

NEWS KIDS CAN **TRUST**

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR\*



# First News

Issue 984 £2.95 25 April – 1 May 2025

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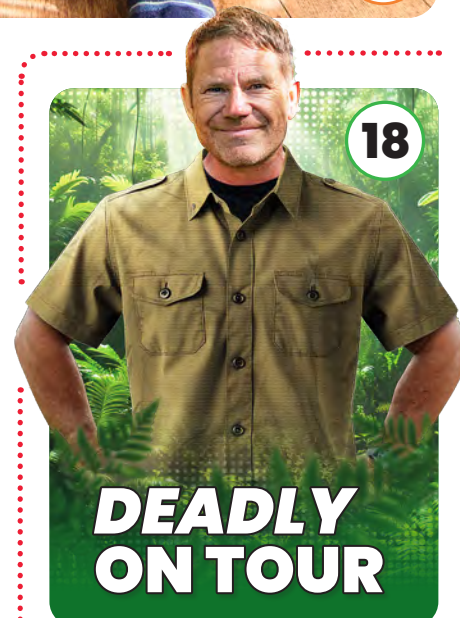
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## MEET THE TEAM



Editor  
in Chief  
Nicky  
Cox



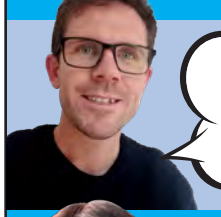
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Manager  
Hannah  
Timson



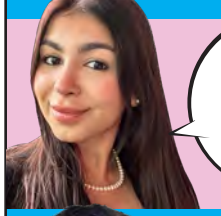
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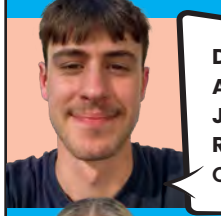
News  
Editor  
Ian Eddy



Senior  
Reporter  
Chris  
Towers



Junior  
Reporter  
Safiyyah  
Choudry



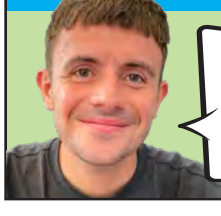
Digital  
Assistant/  
Junior  
Reporter  
Charlie Baker



Children's  
Engagement  
Lead  
(Editorial)  
Milly Rusling



Creative  
Director  
Richard  
Robson



Senior  
Designer  
Dan Jordan

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



## TEACHERS HELP OUT POORER STUDENTS

Some schools are stretching their budgets to buy clothes, cookers and bedding for families who are struggling financially. In a survey of more than 14,000 school staff in England, one third reported seeing "physical underdevelopment" in poorer children, rising to more than half in deprived areas. The study warns things "can only get worse" after recent benefit cuts. Kari Anson, the head of a special needs school in Birmingham, said some children were "living in housing conditions that are absolutely awful. We're talking mould on the walls, and that impacts those children who are asthmatic, prone to chest infections." The government says its child poverty task force is tackling the problem.



## SLOTH HAS TOOTH SURGERY

Rico the sloth has just made history after undergoing groundbreaking dental surgery! Keepers at Chester Zoo noticed that Rico had swellings on the side of his face, which turned out to be dental abscesses. To stop him from being in pain, and to prevent the problem returning, 25-year-old Rico went under the knife. The three-hour operation, carried out at the zoo's animal care centre alongside experts from Newcastle University, was the first of its kind.



THEY SAID THAT!

"I've been working with trees... for close to 14 years and in all that time I don't think I've seen a tree-felling as shocking as this."  
— Dr Ed Pyne, Woodland Trust advisor

## PUB CUTS DOWN ANCIENT TREE

Toby Carvery's owner has said sorry after the restaurant chain felled a 500-year-old oak tree that overlooked one of its pubs in north London. The company had said they'd been told the tree was dead and a health and safety risk. But Enfield Council, on whose land the tree had stood since the reign of Henry VIII, said it was "an outrage". It called the tree a "fine specimen" in an official document in March 2024, saying it could have lived for hundreds more years.



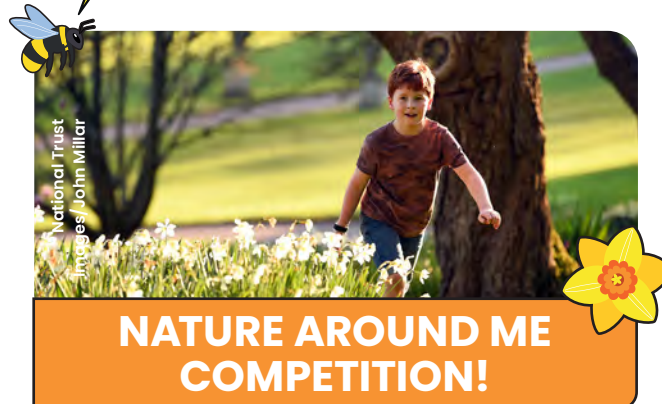
## UK BANS EU MEAT AND CHEESE IMPORTS

The government has banned holidaymakers from bringing meat and dairy products, including sandwiches, sausages and cheese, from the European Union (EU), to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease. Foot and mouth is an infection that spreads very easily in animals such as cattle, sheep and pigs, but very rarely infects humans. Anyone caught bringing in the restricted snacks could face a £5,000 fine. It's hoped the ban will help UK animals to remain free of the disease.



## WORLD WISH DAY!

World Wish Day returns on 29 April. The annual event marks the day in 1980 when seven-year-old Chris Greicius, fighting leukaemia in America, had his wish to become a police officer granted. What began in the US has now spread to nearly 50 countries. Make-A-Wish UK, established in 1986, continues this legacy by granting special wishes to children facing serious illnesses, helping families create precious memories together.



## NATURE AROUND ME COMPETITION!

First News' Nature Around Me competition with The National Trust is still open! We want you to take a photo of what nature means to you. It could be a beautiful tree in your local park, a petal floating in a puddle or a spider hiding in a bug house. Your photo must be taken in the UK and contain no identifiable faces. The lucky winner and their family will get a two-night stay in a National Trust holiday cottage worth over £350, and more! Ask an adult or teacher to upload your entry at [www.firstnews.co.uk/national-trust](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/national-trust). The closing date is 4 May 2025.

## FURIOUS MRBEAST FANS DEMAND REFUND

Fans of MrBeast who paid \$1,000 (£750) for The MrBeast Experience in Las Vegas, US, have demanded their money back after feeling let down. The experience at Resorts World Las Vegas promised an "unforgettable" time, offering a three-night stay, meet-and-greets, exclusive merch and a \$10,000 gift voucher for one lucky person. But people said they received none of that. Attendee David Yacksyzn said: "They gave us an experience, alright, a real bad one." MrBeast has apologised and offered customers a tour of his studio.



## BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT CHANGES BUZZER RULES

Britain's Got Talent is introducing a major change to its live semi-finals by allowing one judge – or hosting duo Ant and Dec – to send an act straight to the finals with a Golden Buzzer. The talent show has used the Golden Buzzer during auditions for many years, but this is the first time it will feature in the semi-finals. This change follows an unusual earlier episode where a mysterious performer called The Hacker made Simon Cowell perform on stage instead of judging.

## OLDEST ANT FOSSIL FOUND

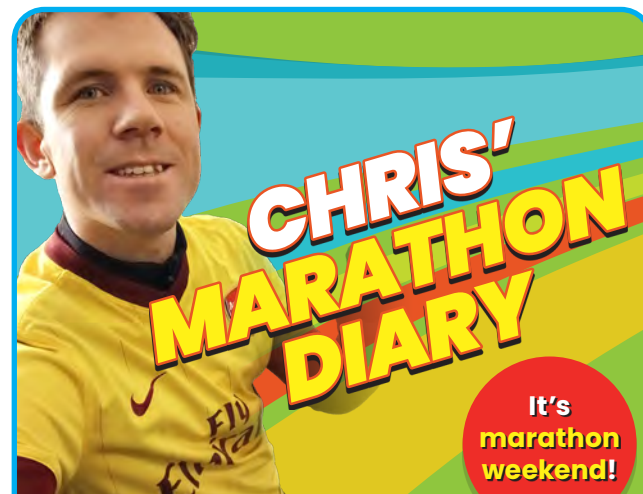


Scientists have discovered a 113-million-year-old ant fossil in Brazil, the oldest ever found. The now extinct insect was found preserved in limestone, and is known as a 'hell ant' because of its unusual sickle-shaped jaws that it used to catch its prey. Researchers used X-rays and fancy 3D technology to find out that this ant was related to similar fossils found in Myanmar.



## GIRLGUIDING LAUNCHES NEW ECO AWARD

Girlguiding has launched a new Eco award to help young members tackle climate change. The award, aimed at girls aged four to 18, teaches sustainable living through practical actions like recycling and community projects. Working with their first Environment ambassador, scientist Laura Young, the group aims to help girls reduce their carbon footprint. This comes after research showed that 37% (more than a third) of young girls feel worried about global warming. Members can earn the award by completing environmental challenges over one to three months, depending on their age group.



## CHRIS' MARATHON DIARY

It's **marathon weekend!**

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

The time has finally come! On Sunday, at about 10:45am, I'll be setting off on the longest run of my life.

It's felt a bit like the last week of school. I've spent all year training and learning lots of top tips, and now, things have been winding down – just a few short runs to make sure I'm fresh and ready for marathon day.

Yesterday, I visited the London Marathon Running Show at the Excel arena to collect my number, which contains a chip so that people can track me on the official London Marathon app as I run. I'm **22112**. Now, it's just about getting everything ready – laying out my kit, packing little bags of jelly babies for energy and trying to keep my cool amid all the excitement. Lots of friends and family are coming to watch... I can't wait!

