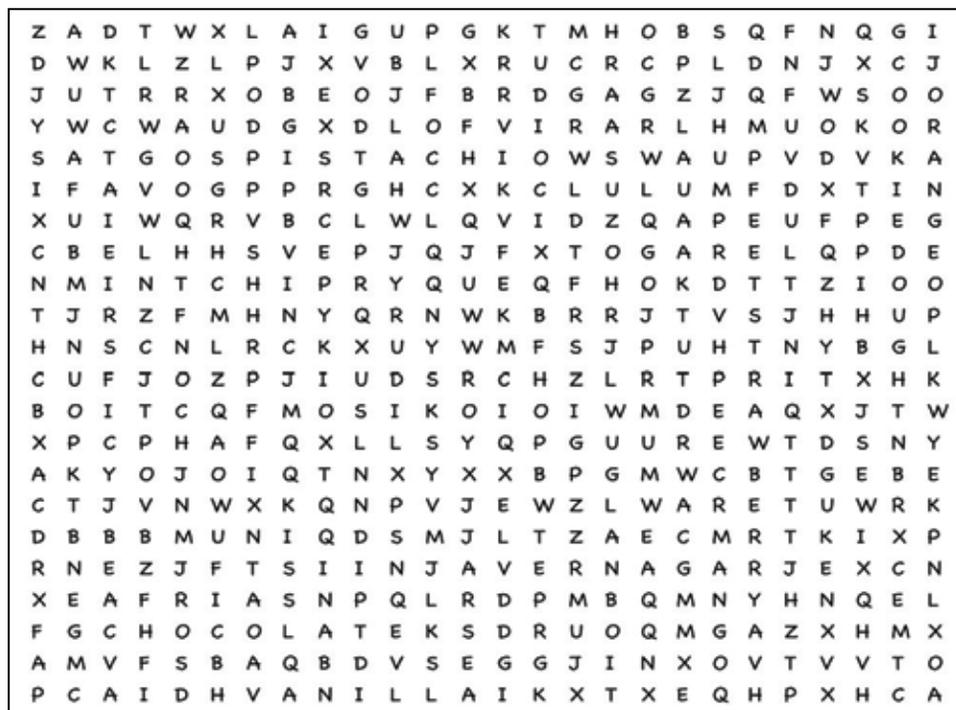
JUST for fun this week! Can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Artemis Fowl*?



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# WORDSEARCH

CAN you find the ice cream flavours in our wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.



- Chocolate
- Mango
- Vanilla
- Strawberry
- Mint chip
- Caramel
- Coconut
- Lemon
- Cookie dough
- Pistachio
- Orange
- Raspberry ripple

# WIN! TICKETS TO HORRIBLE HISTORIES CAR PARK PARTY

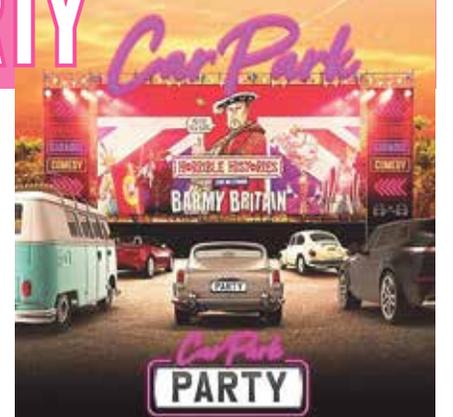


SEE *Horrible Histories – Barmy Britain* live at Car Park Party nationwide!

We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! So it's time to prepare yourselves for *Horrible Histories* live on stage in this acclaimed show.

Can you beat battling Boudicca? Will you lose your heart or head to horrible Henry VIII? Dare you stand and deliver to dastardly Dick Turpin? It's the horrible history of Britain with the nasty bits left in! Eight readers will win a family car ticket for the venue of their choice! To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

How many wives did Henry VIII have?  
 a) six   b) seven   c) eight



*Horrible Histories – Barmy Britain* will be at Henley on Thames (11 July), Northampton Saints (18 July), Newbury Racecourse (25 July), Dudley-Merry Hill (24 July), Manchester Trafford Centre (26 July), Chelmsford City Racecourse (1 August) and Powderham Castle, Exeter (15 August).

