

NEWS KIDS CAN **TRUST**

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR\*



# First News

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100% RECYCLED  
PAPER.

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INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

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Take part in  
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Marathon for schools  
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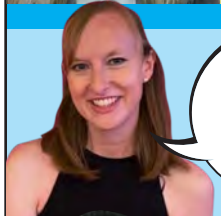
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## MEET THE TEAM



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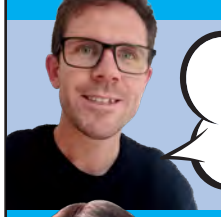
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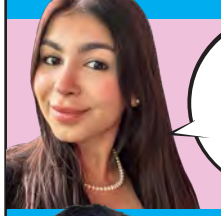
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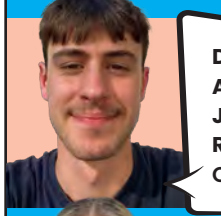
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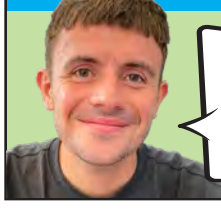
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# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



## SCIENTISTS GROW TEETH IN LAB

Scientists at King's College London have found a way to grow real human teeth in a laboratory, bringing hope to millions who need tooth replacements. The discovery could mean people won't need artificial fillings or implants in the future. Researchers created special conditions that allow tooth cells to grow naturally, just like they do in our mouths. Unlike current fake teeth that don't change over time, these new lab-grown teeth would be alive and could repair themselves. Doctors think they should be able to grow complete teeth in the lab or help new teeth grow directly in people's mouths where they're needed, but it could take years of research and trials.



## SCHOOL CUTS HIT TEACHING STAFF

Half of England's secondary schools have been forced to cut their teaching staff due to budget problems, reveals a new report. The Sutton Trust survey shows that schools are covering basic costs with money meant for disadvantaged students. More schools are also cutting back on trips, sports and after-school clubs. They're also reducing the number of teachers and teaching assistants to save money. Many school leaders say they're worried this will affect students' learning, especially those who need extra help.

THEY SAID THAT!



"This is a ground-breaking moment for the shipping industry, which should signal a turning of the tide on greenhouse gases from global shipping."  
– Mark Lutes, WWF senior advisor

## HISTORIC FUEL DEAL MADE

A new global deal requires ships to use cleaner fuels from 2028 or face hefty fines. The agreement affects most of the world's commercial ships (those involved in carrying goods) and aims to reduce pollution from an industry that relies heavily on dirty fuels like diesel. While some countries such as Saudi Arabia and the US opposed the deal, it finally passed after nearly ten years of talks organised by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Although greener fuels cost more, ships that continue to use polluting fuels will have to pay fines. The agreement makes shipping the first industry to have enforced worldwide targets for cutting emissions.



## SCIENTISTS CAPTURE ELECTRICITY FROM RAIN

Scientists have found a way to turn falling raindrops into electricity, which could light up homes in the future. A team at the National University of Singapore created a simple device that captures energy from water droplets falling through tubes coated with special materials. When water drops fall through these tubes in small bursts, they create electricity. In tests, the system was powerful enough to light up 12 LED bulbs. The discovery could help create clean energy from rainfall, especially in cities where the system could be installed on lots of rooftops.



## RISE IN QR CODE SCAMS

Criminals are using fake QR codes to steal money from people, with reports jumping from 100 cases in 2019 to more than 1,300 in 2024, says Action Fraud. These fake codes are showing up in car parks, restaurants and even on parcels. When people scan them with their phones, they're sent to fake websites that trick them into sharing bank details. Experts warn that even small payments could lead to more money being taken later. Police say that everyone should check carefully before scanning any QR code.



## DOGS HARM THE ENVIRONMENT

Pet dogs cause real damage to the environment through their impact on wildlife and contribution to pollution, reveals new Australian research. It shows that dogs disturb native animals, particularly shorebirds, and their flea treatments harm creatures that live in water. Their food production also creates the same carbon emissions as a small country. Lead researcher Professor Bill Bateman from Curtin University suggests that, while dogs are valuable companions, owners need to be more responsible by keeping pets on leads and cleaning up after them to protect nature. The study was published in *Pacific Conservation Biology*.

## FLIP-BOOK RECORD!



A creative teen has drawn the world's longest flipbook animation, with an incredible 1,300 pages of hand-drawn pictures. Max Budgen, a 17-year-old from Hampshire, spent several days sketching his record-breaking book called *Thunder Strikes*, drawing everywhere from his school desk to train journeys. He said: "By the time I was on page 500 or so, I was getting rather bored and running out of ideas. But, nevertheless, I reminded myself that world records aren't meant to be easy. So I persevered and carried on."



## MOON'S FAR SIDE DRIER THAN EXPECTED

Scientists have discovered that the far side of the moon contains much less water than previously thought. New research from the Chang'e 6 lunar mission shows that soil samples from the moon's hidden side have 10-100 times less water than the side we see from Earth. This surprising finding could affect future plans for space missions and lunar bases. The difference might be due to how the moon cooled down billions of years ago, with Earth's heat keeping one side warmer for longer.

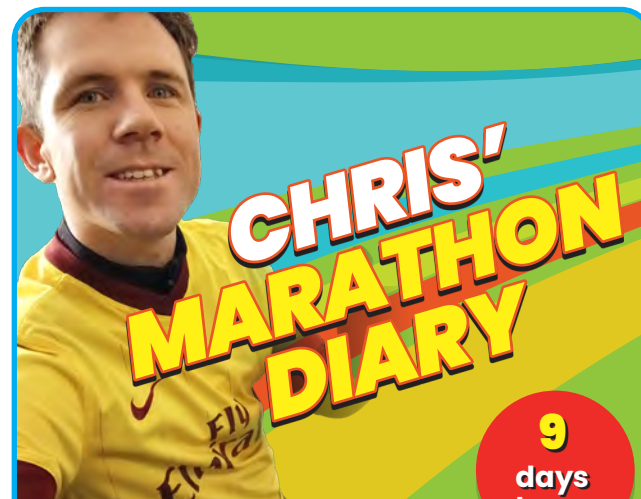
## KATY PERRY GOES TO SPACE AND BACK!

Pop star Katy Perry made history as part of the first all-female crew to fly into space on Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin rocket. The singer joined five other women, including TV host Gayle King and Bezos's fiancée Lauren Sánchez, on an 11-minute journey that took them 100km (62 miles) above Earth. After returning, Perry called it "the highest high". She said: "It is a surrender to the unknown. I couldn't recommend this experience more." The launch took off from Texas and marks a significant moment as the first female-only space flight since 1963.



## ROBOTIC MINE PLOUGH HELPS SOLDIERS

A new remote-controlled device could transform how dangerous minefields are cleared, keeping soldiers out of harm's way. The WEEVIL system, developed by British scientists and engineers, can be controlled from miles away and works faster than methods used now that put soldiers at risk. The device uses a plough attached to military vehicles, pushing mines aside to create safe paths. It only needs one person to operate it, unlike current systems that need three people working directly in dangerous areas. The British Army is testing it now to see how it could protect troops better in future conflicts.



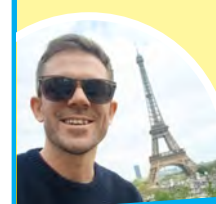
9  
days  
to go

Hi, guys! I'm Chris, one of your reporters at **First News**. This is week nine of my training diary for the London Marathon on 27 April!

I had a fantastic time in Paris last weekend (below), watching the marathon there. The fact that some of my friends decided to run a race in France got me thinking about how far people go to chase their goals.

Me? I'm not journeying far. I've been training on the streets around my home in East London. It's an urban area with lots of traffic, but I'm lucky that a fifth of London is green space. In fact, it has 3,000 parks!

That's one thing I love about London. Another is that it's so diverse (more than 300 languages are spoken in the city) – and that will sort of be reflected in the marathon. Last year, 158 nationalities took part in it.



In nine days' time, people who have trained in all corners of the globe will come together in London, all to cross the same finish line and achieve the same dream. Pretty cool!

### Why I'm running for...

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has forced almost 15 million people – half of whom are children – to flee their homes, making this the largest displacement crisis in the world. A UNICEF-supported clinic in Darfur, Sudan, provides a place for families and children who have lost their homes, to access vital life-saving health and nutrition services.

unicef  
for every child



Donate at [tinyurl.com/ChrisInTheMarathon](https://tinyurl.com/ChrisInTheMarathon)

## CALENDAR DATES

### ● EASTER 20 APRIL

A Christian festival, marking the time when Jesus is said to have come back from the dead. Are you doing anything to celebrate Easter this year?

### ● ST GEORGE'S DAY 23 APRIL

St George is the patron saint of England and this day is a chance to celebrate English culture.



Go to the  
**First News** app  
for daily news posted  
throughout the week.





# BITING BACK AGAINST JUNK FOOD ADS

## 1/3

of schools have an advert for junk food a short walk from their gates, says Bite Back



**A CAMPAIGN** group led by young people has been buying outdoor advertising spaces – to stop junk food companies getting there first!

Bite Back wants to change the way that unhealthy foods are advertised to children. In new research, it went on the lookout for outdoor adverts in London, Birmingham, Liverpool and Newcastle.

It found 859 adverts on billboards, bus stops, shopping centres and phone boxes. Of the 377 that advertised food and drink products, over half were trying to sell a product that's high in fat, sugar or salt.

### Big brands, big spenders

Major fast food brands dominate outdoor adverts. Bite Back says that the top spenders include the likes of PepsiCo, KFC, Coca-Cola and Mars.

The group is concerned that junk food ads appear

at six times the rate in poorer areas than they do in wealthy areas – influencing the food choices that children in those areas make.

To turn the tide, activists plastered 365 billboards in busy areas in London with the message: "Young activists bought this ad space so the junk food giants couldn't – we're giving kids a #CommercialBreak."

"We've had enough," said Yacub, aged 17. "Children deserve to grow up in environments where they aren't constantly bombarded by unhealthy food marketing."

Bite Back and supporting charity Impact On Urban Health wants the government to restrict outdoor junk food advertising, and for businesses to try harder to sell healthier food.

Activist Farid, also 17, said: "Advertising could be a force for good – imagine that."

## School uniform swap: ties OUT, trainers IN!

**A SCHOOL** in Shropshire is set to replace its traditional uniform with PE kits!

William Brookes School trialled the change last week. Pupils left their blue shirts and ties at home and came in wearing branded tracksuits instead.

The aim is to encourage pupils to spend more time being active and learning outdoors. Head teacher Mrs Ruth Shaw told the BBC: "I just don't believe that wearing a shirt and tie means that you will learn better."

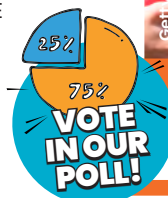
The school has spoken to parents and is working to help bring down the cost of buying more sets of PE kit. It plans

to make the swap permanent when classes begin again in September.

Pupils have enjoyed the change, saying it's still smart, but "more modern" and "a lot comfier".

Some of you will be old enough to remember that, during the Covid-19 pandemic, many schools allowed pupils to go in wearing their PE kits if they had PE that day, to save changing.

But would you like your school to copy William Brookes' idea, and wear your PE kit in all of your classes?



Would you prefer to wear your PE kit all the time?

Vote at [first.news/polls](https://first.news/polls)

## World versus malaria

**THE WORLD** Health Organization (WHO) is calling for a fresh push to destroy malaria for good.

World Malaria Day is on Friday 25 April, and this year's theme is Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite. The WHO says that the disease kills one

person every minute and, for every 20 cases, 19 occur in Africa.

While the world has made progress reducing cases, conflict and extreme weather are slowing prevention efforts, and progress has stalled. The WHO wants us to "reignite" our efforts.



There were **263 million new cases** of malaria in 2023, and nearly **600,000 deaths**

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

**YOU** have the power to protect the Earth (front page and p12).

Every small action you take – like picking up rubbish, planting a tree or saving water – makes a big difference.

The Earth is our home, and it needs leaders like you to keep it clean and safe.

By learning about nature and sharing what you know, you inspire others to care, too.

Animals, plants and people all depend on a healthy planet. When you lead with love and respect for the Earth, you're helping to create a better future for everyone. Go you!



Nicky Cox MBE



Your neighbourhood could get its very own Chief Wiggum!

## Law and order

THE government is planning to recruit 13,000 new neighbourhood police officers over the next four years so that every community in England and Wales feels safer. It says the officers will be known by name, easy to contact and seen 'on the beat', keeping patrol at peak times, wherever you live.



Creating stuff with AI requires a lot of computer power

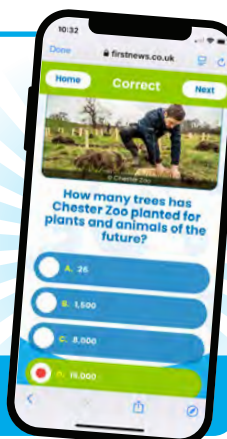
## Data centres

DATA centres are buildings filled with servers that process the huge amount of computer data that we produce every day. The International Energy Agency predicts that, driven by the rise of AI, the electricity that these centres need will double by 2030, putting a strain on emissions targets.

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEEKLY QUIZ!

Test yourself on this week's news with our new quiz, included with every subscription. Play with your family, friends or by yourself. Read this week's issue to get all the answers right!

Ask a grown-up/bill-payer for your **WEB ID** to use the app.







# TRUMP TO MAKE SHOWERS GREAT AGAIN!



**US President Donald Trump has brought in a new rule that he claims will “make showers great again”.**

Mr Trump has complained for years that showers, toilets and other domestic appliances aren't powerful enough, and that he needs stronger water pressure to “take care of my beautiful hair”.

It's one of many measures the president has brought in since he returned to the White House at the end of January. Many of his more serious actions have made him unpopular with other countries, including putting tariffs (charges) on goods made abroad and imported to America. There have also been several reports of tourists being locked up for

weeks after entering the US from Mexico and Canada.

As a result of this, tourism to the US is expected to fall significantly. America's National Travel and Tourism Office reported that overseas visits dropped by 11.6% (more than a tenth) in March, compared to March 2024. One of the biggest drops is expected to be in visitors from Canada. Mr Trump has said several times that he wants the country to become the 51st state of the US, which has angered many Canadians. Air Canada has reduced the number of spring flights to a range of US destinations due to lack of demand, which means that many American businesses that rely on tourists will suffer.