If you know someone who's running the marathon, best of luck to them – and if you happen to be running the mini marathon, then a massive good luck to you. It's going to be one incredible weekend!

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

unicef for every child

Children's lives are at risk as vaccine-preventable diseases rise and funding shrinks. Vaccines save nearly 4.2 million lives annually, with almost half of those in Africa. To ensure more and more children are reached with vaccines, UNICEF staff and partners help plan and carry out vaccination campaigns worldwide.



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

### INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY 29 APRIL

The day celebrates all types of dancing, from ballet and modern to tap and ballroom.

### NATIONAL WALKING MONTH MAY

May is a month for ditching the car! Why not try walking to school or going on a long family stroll at the weekend?

**CALENDAR DATES**



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





# ROBOT, STEADY, GO!

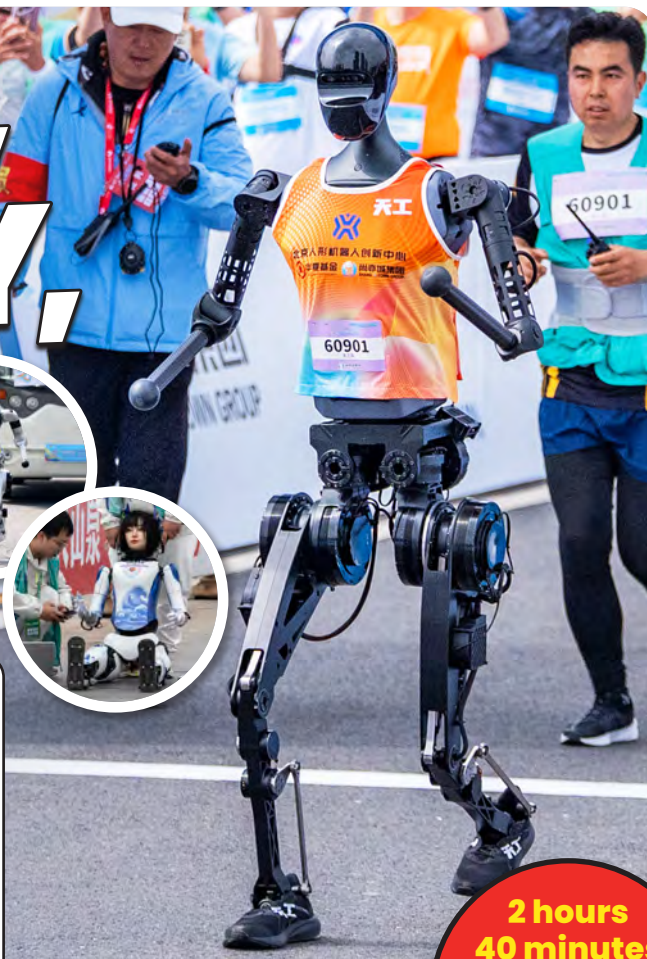
**THERE** are lots of sci-fi stories and films about robots taking over the human race... but perhaps first we should just worry about them **OVERTAKING** us!

In a world-first, a half-marathon has taken place in Beijing, China, with humanoid robots racing alongside human runners.

A total of 21 two-legged machines of different shapes and sizes tackled a 21-kilometre (13-mile) race, on a course that ran next to the human one. They were accompanied by human helpers in case anything went wrong, and they were allowed pit stops to swap their batteries.

While some robots crumpled to the floor or crashed into barriers, others wowed the watching crowd. The winner of the robot race was the jet-black Tiangong Ultra robot, in two hours, 40 minutes and 42 seconds.

That's fast, but not fast enough to beat us just yet – it's over twice the time it took for the male and female runners, both from Ethiopia, to win their human races.



**2 hours  
40 minutes  
42 seconds**

The fastest robot's  
half-marathon  
finishing time



Robot winner Tiangong Ultra crosses the line (above) and poses with its winner's medal

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

**BE careful if you are online.**

Not everything you see or hear is true. Just watch our new film at [first.news/tv](http://first.news/tv) called *Who's Controlling Your Mind?* (front page)

Some people try to make you believe things that aren't right. They may want you to buy something, or think like they do. This is called influence. It can sneak into your mind through videos, games and social media. Always ask yourself: "Who made this – and why?" Talk to a trusted adult if something feels wrong or confusing.

You are in charge of your mind. Don't let strangers control what you think or feel.



Nicky Cox MBE

**Burnley and Leeds will be back in the big time next season**



## Burnley FC

It was party time for Burnley on Easter Monday as they sealed their return to the Premier League with a 2-1 win over promotion rivals Sheffield United. It's the third time that manager Scott Parker has led a team to promotion from the Championship in six years. The result meant Leeds are going up, too.



## Surge in school violence

**NASUWT, the Teachers' Union, is demanding action to tackle a sharp rise in attacks on teachers by pupils.**

The union's latest *Behaviour in Schools* survey, which spoke to nearly 6,000 primary and secondary school teachers from across the UK, revealed some shocking stats (below) that show just how bad the situation is. It wants the government to do more to tackle

the root causes of pupil aggression.

The union's General Secretary, Dr Patrick Roach, said: "Pupil behaviour has long been an issue for teachers, but recent years have seen a surge in levels of violence and abuse... many teachers are having to think about how they can survive in the classroom before they can begin to focus on their teaching and pupils' learning."



It's causing teachers stress

**IN THE  
PAST  
YEAR...**

**1/5**

of teachers say they've been hit or punched by pupils

**1/4**

have been verbally abused several times per week

**7/10**

don't think they have the support they need to help pupils

● **Over half (52%)** of teachers have thought of quitting the job because of aggressive pupils

## Countries draw up new pandemic plan

**THE UK and the 193 other countries in the World Health Organization (WHO) have agreed an action plan to work together to defeat future global pandemics.**

A pandemic is when an infectious disease spreads across a large population, like Covid-19 did in 2020.

The WHO Pandemic Agreement is designed to help the world to respond to pandemics better, and it comes after three years of tough negotiations. It will improve the global sharing of skills, information and technology, but it won't give the WHO the power to force individual countries to go

into lockdown, or tell them what to do.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, poorer countries accused richer countries of hogging vaccines and tests. It's hoped that the new plan will make things more equal.

Helen Clark, an ex-prime minister of New Zealand who worked on it, said: "WHO member states have joined together to say that we'll defeat the next pandemic threat in the only way possible: by working together."

The World Health Assembly will decide whether to accept the plan in May.



**Four rabbits were struck by planes in 2024**

## Plane passengers

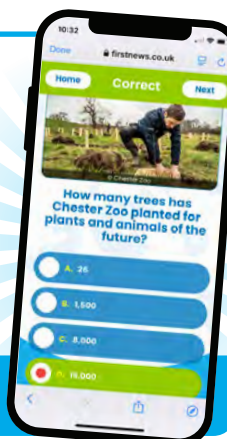
THE Easter weekend got off to a scary start for 159 people on board a United Airlines flight from Denver, USA. At take-off, a poor rabbit was sucked into the jet's right engine, causing it to burst into flames. Thankfully, the plane could land safely.



## 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.







Crowds and the world's media gather in Vatican City after the death of Pope Francis (inset)



# MILLIONS HONOUR POPE FRANCIS

TRIBUTES have poured in from around the globe following the death of Pope Francis, aged 88, on Easter Monday.

The pope is the elected leader of the Roman Catholic Church, and the bishop of Rome. Popes are regarded as the successors to St Peter, one of Jesus' 12 apostles.

Pope Francis had held the role since 2013, but had been ill with pneumonia in recent weeks. He was last seen the day before his death, waving to worshippers from the balcony of St Peter's Square in Vatican City, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. Vatican City is an independent country (the smallest in the world) with its own laws, flag and stamps, inside the Italian capital, Rome.

Crowds gathered at Vatican City throughout Easter Monday, while world leaders paid their respects from afar.

## Who was Pope Francis?

Born in Argentina as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Francis was

the first non-European pope in nearly 1,300 years. He was admired for his modesty and his care for the needy.

King Charles visited Pope Francis with Queen Camilla earlier this month. The King said he'll be remembered for his compassion (kindness), adding: "Through his work and care for both people and planet, he touched the lives of so many."

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that Pope Francis was "courageous" and "never lost... hope of a better world."

## What happens now?

Following Pope Francis' funeral, the College of Cardinals (the Catholic Church's most senior clergy) will gather in Vatican City's Sistine Chapel to begin the process of voting for who should be the next pope. This is called the conclave. Of the 252 cardinals, 135 can vote, and at least 90 must agree before a new pope is chosen. Once that happens, white smoke will billow from the chimney of the chapel.

# Have scientists found life in space?

RESEARCHERS from the University of Cambridge have found the strongest signs yet of life outside our solar system.

They peered through the James Webb Space Telescope at a faraway world called K2-18b. It's over twice the size of Earth, and it exists 700 trillion miles away, orbiting a different star to our sun.

The telescope detected chemicals on K2-18b that are only made by living things here on Earth. It's either the case that life made them on K2-18b too, or that they were made in another way that we don't know about.

Research leader Professor Nikku Madhusudhan thinks we'll know the answer

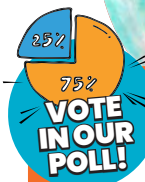
in the next year or two. He's keen to be calm and careful, but said: "These are the first hints we're seeing of an alien world that is possibly inhabited [lived on]."

To claim a true scientific discovery, researchers need to be 99.99999% sure that something exists – but the team aren't that sure yet, and Ryan MacDonald, from the University of Michigan, is doubtful.

He said: "Any claim of life beyond Earth needs to be rigorously checked by other scientists and, unfortunately, many previous exciting claims for K2-18b haven't withstood these independent checks."