Book now at [carparkparty.com](http://carparkparty.com)

# ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY HORRIBLE

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 16 July 2020.

**COMPETITIONS:** You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to [firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. **Please note:** First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are open to those aged 17-and-under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

**Spot the difference:** Cartridge missing from strap, shoulder pad is blue, light on wall removed, wooden support missing from canopy, weapon over shoulder is bigger.  
**Word ladder:** hard, card, cord, core, cope, copy.  
**Word wheel:** bodyguard.



# FAST AND FURRY-OUS!

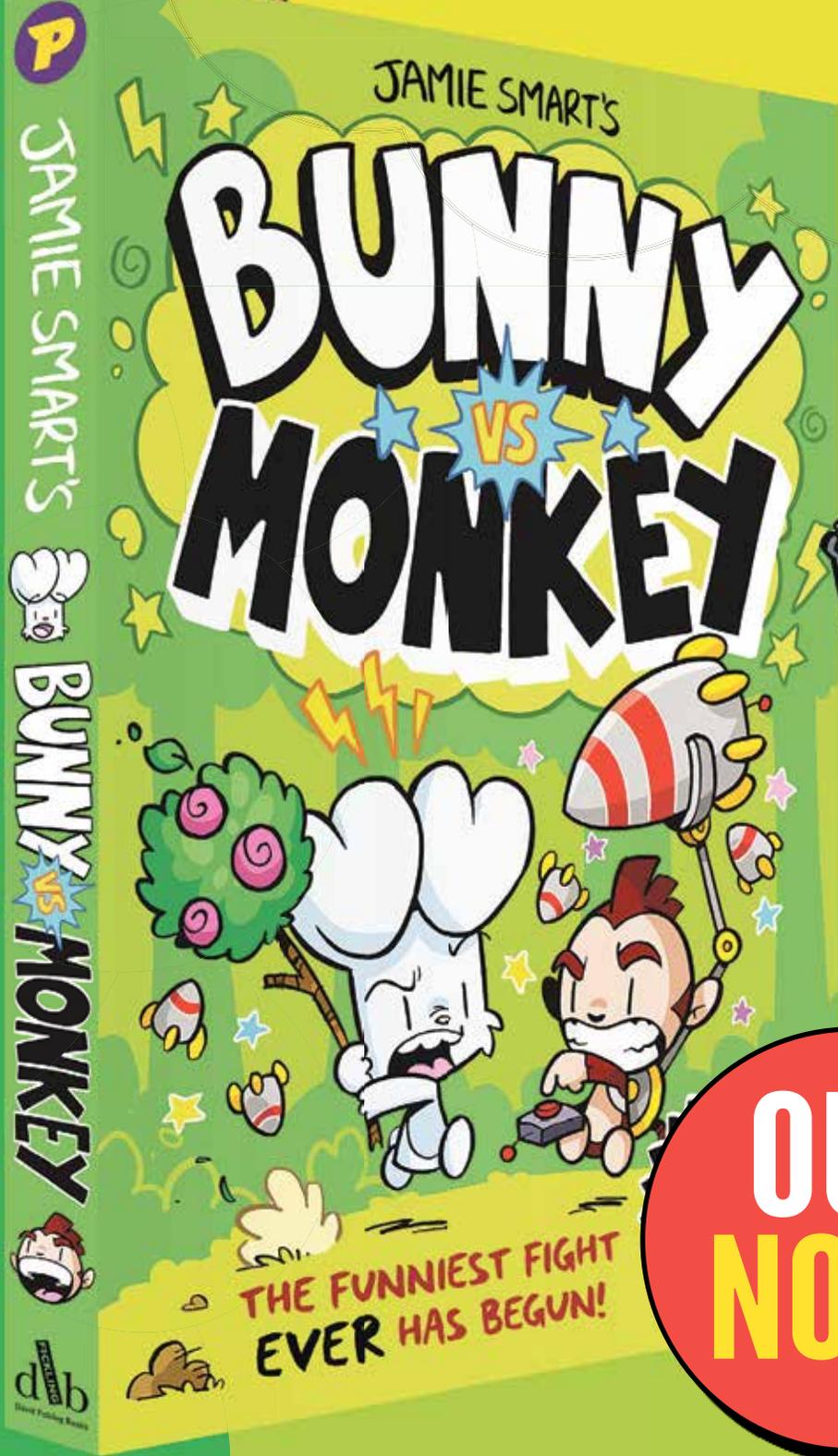


WELCOME to the woods. It's chaos in there!