Prince William hugs Prince George at the PSG vs Aston Villa match

## Back of the net for William

**PRINCE William tried his hand at a spot of football punditry last week and turned out to be a natural!**

A keen Aston Villa fan, William provided some pre-match analysis ahead of his team's Champions League first-leg match against Paris Saint-Germain (PSG).

His thoughtful insights during his TNT Sports chat with Rio Ferdinand and Ally McCoist gained high praise, along with

millions of views.

The experts were impressed not just with his knowledge of his own team and tactics but also their opponents, with many suggesting he could have a new career!

However, former Manchester United defender Ferdinand was keen to put him off. “Can I just say something? Do not go for a punditry job please, because I could be out of a job!” he joked.

## PRESSURE FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE



All pics: Getty

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

**RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine has seen a sharp rise in civilian (non-military) casualties.**

In March, at least 164 civilians were killed and 910 injured, a 50% (half) increase on the previous month. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, 12,910 civilians have been killed in the conflict, including 682 children.

The war shows no sign of coming to an end. At the weekend, a Russian attack hit the Ukrainian town of Sumy. Two missiles struck the area around the university, damaging cafés, shops and apartment blocks, and killing at least 35 people.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: “The strike hit right in the heart of the city on Palm Sunday,” before calling on other countries to give a “tough” response.

The attack was condemned around the world, with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer calling it “horrific”. He also put pressure on Russian leader Vladimir Putin to stop the invasion: “President Zelenskyy has shown his commitment to peace, President Putin must now agree to a full and immediate ceasefire without conditions – as Ukraine has done.”

French President Emmanuel Macron echoed Mr Starmer's view, saying: “Everyone knows: this war was initiated [started] by Russia alone. And today, it is clear that Russia alone chooses to continue it.”

## Aid cuts are hurting the poorest

**CHILDREN are already dying due to recent cuts in aid spending by wealthy countries.**

The charity Save the Children says that five children died when they had to walk for three hours to get medical treatment for cholera.

Funding cuts meant their local clinic had been closed, so the children were forced to trek in temperatures reaching 40°C.

Cholera causes dehydration and diarrhoea, and is spread through dirty water. Heavy rains and flooding have meant that the disease has been spreading in Akobo County on

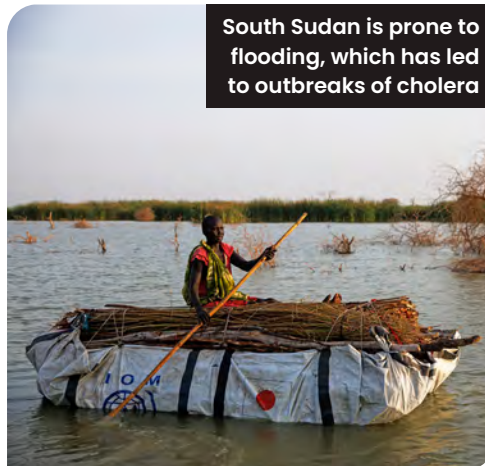
South Sudan's east coast.

There were 27 health facilities run by the charity in the region, but US budget cuts have forced the closure of seven of them, with reduced hours at the other 20.

The US and UK are among the countries making big cuts to their foreign aid budgets, which is having a devastating effect on some of the poorest parts of the world.

The World Health Organization says that the poor and vulnerable will end up having to go without medical treatment unless they can afford to pay for it themselves.

**South Sudan is prone to flooding, which has led to outbreaks of cholera**



**A CHINESE restaurant in Madrid has been closed down after allegedly serving pigeon to diners who had ordered roast duck!**



Police had found the plucked pigeons in a secret storage room of the restaurant, alongside some other unknown meat. They tested the birds and confirmed that they definitely weren't ducks!

As well as the pigeons, police discovered a bathroom that was being used as a storage room, plus a hidden room infested with cockroaches, and rat traps on the floor.

Residents living near the Jin Gu restaurant in the Spanish capital had been complaining about the smell for some time. A police officer who took part in the raid and uncovered the filthy scene said: “Everything smelled of rotten seafood. It was almost unbearable.”



**Birmingham, UK**

BIRMINGHAM football players were recreated in LEGO form for their big trip to Wembley last weekend! On the back of the Blues' promotion to the Championship, LEGOLAND Discovery Centre wished the team luck as they took on Peterborough in the EFL Trophy final. Sadly for them, they missed out on a victory, with Peterborough (inset) winning 2-0.

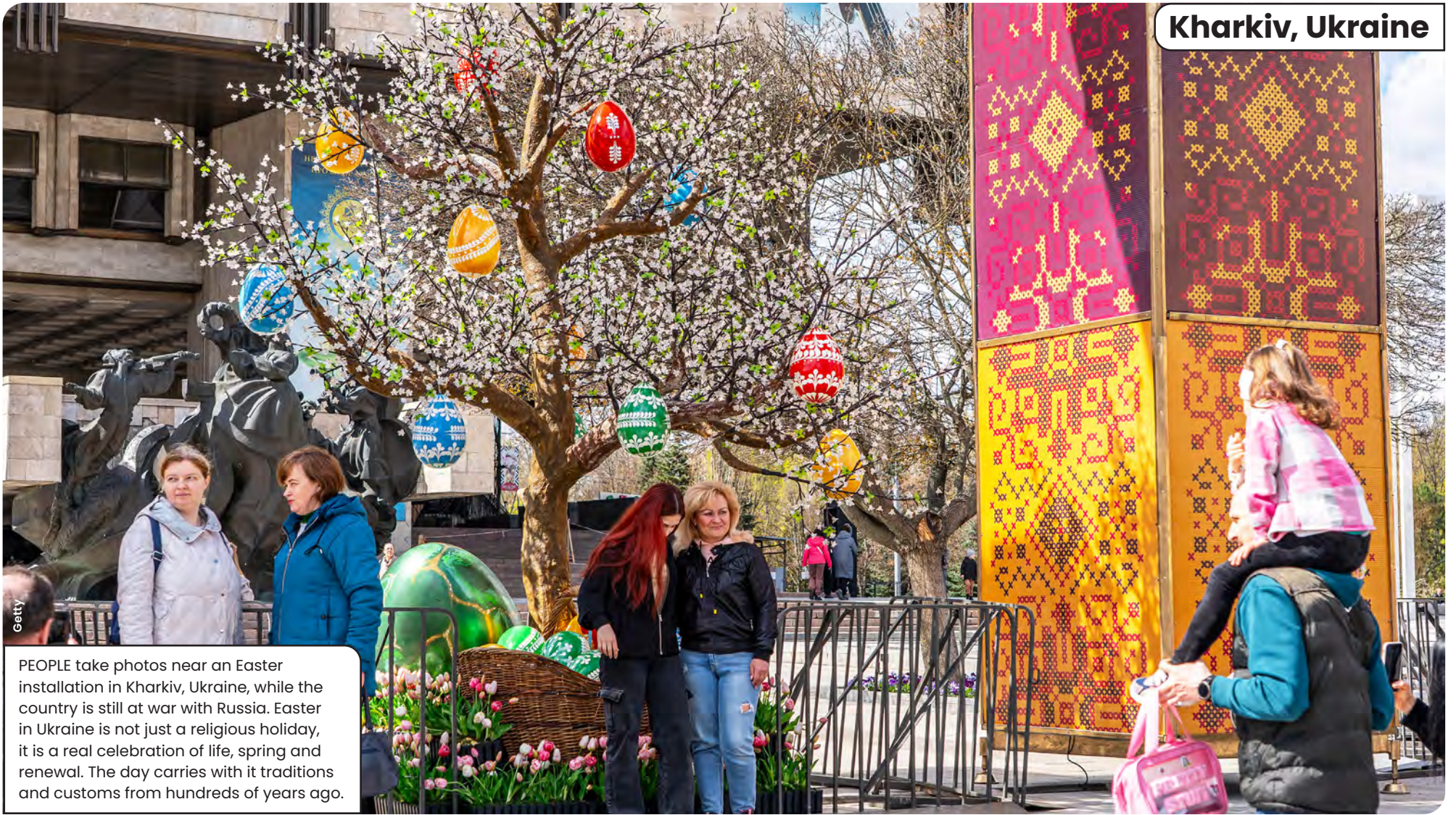
**Molfetta, Italy**

APRIL'S full moon, known as a 'pink moon', rises behind the towers of Molfetta Cathedral. This year's moon was a micromoon, which is the opposite of a supermoon and occurs when the moon is at its farthest point from Earth.

**London, UK**

MEDIEVAL rings, Roman statues and even a pair of false teeth (inset) are some of the objects on display in a new mudlarking exhibition at London Museum Docklands. The practice of mudlarking began on the shores of the River Thames in the 18th century, when London's poorest communities would search for items of value in the river's muddy banks when the tide was out. *Secrets of the Thames: Mudlarking London's lost treasures* runs until 1 March 2026.





**Kharkiv, Ukraine**

PEOPLE take photos near an Easter installation in Kharkiv, Ukraine, while the country is still at war with Russia. Easter in Ukraine is not just a religious holiday, it is a real celebration of life, spring and renewal. The day carries with it traditions and customs from hundreds of years ago.

**Karaman, Turkey**



A PUPPY runs through a snow-covered tulip field on a chilly spring day in Turkey.



**Indio, California**

LADY Gaga wows fans at the 2025 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. Other big stars performing at the famous festival included Benson Boone (who brought out legendary Queen guitarist Brian May) and Charli XCX.



**Guayaquil, Ecuador**

IN UK parks we feed pigeons or squirrels but, in Ecuador, they feed iguanas! The reptiles can be seen freely roaming Parque Seminario, which is nicknamed Iguana Park. Wonder why?!



**SCOTLAND****Wildfires break out**

Fire crews have been tackling a series of wildfires across Scotland following a spell of dry, warm weather. An extreme wildfire warning covering the whole of Scotland had to be issued, with places like the Isle of Arran, the Isle of Bute and Galloway Forest Park among those affected. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service urged the public to “act responsibly”, warning against using barbecues, smoking outside or leaving glass bottles out that could focus the sun. Temperatures have cooled since.



A wildfire burns on the Isle of Bute

Getty



A cyclist tests out the new tool

CycleARcade

**GLASGOW****AR tool could give cyclists ‘sixth sense’**

A new AR (augmented reality) tool could help cyclists to share the roads safely with self-driving cars. Researchers from the University of Glasgow developed CycleARcade, which uses AR headsets to enable cyclists to see and interact with simulated self-driving vehicles in real-world environments. Ammar Al-Taie from the university said the tech can provide “a kind of ‘sixth sense’ to help them [cyclists] navigate safely.”

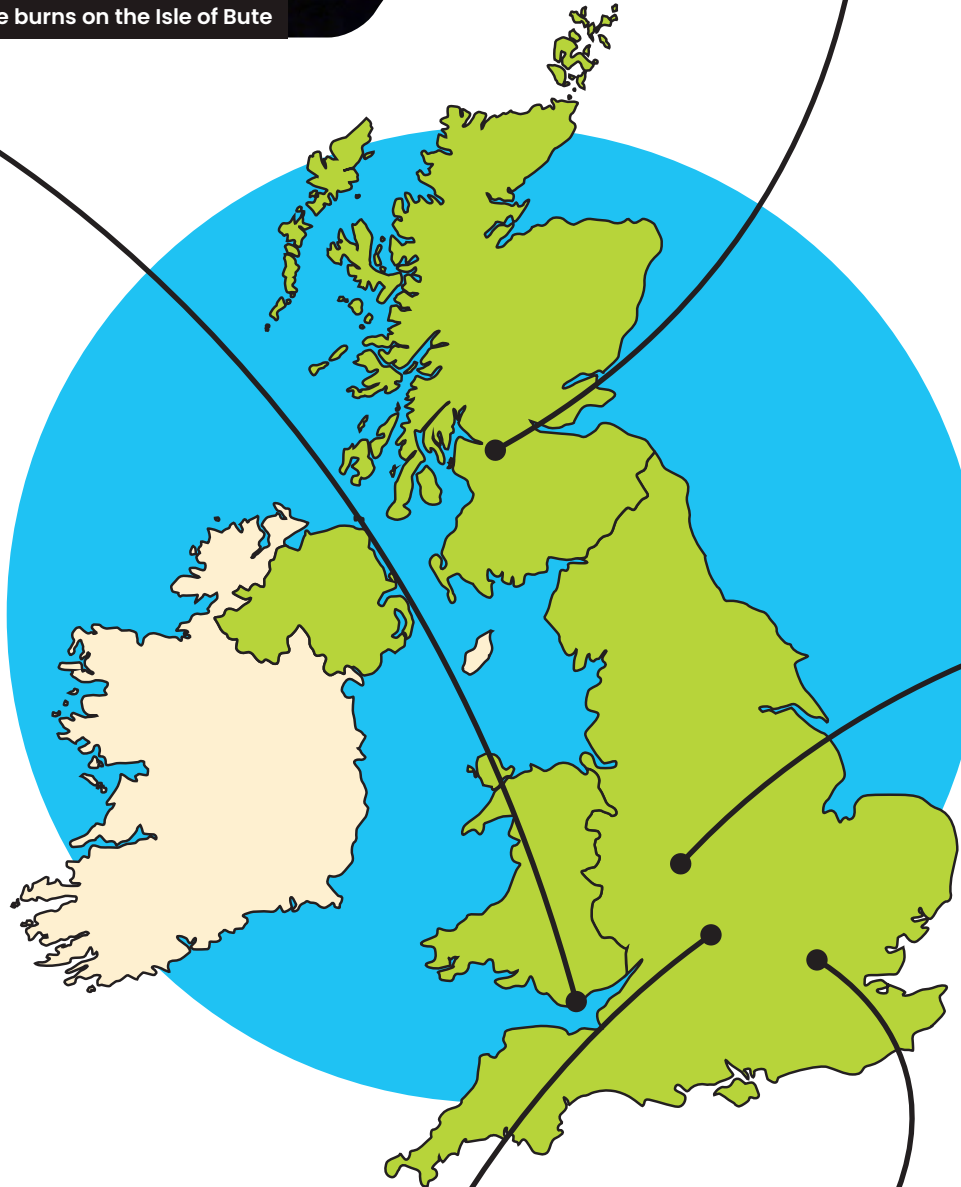
**CARDIFF****Biggest ever ‘FRideDays Bike Bus’**

More than 300 children, parents and teachers from Cardiff’s Radnor Primary School, Ysgol Treganna and Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch took part in the biggest ever ‘FRideDays Bike Bus’ organised by the charity Sustrans. Bike buses see people cycle together along a set route. The aim of the event was to highlight how cycling can be a fun, active and sustainable way to get to school. The pupils were joined by Sam ‘Coach’ Balto, the American PE teacher who went viral when he convinced pop star Justin Timberlake to join his bike bus in Portland, Oregon.