Is there life out there?



Do you think there's alien life in space?

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

# To me, to you, to me, to you, to me, to you!



A BOOKSHOP in Michigan, USA, moved its 9,100-book collection from its old store to a new one – by hand!

Local residents in Chelsea formed a human chain to pass each book around the block between the stores. Around 300 people got involved in the two-hour mission.

Michelle Tuplin, the owner of Serendipity Books, said: "It was a practical way to move the books, but it also was a way for everybody to have a part."

The kind-hearted community even stacked the books in the new store in alphabetical order!

The Lake District was one of the busiest spots for call-outs



# RESCUERS SAY: APPS LEAD TO TRAPS

RESCUE teams have blamed dodgy map apps and social media trends for a record rise in people getting trapped on mountains.

Data from Mountain Rescue England and Wales shows that in 2024, for the first time, mountain rescue teams received a call for help on every day of the year – with young people needing saving more often than other age groups.



520

That's the number of mountain rescue call-outs to save people aged 0-24 in England and Wales in 2024. In 2019, the number was 363.

Chief executive Mike Park says the rise is due to people going looking for beauty spots that they've seen on social media. It's often because they aren't properly prepared, and because they're swapping good old paper maps for inaccurate map apps on phones that lose signal.

"More and more people are tempted into risky locations by Instagram posts," sighed Mr Park.

In Scotland, for the first time, rescue teams received over 1,000 call-outs in a single year.

Want a taste of something different? Urine for a treat...



AN Austrian portable loo company is busting to get going on a wild idea – to turn people's recycled wee into beer!

Öklo collects 6,000 litres of urine every day (imagine 6,000 standard cartons of juice), and it's teamed up with local researchers and a mystery brewer to concoct its creation.

Company founder Niko Bogianzidis says the wee will be treated to strip away any traces of urine, leaving "completely odourless and tasteless H<sub>2</sub>O". People from across the globe have requested a first taste of the product when it launches this autumn.





## London, UK



STEVE'S *Lava Chicken*, the hit song from *A Minecraft Movie*, is now an official chart record-breaker! Performed by Steve (played by Jack Black, pictured), the 34-second song is the shortest tune ever to make the UK's Official Singles Chart. It entered the top 40 at number 21, so we can definitely now say that lava chicken is "tasty as hell"!

## Woburn, UK



EASTER fun isn't just for humans! A black bear finds an egg-coloured melon during a hunt at Woburn Safari Park.

## Toronto, Canada



SQUIRREL sculptures worship a giant acorn.

## Shanghai, China



A HUGE Hello Kitty turns Shanghai city centre into a pink dreamland.

## Yinchuan, China



ONE of around 40 straw sculptures on display at the International Scarecrow Art Festival in Mingcui Lake National Wetland Park.





**Seoul, South Korea**

A WORKER cleans a statue of Yi Sun-sin, who was a legendary Korean war hero in the 16th century.



**Renhuai, China**

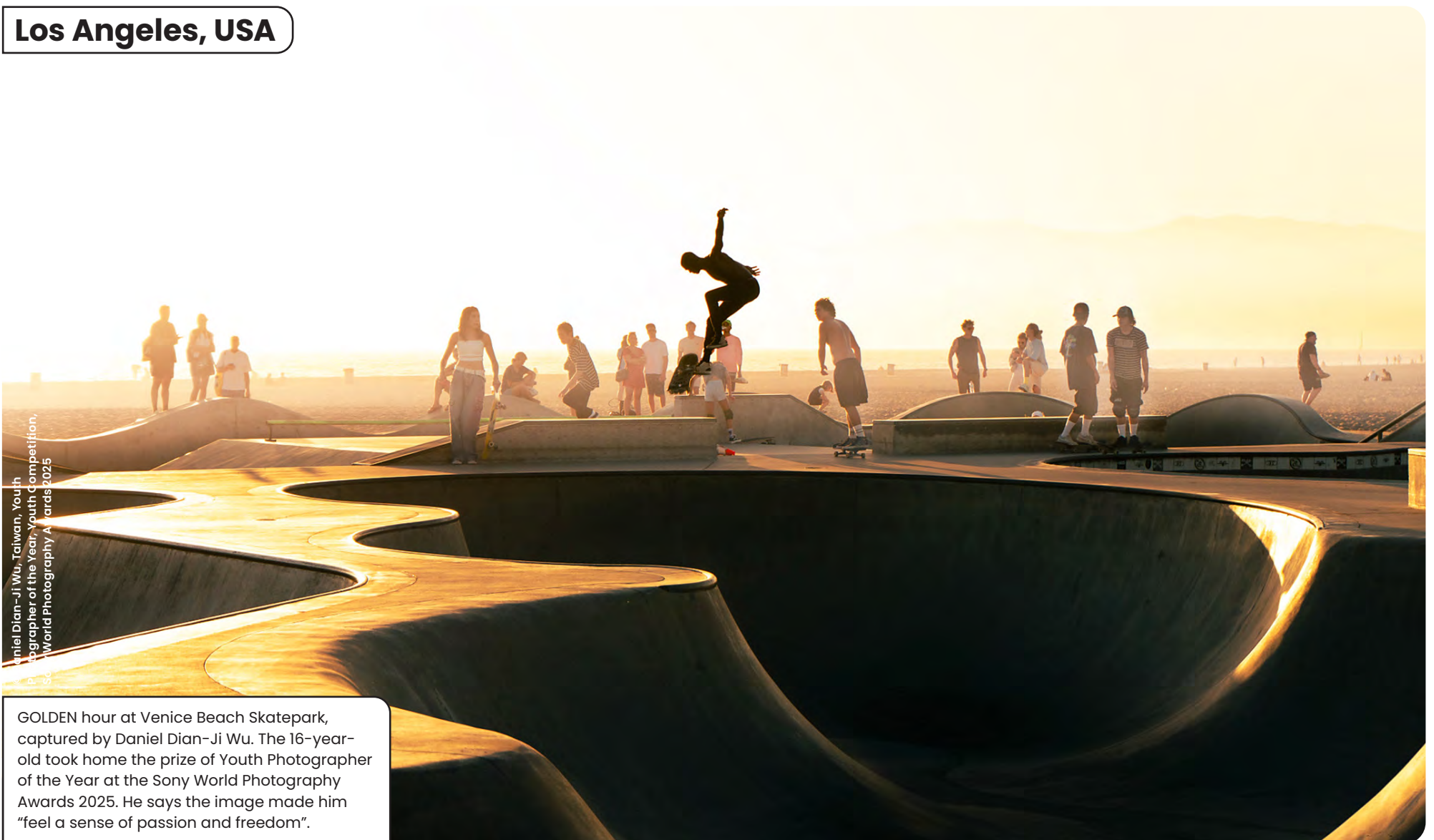
ROBOTS perform a dance routine for children.



**Sintra, Portugal**

A BIKER dressed up as a bunny meets a donkey during an annual Easter ride.

**Los Angeles, USA**



GOLDEN hour at Venice Beach Skatepark, captured by Daniel Dian-Ji Wu. The 16-year-old took home the prize of Youth Photographer of the Year at the Sony World Photography Awards 2025. He says the image made him "feel a sense of passion and freedom".



**CAIRNGORMS****Four-month  
'Easter egg hunt'  
begins**

A four-month 'Easter egg hunt' involving one of the UK's rarest moths has been kicked off. A team, led by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), has released 400 eggs of the dark bordered beauty moth at a specially selected site in the Cairngorms National Park. They will return to look for the adults in July. It's hoped the egg release will help increase the moth's numbers and conserve the species for years to come.

A dark bordered  
beauty moth

The eggs

**GWYNEDD****Ospreys reunite for  
third time**

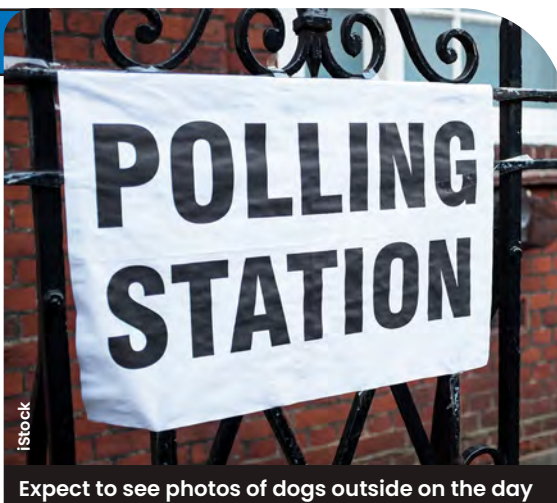
A pair of ospreys have reunited in Wales' Glaslyn Valley for a third year running. The duo, named Aran and Elen, travel over 3,000 miles to West Africa every winter, but it's always hoped they'll return to the UK in spring. Thankfully they have, although the osprey protection group Bywyd Gwylt Glaslyn Wildlife says Aran has had to work hard for Elen's attention this time, as she's been courted by another osprey! Aran has been bringing fish back to the nest to show his superiority as Elen's mate. Elen has laid her second egg of the season.



Aran and Elen are back on track!

**ENGLAND****Local elections set  
for 1 May**

Local elections are due to take place for 23 councils across England on 1 May. Voters will be heading to polling stations to elect the councillors and mayors in their area. These people are responsible for local services such as housing, education and bin collections. Some of the results will be announced by Friday 2 May, while others will take a little longer to count.



Expect to see photos of dogs outside on the day

"Out of my way!" – corgis  
were a favourite pet of  
Queen Elizabeth II**EAST LOTHIAN****Fastest corgi crowned**

Corgis from around the UK have pitted their paws against one another once again. The Corgi Derby was launched first in 2022 to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. This year, 16 dogs took to the start line for the chase over a distance of 70m (230ft). They were flagged off by Judy Murray, mother of tennis stars Andy and Jamie. And the winner was... four-year-old Juno from Edinburgh! She pipped the 2023 champion Rodney with a paw-some final sprint in the closing stages of the race.