Bunny and his friends Weenie the Squirrel, Pig (the pig), Action Beaver and Skunky the Inventor lived a peaceful life in the forest – until Monkey's rocket crash-landed and he decided to take over!

Now Monkey is causing mayhem, Bunny is determined to put a stop to it, and... *what's that?*

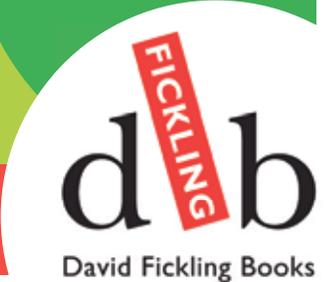
It's an out of control shark tank, ruining a lovely picnic!



“PERFECT FOR FANS OF **DOG MAN**”  
JAMIE LITTLER

OUT NOW!

Join best-selling comics sensation Jamie Smart for this hilarious collection of stories, available in a new chunky format for the first time!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [THEPHOENIXCOMIC.CO.UK](http://THEPHOENIXCOMIC.CO.UK)!

# POKÉ-FANS UNITE



**LAST week, we told you that The Pokémon Company was teasing a big new announcement.**

After a week of hype, fans were expecting something huge. There were rumours of new remakes of older Pokémon games, or maybe a sequel to the Switch's *Let's Go Pokémon* series.

The big day came and, instead, *Pokémon Unite* was revealed. Poké-fans flocked to the trailer, giving it a record number of dislikes for any Nintendo video. *Unite* is a free-to-start, team-based multiplayer game that's coming to both Switch and mobile devices. While it was clear that lots of people weren't happy because the game wasn't what they hoped for, many were also upset that The Pokémon Company was working with the Chinese tech group, Tencent.

Tencent already owns big chunks of the gaming world, including a large part of Epic Games, which makes *Fortnite*. Lots of gamers are worried about Tencent having too much influence over the world of videogames.

# POKÉMON WOAH!

**IN less controversial Pokémon news, a man in Taiwan has gone viral for playing 64 copies of Pokémon GO at once!**

The picture, shared on social media, shows the *Pokémon GO* grandpa, Chen San-yuan, on a bike fitted with seven rows of phone holders.

While there's no doubt that Chen is catching an awful lot of Pokémon on his journeys, we're a bit worried about whether he can see where he's going!



# BUG BOUNTY HUNTERS

**SONY is offering up to £40,300 to anyone who spots bugs in the PS4.**

The company joins Microsoft and Nintendo in offering cash to those who spot weaknesses in its systems.

Sony says that the bigger the bug found, the more it will pay.

Apparently, the bounty system has been going for some time, but it's only now that Sony is opening it up to the wider public.



# THE DARIUS COZMIC COLLECTION ARCADE AND CONSOLE



**THE Darius Cozmic Collection is a fascinating look at videogame history.**

**This new collection is split into two bundles, one containing the Darius games that were only playable at the arcade, and the other for games released on console.**

It's pretty unlikely that you've heard of the *Darius* games, but your parents might have...

The first *Darius* game was released back in the late '80s. You pilot a spaceship while fighting evil aquatic creatures with missiles and bombs on a journey between planets. The game stood out then for having a very long screen, three times the length of a standard arcade game.

This unique design, along with its strange and spooky sci-fi soundtrack, tough gameplay and

choice of which level to tackle next, still makes the *Darius* series more interesting than many other games, even all these years later!

For a collection of classic games, the £35 price tag is more than most would be willing to fork out, but if you've got family members who want to relive their days in the arcade, it's worth giving these games a shot.