Hundreds of pupils join the bike bus!

Tom Hughes/Sustrans



Bin bags pile up outside houses

Getty

**BIRMINGHAM****Army experts tackle bin crisis**

Army experts have been called in to help deal with thousands of tonnes of rubbish mounting up on the city’s streets. Birmingham City Council has declared a major incident, as bin workers continue to strike. A small number of military specialists are getting involved now to support the council and deal with public health concerns – including rats. Bin workers have been striking since 11 March due to the council removing certain job roles and cutting pay for some staff.

**CHIPPING NORTON****Alice in crazy golf land**

What happens when you mix crazy golf with snooker? A new *Alice in Wonderland*-themed crazy golf course has launched, with accessibility playing an important part. The course, at Fairytale Farm in Chipping Norton, features an obstacle course of 12 holes. Each hole is at wheelchair height to allow everybody to take part, merging crazy golf and snooker for the first time in the UK. Just watch out for the Queen of Hearts, who’ll be putting you off by shouting: “Off with their heads!”



When crazy golf meets snooker!

Fairytale Farm



Five of the new postboxes are being trialled in the Ware, Hertford and Fowlmere areas

RoyalMail

**HERTFORDSHIRE****Postboxes go solar**

While Denmark is scrapping letterboxes, the UK is upgrading them! Royal Mail has unveiled a solar-powered postbox to make it easier for people to send their parcels. The new postboxes include an extra-large opening to accept parcels larger than those that fit through a letterbox, and they can accept barcoded parcels for the first time. You can check your parcel has been posted via the Royal Mail app. The new design is said to be the biggest change to the iconic red postbox in 175 years, and regarded as the postbox of the future! What do you think? Would you use them?





# MOON MOTOR

THE next time that humans land on the moon, they could be pootling across the surface in this.

The cool little buggy is called Eagle and has been built by a private company called Lunar Outpost.

It's a prototype (early model) that the company says would be able to operate on the moon for years, as it's been built to withstand the long lunar nights. A night on the moon lasts for two weeks, with temperatures falling below  $-130^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

NASA wants the rovers so that astronauts can explore much further than they could on foot, and the buggies can also be used to carry experiments and equipment. They're also expected to be able to drive themselves, with or without astronauts on board.

Two other companies have been awarded contracts by NASA to create prototypes, and one will be chosen at the end of the year to build a working rover for NASA's Artemis V mission.

Lunar Outpost



THE three Lunar Roving Vehicles driven by astronauts on the moon in the 1970s are still up there. The Apollo 15, 16 and 17 missions all saw astronauts trundle across the moon's surface. The furthest any got from the landing site was 7.6km (4.7 miles).

## Has the dire wolf really been brought back to life?

A COMPANY that is committed to the “de-extinction” of lost species claims to have brought back the dire wolf.

Cute pics of the wolf pups made the headlines last week, but lots of experts have questioned Colossal's claims to have resurrected the species.

The dire wolf went extinct about 10,000 years ago. Although it looked quite similar to modern-day grey wolves, just bigger and white, there are actually quite a lot of differences between them.

What Colossal did was take DNA from old fossils of dire wolves. DNA is found in the cells of living things, and contains instructions for how an organism grows and functions. Although Colossal says that the two species share 99.5% of their DNA, that still means there could be millions of differences in their DNA sequences.

Colossal only made 20 edits to the dire wolf DNA, then used this to create embryos, which were grown inside dogs until they were ready to be born.

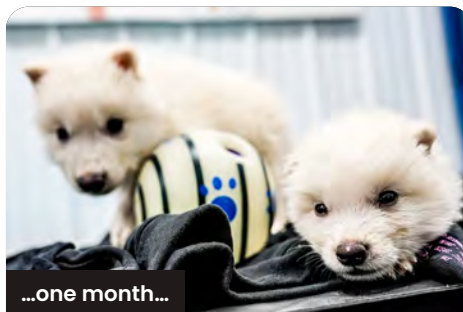
Lots of scientists are very dubious about Colossal's claims, although some have said that the technical achievements are still impressive and will be useful for science. However, many are saying that the pups are more like hybrids or slightly altered grey wolves rather than dire wolves.

“Colossal's dire wolf project is not a resurrection – it is an imitation,” said Dr Timothy Hearn from Anglia Ruskin University.

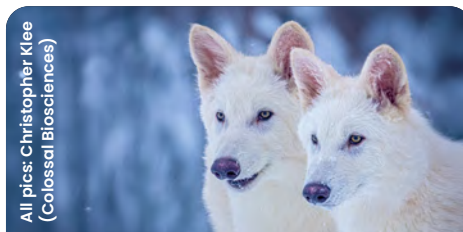
Some have had even harsher words. Professor Jacquelyn Gill from the University of Maine said she thought that the work shows “a casual disregard not only for the truth but for life itself”.



Three wolves have been born. Here are the first two, siblings Romulus and Remus, at 15 days...



...one month...



All pics: Christopher Klee (Colossal Biosciences)

...and three months. The wolves are being raised on an 800-hectare reserve, and won't be released into the wild or allowed to breed



Colossal co-founder Ben Lamm with one of the wolf cubs

This report is from the Science Museum Group

SCIENCE  
MUSEUM  
GROUP

THIS small carved object is an example of a netsuke – a form of miniature sculpture that originated in 17th century Japan.

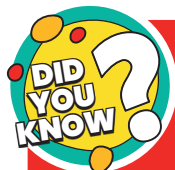
Typically, these objects were used as toggles and hung from strings attached to medicine boxes, tobacco pouches, and money purses worn from the sash of a kimono, a traditional form of Japanese dress.

These beautiful objects often included symbols from Japanese mythology. The rabbit pictured here, grinding with a mortar and pestle, is likely a representation of the ‘hare in the moon’, a popular character from East Asian folklore. The tale says that you can spot the rabbit's outline in the dark markings of the moon, where, in the Japanese version of the story, he lives and grinds mochi (a Japanese rice cake).



Science Museum Group

An ivory netsuke in the form of a rabbit



THE habitats that dire wolves lived in, and the animals that they preyed on, are mostly all gone now, so it's not really clear what the point of bringing them back is. Many experts think we should instead concentrate on preserving creatures that are in danger of going extinct.





# SECRETS OF THE PENGUINS!

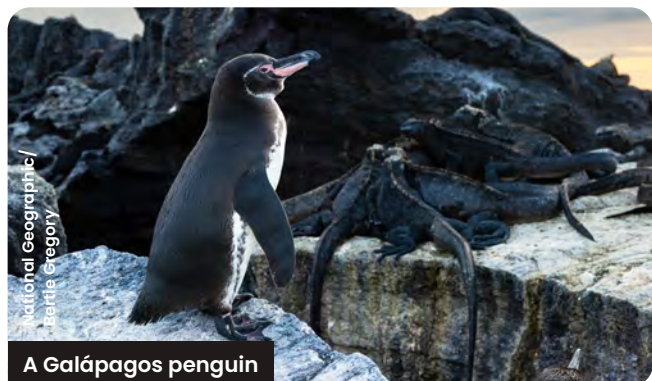
THE new nature documentary *Secrets of the Penguins* dives into the world of these incredible birds in a three-part series. *First News* caught up with wildlife explorer Bertie Gregory to learn all about it!

● **Hi Bertie! What made you choose penguins for this series?**

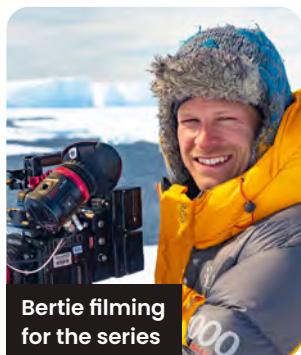
They're an animal that people are quite familiar with, but they do so many things and live in so many places you would never expect. We wanted to show that you think you might know penguins, but you really don't! They are full of surprises.

● **What's the most impressive thing you witnessed?**

I was amazed by the Galápagos penguins' clever fishing trick. These tiny penguins follow huge pelicans and steal fish right out of their mouths! The pelicans catch fish in their big beaks but have to filter out the water first. While they're stuck doing this, the cheeky penguins swoop in and grab the fish.



A Galápagos penguin



Bertie filming for the series



● **What's your favourite penguin fact?**

The fastest penguin on Earth is the gentoo, which can swim at 22mph [35km/h] – that's about four times faster than an Olympic swimmer! They do this using something called 'air lubrication,' where they squeeze their feathers to create a bubble tunnel around their body, helping them zoom through the water.

● **How can young people help protect penguins?**

Even if you live far from penguins, all our oceans are connected. Everything we do, good or bad, affects them. So, I'd say be careful about what you throw away, as it might end up in the sea. You can also help by looking after wild places near your home – even if it's just your local park.

● **Why should children watch the series?**

Who doesn't love penguins? You'll feel every emotion watching this series – it's exciting, hilariously funny, and there are even some scary moments. It's got a bit of everything, and it's definitely for everyone.

*Secrets of the Penguins* premieres on 21 April on Disney+ and airs on 22 April on Nat Geo Wild.

## Big Birdwatch results are in!

STARLINGS have fallen to their lowest recorded numbers in our gardens, dropping from third to fourth place in the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch survey.

The count saw nearly 600,000 people take part across the country in January. The results reveal that the once-common starling is continuing to decline, with their population falling by 82% (four fifths) since 1970.

House sparrows kept their top spot, while blue tits stayed in second place and the wood pigeon moved up to third.

The survey, which helps track garden birds' health, counted more than nine million birds from over 80 different species.

Experts say people can help starlings by keeping natural lawns and putting up nest boxes in their gardens.



House sparrows were the most-spotted birds



**NATURE lovers are flocking to woodlands across the UK to witness the spectacular bluebell season.**

Some of the best places to see the annual bloom are said to be the New Forest in Hampshire, Knepp Estate in West Sussex, Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, Kilburn Woods in North Yorkshire, Glen Finglas near Loch Lomond, and Colby Woodland Garden in Pembrokeshire.

Woodlands expert Anton Baskerville says: "Bluebells thrive in ancient woodlands, where the soil and shade are just right. They're more than just a beautiful sight – they're vital for pollinators like bees, helping to kickstart the food chain in early spring."

The bloom will last for up to four weeks.



**ANEESHWAR'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK**

**MULTI-WORLD RECORD HOLDER!**

ANEESHWAR Kunchala is a ten-year-old wildlife campaigner and officially the world's youngest newspaper columnist! He shot to fame as a finalist on *Britain's Got Talent*. Now, he's presenting the documentary *Save Our Wildlife* from Sky Kids and Sky Zero. You can watch it at [first.news/climatecrisis](https://first.news/climatecrisis).

Aneeshwar's Animal of the Week is the...

## PANDA



**HABITAT:**

● High up in thick bamboo forests on misty mountains in southwestern China.

**FUN FACTS:**

● Pandas have an extended wrist bone that they use like a thumb to help them grip food.  
● They poo around 40 times a day!

**SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:**

● Giant pandas are excellent swimmers and tree climbers, and they can climb mountains as high as 4km (2.5 miles).

**CONSERVATION STATUS:**

● Giant pandas are vulnerable, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature. There are thought to be only 500–1,000 left in the wild.



Aneeshwar's panda art

We're asking you to send in photos of your own drawings or paintings of wildlife to add to an online gallery. Ask a parent, guardian or teacher to send in your photos by emailing them to [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk). You can view the gallery by asking a responsible adult to scan this QR code.





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**RSPCA** 





# EARTH DAY: YOUNG PEOPLE LEAD THE WAY!

TUESDAY 22 April is Earth Day, an annual reminder about the importance of protecting the environment and why it's so important to us. For young people, it's an opportunity to take action for a healthier planet, raising your voices, putting on your running shoes, or simply getting out and connecting with nature.

## CALLS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

WWF Youth Ambassador Emma highlights how important connecting with nature is for young people. She says that "spending time connecting with nature is proven to reduce stress, improve mental health and foster a sense of community, and spending just 20 minutes in nature each day can produce these results." However, Emma explains that being in nature is not a luxury everyone in the UK can benefit from. "For some people, access to nature is not a constant, not a given. It is crucial that the government invests in protecting nature. Ensuring every young person has the chance to connect with the natural world, with equal access to nature, we can build a future where people and the planet thrive."



Emma is a 15-year-old WWF Youth Ambassador from Leeds



### Joe Wicks joins schools for the Mini London Marathon

Joe Wicks, aka The Body Coach, will join young people for the 40th Mini London Marathon on Saturday 26 April. Around 18,000 young people are set to run either 1.6km (one mile) or 2.6km (1.6 miles) from Horse Guards Parade to the world-famous TCS London Marathon finish line on The Mall.



And, beginning on Earth Day itself, the 2025 TCS Mini London Marathon in schools is the UK's largest free children's activity event. Schools can join in by encouraging their pupils to run, jog, walk or wheel two miles in their school setting by 2 May.

"I'm so happy to be joining WWF and Mini London Marathon again this year, knowing how important movement is for not just children's physical health, but their mental wellbeing too," says Wicks. "I'd love to see as many schools as possible right across the UK take part, encouraging students to learn, in an exciting setting, how activity and nature are key ingredients for a healthy and happy life."

Your school can sign up for it by going to [tinyurl.com/2025schoolmarathon](https://tinyurl.com/2025schoolmarathon).



### How to connect with nature this Earth Day

**Make art with nature:** Look out of your window or choose a natural object at home and get cracking. Paint your favourite plant, sketch flowers or fruits, or even try sculpting with clay.

**Go for a treasure hunt:** Choose a natural place to go, make a list of things to find, and start collecting your treasures. It's a great way to get everyone having fun, moving about and feeling the benefits of fresh air.

**Become a walrus detective:** Join WWF's citizen science project and search for walruses in images from space to learn more about how the climate crisis is affecting the species and support conservation work.

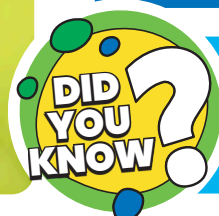
Visit [www.wwf.org.uk/learn/walrus-from-space](https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/walrus-from-space).