Local businesses  
claim buskers  
are too loud**LONDON****Buskers banned from  
Leicester Square**

Singers and street entertainers aren't allowed to perform in Leicester Square any longer, after Westminster City Council banned them. It came after a court ruling that found buskers were causing a nuisance in the area. Anyone who attempts to busk there will be given a warning and, if they don't move, could have their equipment seized. Councillor Aicha Less, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Public Protection, said: "Street performers are a much-loved part of our city, but we have to balance this with a duty to prevent disruption to residents and businesses."

**CRAWLEY****Worst holiday delays**

London Gatwick is the UK's worst airport for flight delays, official figures show. The airport, located 29.5 miles (47.5km) south of Central London, saw average delays of 23 minutes for departing flights last year. Birmingham came second on the list with average delays of 21 minutes, while Manchester came third with 20 minutes, says the Civil Aviation Authority. Gatwick's problems have been blamed on air traffic control issues, as a lack of staff disrupted flights. Overall, however, UK flight delays improved in 2024 on average.

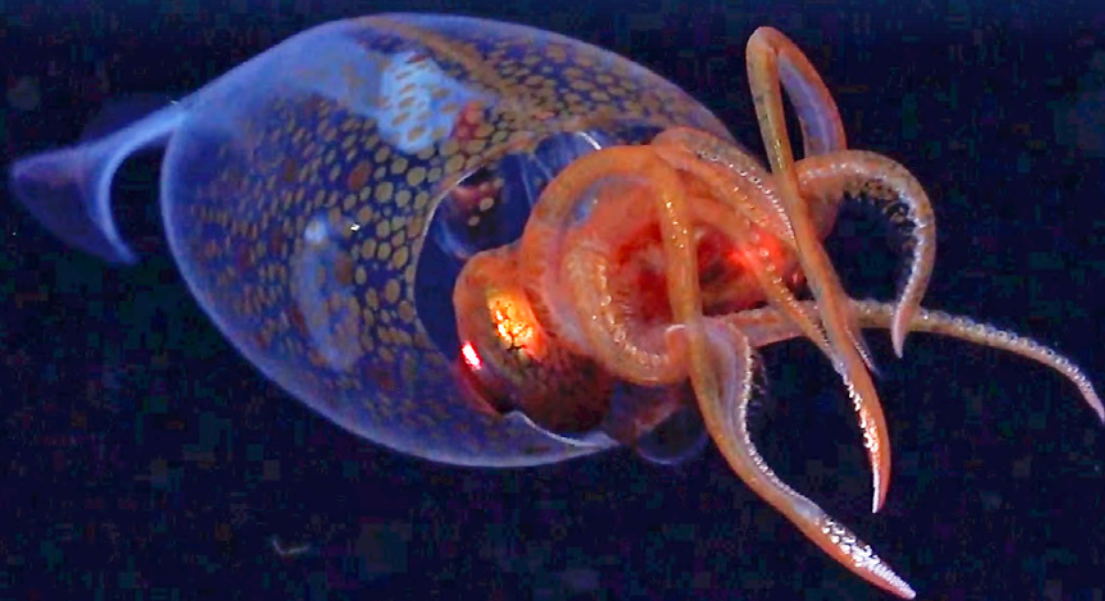
London Gatwick is the UK's second-busiest  
airport after London Heathrow





# DEEP-SEA GIANT SQUID SPOTTED

ROV SuBastian/Schmidt Ocean Institute



**SCIENTISTS** have filmed a colossal squid in the wild for the first time.

The see-through creature, which was spotted by underwater robots near the South Sandwich Islands, was just a baby and only 30cm long, but adults can grow as large as 7m (23ft).

The team used a remotely operated underwater robot called SuBastian to capture footage of the squid swimming at depths of 600m (1,968ft), during a 35-day expedition.

The discovery comes exactly 100 years after scientists first identified the species.

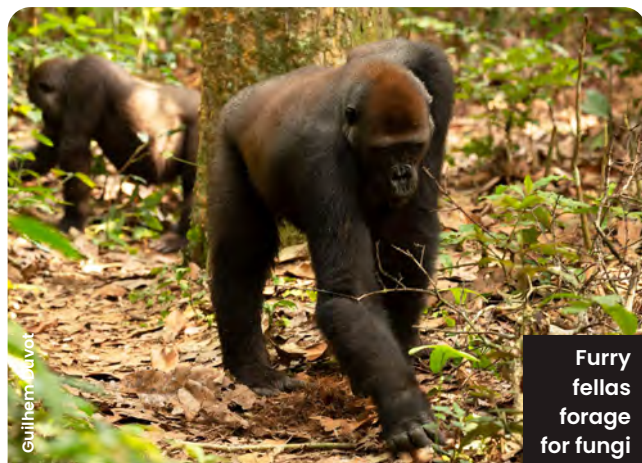
## Gorillas are really digging truffles

**SCIENTISTS** have discovered that gorillas in Congo's Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park are searching for truffles, not insects, when they scratch the ground.

These great apes favour a species of deer truffle, which grows underground in the forest. Truffles are a rare type of fungus (like mushrooms), prized for their taste and smell.

But not all gorillas do this, say the researchers. When some move to new groups, they might start or stop this digging behaviour depending on what their new friends do.

The study was published in the journal *Primates*.



Furry fellas forage for fungi

## SPECIES AT RISK AFTER UK WILDFIRES



**CHARITIES** are worried that endangered species and ecosystems are at risk after the UK saw one of the worst wildfire seasons ever recorded.

They're concerned that important habitats have been lost, including those of butterflies, beetles and falcons.

Experts say that some peat bogs could take "hundreds of years" to recover after the lack of rainfall in March and April, which were warmer than usual.

In the first three months of 2024, South Wales firefighters were called out to 34 wildfires – this year it was 445.

Chris Smith, the National Trust's countryside manager for Mid and South Wales, said: "The impacts on wildlife are widespread, with birds' nests, insects, amphibians and reptiles all scorched by fire. Whole ecosystems have been [destroyed] and will remain altered well into the future."

## ANEESHWAR'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK



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...

## ELECTRIC EEL



### HABITAT:

● They live in calm, murky waters in the Amazon and Orinoco basins of South America.

### FUN FACTS:

● Electric eels aren't eels after all! They're more closely related to carp and catfish.  
● These fish (scientific name *Electrophorus electricus*!) inspired Alessandro Volta to invent the first battery in 1800.

### SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

● They can generate a charge of up to 860 volts to stun prey and keep predators away.

### CONSERVATION STATUS:

● Electric eels are of least concern, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's electric eel 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.







# YOUR SHOES ARE GROSS!

**DO you ever get back from school and go to your room without taking your shoes off?**

If you listen to what one scientist has to say, you might think twice about it in the future!

Mandal Mohammed is a senior lecturer in medical microbiology at the University of Westminster, and wrote on the *Conversation* website about why she still always follows her mum's 'shoes off' rule.

"Mounting scientific evidence suggests it's a smart – and even vital – habit that protects us from invisible, yet serious, health threats," she says.

There are lots of nasty bacteria

that can cling to the soles of your shoes, but Mohammed also says they can carry weedkillers, insecticides and other harmful chemicals. She says that we can also bring allergens like pollen into the home on our shoes, which can make hay fever and other allergies worse.

Plus she points to a University of Arizona study that showed "a whopping 96% of shoes tested positive for coliform bacteria, which is commonly found in faecal matter [poo]."

Mohammed recommends a shoe rack or basket near the door. "Your floors – and your health – will thank you," she says.



## Shrinking shrews

**SCIENTISTS in the US have been learning more about how the masked shrew gets smaller in winter to save energy!**

They found that the shrews reduce their body mass by about 13% (just over an eighth) when it gets cold. Measurements showed that the creatures' skulls and femurs (thigh bones) get smaller too.

"Shrinking the body and its parts is in fact a clever survival strategy," says lead researcher Dr Bryan McLean. "And it's one that's important for us to understand as mammals face a constantly changing planet."

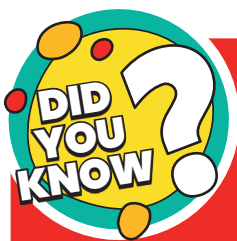
The report in *The American Naturalist* says that other mammals, including some other shrews, have been known to get smaller in the coldest months of the year. However, it's not thought to be as common as other winter survival strategies, such as hibernation.

By comparing their results to similar studies from around the world, they found that shrews get smallest in areas where it gets coldest in winter.

The scientists hope that their work can help us to understand more about how different species might adapt to our rapidly changing climate.



A masked shrew. Although shrews look a bit like mice, they're more closely related to moles and hedgehogs



**MASKED** shrews are good eaters, and can scoff anywhere between one and three times their own body weight every day!

If a shrew's nest is disturbed, the mother will lead her young to a new nest in a line, with each one clinging on to the tail of the one in front – a behaviour known as caravanning.

**WHEN** a masked shrew gets pregnant, she'll give birth to an average of seven young in just 18 days. The babies each weigh around 0.25g (that's the same as five drops of water!), but they grow quickly and weigh more like 5g when fully grown – the same weight as a 20p coin!



Bryan McLean (right) and student Leo Ivey study scans of a shrew's skeleton

This report is from the  
Science Museum Group

**SCIENCE  
MUSEUM  
GROUP**

**THIS** foam board may look like a toy, but it's actually a 1920s interview test for a job in a chocolate factory!

Designed specifically for the Rowntree's chocolate factory by its in-house psychologist, Victor Moorrees, these tests were used to see how efficient an applicant was at packing chocolate into boxes. As part of the selection process for new staff, candidates were scored on their ability to slot as many of the coloured wooden pieces into their corresponding spaces, in the correct order, within a set time.