You can even turn on 'scan lines' that make the games look like they did on arcade machines!



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# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## HOME FESTIVAL

### TIE DYE: DIY KIT IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £9.99

Dress to impress for your home festival this summer with this tie-dye DIY kit. This great set contains everything you need to transform your boring white T-shirts into wavy, colourful masterpieces! Includes three different coloured dyes, two pairs of disposable gloves plus ten elastic bands.



### FRUIT INFLATABLE SEAT AMAZON.CO.UK £13.98 EACH

These inflatable fruit seats by eTACH will add the perfect touch to your garden festival this summer. Quick and easy to inflate, and when you're ready they deflate into a small portable size, so you can carry them around with you. Choose from kiwi, watermelon, orange and lime.



\*All prices correct at time of printing



### BEAT BANDS FINDMEAGIFT.CO.UK £4.99

Make sure you stand out in your garden festival with these cool Beat Bands! Beat Bands are motion-activated LED bracelets that light up and brightly pulse as you wave your arms in the air, clap along to the music or join in with the conga!

First News team details available at [www.firstnews.co.uk/team](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/team). For editorial enquiries, contact [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk) or (020) 3195 2000. For home subscription enquiries, email [subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@firstnews.co.uk) or call 0330 333 0186. For school subscription enquiries, email [FirstNews@escosubs.co.uk](mailto:FirstNews@escosubs.co.uk) or call (01371) 851 898. Web: [www.firstnews.co.uk](http://www.firstnews.co.uk). All material in this newspaper is © 2020 First Group Enterprises Ltd and cannot be used without written permission. First News is published by First Group Enterprises Ltd, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. Printed by Westferry Printers Ltd, Kimpton Rd, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0TA. Distributed by Seymour Distribution Ltd, 2 East Poultry Ave, London, EC1A 9PT. Tel: (020) 7429 4000. We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. The new material we use to wrap mailed copies is made from potato starch, so it is now fully home compostable and completely biodegradable, and you can put it in with your food waste, in your green garden waste recycling bins, or on your own compost heap.

# WIN! A DELUXE NASA SPACE SUIT COSTUME

**THE Deluxe NASA Space Suit from Aeromax is a must-have for any fans of all things space.**

Made from the highest quality, hard-wearing material, the zip-fronted suits, which come in orange or white, feature authentic NASA badges and look just like the real thing.

With lots of accessories available to complement this cool dress-up, you'll be ready for the next mission to the ISS.

Ten winners will each win a Deluxe NASA Space Suit.

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

What year did Neil Armstrong land on the moon?  
a) 1966 b) 1968 c) 1969

Costumes are available in sizes age 6 to 14. Costume colours will be sent according to availability.

Available from Amazon



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY NASA

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 21. The closing date is 16 July 2020.

# WIN! NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KITS FROM BANDAI UK



**CALLING all future scientists, palaeontologists and treasure hunters!**

You could win a brilliant bundle of National Geographic Kits from Bandai UK!

Dig, discover, colour and learn with these brilliant educational kits, including the exciting new Crystal Garden!

Journey into the prehistoric era and uncover genuine dinosaur fossils with the Dino Dig Kit. The Shark Dig Kit will keep marine biologists busy digging for three genuine shark teeth.

The Crystal Garden Kit cleverly blends the science of a crystal growing lab with the creativity of an art project – colour your tree and watch in wonder as crystals grow from the branches. Five lucky winners will each win a National Geographic Dino Dig Kit, Shark Dig Kit and The Crystal Garden Kit. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these is not the name of a shark?  
a) whale shark b) nurse shark c) fireman shark

Visit [www.bandai.co.uk](http://www.bandai.co.uk) for further information



## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DIG

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 21. The closing date is 16 July 2020.

# WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

A FEW months ago, Cressida Cowell, author and Waterstones Children's Laureate, started a new story in *First News*. Then she handed things over to YOU to write what happened next. Every week the story has continued, written by our readers, 250 words at a time. Read every part of the gripping tale at:

[FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL](http://FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL)

## SO FAR IN THE STORY...

Young spellcaster Ferocity and her smoke-producing pet boggart, Guggalugs, were taken from their home by child-snatching Tappers. After escaping, the pair met Trick, a mysterious boy. The three then travelled to Trick's home, Perum Hollow, to speak with the boy's grandfather. On the journey, Ferocity found a strange copper piece, which Trick's granddad revealed to be one of four key-pieces that helped seal evil away from the world. Trick and his grandfather each had another, leaving one left to find. They set off to find it and, while on the way, ran into Trick's mum, Ariella. Soon after, Trick's grandfather used his granddaughter Aida's magic to send a dark creature to a cave where Ferocity and her friends rest. Just as Ferocity began her plan of attack on the creature, someone else caught the monster's eye...

## PART 14: BY EDEN BRESLIN

*The beast charged towards the girl, snarling ferociously, green slime dripping from its long, yellow fangs. But the girl didn't look afraid. Calm as ever could be, the girl raised her hand, all five fingers pointing to the sky.*

*A blue glow suddenly slithered down from the sky itself, winding itself round each finger like a snake. The beast was just inches away from her... then suddenly, time seemed to stand still. The icy blue glow that had wound itself around her fingers froze, then suddenly exploded into a bright aurora of blue light.*

*Then, all in one second, it became a raging torrent of water that shot from the palms of her hands like lasers.*

*It hit the beast in the face like the blow of a boulder. There was a terrified howl, a scream, then a BANG! Typhon had vanished.*

*The water flowing from the girl's hands slowed to a trickle, then finally to a stop. Ferocity thought her lower jaw would fall off.*

*'What...' she gasped, breathless, 'was that?'*

*'A torrent spell,' the girl replied, walking into the cave. 'Takes practice.'*

*Ariella and Trick were both staring at the girl, even more shocked than Ferocity. 'Aida!' they both cried. Ariella came forward to touch her daughter, but Aida moved away.*

*'No,' she said quickly. 'We must leave now.'*

*She took a deep breath before looking Trick in the eye. 'Grandfather's out to get you, brother.'*



WORDS FOR LIFE



PIP Jones is the author of the *Squishy McFluff* series, the first of which won the inaugural Greenhouse Funny Prize in 2012. *Squishy McFluff: On With The Show* is the eighth book in the series. Pip told us what storybook character she would be:

“ Toughie. I'm drawn towards saying Moomintroll, because he's such a sweet little guy – brave yet sensitive, and curious too. Also, who wouldn't want to dwell in books that beautiful? I'd really miss Snufkin all winter, though. ”



TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS](http://WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS) FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](http://WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK)

# YOUR READS!

## HOW TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD KEILLY SWIFT

reviewed by Jessie Wheeler, aged nine

I really enjoyed the book because it tells children so many important things, like how to help the environment, set and achieve goals, be healthy and be a good friend when somebody needs it.

It has loads of ideas for how to become an environmental or animal activist, like going on a protest march, making a big and bold poster design or handing out leaflets.

The pages about fundraising made me really want to raise some money for charity! I also really liked the section about standing up to bullying.

The book has so much information about doing what you feel is right, both for yourself and for other people. I loved it!



## PART 15: BY YOU!

IF you took the time to send us your story, thank you!

We enjoyed reading them all, and love how talented you all are! If your story wasn't chosen this time, don't let that stop you having another crack at it. We could choose you to continue the story in next week's issue!

You can submit the next part of the story by email at [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk), popping **Story** into the subject line, or at [first.news/cressidacowell](http://first.news/cressidacowell).

We'll be deciding on the next part of the story every Monday, so make sure you send us your story by then!



## WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to [bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk).



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**£20 for access until the end of August\***

\*Please note, the activities are updated on a weekly basis in term time. During the summer holidays, children will have access to all the back catalogue of activities but no new ones will be published.

**FOR FULL INFO AND TO ORDER, GO TO [WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB](http://WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB)**

**STABILO** Advertisement feature

# STABILO SEEKS UNSUNG HEROES

STABILO is launching a brand-new competition to recognise local heroes!