**Get a Prescription for Nature:** Explore WWF's Prescription for Nature hub for a range of different ways to get your daily dose of nature beyond Earth Day.

Visit [www.wwf.org.uk/prescription-for-nature](https://www.wwf.org.uk/prescription-for-nature).

### Fun facts about our planet!

- Earth has a squishy middle! The inside of our planet has a semi-solid texture due to high temperatures and pressures.
- By studying rocks, scientists say our planet is around 4.5 billion years old.
- Earth isn't perfectly round. It bulges out at the equator, but these bumps are too small to be seen from pictures of Earth in space.
- The Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia is the largest living structure on the planet.



IT would take just under a year to walk around the whole of the Earth non-stop – that's roughly 8,313 hours and 20 minutes!



# THIS WEEK ON FYI: WEEKLY NEWS SHOW

**FYI**

**sky KIDS**

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THE SHOW**

Check out this week's  
episode of FYI by  
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**THE FESTIVAL  
OF CHILDHOOD** ★



"We are on a mission as a government to  
break down the barriers to opportunity for  
every child."

– Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education

**HOW SAFE  
DO YOU FEEL  
ONLINE?** ★



**ROBLOX**

**WOW!**



**A CAT'S  
RECORD-  
BREAKING  
TAIL!** ★

**IS THE GOVERNMENT  
BANNING PHONES IN  
SCHOOLS?** ★



**LISTENING  
TO ARTWORK?** ★

**TEEN GOLF  
CHAMPS** ★

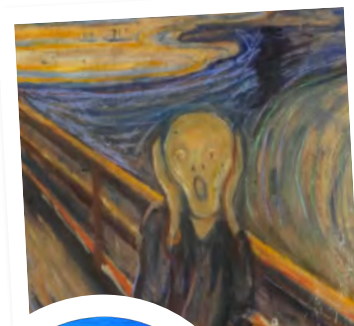


**NEXT WEEK  
ON FYI**



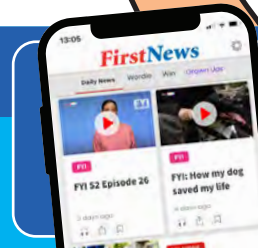
**A SPECIAL  
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videos from them by heading to [first.news/fyi](https://first.news/fyi)  
or on the *First News* app.







## SPAIN

## "FIFA, please don't pick our city for the World Cup!"

Locals from six neighbourhoods in the city of San Sebastián have written a letter to FIFA saying that they don't want to host any World Cup games. The 2030 men's World Cup will be held across Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with San Sebastián down as one of the host cities. Residents are worried that the increase in visitors would spoil the place. "Tourism in our city has already had a major impact on daily life, causing serious harm," the letter said, adding that the number of tourists visiting the city has almost doubled since 2015. FIFA hasn't replied to the letter, but San Sebastián's mayor has criticised it and said residents should be proud to host the event.



Seaside city San Sebastián is home to Spanish club Real Sociedad



## CANADA

## British trekker upsets native people

An adventurer from Wiltshire has been criticised for ignoring indigenous (native) history after she claimed to be the first woman to trek across Canada's biggest island on her own. Camilla Hempleman-Adams journeyed 150 miles (240 kilometres) across Baffin Island on her own, in temperatures as low as -40°C. On her website, she said that Parks Canada told her that no records existed of a woman having done this before. However, Inuit people have pointed out that women in their community have trekked across the island for generations to hunt. Gayle Uyagaqi Kabloona, an Inuit artist, told the BBC that her nan often made the journey while pregnant. "Saying you're the



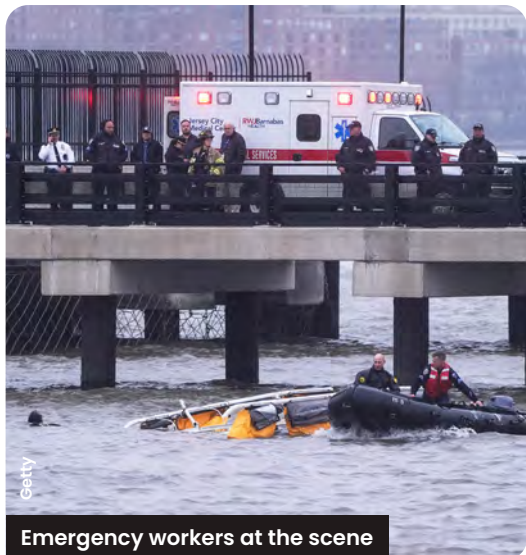
'first person' to do anything in an indigenous country is insulting," she told the BBC. "Show respect to the land and the people who have kept it pristine for your adventures." In an apology, Hempleman-Adams said that she was "truly saddened" for causing upset.



## USA

## Helicopter crashes into Hudson River

Six people – a Spanish family of five and a pilot – have been killed after the helicopter they were travelling in broke apart and crashed into the Hudson River in New York. The three children were aged four, five and 11, and their parents have been named as Agustín Escobar and Mercè Camprubí Montal. It's believed they were on a sightseeing tour of the city. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said the news was devastating, while US President Donald Trump called it terrible. An investigation is now underway to find out what caused the crash.



Emergency workers at the scene

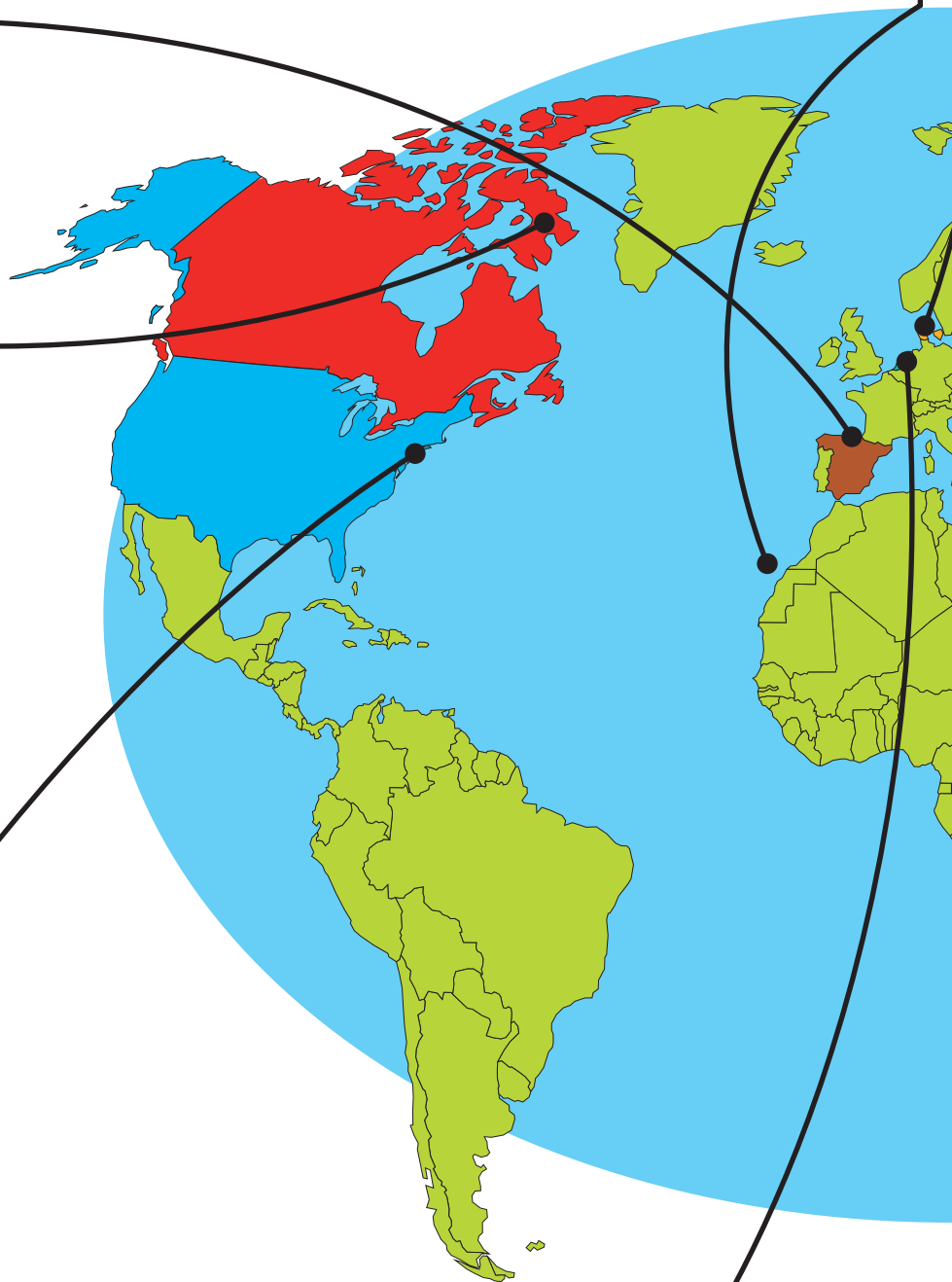


## LANZAROTE

## Popular tourist island hit by floods



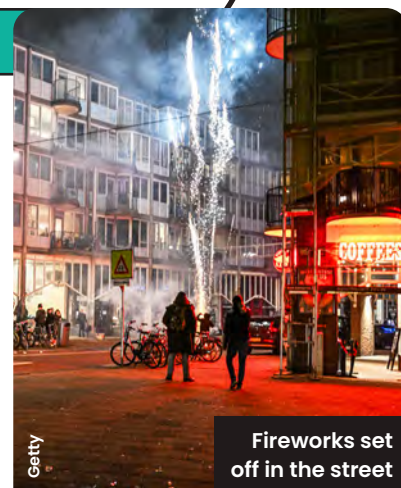
The popular tourist destination of Lanzarote was hit with torrential rain and floods last weekend, causing homes and businesses to suffer. Around 6cm (2.4in) of rain fell in just two hours, with the government having to declare a state of emergency. Thankfully there were no reports of injuries. Flights and holidays were affected as several hotels were left without power and roads were covered with mud. The severe weather came after Storm Olivier swept across the Canary Islands.



## NETHERLANDS

## New Year big bangs banned

Politicians in the Netherlands have voted to ban people from buying fireworks before New Year's Eve 2026, as the number of people getting injured is increasing. During last year's celebrations, two people were killed by fireworks and 1,162 people needed emergency treatment for burns and eye accidents. A further 200 people were arrested for causing damage and using fireworks irresponsibly. An opinion poll found that three-quarters of people support the ban, but it's being delayed until next year so that businesses that have already bought fireworks won't lose money.



Fireworks set off in the street





## DENMARK

### Girl's bottle arrives in country No 2

A girl's message in a bottle has arrived in a second foreign country. Olivia, ten, cast her bottle off from Ramsgate Harbour in Kent in November. It crossed the North Sea and landed in the Netherlands in December. It was then thrown back out to sea and has now been found by a woman named Inge on a beach in Jammerbugten, Denmark – 800 miles from Ramsgate. The message reads: "If you find my bottle please ring my granddad John." Inge did just that, before throwing it back into the sea again. It's an interesting story, but plastic or glass bottles can be harmful to sea creatures and create pollution.



The bottle is now on course for Norway...

Getty



## VIETNAM



The factory is LEGO's second in Asia, and is as big as 62 football pitches

### LEGO opens billion-dollar factory

LEGO has opened a new \$1 billion (£780 million) factory near Ho Chi Minh City to churn out its colourful toys. It's been fitted with 12,400 solar panels and a high-tech battery storage system. LEGO hopes that in a year's time, the factory will employ thousands of workers and run entirely on clean, renewable energy

– one of the first factories in Vietnam to do so. The Danish company hopes to stop adding to greenhouse gases by 2050. The Vietnam facility is LEGO's sixth factory but the first that will use new paper bags for its products rather than the single-use plastic ones that we're used to seeing.



Getty



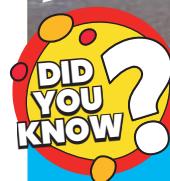
## JAPAN

### World's first 3D-printed train station built

Clever constructors in Japan have built the world's first 3D-printed train station in a quiet town called Arida. It took workers less than six hours to join the four parts of the concrete building together – they did it all in one night, between the last train of the day departing and the first train of the new day arriving. "Normally, it takes about two months to construct a station building of the same scale... speed was a great advantage," said a local railway official. In July, it will fully replace the station's 75-year-old, ageing wooden building. The new building looks like a white garden shed, and it's decorated with oranges and scabbardfish, which are common in Arida.



The building is even earthquake-resistant!



IN 3D printing, a three-dimensional object is created layer-by-layer.

West Japan Railway Company



## MADAGASCAR

### Trump tariffs could cost 60,000 textiles jobs

In Madagascar, 180,000 people work in textiles and clothing, but industry boss Rindra Andriamahefa says that Donald Trump's tariffs could cost a third of them their jobs. The US president has made it more expensive for America to trade with other nations by putting tariffs (charges) on foreign goods entering the country. The textiles industry is very valuable to Madagascar. It shipped \$733m (£555m) worth of products to the US last year, but this could now drop. Andriamahefa said: "We estimate that around 60,000 jobs will be affected." Madagascar has begun speaking to other African countries about how to handle the tariffs, which also threaten 35,000 jobs in South Africa's citrus industry.



Weaving silk in Madagascar

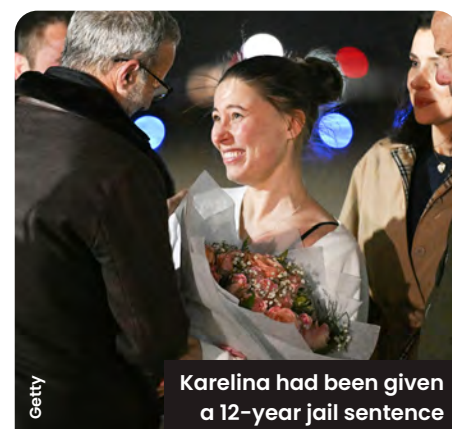
Getty



## RUSSIA

### Ballerina jailed for £40 Ukraine donation is freed

A 34-year-old ballerina has been freed in a prisoner swap deal, after being jailed for donating £40 to a charity that helps Ukraine. Ksenia Karelina is a joint American and Russian citizen who lives in Los Angeles. She was arrested 14 months ago, during a short visit to Russia to see family in the city of Yekaterinburg. Investigators searched her phone and found that she'd sent £40 to the charity Razom on the day that Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. In return for her freedom, the USA released Arthur Petrov, a German-Russian citizen who was involved in a scheme to supply American tech to the Russian military.