Hiring an in-house 'works psychologist' was a first in Britain, and supported Rowntree's belief in looking after its workers. Moorrees helped select workers best suited for specific roles, and also carried out research into tiredness at work.



The unusual job interview test





# 200 YEARS OF SPARKING IMAGINATIONS

**SLIPPERY** snakes, urinating horses and ground-breaking discoveries... anything can happen during live science demonstrations!

This year, the Royal Institution (Ri) is celebrating three big anniversaries, including 200 years since its first Christmas Lectures. We find out about the importance of live science for young people, and what happens when things don't quite go to plan...

## ● Fantastic Faraday

Lots of brilliant people have had big impacts in shaping our modern world, but perhaps none more so than Michael Faraday. The legendary British scientist worked at the Ri, making important discoveries in electricity. Faraday also started a legacy as, in 1825, he founded both the Christmas Lectures – live science aimed at children – and Discourses, where discoveries could be announced to a dedicated audience.

"Faraday had a passion for finding out more about science and communicating it," says Charlotte New (right), Head of Heritage and Collections at the Ri.

"He would do over 15 demonstrations per lecture because he wanted children to visualise the experiments."

But why was there a need for lectures at the time? Charlotte says: "Most people, especially of a lower class, would leave school at 13. Girls left school even earlier than that. So Faraday was passionate about providing a programme of lectures that would help give all children a basic grounding in subjects."



More than 3,600 Discourses later, some of the technologies announced at the Ri include:

- The first ever showing of a moving image.
- The first ever use of recorded sound in the UK.
- The first ever coloured photograph, by James Clerk Maxwell in 1861 (below).



This tartan ribbon is the earliest colour photograph

## ● Amazing (and sometimes awkward) animals

Each year, the Christmas Lectures throw up some big surprises. Charlotte says: "They help children understand that sometimes in science, not everything goes right." Possibly the most unpredictable things are animals, and there have been lots of them over the years!

One of the most iconic animal appearances was in 2018, when guest lecturer Professor Alice Roberts was joined by Leo, the cavalry horse (below).

Leo's skeleton was painted on his side, allowing us to see how similar we are to horses. However, it was the first horse that's ever set foot in the Ri, so getting it out was slightly tricky!

Charlotte says: "It was fine going up to the lecture theatre, but not so happy coming back down. It took about an hour to get it out!"

Michael Cutts (right) works on the Demonstrations team at the Ri, and looks back fondly on his time with Leo.

He says: "In rehearsals, the horse was one of the most entertaining animals we've had because it decided it needed to urinate. They don't respond well to being asked to stop, so we ended up with a lake in there!"



Alice Roberts (left) with Leo the horse

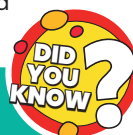
**"It took about an hour to get the horse out of the lecture theatre!"**

## ● No escape!

While they may have fewer animal cameos than the Christmas Lectures, the Discourses have collected some unique traditions of their own over the years. For example, speakers are locked in a room ten minutes before the start of their talk.

This is due to a legend that a speaker once tried to escape after getting stage fright. While this was recently found out to be a myth, the tradition is still carried on to this day.

THE Christmas Lectures have continued every year since 1825, apart from a four-year period from 1939–42 during the Second World War.



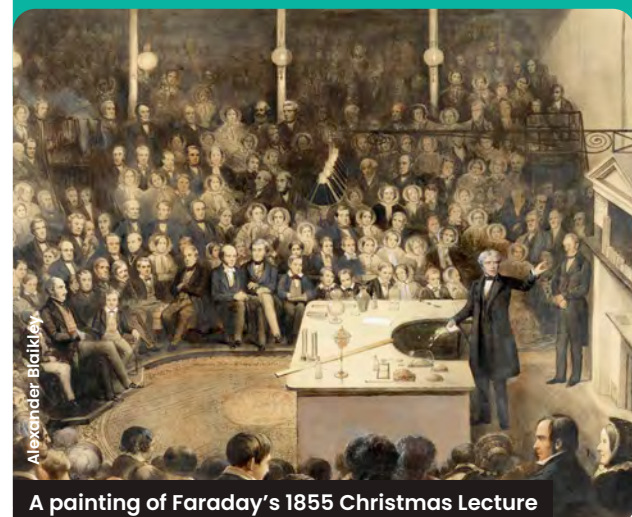
Last year, guest presenter Dr Chris van Tulleken was joined by Monty the python

## ● The importance is live science

The 200th anniversary celebrations of Christmas Lectures, Discourses and Faraday's discovery of benzene (below) bring it all back to the benefits that live demonstrations have on young people. The Ri hosts lectures and hands-on workshops all year round where you can try your own experiments.

Discover more at [rigb.org](http://rigb.org).

IN 1825, Michael Faraday also discovered benzene. This colourless liquid is used to make plastics, dyes and lots more.



A painting of Faraday's 1855 Christmas Lecture



**SPAIN**

“Please sir, can I have some more?”

**Spanish children to receive healthier school lunches**

Schools in Spain have been ordered to serve fruit and vegetables as part of pupils' lunches, to help make children healthier. They will also serve fish once a week, as well as offering vegetarian and vegan meals. The new law will affect all schools across the country, and is aimed at reducing the amount of fried, fatty foods that children eat. A study in 2023 found that some Spanish schools were only serving one or two portions of fresh vegetables a week, with many serving more than the recommended maximum of two portions of fried food a week. As part of the new rules, half of the fruit and vegetables served at lunchtime must be in season, and some of it must be organic (grown without the use of artificial chemicals). There will also be restrictions on which drinks schools can serve, with limits placed on caffeine and sugar content.

**SWEDEN****Swedish moose are a big TV hit**

The hottest show on Swedish television right now isn't a comedy or a drama, it's live footage of moose migrating to summer pastures! *The Great Moose Migration* has been streaming on SVT Play every spring for the past six years, although this year it had to start a week early, as warmer temperatures saw the animals start their migration earlier. Moose are also known as European elk and, last year, nine million people tuned in to watch as they made their way across the Ångerman River in search of somewhere to graze for the summer.



Moose on the move!

**TUVALU**

Tuvalu is made up of a chain of nine small islands

**Country's first cash machines**

The first ever cash machines in the tiny nation of Tuvalu have just been unveiled. The country, which is halfway between Australia and Hawaii, now boasts five cash machines. It's the first time that Tuvalu's 11,000 inhabitants have been able to use electronic banking. Until now, they've had to visit a bank to withdraw cash, with long queues often forming outside banks on payday as people went to withdraw their wages. People will also be able to pay for things with a card rather than cash in some shops, as 30 sale terminals have also been introduced to the islands. Prime Minister Feleti Teo said it was a “momentous occasion”. The exciting news was marked with a ceremony at the National Bank of Tuvalu, attended by members of parliament as well as local business officials.

**USA****Dog saves lost boy**

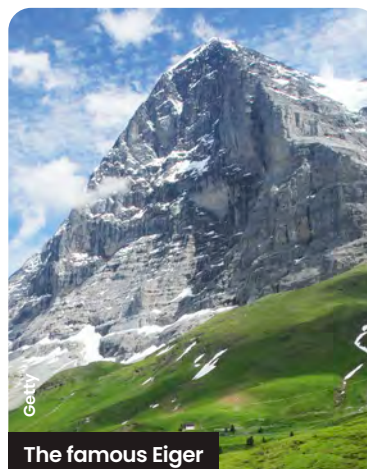
A dog in the southern US state of Arizona is being called a hero after leading a lost two-year-old to safety. The boy had wandered away from his home unnoticed, and found his way into the rugged countryside. Rescuers searched for Boden Allen for 16 hours, before he turned up at a ranch, accompanied by the ranch owner's dog! When he was asked if the dog, named Buford, had found him, Boden said yes. It seems Buford then led the boy to the ranch where the dog lives with his owner, Scotty Dunton. Boden had managed to travel seven miles while he was missing, and said he had spent the night sleeping under a tree.



Who's a good boy?

**SWITZERLAND****New speed climbing record**

Nicolas Hojac from Switzerland and Philipp Brugger from Austria have broken the speed record for climbing three peaks in the Swiss Alps. They scaled the north faces of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau in just 15 hours and 30 minutes! The previous record had stood for 21 years, after Ueli Steck and Stephan Siegrist completed the epic feat in 25 hours in 2004. But Hojac and Brugger managed to shave nearly ten hours off the previous record, sending them straight into the record books.



The famous Eiger

**CHINA**

Would you be brave enough to cross it?

**World's tallest bridge set to open**

A massive new bridge in southwest China is nearing completion, and it's set to be the tallest bridge in the world. The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge is a steel suspension bridge and is set to open in June, with traffic able to drive over it later this year. When it's completed, it will sit 625 metres (2,051 feet) above river level – that means it will dwarf the Millau Viaduct in France, which is currently the world's tallest bridge at 343 metres (1,125 feet). Construction on the Chinese bridge began in 2022, and it's thought to weigh around 22,000 tonnes!





# FYI

# sky kids

# WHO'S CONTROLLING YOUR MIND?



YOU wake up, check your phone, decide what to watch and make a plan for the day... but what if you're not making those choices at all? What if they're being made for you? That's the big question – who's controlling your mind? In a special *FYI Investigates*, Jeriah and Rosie uncover the tricks that people, platforms and businesses are using to try to control how we think and act. Let's take a closer look in this special pull-out.