To enter, simply write a letter, poem or rap about a local hero who has helped you or someone you know during lockdown. COVID-19 has impacted the world and lockdown has been tough on all ages, so if you know someone in your local community who has kept spirits high and has been helping those in need, then we want to hear all about them! This unsung hero could be a family member, delivery driver or a key worker, to name just a few.

The lucky winner will win a bundle of STABILO goodies AND a class pack for their classmates that includes EASYoriginal, EASYgraph and EASYcolors for each child in their class. Runners-up will receive a STABILO goodie bag, including EASYoriginal, EASYgraph, EASYcolors and a pack of STABILO Cappis.

**GOOD LUCK!** And remember, not all heroes wear capes!

**How to enter:** Simply visit [www.stabilofirstnews.co.uk](http://www.stabilofirstnews.co.uk) and download the entry form. Fill in your details, get your guardian to sign it, and then use the space provided to write your letter, poem or rap in no more than 250 words. All entries will be judged by a team of writing experts from STABILO. Entries must be received by **10 July 2020**.



# VIRTUAL CHOIR

by Frankie MacKinnon

**TO me, isolation means spending time with my family, missing my friends and trying things that I've never tried before.**

So when I was asked to sing for an online choir, I was very excited. I've always loved singing. Some people dance, some people draw, some people write, but I sing to express myself. I'm always humming one song or another. At first, I was a bit nervous. Okay, very nervous! But after I began,

it was just like singing in the shower again. When my mum showed it to me, it was great to see myself singing with all of those other kids, all in different houses, isolating in different ways.

Hi Lo Singers organised the choir and the backing band. There was a pianist, a drummer, a guitarist and cellist. It was amazing to see the choir come together!

The charity that we are singing for is Young Minds. It is more important than ever during the crisis that we help them continue to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. In the lockdown, Young Minds have done a brilliant job of caring for many children and keeping their spirits up.

There are lots of children who are still in isolation and may not go back to school for a long time, so it is great that we are caring and looking out for one another in this difficult time.



The Hi Lo Singers choir

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU/YOUR SCHOOL IS UP TO

Write in to let us know what you've been up to on lockdown! Have you been getting creative? How have you been keeping fit? If you're back to school, how has that made you feel? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

Email your report (including pictures) to [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk)

Don't forget to include your name and age (and your school's name and address for school news reports). By writing in, you give consent to First News printing details and photographs of those involved in the report.

## NEWSPAPER REPORT

by Noah Matcham

**I have been studying newspapers and had to write my own report about the lost city of Pompeii.**

I used different issues of *First News* to learn all about the components of a newspaper. I made a poster of funny headlines and another one creating the report. Here is my report about the Mount Vesuvius eruption:

On 24 August, the people living in Pompeii were working and going about their lives when Mount Vesuvius erupted after 2,000 years of silence. Lava and poisonous gases shot out of the volcano and the sky went black. Some people wanted to stay in their homes and some

people wanted to run away. Around 2,000 people died.

A 14-year-old boy called Felix survived the eruption. He said: "I was helping in my

family's bakery when I heard a deafening boom. I went out of the bakery and then I realised it was the volcano starting to erupt."

Felix told his family to grab things they wanted and run. "I told everyone that we saw to run with us. Some of them stayed in their houses. I turned around and saw lava coming from the volcano."

At midnight, the volcano sent lava heading towards Pompeii, travelling quickly. Seven hours later the city was buried in lava and ash.

Some people have been trying to find survivors in the rubble and ash. Their homes have vanished and there is nothing left in the city.

"I want to find a new home further away from the volcano because I'm worried it will erupt again," Felix said.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Noah and his report

## CAMPING OUT

by Stewart, Highfield and Brookham Schools

**FOR the entire month of May, I camped out in a tent in my garden to raise funds for NHS Charities Together.**

Although a night or two camping might seem fun, 31 days of doing this with some chilly nights at the start of the month was quite an undertaking!

So far I have raised £705 for NHS Charities Together.

The organisation provides extra vital funds and services to NHS hospitals,

ambulances, mental and community health trusts and health boards.