Karelina had been given a 12-year jail sentence

Getty



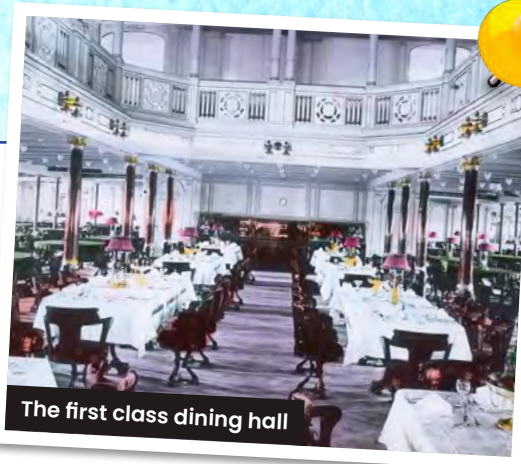


# TITANIC: THE “UNSINKABLE” SHIP

EVEN though Titanic sank more than 100 years ago in 1912, its tragic story still fascinates people. It was launched in a blaze of publicity, with facilities of unimaginable luxury for the wealthiest passengers, and boasts about how its design made it “practically unsinkable”. But less than two weeks after it first sailed out to sea, it hit an iceberg and sank, leading to the deaths of around 1,500 people.

## ● Why was Titanic so big?

When it was launched, Titanic was the biggest ship in the world. At the time, huge numbers of people were leaving Europe and elsewhere to start new lives in the US, so carrying them across the Atlantic Ocean was big business. But new laws meant that shipping companies would have to provide more space for third class passengers, so enormous new ships meant that many more passengers could be taken, with only a slightly bigger crew, so it was a way of making more money.



The first class dining hall

## ● What was so special about Titanic?

It was one of the most luxurious ships in the world, and first class passengers had access to a library, Turkish baths, a squash court, gym, the world's first swimming pool on board a ship, and a kennel for their dogs.

The accommodation for second class passengers was said to be as plush as first class on other companies' ships. Even in third class, conditions were much better than on rival ships – although there were only two baths for the whole of third class, which had just over 700

passengers in it on Titanic's only voyage.

First class passengers were paying huge prices to travel, but because their food and accommodation were so luxurious, the company didn't really make that much money from them – the big business was in the huge numbers of third class passengers making the journey.

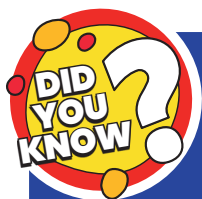


First class passengers try out Titanic's gym

## ● Who built it?

Titanic was built for the White Star Line at the Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland, but it set sail on its maiden voyage from Southampton on the south coast of England. That's because it made it easier for wealthy passengers from London to get there, and the ship could easily pop over to France to pick up passengers from the rest of Europe before heading to the US.

Also, because Titanic was so big, there weren't many places that it could dock, and the White Star Line's dock in Southampton was extended for its huge new ships.



TITANIC even had its own newspaper. The *Atlantic Daily Bulletin* featured everything from society gossip to horse racing results, as well as the day's menus for the ship.



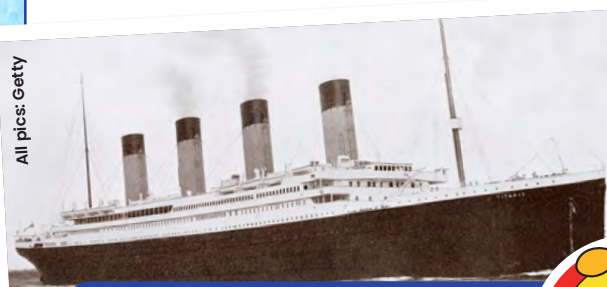
## ● Why was it said to be unsinkable?

The lower section of the ship was separated into 16 compartments by high walls known as bulkheads. These compartments were said to be watertight and could be sealed off in case of a leak in one of them. It was thought that even if four compartments filled with water, the ship would still be able to stay afloat.

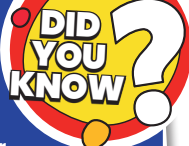
## Titanic in numbers

- The ship was 269.1m (882ft 9in) long overall.
- It was 53.3m (175ft) from the bottom to the top of the funnels, which is taller than Nelson's Column!
- Its total weight was 52,310 tonnes.
- Its cruising speed was 21 knots (24mph or 39km/h).
- There was space for 735 first class passengers, 674 second class, and 1,026 third class, plus 885 crew. However, the ship was only half full on its maiden voyage, so there were 324 first class passengers, 284 in second class and 709 in third class, along with around 900 crew members (although figures vary because official documents and lists of passengers and crew were riddled with errors or had names missing).
- Just over 1,500 people died, including most of the third class passengers and crew.
- It cost around £1.5m to build Titanic, which would be about £145m in 2025. It actually cost more for director James Cameron to make the smash-hit movie *Titanic* than it did to build the ship.

All pics: Getty



TITANIC (above) carried post as well as passengers, which is why its name is sometimes written as RMS Titanic. The RMS now stands for Royal Mail Ship, although it was Royal Mail Steamer at the time. It had its own post office and five workers to sort 3,364 bags of mail, plus any letters that were posted by passengers. When the mail room started flooding, they attempted to move 200 sacks of mail upstairs to protect it.



## ● Sailing to a new life

Although many of the wealthier passengers on Titanic were just along for the ride or going on holiday, most of the people on board were emigrating to the US. Before World War One, an average of around a million people per year were entering the country, with no limits on who could come in, apart from people who failed a medical inspection or were known criminals or terrorists.

Some were fleeing other wars or wanted to avoid being called up to fight in the army, while lots of Jewish people were getting away from anti-Semitic (hatred of Jews) treatment in Eastern Europe.

But even before Titanic was built, new laws in the US were already threatening the business of taking migrants across the ocean. There were concerns that large numbers of foreigners would have a negative effect on society, so there were plans to dramatically limit who could get into the country. World War One led to increasing suspicions of foreigners, so the numbers of people allowed in fell to more like 100,000 per year.





### ● What happened and why did it sink?

At about 11:40pm on 14 April 1912, Titanic hit an iceberg on its starboard (right) side. This is partly because the ship was travelling too fast, even though it had been warned that there were icebergs in the area. Another reason is that the binoculars were locked away and the lookout didn't have a key. The calm ocean also meant that there were no waves breaking against the iceberg, which made it even harder to see. By the time the lookout eventually saw it, it was far too late.

After the collision, six of the 16 watertight compartments started to fill with water. Since this was all concentrated at the front of the ship, it caused the bow (front) to pitch down, lifting the stern (rear) out of the water.

Because the bulkheads didn't go all the way up to the deck, the water eventually spilled over the top into further compartments, gradually weighing the ship down.

It's likely that Titanic would still have sunk even if the bulkheads did go all the way up, but it would have taken much longer and possibly allowed time for help to arrive.

The ship's enormous propellers at the stern were now out of the water, and their weight started to pull on the ship, which finally caused it to break in half. Both sections sank very quickly after this catastrophic split.

After pieces of Titanic were brought to the surface decades later in 1991, scientists said that the steel used had high levels of sulphur, which meant that the cold temperatures and high impact speed led to the steel shattering rather than bending inwards.

The rivets that held the steel plates together had also become brittle in the low temperatures, so many broke off in the impact. This led to more pressure on the remaining rivets, eventually forcing the hull's steel plates to separate and allowing water to rush in.

All of this was revealed in a very detailed investigation in 1998 by metals expert Tim Foecke. However, he said that with the scientific knowledge available when Titanic was built, the shipbuilders weren't to blame.

Scans of the ship on the seabed have shown that the collision punctured a series of small holes down the side of the ship, rather than one long tear as was first thought.

**"The difference between Titanic sinking and not sinking is down to the fine margins of holes about the size of a piece of paper."**  
– Simon Benson, associate lecturer in naval architecture

### ● Did the band really play as the ship sank?

One of the most famous scenes in *Titanic* and the 1958 film *A Night To Remember* shows Wallace Hartley's eight-piece band playing on deck as the ship is going down.

Lots of eyewitness accounts confirmed that the band started playing in the first class lounge, then moved up on deck to calm the passengers, even when they knew the ship was going to sink. None of the band survived the disaster.

### ● How many people survived?

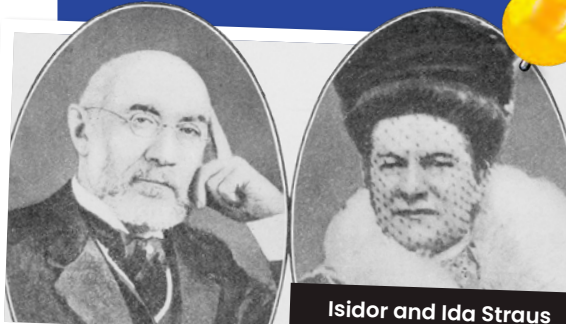
Although more than 1,500 people lost their lives, there were more than 700 survivors. The only ship that came to the rescue was Carpathia, which picked up 706 people from Titanic's lifeboats.

One of the most extraordinary stories is that of American actor Dorothy Gibson. She was in the first lifeboat to leave the ship, then starred in a short film about the tragedy that was released just a month after the sinking. She played herself in the film and even wore the same clothes as she did on the night that Titanic sank.

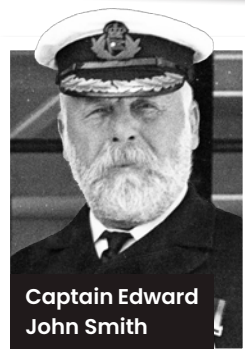
There's also the tale of Richard Norris Williams, a US tennis player. He spent six hours in the freezing water clinging to a life jacket, and the severe frostbite meant that doctors said they'd have to amputate (cut off) his legs. He refused, saying: "I'm going to need these legs!" He went on to win mixed doubles gold at the 1924 Olympics.

There are also plenty of remarkable tales of those who didn't survive. Because women and children were allowed into the lifeboats first, Ida Straus turned down a place because it would have meant leaving her husband. Instead, she handed her fur coat to her maid Ellen Bird and told her to get in the lifeboat. Bird was saved, but the loving couple went down with the ship, and were last seen sitting arm in arm on a pair of deckchairs.

**"Isidor we have been together for all these years. Where you go, I go."**  
– Ida Straus to her husband when she refused to get in a lifeboat



Isidor and Ida Straus



Captain Edward John Smith

### ● Was Titanic's captain to blame?

Captain Edward John Smith was aged 62 when he captained Titanic. A sailor ever since he was a teenager, he was incredibly well experienced and the highest-paid ship's captain in the world.

Some have called him a hero for doing his best

for Titanic's passengers, but others have claimed that Smith was at fault for keeping the ship going so quickly through an ice field, possibly in an attempt to set a record or to please the shipping company's owner. However, the official inquiry found that it was standard practice at the time.

**"It is, in my opinion, impossible to fix Captain Smith with blame."**  
– the British Wreck Commissioner's report

But the report added that standard practice had to change, as it was probably only luck that no similar disasters had happened previously. It warned that if any captain made such a tragic mistake in the future, then they would certainly be to blame.

The inquiry never got to question Smith, as he went down with the ship and his body was never found.



Richard Norris Williams with his tennis partner Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman at the 1924 Paris Olympics

### ● What happened afterwards?

There were government inquiries in the UK and the US into the tragedy. One of the main outcomes for passenger safety was that ships would now have to have enough lifeboats and lifejackets for all passengers. Titanic also had no PA (public address) technology, which meant that it took a long time for everyone to learn about what was happening. All ships now have to have a PA system.

Even some of the people who were lucky enough to get in a lifeboat died from hypothermia (extreme cold), so modern ships have lifeboats with roofs to provide shelter.

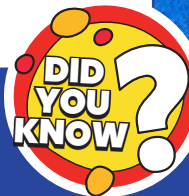
Captains now have to move slowly near icebergs or change course, and these rules are all included in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), which was first agreed in 1914. SOLAS also included setting up an organisation called International Ice Patrol, which monitors icebergs and gives warnings to ships in the area.

In James Cameron's *Titanic*, third class passengers are shown being deliberately locked below deck and blocked from getting into the lifeboats. However, the US and UK inquiries both found no evidence to prove this happened. There were gates separating third class from the rest of the cabins, but this was to comply with immigration rules, as all immigrants arriving in the US had to have medical checks. Many of the gates were opened, but only after most of the lifeboats had already been launched.

A greater proportion of third class passengers died but there are lots of reasons why. None of the lifeboats were in third class, so the passengers had to walk much further to reach them, plus the layout of the ship was confusing, and many of the passengers didn't speak English.

The design of ships also changed, including a requirement for double hulls. This means that the bottom and sides of a ship have a double layer of steel with a large gap in the middle, so that in the event of a collision with a rock, iceberg or another ship, only the gap between the hulls will fill with water, rather than the whole ship.

**THE 20 lifeboats on Titanic had a maximum combined capacity of just 1,178 people. So even if they were all filled, it wouldn't have been enough to save everyone. What made it worse is that many passengers refused to believe that the ship was sinking and wouldn't get in the lifeboats, so the first one only had 19 people in it, when it could have carried 65. There were a few reasons why there weren't enough lifeboats, including the view that the ship could never sink, but Titanic actually had more lifeboats than the minimum legal requirement at the time.**



Some of the survivors, pictured from Carpathia







# A NEW ERA AWAITS!

WHAT happens when four ordinary teenagers are chosen to become Earth's protectors? We spoke to the cast of hit new series *Gormiti: The New Era* to find out!

## Can you tell us a little bit more about this exciting show?

**Robel Tesfamichael (Glen):** It follows four teenagers who are chosen to become the Scions. They use their new superpowers to defeat the forces of the evil Lord Graven daily, and though it's a challenge trying to balance their school life, social life and superhero life, they have each other's back and the willpower to overcome anything.



## What are your characters like?

**Millie Fortunato Asquini (Skye):** Glen is sweet and charismatic [charming], and although he sometimes ends up making a mess, he always tries his best. Zane is distant and tough but extremely protective of his pack. Carter is ambitious and kind despite having a hard life, and Skye is determined, mature and loving, even though she may not always show it.

## Do your different costumes represent different traits?

**Robel:** They represent our different elements: blue for water, red for fire, yellow for air and green for land.

## What is the fantasy realm of Gorm like?

**Millie:** Just like Earth it has beautiful landscapes, magical "creatures" and a community of good people.

**Federico Cempella (Zane):** Us Scions never truly get to

see Gorm in all its glory though. By the time we arrive, it is already under attack and at war. But through flashbacks and memories, we catch glimpses of what it once was.