## Spotlight on social media

Social media plays a big part in people's lives today, with many saying it influences what they buy, do and think. If social media platforms are influencing us, it's important to understand how and why they're doing that. Is it to keep people connected and informed, or are there other reasons they want us to keep scrolling and tapping?

## How much information do you give away without thinking?

We asked a group of teenagers to take part in what they thought was a new TV show, where they test out the latest technology. The teens were shown a device and told that it could actually read their minds! But what we told them was totally made up. In actual fact, we wanted to show them how

much we can find out about someone online using just their name.

Ethical hacker James Davies, from the company PureCyber, helped us out by searching the group's social media profiles and discovering all the info they've made public over the years. It turns out he could uncover all sorts of things about them, including what pets they have, where they've been on holiday and even when they moved school!

We asked the teenagers afterwards how they felt about us accessing so much personal information about them. One teen said: "The things that you found were insane. I couldn't remember even putting them out there," while another said: "You never know who could be looking up your name and finding out so much about you."

Remember it's that very information that companies are using to learn about you too!



How much could we learn about you from your social media accounts?



## WATCH THE FILM

*FYI Investigates* are short documentaries from our partner weekly news show that dive into fascinating topics such as vaping, gaming and mental health. Watch the full film *Who's Controlling Your Mind* and more episodes of *FYI Investigates* at [first.news/investigates](https://first.news/investigates) or by asking a responsible adult to scan the QR code.



## CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

*First News* has produced two FREE assembly packs (KS2 and KS3) to go with this pull-out, including scripts, music suggestions and follow-up classroom activities. Scan the QR code to download yours now.







# ARE YOU IN CONTROL OF YOUR CHOICES?

## Tom Clarke, Sky News' Science and Technology Editor:

"If you're a social media company and you want to make yourself profitable, a really simple way to do that is to get people to advertise on your platform. And one thing social media companies can say to advertisers that other companies might not be able to say is: 'We can target your advert, really carefully, to a specific person or group of people because we've got lots of information about that person.'"

"Social media companies know what you're interested in because they can get hold of the information about what you're looking at. They can even see how long you're engaging with particular bits of content. Then they can design algorithms to target ads to you in a very specific way."

"The algorithms behind social media platforms are designed to improve your engagement, to connect you with like-minded people and to link you up with the

ideas you've been interested in before. This creates 'echo chambers', which reinforce your view. Here are other people who think the same way as you, so it makes you think something must be more true or relevant."

### ● What happens if something you see online isn't even true?

"Depending on how that story resonates [hits home] with you, it can be amplified in powerful ways. If the information isn't even true, then you end up with a very defined group of people with a particular idea who are getting that message reinforced."

"And that's how these algorithms work. They're designed to keep driving the content you look at and engage with. Clever though they are, they don't have any views or opinions or ideas, they just keep blindly following a list of instructions they've been given to show you more of the same stuff."

## Let's talk advertising

Brands have used advertising for decades to influence our choices about where we spend our cash, and they're getting more and more clever in the way they do it, so we don't even realise our blind choices are being made for us.

A campaign by Bite Back aimed to show young people how much their choices around food are being controlled. A team could predict exactly what teenagers would order in a restaurant. The researchers cleverly planted a particular menu item – say triple-dipped chicken – in the

teenagers' minds by putting it around them in the days before they visited the restaurant. Some of the teens came across ads on social media, others saw the item on ads in a taxi and on a street wall.

These techniques work so well because they are going into our subconscious memory. We may not clock an advert, but when we're later making a choice about what to buy, that memory is triggered without us knowing. The choice is influenced by the ads we've absorbed.



Are you influenced by billboards?



**algorithm** – a set of instructions, programmed into apps, that usually has the aim of keeping you on a certain platform for longer.

**echo chamber** – when people only hear their own opinions repeated back to them.

**ethical hacker** – a person who tests a computer system, network or application to find out if there are any weaknesses in its security that attackers could target.

*"Some things on social media are made to look real when they're not. You can start comparing yourself to images that aren't real."*

– Laynee, teenager

## Junk food ads make you hungry!

We asked 5,218 of you:

Do junk food adverts make you feel hungry?

**83% of you said YES**

**17% of you said NO**



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



# ON CHARGE CHOICES?

## The rise of influencers

But what else do we absorb? Well, social media content! And there's one group on social media who are all about the spontaneous posts – influencers. Their posts can be seen by millions of people, but how authentic or genuine are they?

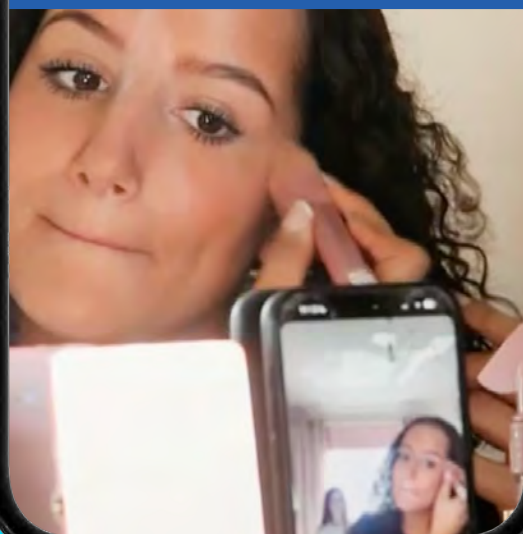


## Meet Yas

Influencer Yas started producing content when she was just ten years old, when she and her sister unboxed and reviewed toys.

Now 17, she gives recommendations on hair, clothes and beauty to her 240,000 followers. Yas says she's managed to get so many followers by posting consistently and making relatable content.

Every day companies post products to Yas that they're keen for her to feature on her channel. Some companies will gift products to Yas in return for a post or story, while others will pay for her to feature it and give her a brief of what she needs to say or do.



## Professor Chris Hackley, Royal Holloway Business School:

"Brands have become much more aware of the power of implicit advertising. So that's advertising that doesn't hit you between the eyes with a hard sales pitch. It's advertising that's just there. Brands know that if something looks like an ad, it's too slick, then we reject it. If something looks a little more spontaneous, then for a lot of social media users, that means it looks a little more authentic [real]."

## The Children's AI Summit

The Children's AI Summit brought together children from across the UK to share messages with global leaders, policy-makers and AI developers on what the future of AI should look like. It featured talks, performance pieces and workshops. One of the performances was about an AI companion. But what is that?



## Dr Mhairi Aitken, AI expert:

"AI companions are chatbots where you can design a character, its physical appearance and certain elements of its personality. The more you chat to them, the more they get to know the kind of things you like to talk about. They can seem quite real and can mimic real ways of talking. It can often feel like you're getting to know a real-life companion and that it's getting to know you. Because they're designed not to challenge you or to tell you you're wrong, they can reinforce or encourage harmful behaviours. It's important that people who have an AI companion also have friends or trusted adults they can speak to."



**Deep fake** – when someone's image is altered to make it look like they did or said something they actually had nothing to do with. Anyone's image can be used to make a deep fake.  
**Fake news** – when false information is shared and spread online.

## What is being done to combat harmful and misleading online content?

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said: "As you all access online, it's important that it is a safe space. That's why we've got what you call the Online Safety Act. The online world offers us a huge amount of information, which is incredible for knowledge and for learning, but we also need to know that it's not always safe and therefore it's the job of government to make sure it's a safe environment."

Prime Minister  
Sir Keir Starmer



*"People can be influenced into buying things that they don't necessarily need."*

– Zach, teenager



## FEATURE ON THE SHOW!

Want to be in an episode of *FYI*? Just ask your teacher to set up a **First News FYI News Club** at your school by heading to [first.news/FYInewsclub](https://first.news/FYInewsclub) to find out more.



*FYI* is a weekly news show from Sky Kids that helps you stay up to date with what's going on in the world. You can watch loads of cool videos from them by heading to [first.news/fyi](https://first.news/fyi) or on the First News app.





## 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.

### HAMSTER TO RUN LONDON MARATHON



THOUSANDS of people will take to the streets for the TCS London Marathon on Sunday 27 April. Joining the likes of *First News*' Chris and Dan will be a sporty hamster named Bertie. The little rodent is set to join his owner, Jenny, as she takes on the challenging 26.2-mile (42.2km) course around the capital.

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 **FAKE**.  
The official rules state that you are not permitted to take any pets or animals with you to the TCS London Marathon! Thousands of humans will be taking part though, many of them raising money for charity.