This funding is above and beyond what the Government provides, and is spent on enhancing care and patients' experiences. Many pupils from my school have taken part in charitable projects and fundraising, including shaving their heads, making PPE, baking cakes for doctors' surgeries and donating food to the elderly and vulnerable.



Stewart in his tent

SCHOOL NEWS

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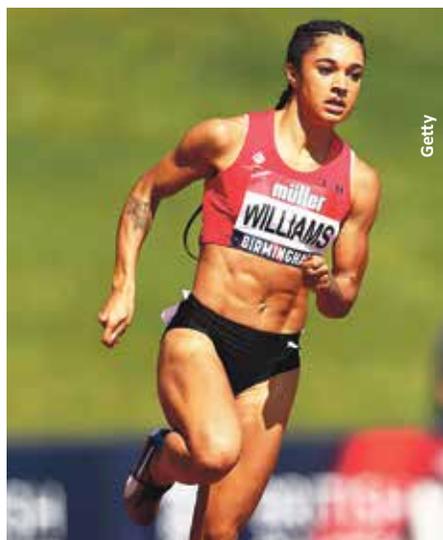
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# SPORT IN NUMBERS

4

and 5 September is when the British Athletics Championships will now be held. The event was

due to take place in June but has been rescheduled twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Spectators won't be allowed to attend. Jodie Williams (below) will be hoping to keep the 200m title she won last year.



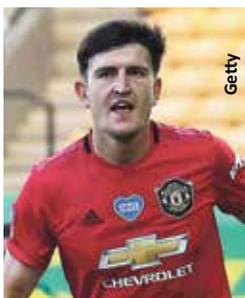
Getty

4

Premier League teams make up this year's FA Cup semi-finalists. In the quarters, Arsenal beat

Sheffield United, while Newcastle lost at home to Manchester City. Chelsea won at Leicester and Manchester

United beat Norwich thanks to a goal by Harry Maguire (right). Arsenal will play Man City and Man United will play Chelsea.



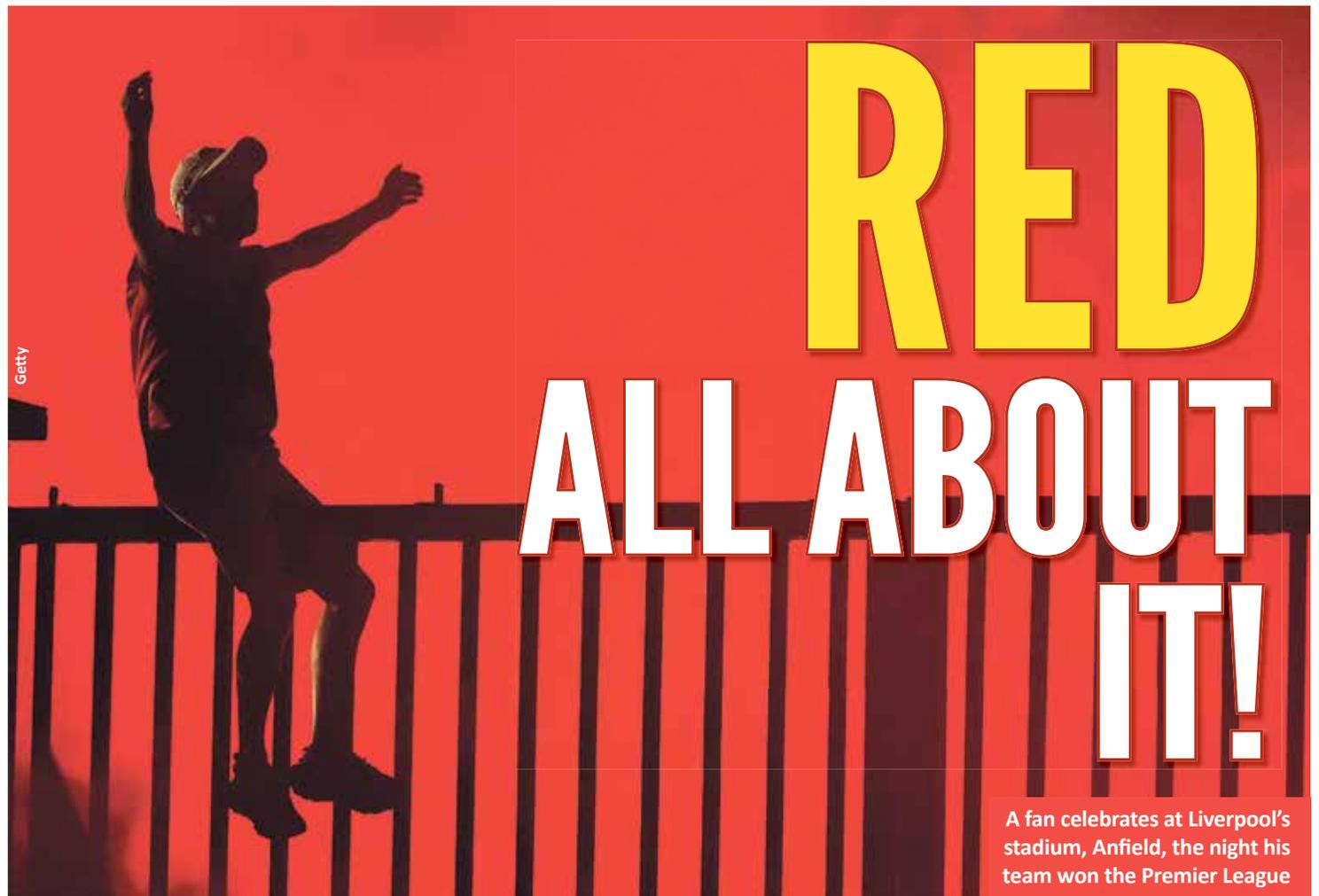
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2