## Are we set to meet any fearsome characters in Gorm?

**Millie:** The show is packed with scary yet fabulous villains, and just wait until you see their outfits!

**Claire Palazzo (Myridell):** Myridell and Bors (who come from Gorm) are the representation of resilience, strength and great power.

## There are some great special effects in the show. Did you have to do a lot of filming with a green screen and pretending things were there when they weren't?

**Claire:** Oh, all the time! In the show, we control the elements of nature and we all have special powers. We filmed with the green screen a lot but the most difficult part was talking and moving alongside the Gormiti that weren't physically there. As a result, I would often find myself alone in a room, talking to four gigantic "monsters" that weren't actually in front of me!

*Gormiti: The New Era* is on CBBC and BBC iPlayer now.



Meet the Scions:  
Glen, Carter, Zane  
and Skye



FIVE  
MINUTES  
WITH...

BUZZ  
FLETCHER

BUZZ is a rising star of theatre and TV, making his screen debut in *Andy and the Band: Rock Star School!* Here's what he told us about the fabulous musical show.

## Tell us about your character, Noah.

He's fun and creative and loves playing the guitar! I brought my own guitar from home for the series!

## Do you play other instruments, too?

Yes! I can play the drums, guitar and I can sing. I have lessons at school and at home with my dad [McFly's Tom Fletcher].

## What was your favourite scene to film in the show?

Some of the scenes in episode four were my favourites because we went to different locations. We also had to sit in a school bus and they rocked it! They replaced one of the wheels with a drum and the drum breaks!

## Was there a lot of laughing on set?

Yeah! There were some times we had to stop because we were all laughing. Finley, who plays Lewis, was always playing silly jokes.

## Did the cast hang out after filming?

The kids all stayed in the same hotel. There was a stage area, almost set up for a wedding, and we'd all play our instruments and do mini gigs!

## You've also been in the theatre show *Starlight Express* in London. Which was more nerve-racking – filming or performing on stage?

I think it was a tiny bit more on stage. There was more build-up before and having to remember my lines.

## Your family are all musical. Will you be forming a family band any time soon? You never know!

Catch *Andy and the Band: Rock Star School* on CBBC and BBC iPlayer now.



# THEME PARK THRILLS!

## Disneyland Paris launches first-ever Disney Music Festival!

From 19 April, Disneyland Paris will celebrate its first-ever Disney Music Festival. Venues across the park will come alive with melodies, concerts and shows featuring some of your favourite tunes from Disney and Pixar movies. There'll also be live performances from singers!



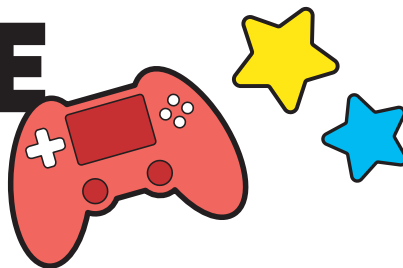
## New Universal theme park coming to UK!

Universal is set to build its first European theme park and resort – in Bedford in the UK! The park will feature tons of cool rides, a hotel and a shopping and entertainment complex. Sadly, we'll have to wait a little while to enjoy the fun, as the park isn't expected to open until 2031.





# WE PLAYED THE SWITCH 2!



**LAST week, we brought you exciting news about the Nintendo Switch 2. This week, we played it!**

Nintendo fans from far and wide were invited to a special event in London try out the console and some of the games coming exclusively to it.

First News reporter Charlie was one of those lucky people – here's how his day went!

## ● A special welcome

As my fellow gamers and I eagerly walked into the Nintendo Switch 2 London Experience, we were greeted with a heroes' welcome!

Friendly staff donning red Nintendo T-shirts clapped and cheered us like mad. Not a bad start, but then I saw the first game I'd be playing...

## ● Mario Kart has somehow got better!

Where else to start than *Mario Kart World*? In last week's issue, we told you about this addition to the iconic series, which is exclusive to the new console.

The first thing I noticed was the incredible, refreshed graphics, before I got straight onto the racetrack (and selected Mario, of course!). While the classic race mode was available, I was eager to try the new Knockout Tour. If you're in the last four spots when the other racers hit a

checkpoint, you'll be eliminated. It was intense and I got knocked out, but loved the added danger!

Before the race started, it was also fun to explore the area around the track in the new free roam feature. I no longer need to imagine what the worlds outside of the tracks look like!

## ● What other games did I try?

Next up was *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*. This is one of the games that was released on the original Switch, but has been given special upgrades for the Switch 2. Most notably, the expansive world of Hyrule can now be explored in HDR (High Dynamic Range). This offers visuals that are much more realistic and detailed, making the open-world experience more fun.

I also tried another Switch 2 exclusive, *Donkey Kong Bananza*. Want to know what's behind that wall? Just smash through it! This seemed like the perfect game to play if you're ever having a stressful day.

## ● The most versatile console ever

I can't finish this review without talking about the amazing console itself. Like its predecessor, the Switch 2 can be used as a handheld or tablet-like device.

However, my favourite new mode was taking the two



Taking off the controllers for mouse mode

Joy-Con 2 controllers off the device and using them like a mouse. The sensors helped turn both the table and my lap into a mouse pad, and was very responsive to my movements, opening up a whole new way to play on the Switch.

There's so much more I could tell you, but you'll have to wait until 5 June to play the Nintendo Switch 2!



Trying out Mario Kart World in handheld mode



Thumbs up all round from First News reporter Charlie at the Nintendo Switch 2 London Experience



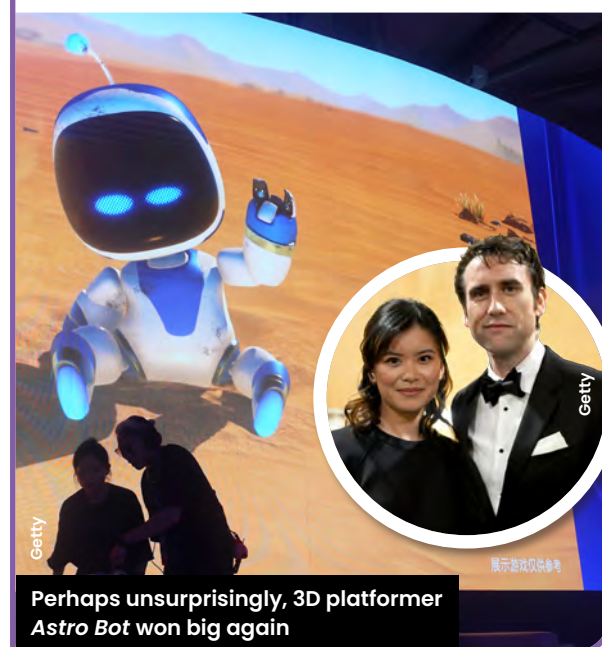
## BAFTA Games winners crowned

**ASTRO Bot** dominated the BAFTA Games Awards, picking up five gongs at the annual London ceremony.

The family-friendly PS5 platformer rose above the competition to take home awards for best game, best animation, audio achievement, family game and game design.

As well as winning the top prize of best game, it also won Game of the Year at December's Game Awards. Does that mean we can officially crown it as the best game of 2024?!

The event also had a special reunion for Harry Potter fans (below), as Neville Longbottom (aka actor Matthew Lewis) and Cho Chang (aka Katie Leung) handed out some awards!



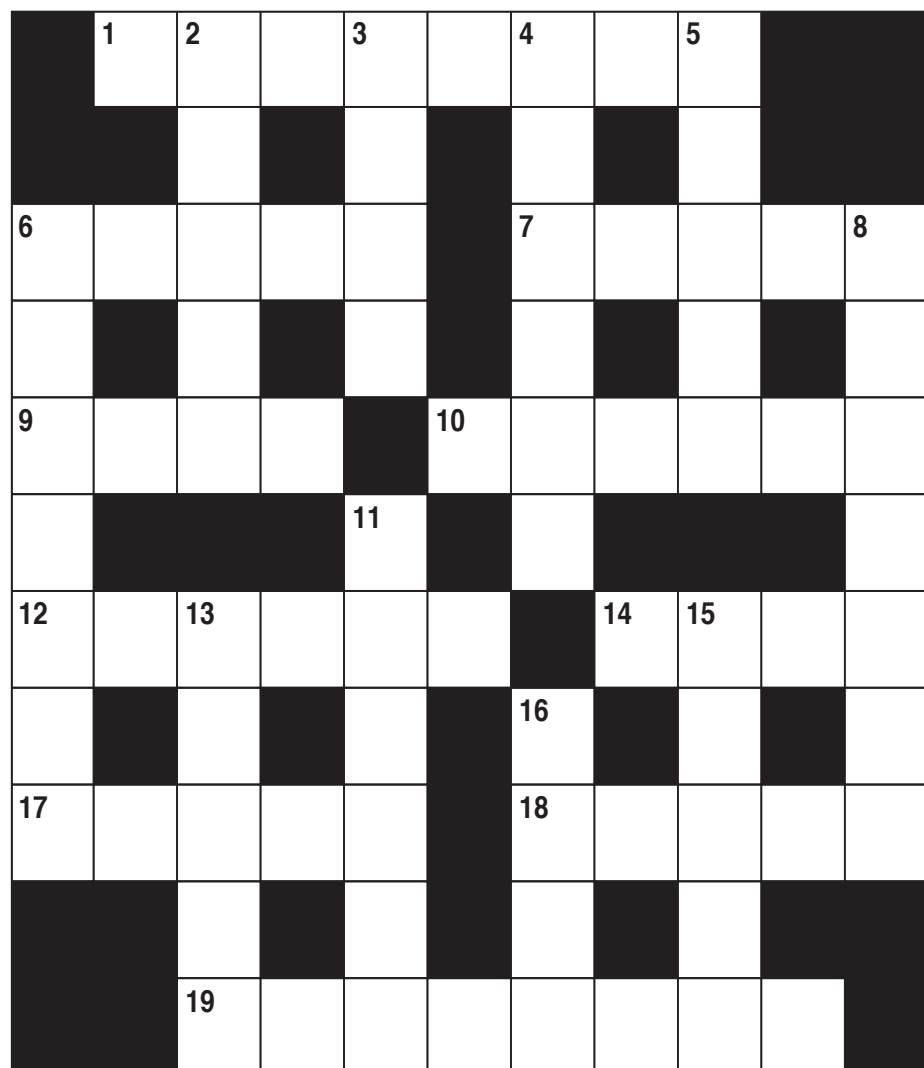
Perhaps unsurprisingly, 3D platformer *Astro Bot* won big again





# CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

**ACROSS**

- 1) Board game with letter tiles (8)
- 6) Two plus one (5)
- 7) Bleat (anag) (5)
- 9) Unfasten (4)
- 10) Plant such as a rose or tulip (6)
- 12) Meal eaten outdoors (6)
- 14) Hired form of transport (4)
- 17) Shy (5)
- 18) Opposite of old (5)
- 19) What is inside something (8)

**DOWN**

- 2) Healed or made better (5)
- 3) Chops (4)
- 4) Container for a drink (6)
- 5) Joint in the arm (5)
- 6) Brass musical instrument (7)
- 8) Common item of jewellery (7)
- 11) Unseen (6)
- 13) E.g. the *Beano* (5)
- 15) Fully grown human (5)
- 16) Sort (4)

# Sudoku

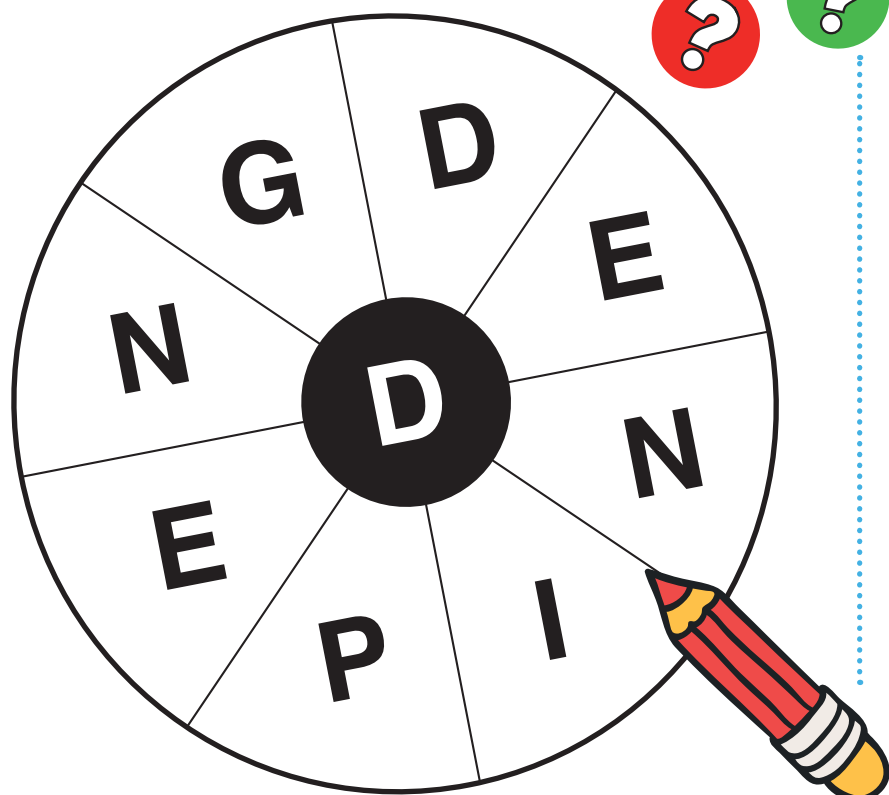
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

**COMPETITIONS:** To enter, email us at [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk) putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box or visit [firstnews.comps](http://firstnews.comps). *First News* competitions are only open to those aged 15 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 selected at random from all those with the correct answer. No purchase necessary. *First News* will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly. If you are a winner, your details will be securely passed on to the person who is providing the prize so they can post it out to you. If you are contacted but don't reply within 28 days, we may offer the prize to another entrant. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition. Your personal data will be held for a maximum of 12 months after the competition and then destroyed. It will not be used for any other purpose unless you have given us permission. If you would like your data deleted before this, please do get in touch with us. You have the right to complain to the ICO if you believe there is a problem with the way your data has been handled.