### IN NEXT WEEK'S **ISSUE!**



**VEDAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY**



**NEW MR BEAN SERIES**



**DON'T MISS IT!**

**DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S 99TH BIRTHDAY!**

**DAILY NEWS**

# FirstNews

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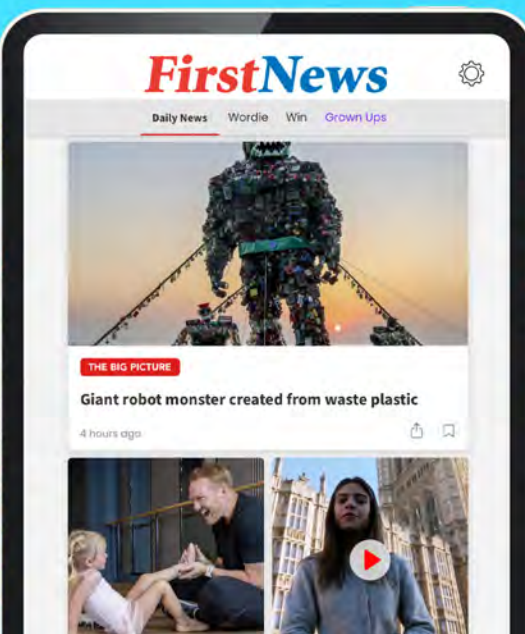
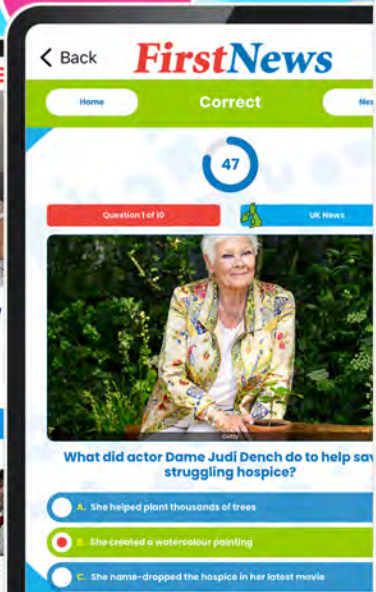
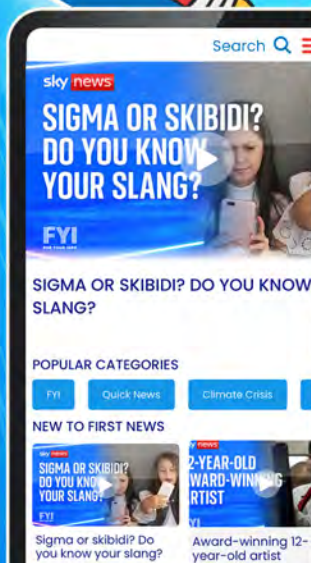
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# DEAF HEROES!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**100,000**

There are around 100,000 different signs in British Sign Language (BSL). *Marvellous Messages* contains the full BSL alphabet, so you can have a go at spelling out your name, letter by letter!



Illustrations: © Illustrator  
Lena Addink, 2025.  
Photo: Getty

ROSE Ayling-Ellis, the actor and TV presenter (and former *Strictly* winner!) knows just a thing or two about achieving incredible things as a deaf person!

In her brilliant new book *Marvellous Messages*, we join Rose and her cat Halo on a time-travelling adventure around the globe to explore the history of communication. Along the way, we also meet other deaf heroes who wowed the world with their talent, just like she has! Here's a quick peek at five of them...

## KITTY O'NEIL



**Job:** Stuntwoman and racing driver  
**From:** Texas, USA

Kitty lost her hearing when she was a baby, but she never lost her thirst for adventure! In 1976, she set a new land speed record of 999 kilometres per hour (621 miles per hour), and set other records on water and air, too. She went on to become a TV stuntwoman and was so famous, she had her own action doll!

**THEY SAID THAT!**

"I'm not afraid of anything. Just do it. It feels good when you finish. You made it!"

– Kitty O'Neil

## MILLICENT SIMMONDS



**Job:** Award-winning actor  
**From:** Utah, USA

Rose and Millie are both actors – but while Rose uses British Sign Language (BSL), Millie uses American Sign Language (ASL). Born in 2003, she became deaf as a baby and uses ASL in her major movie roles. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she also helped to design a see-through face mask so that deaf people could still lip-read.

## THOMAS EDISON



**Job:** Famous inventor  
**From:** Ohio, USA

Thomas created over 1,000 inventions in his lifetime. The big hit was his electric light bulb in 1879, but he also helped to design the first-ever film projector and invented the phonograph, which could record sounds and play them back. He saw his hearing loss as an advantage, as it let him concentrate more easily.

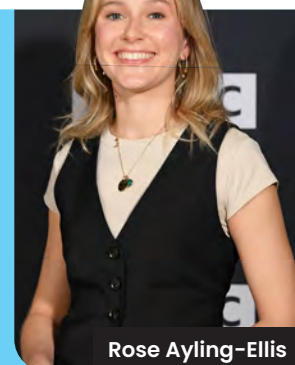
## HABEN GIRMA



**Job:** Lawyer and campaigner  
**From:** California, USA

Haben became blind and deaf as a young girl, and her achievements are extraordinary. A keen kayaker, skier and climber, she travelled to Africa to build schools as a volunteer in Mali, attended Harvard Law School, became a lawyer and now travels around the world campaigning for disabled people's rights.

## The author says:



Rose Ayling-Ellis

"I wanted to share stories about the lives of remarkable individuals who didn't succeed because they 'overcame' being deaf – they achieved greatness because of the unique perspectives and strengths that came with deafness.

"Kitty O'Neil, a fearless stuntwoman and speed record holder, had an extraordinary sense of determination and focus. Cliff Bastin, an Arsenal football legend, developed a heightened awareness of the game that made him a formidable player. Thomas Edison, one of history's greatest inventors, credited his deafness for helping him concentrate deeply on his work without distractions. Haben Girma, the first deafblind Harvard Law graduate, uses her experiences to speak out for inclusive technology and access. Millicent Simmonds, a talented young actor, brings a realness and depth to her roles, reshaping how deaf stories are told.

"Each of these figures highlight how embracing their identity can be a source of strength.

Through this book, I hope to celebrate these perspectives and inspire others to do the same."

*Marvellous Messages* by Rose Ayling-Ellis is out now.



## CLIFF BASTIN



**Job:** Football legend  
**From:** Exeter, England

Cliff signed for Arsenal in 1929, aged 17, and became the club's record goalscorer – a title he held for 60 years. This is even more impressive given that World War Two put football on hold for six years between 1939 and 1945, when he was at his best! Due to his deafness, Cliff's team-mates made up secret signs to communicate with him during matches.





# DEADLY ON TOUR!

ONE of our favourite CBBC series, *Deadly*, is coming to UK arenas for the first time this autumn. To celebrate, we sat down with award-winning wildlife presenter and adventurer Steve Backshall to chat about why he loves dinosaurs, what creatures he fears most and who his ultimate dinner date would be!



● **Hi Steve! So, what can fans expect from your first ever UK arena tour, *Deadly Live!*?**

It is the most exciting thing, hands down, I've ever taken on! The opportunity to bring *Deadly* to thousands of people at one time is so, so cool. The only limit is my imagination! My wonderful friends from Dinomania will be there, so there'll be life-sized dinosaurs striding around the stage. We're following *Deadly* through history, looking at everything from how the most incredible deadly bugs function, to how birds of prey thrive. We'll have stunts, tricks and circus skills, and every single bit of it is going to come with a hefty slice of *Deadly*!

*"I'd give anything for the opportunity to have met a dinosaur."*

● **Would you have liked to have met a dinosaur up close?**

Yes, absolutely, I would have loved to! You'd get to see a whole fascinating world that nobody has ever seen before. I'd give anything for the opportunity to

have met a dinosaur. We obviously know a lot about the predatory dinosaurs, but actually there were a lot that weren't that big. They were herbivores that would have been relatively harmless to us. I think to have wandered around in the Late Cretaceous period would probably be not too dissimilar to wandering around in an African game reserve today.

● **You're obviously going to be transporting us to another world in the theatre, but what's your favourite place to visit?**

I love working in the tropical rainforest. The main reason for that is, if I set out to find a jaguar or an ocelot but I don't, then I am going to find something else. I'll find a frog or an incredible ant or something I can make my programme about. Whereas if I'm in the Arctic and I don't find a polar bear, then the list of things I can go looking for isn't very long!

● **Are you always on the lookout for new adventures?**

All the time! I have a little black book of adventures that I've kept since the late 1990s, since I started doing this job. I've ticked off an enormous number of things in there, but I haven't ticked off everything. There are a lot of things that I'm still desperate to do, and a lot of animals that I still haven't managed to see. The natural world is a very big thing, so I know there's still an awful lot more for me to find.

● **Who were your idols growing up?**

Primarily it was my dad, I wanted to be like him. In terms of the media, Sir David Attenborough, obviously.

Historically I'd go for Alfred Russel Wallace, who was an explorer in the 1800s, around the time of Charles Darwin. He had some incredible expeditions, like the Amazon and Borneo, places I really love today. He was exploring and finding new species all the time. Just the most incredible person – he'd be my dream dinner date.

*"Out of all the animals, hippos are the ones I least look forward to working with."*

● **What's the scariest animal you've ever met?**

Hippos look like an animal that should be cute and cuddly, but they are far from it! They are faster than we are, they have tusks that can be as long as my arm, they are aggressive, territorial and grumpy. Out of all the animals, hippos are the ones I least look forward to working with.



**Deadly Live! with Steve Backshall** will tour the UK from 24 October to 2 November 2025. Tickets are on sale now. Find out more at [deadlylivetour.com](http://deadlylivetour.com).



**DID YOU KNOW?**

STEVE'S favourite animals are orcas, because he says they're so creative!

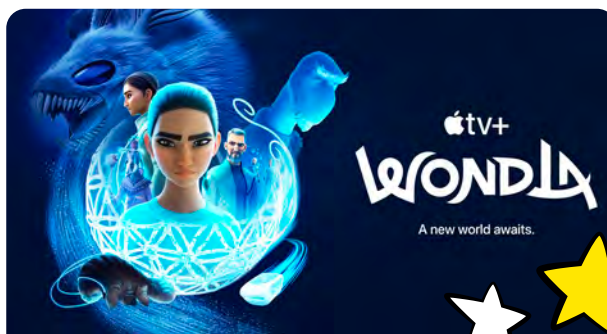
**WHAT'S HOT**

● **Beyoncé's world tour begins!**

Beyoncé kicks off her Cowboy Carter world tour on 28 April with five nights in Los Angeles. She's due to play six nights at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London in June.

● **Second season of *WondLa* lands!**

The second season of the animated sci-fi adventure trilogy *WondLa* has arrived on Apple TV+. The story follows 16-year-old Eva Nine as she continues her epic journey, uncovering startling truths about her past and the world she lives in.