strokes was Meghan MacLaren's winning margin in the second event at the Rose Ladies Series. The English golfer topped the leaderboard, ahead of 50 other players. There are a total of seven tournaments in the series.



Getty



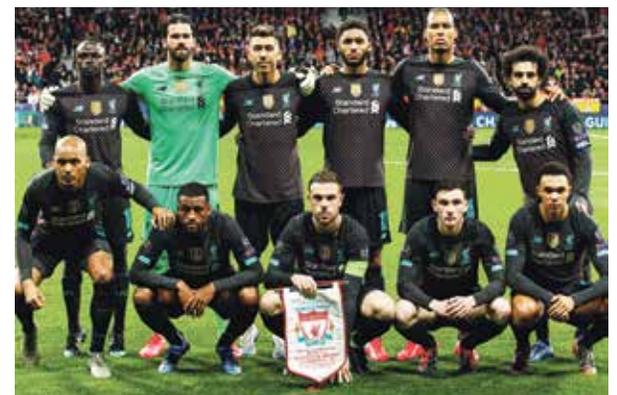
A fan celebrates at Liverpool's stadium, Anfield, the night his team won the Premier League

## LIVERPOOL are champions of England for the first time in 30 years.

They last won the title way back in 1990, but this is the first time the Reds have won the Premier League (it was still called the First Division back then). They clinched the trophy after Manchester City's defeat at Chelsea made it impossible for them to catch up with the Reds.

Jürgen Klopp's side (right) have had an incredible season, winning the title with a record-breaking seven games to spare. They have now won the top division 19 times in their history, just one short of Manchester United.

As First News went to press, these three players had appeared in every Premier League game for Liverpool this season: from left, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Virgil van Dijk (who has played every minute), and Roberto Firmino



Liverpool have now won the title in eight different decades: the 1900s, 1920s, 1940s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and 2020s. Before this year's triumph, their last win was in 1990 (left), when the top flight was known as the First Division

Thousands of Reds fans gathered at Anfield (right) and in Liverpool city centre to celebrate the Premier League win, despite COVID-19 lockdown rules. Some police officers were attacked with glasses and bottles. In a joint statement by the club, police and Liverpool City Council, fans' behaviour was described as "wholly unacceptable"



Some 17 goals have been scored by forward Mohamed Salah so far this season. Sadio Mané has got 15 and Roberto Firmino has netted eight