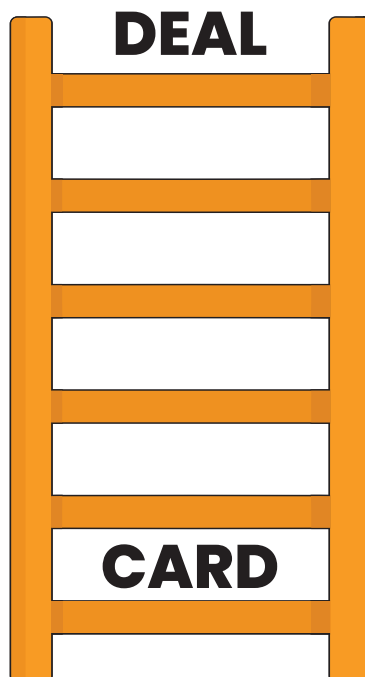
## Word wheel

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?



## 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.

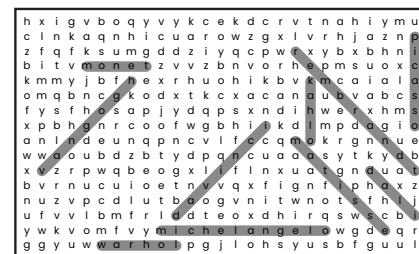


### ISSUE 982 ANSWERS:

**Word wheel:** concluded.**Word ladder:** tell, toll, poll, pole, poke, joke.

**Spot the difference:** 1) Grey bag missing from woman's waist  
 2) Man's jumper changed colour 3) Person missing top left  
 4) Stand on left changed colour 5) Man's hair changed colour  
 6) Circle in middle of top right painting is missing  
 7) Woman's ponytail missing 8) Extra red wave on left painting  
 9) Woman looking at the painting at the top has orange hair now  
 10) Label on the bottom right sculpture stand is missing.

C	R	O	S	S	I	N	G	L		4	1	7	2	3	5	9	8	6
H	O	A	F			R	L	E		9	8	6	4	7	1	5	2	3
O			T	S		O	R	A	N	G	E	5	3	2	8	9	6	4
C	E			N						X								
O	W	N	E	D		S	C	A	R	E								
L		L			E													
A	R	E	A	S		I	S	A	A	C								
T			S	G		R												
E	A	S	T	E	R		R	O	W	S								
L			I															
L			C	A	P	I	T	A	L	S								



Enjoying the puzzles?  
 See the *First News*  
 app for more fun,  
 quizzes and games!  
 This QR code should  
 be scanned by a  
 responsible adult.





# RATS CREATE MINI ART

A PHOTOGRAPHER in Somerset has turned her pet rats into miniature artists, creating tiny masterpieces that spread pawstivity!

Steph Toogood, 26, runs a unique business where 12 of her 16 rats (five boys and 11 girls) create colourful paintings on mini canvases.

The rats walk through non-toxic paint in a bathtub studio, leaving cute paw prints and tail swishes on dinky canvases.

"The rats are trained to follow my hand and treats," says Steph. "They are guided through the paint onto the canvas. I also think that my professional pet portrait photography helps a lot with giving rats a better reputation."

Customers can even choose their favourite rat artist and preferred colours for their unique artwork.



Steph Toogood

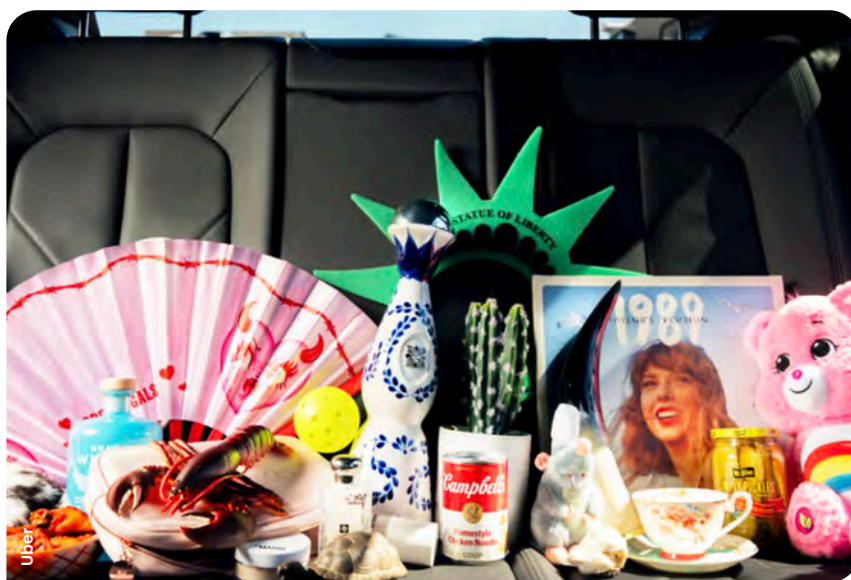
# Weirdest items left in Ubers

UBER released its annual Lost & Found Index for 2025, and it has some of the craziest and most unique items you could think of.

Items were left in Uber's cars most often between 11pm and midnight.

The most common lost items were phones, wallets and keys, with a total of 1.7 million riders forgetting their phone!

The list also included divorce papers, a five-gallon bucket of beans, a chainsaw, a sewing machine, a urinal, more than 70 Nintendo Switches, ten live lobsters, a mannequin head with human hair, and a *Ghostbusters* ghost trap!



Uber

# LUCK STRIKES TWICE!



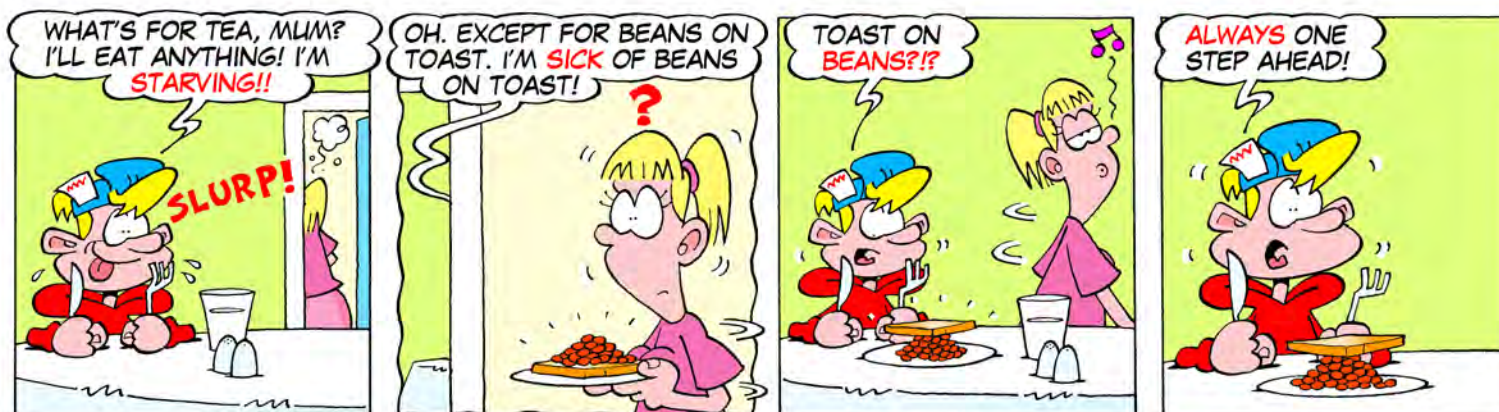
A LUCKY man got the surprise of his life when his birthday visit to collect a \$50,000 (£38,000) lottery prize turned into an even bigger celebration.

While waiting at the lottery office, Dennis Parks' daughter bought him another ticket for his birthday, and that won him an extra \$100,000 (£76,000)!

The 81-year-old military veteran plans to use his wins to pay his bills and splash out on a family trip.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer







# FROST NEWS!

AUTHOR and pop star Geri Halliwell-Horner has written a second book in her Rosie Frost series! *First News* spoke to Geri to find out all about what exciting adventures await in *Rosie Frost: Ice on Fire*.

## Hi Geri! Tell us about this next chapter in Rosie's story...

In this book, Rosie is approaching 14, and she still hasn't found out who murdered her mum. She wants to know why, so that's still going on. Then, there's a murder on the island, and she's wondering who did it. There are still so many gaps and she is determined to find out the truth.

## What sort of things can we look forward to in this book?

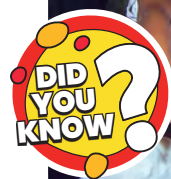
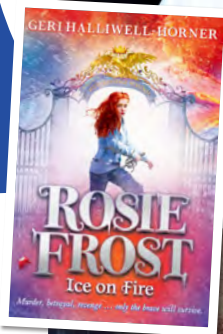
There are many themes! We start to see Rosie develop a little bit of a slow-burn butterfly feeling for this guy, Jackson. She finds a love interest... what does that feel like? I'd say another theme is revenge. All of us get really annoyed sometimes, and what Rosie starts to feel is a sense of payback and regaining her power. There's also a bit of cool science about black holes, and history as well.

## Were there any tricky bits in writing the story?

Yeah, I had to interview these scientists, and I wouldn't say I'm the most sciencey person. It was a bit like being at school when the teacher's talking to you and you're trying to take it in, and they're using words that you might not understand. I was taking notes and desperate to understand it, because I wanted to make sure that when I put it on the page, it was accurate, and a bit of it was real.

## That's cool! What was the most interesting science fact you learned?

Well, black holes are really interesting because if you go near a black hole, something could happen called spaghettification. Yes, this is true! It would actually crush you and you'd get sucked in. And one of the characters in



Spice Girls at their peak in 1996

GERI was part of the famous '90s pop group **Spice Girls** – do you recognise her in this photo? The fab five, loved for their girl power attitude, sold over 100 million records worldwide and had nine UK No 1 singles. Geri's nickname was Ginger Spice!

the book, Ludo Vance, is essentially messing with energy and creates a dangerous black hole.

## Lastly, you were in the legendary pop group Spice Girls. If Rosie had a favourite Spice Girls song, what would it be?

That's such a great question! I think it would depend what mood she's in. Because she can be frosty and moody, and then her heart melts a bit when she likes Jackson. So, she might like *2 Become 1* when she starts to fall in love!

*Rosie Frost: Ice on Fire* by Geri Halliwell-Horner is out now.

# TOONE'S SOCCER SECRETS

FOOTIE fans might catch their favourite players during matches and see the odd social media snap, but what *really* goes on in a footballer's life behind the scenes?

A lot of it is kept a closely-guarded secret – but now the secrets are out, thanks to none other than Man United and England hero Ella Toone!

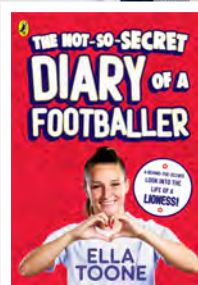
Toone's new book is a diary packed with private memories, playful pranks and pre-game rituals from her amazing career at the highest level.

The Lionesses legend hopes that her stories will inspire readers to chase their dreams of making it in the game, just like she did.

When she was younger, Toone idolised the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Jill Scott and Ellen White. "It's so surreal that now I get to show younger players what the future might hold for them!" she tells *First News*.

"I'm also passionate about encouraging young people to get into sport – whether casually or more seriously – and keep it up throughout their lives. It's so good for us. Not just physically, but also for mental health, making mates, and learning life skills... as my dad would say, get stuck in!"

The Not-So-Secret Diary Of A Footballer by Ella Toone is out now.



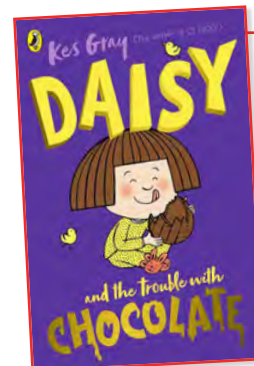
## Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



## Easter treats

WHEN you've had enough of eating chocolate, you can read all about it in these books, each based around the sweet, velvety, rich, tasty, yummy, melty, creamy... mmm. Huh? Oh, sorry! Here are the books:

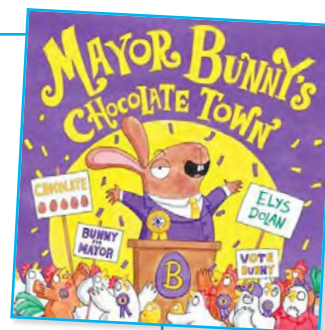


### Daisy And The Trouble With Chocolate by Kes Gray

Daisy's off to Chocolate Land for her Easter break! Although, taking the class hamsters with her on holiday might cause some problems...

### Mayor Bunny's Chocolate Town by Elys Dolan

Mr Bunny is running for mayor and falsely promises the chicken voters an amazing chocolate town. What will happen when the truth comes home to roost?

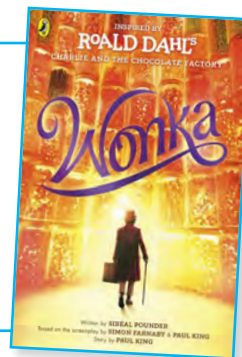


### Hotel of the Gods: Aztec Chocolate Meltdown by Tom Easton

Atlas needs to impress his science teacher (and Aztec god of wisdom and chocolate) with an amazing project. But someone keeps sabotaging him...

### Wonka by Sibéal Pounder

Discover the magical story of how an inventor and chocolate-maker became the famous Willy Wonka, based on the hit film *Wonka*.



### Eliza the Easter Bunny Fairy by Daisy Meadows

Mean Jack Frost has stolen Eliza's magic charms, and now springtime won't begin! Can you help to find the charms in time before Easter is ruined?





# IS IT **FAKE** OR **FACT**?

CAN you tell if a story is the real deal or made up? Every week, we'll be challenging you to see if you can sniff out the news from the nonsense! See what you think of this story, then turn the page upside down to see if you were right.

## READY, SET, THROW!

THIS weekend, people living on the Greek island of Corfu will throw pots out of their windows as part of an annual Easter tradition. Locals believe that by breaking the pots they're getting rid of bad luck and warding off spirits.

Check out more on spotting fake news at:  
[first.news/fakeorfact](https://first.news/fakeorfact) • [first.news/spotfakenews](https://first.news/spotfakenews)  
 Or get yourself a free copy of our updated 28-page special edition, all about making sense of the news, how to spot bias, fake news and much more! Go to [first.news/fake-news](https://first.news/fake-news)



THIS story is REAL.  
 This odd event takes place in Corfu on Holy Saturday to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Easter is a Christian festival, marking the time when Jesus is said to have come back from the dead.

## IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!



**DON'T  
MISS  
IT!**

Do you want to write for

# FirstNews?

Look out for opportunities on the  
Your News page **every week!**

**SNAPPED**

**JUNIOR  
JOURNALIST**







HELLO! I'm Milly, the leader of the **First News FYI News Club**.

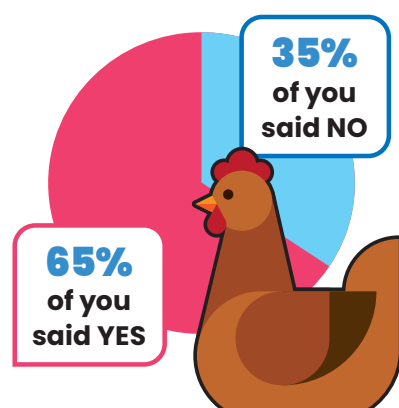
Happy Easter! I hope you've had a great break from school and got up to lots of fun things. Why not write in to let me know? It might end up here in Your News. That's exactly what Evelyn did and her report is in this week's issue! I couldn't miss out on featuring her tale about Blueberry the bunny during Easter weekend – check it out!

If you want to have your story published in an issue of *First News* just ask a parent/guardian to get in touch by emailing [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk).

## THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 5,058 of you:

Should cages be banned for egg-laying hens?



**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

Cast your vote in our polls at [first.news/polls](http://first.news/polls)



# I AM ENOUGH

## The film tackling teen mental health

JAKE has been in a film called *I Am Enough*, all about teenage mental health. Learn more by reading his article below.

by Jake, aged 13

My name is Jake Kemp and I'm 13 years old. I have been acting since I was seven and it's my passion.

Last summer I got the chance to be in a short film in Liverpool about teenage mental health. I feel this is a really important subject as it affects so many of us. I have friends who have struggled with mental health issues and they find it really hard to talk about. Often, they feel embarrassed, so hide their problems, which leads to them getting worse.

The film is based around several teens who all go to school together. They have to spend some time as a group with a counsellor but none of them want to open up. They only start to talk when the counsellor tells them about her struggles as a teen. Some of the issues that the group have are things like eating disorders, ADHD and bipolar.

My character Ryan is seen as a tough kid and there are lots of rumours going around that he's a drug dealer. But the reality is his brother is bullying and exploiting him. Deep down, he's just a scared teen who puts on a front.

There is an amazing emotional scene at the end of the film with two of the actors, Frank Emsley and Nuala Childs, that really gets you thinking.

The film was made on such a small budget and the hope was that it would help teens who watched it. But, since being submitted in film festivals, we are completely blown away by how much success it's had. *I Am Enough* has already won at the LA Indie Shorts and the World Film Festival in Cannes.

I feel so privileged to have been in this amazing film. Big



Jake (top right) with the cast from *I Am Enough*

thanks to WildRaff Productions and the wonderful cast, who have become my life-long friends.

Our dream now is that schools will use this film to help kids open up about mental health so it's no longer something to be embarrassed about.

# The great rabbit escape!



Evelyn and Blueberry

IT'S Easter this weekend, so when Evelyn wrote in to tell us a story about her beloved bunny, Blueberry, we just had to feature it!

by Evelyn, aged 12

It all started with a broken hutch. Last night, our peaceful evening turned into a full-on animal emergency when we discovered that our beloved rabbit Blueberry had vanished. The hutch door was hanging open like something out of a mystery film, and the rabbit – gone. Vanished! Poof! Mum launched Operation Bunny Hunt immediately.

Armed with torches, we scoured the garden, peered under bushes and called out his name like he might answer (spoiler: he didn't). We were out there for hours in the dark, fearing the worst. A fox? A bird of prey? A secret rabbit rebellion? We finally gave up at some awful hour and went to bed feeling like the worst bunny parents in the universe. But then... plot twist!

The next morning, while mum was getting ready to put out an appeal on the local Facebook group, she saw a photo of our rabbit! Turns out, some local heroes spotted him being chased by a cat in the late evening and bravely rescued him! They even gave him a safe place to stay overnight. Our escape artist was unharmed, slightly dramatic, but otherwise fine.

He's home now and we're thrilled. He's pretending like nothing happened. We, on the other hand, are exhausted, emotional and giving him lots of extra cuddles!

## NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Castletown Primary School, Holly Park Primary School, Knightsfield School, St Piran's School and Thurlstone Primary School!





# Library lover's award

THE Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Awards recently took place and Micah won the secondary category. Here he is to tell you all about it.

by Micah, aged 13

I am so delighted to have won the Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Award, which is an award that recognises the contribution that pupil librarians make to their school libraries, awarded by the School Library Association (SLA) and the CILIP School Libraries Group.



The ceremony was just incredible! My award was presented by the comedian Russell Kane and afterwards all nominees met 30 different authors who gave us signed copies of their books. It meant a lot to me that one of the reasons my librarians nominated me was because I am an "exceptionally kind and empathetic" person. I think these are really important attributes to have.

My school library is amazing. It is the main hub of the school and helps us to connect and learn new things. It offers us so many opportunities and I love helping to run it. The librarians, the space and the books have all helped me to grow and mature so much since Year 7.

I would encourage all students to get involved with their school libraries and, if your school doesn't have one, then I would advise you to try to change that! Get a petition going or do some fundraising. Libraries are truly special.

The SLA supports everyone who works in school libraries to make them the best they can be. Find out more at [sla.org.uk](http://sla.org.uk).



Micah on his librarian duties

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## Our school is plastic-free!

WE all know that plastic is not good for the planet. But is your school plastic-free? Llewella's is! Find out how they did it below.

by Llewella

On Wednesday 26 March the Green Team from my school, Sky Primary and Eden Project Nursery, shared our work on reducing and recycling plastic at The Eden Project in Cornwall.

We are the first school this year to become a Plastic Free School with the Surfers Against Sewage programme. We have done this by litter picking, banning plastics, challenging companies to reduce their packaging and having plastic-free lunches by reusing washable pots. We also collect single-use soft plastics to take to our local supermarket and banned some single-use items, such as plastic cups and cutlery.

PACTS [Politicians Accountable for Climate to Students], which hosted the discussion at The Eden Project, spoke about the link between democracy [a form of government where everyone gets a say in how the country is run] and sustainability, and helped us quiz leaders on their climate commitments.



Pupils gathered at The Eden Project to talk about the work their school has done to become plastic-free

## Celebrating National Shakespeare Day!



Learning about Shakespeare

NATIONAL Shakespeare Day is Wednesday 23 April so, to celebrate, Mayomi has written an article for us. The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) has been teaching all about Shakespeare and his work in Mayomi's school for years.

by Mayomi, aged 11

I'm a Year 6 pupil at Archibald Primary School in Middlesbrough. We're one of the RSC's Lead Associate Schools and I've been studying Shakespeare since reception. We have been taught lots of his plays such as *The Tempest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear* and more.

My favourite play was *Romeo and Juliet* because of the tension and drama it creates and is replicated when we acted it out. My favourite Shakespearean character is Helena from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The work we've done has inspired me to start writing more stories and helped me to use my imagination more.

As an RSC Associate School we work with lots of other schools in our area on Shakespeare. When I was in Year 5, lots of those schools came to perform at our school and many important people came to watch, including the Mayor.

Shakespeare helps me express my love for drama, acting and writing. I'd like to pursue a career doing what Shakespeare did but, if not, it would be an amazing hobby!





# THE BIG PICTURE

## ELEPHANTS join in a water fight in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Thailand.

April is the hottest month in the Asian country, so the tradition of having water fights as part of the annual Songkran festival provides a welcome relief from the heat.

Songkran marks the end of the rice harvest and is also the traditional start of the new year in Thailand, as it's the time when the sun moves into the Aries constellation, the first sign of the Zodiac. Families across the country get together, and younger people pay their respects to older family members and their ancestors.



# FirstNews Quiz

THE answers to all these questions can be found in the pages of this issue. Why not set yourself, or your friends and family, a time challenge to see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? See how well you did by checking the answers at the bottom.

**1** A school in Shropshire is switching traditional uniform for what?

**2** Which famous festival did Lady Gaga headline last weekend?



**3** What type of postbox has the Royal Mail unveiled?

**4** What bird was spotted most in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch?

**5** Where has a new \$1 billion LEGO factory opened?



**6** What penguin species is the fastest?



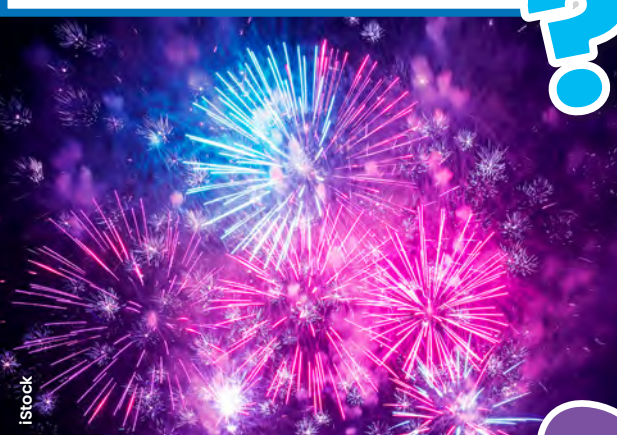
**7** When is Earth Day?



**8** What game won five prizes at the 2025 BAFTA Games Awards?

**9** What animals are creating mini masterpieces in Somerset?

**10** Which country has decided to ban New Year fireworks after 2025?



**11** Who writes the Rosie Frost book series?

**12** Where is a new Universal theme park set to open?

**13** What is the name of the famous ship that was described as "unsinkable"?



**14** What sport was Prince William recently a pundit for?

**15** Where has the world's first 3D-printed train station been built?

If you enjoyed this, why not check out our Quiz that you can play online as an individual or with your family? You can find it at [firstnews.co.uk/quiz](https://firstnews.co.uk/quiz) and on the *First News* app!

**FirstNews WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!**

Check out our new online Quiz!

**Answers:**  
1) PE kits 2) Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival 3) A solar-powered postbox 4) House sparrow 5) Vietnam 6) Gentoo 7) 22 April 8) Astro Bot 9) Rats 10) The Netherlands 11) Geri Halliwell-Horne 12) Bedford, UK 13) Titanic 14) Football 15) Japan

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# AT LAST!



McIlroy celebrates the winning putt. Inset: trying on his green jacket

**NORTHERN Ireland's Rory McIlroy has finally won the Masters, completing his quest to become only the sixth man to win all four of golf's major tournaments.**

It all looked like it was going wrong on the last green when he missed a putt for par that would have won the trophy, so he had to endure the agony of an extra play-off hole with England's Justin Rose. Thankfully for McIlroy, he sank a three-foot putt to make birdie and claim his historic green jacket.

It gives McIlroy the career Grand Slam of the Masters, the Open, US PGA and US Open. The only other five who've done it are Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods. Woods is the only one who's completed the set since Nicklaus did it in 1966, which shows how tough it is.

"I didn't make it easy today," McIlroy said. "It's the best day of my golfing life. And yeah, I'm very proud of myself. I'm proud of never giving up."

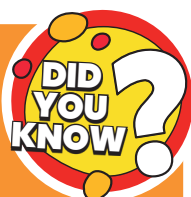


Bruce Mouat's team have become the first to win four curling Grand Slam events in one season, winning the Players Championship just a week after victory in the World Men's Curling Championship. The only Grand Slam event that Mouat (above, second from right) and his men didn't win went to Ross Whyte, so Scottish teams have claimed all of the major titles this season.

Lithuania's Mykolas Alekna, 22, destroyed his own discus world record last week. His new mark of 75.56m is more than a metre better than his previous record! His dad, Virgilijus Alekna, is a two-time Olympic champion.



CROWDS at Headingley were overjoyed to see Yorkshire rack up the biggest runs victory in the 135-year history of cricket's County Championship. They set Worcestershire a target of 610 but wrapped it up pretty quickly, eventually winning by a whopping 504 runs.



England and France are racing away at the top of the table in the Women's Six Nations, after big wins at the weekend. England beat Ireland 49-5 after a tight first half finished 7-5 to England, while France handed Wales a 42-12 defeat. England are on 15 points and France are on 14, with Ireland next on just five points.



Newcastle Eagles missed out on a first European trophy, losing 95-82 to CSO Voluntari in the final of the European North Basketball League. The teams were level midway through the third quarter, but the Romanian side eventually went ahead to improve on their runner-up position last year. "Hopefully we've inspired some future generations of Eagles fans," said Newcastle coach Marc Steutel.

## Braydon's on the ball



THE FYI presenter takes us through his pick of the week's top footie action.

Crystal Palace raced into a two-goal lead at the Etihad and looked to be coasting to a comfortable victory on Saturday. The in-form Eagles were flying and Man City looked a long way from a Champions League place. Palace were so close to making it three when the new semi-automated offside technology ruled out a third goal, but City suddenly came to life, with Kevin De Bruyne taking control of the game. From two down, City drew level at half-time and a strong second-half performance saw them completely transform the game to win 5-2. De Bruyne was at his creative best and looked like the KDB of old, threatening the Palace defence with every move. City will miss him when he leaves at the end of the season after ten years, and he'll always be remembered as one of City's, and the Premier League's, very best.

De Bruyne gets on the ball



Newcastle are flying high too, and they despatched Man United with ease in a 4-1 victory at a booming St James' Park, with two goals from Harvey Barnes. The Magpies continue their push for a Champions League place, dominated the game from the off and will be looking to complete a successful season with a place in the top five. Can they do it? I think they have every chance.

Forest suffered at the hands of Everton, and defeat means their security in third has been eroded. Forest's form has hit the buffers at the worst possible time, and their Champions League dream is now in the balance. With Newcastle, City, Chelsea and Villa all hot on their tails, Forest are feeling the heat. Everton, on the other hand, are finishing the season on a high, with David Moyes back and a new stadium to enjoy in August.

In the other games, Leicester finally registered a goal (actually two) in a draw with Brighton, which was their first league goal since the end of January! The Leicester fans must have been in shock when Stephy Mavididi scored to end a goal-less run of 885 minutes, and then Caleb Okoli scored a second equaliser to take a point. The Foxes still face relegation but at last the fans had something to cheer.

**Braydon's Team of The Week:** Ipswich. A draw at Chelsea despite looking doomed to the drop.

**Braydon's Player of The Week:** Ederson, the City keeper with his fourth assist of the season!

● Watch my weekly video on the **First News** app!

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