● **Watch *The Wind in the Willows* at home!**

*The Wind in the Willows: The New Musical* is set to stream on National Theatre at Home from 8 May. Families can enjoy the classic story of Badger, Ratty and Mole as they help their friend Toad with his fast-car obsession. This production was captured live at the London Palladium in 2017. You can find out more at [www.ntathome.com](http://www.ntathome.com).





# TABLE-TOP TRIBUTE



**A FAMILY in Sydney, Australia, brought together more than 900 people to play *Monopoly* in memory of their daughter.**

The Vasiliou family organised the game to honour six-year-old Alegra, who died from brain cancer in 2017, and who loved playing the game with them.

The event set a new record for the number of games of *Monopoly* played at the same time, with 918 people on 150

tables. It also raised money for childhood brain cancer research through the family's charity, Little Legs Foundation.

The players used a specially made, official edition of the game featuring Alegra's image. Alegra's mum Sue-Ellen said: "Alegra has her very own Army, and together we have the power to do so much in this world."



Alegra's  
mum  
and dad

## THE BONE-COLLECTING CATERPILLAR

Rubioff Lab, Entomology  
Section, University of  
Hawaii, Manoa



Silk cases of 'bone collector' caterpillars

**SCIENTISTS** have discovered a unique meat-eating caterpillar that lives in spiders' webs and decorates its home with the remains of dead insects.

This unusual creature is found only on one mountain in Hawaii, hunts in spiders' webs and eats weak or dead insects that are caught there.

The caterpillar, nicknamed the 'bone collector', is so rare that researchers have only seen 62 of them in more than 20 years of fieldwork.

The creatures live in silk cases that they can move around, and they cover them in the parts of insects that they can't digest. It's thought that this creepy behaviour helps to camouflage the caterpillars so that spiders can't spot them.

Experts say that this extraordinary creature might disappear forever if we don't act quickly to protect it.

## Record-breaking runners

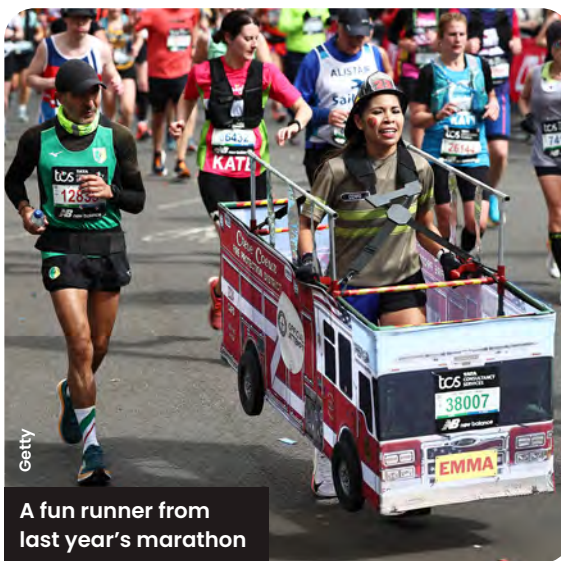
**A WHOPPING 87 Guinness World Record attempts will take place at this year's London Marathon on 27 April.**

A total of 103 participants will attempt the records, which include:

- Fastest marathon dressed as a body part (male) – Alex Paget is running as a giant brain!
- Fastest marathon in a four-person costume – Alexander Knox, Jasper Wolley, Ben Littlejohns and Jim Baillie are running as the Scooby Doo mystery machine.
- Fastest marathon on crutches (male) – Paralympian David Wetherill wants to show the world that anything is possible!
- Fastest marathon by a mascot (female) – Zoe is running as Bernie the Lion, the mascot of The Dear Toby Trust.

A team of official adjudicators (judges) will be on hand at the start and finish of the famous race to check the rules have been followed and the records are successful.

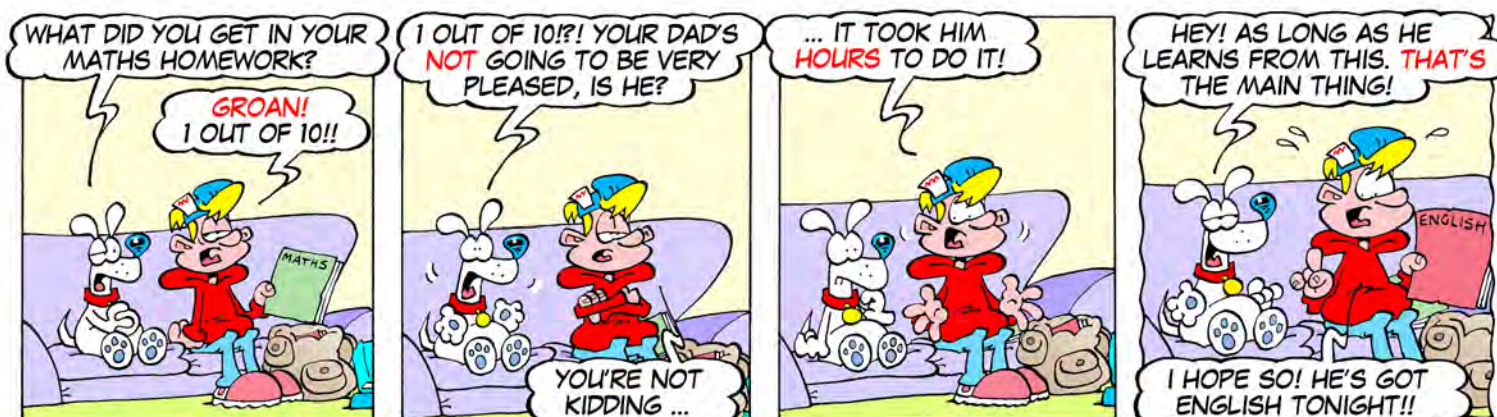
The London Marathon itself is also hoping to break the record for the most participants in a marathon, with an estimated 56,000 people set to take part. The current record of 55,646 was set by the TCS New York City Marathon last November.



A fun runner from  
last year's marathon



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer

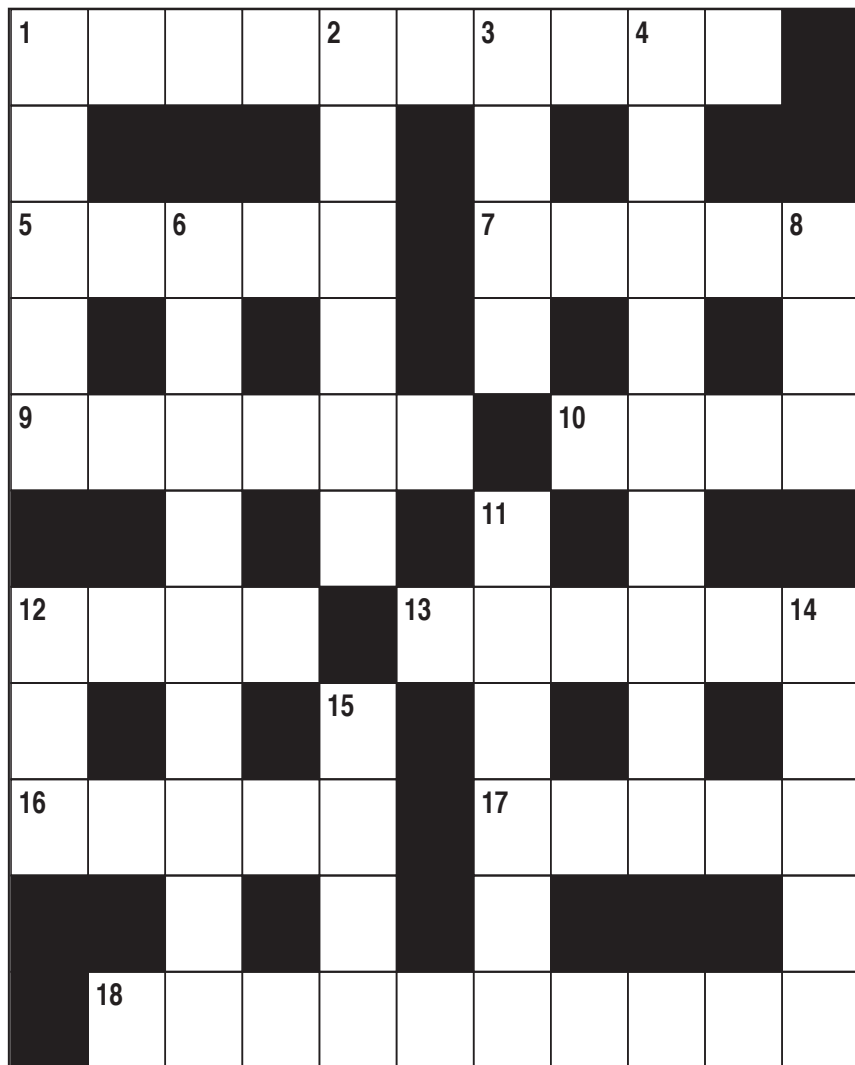






# CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



## ACROSS

- 1) Space travellers (10)
- 5) Person who steals things (5)
- 7) Make a squeaking noise (5)
- 9) Opportunity (6)
- 10) Say something is not true (4)
- 12) Destroy (4)
- 13) A person who lacks courage (6)
- 16) A musical instrument (5)
- 17) Someone who makes bread (5)
- 18) Exercises that develop physical agility (10)

## DOWN

- 1) Loft (5)
- 2) Room where people work (6)
- 3) Curved shape (4)
- 4) Place with rides and fun things to do (5,4)
- 6) Not real (9)
- 8) Item used to unlock a door (3)
- 11) Feelings of uncertainty (6)
- 12) Type of popular music (3)
- 14) Challenges (5)
- 15) Metal money (4)

# Sudoku

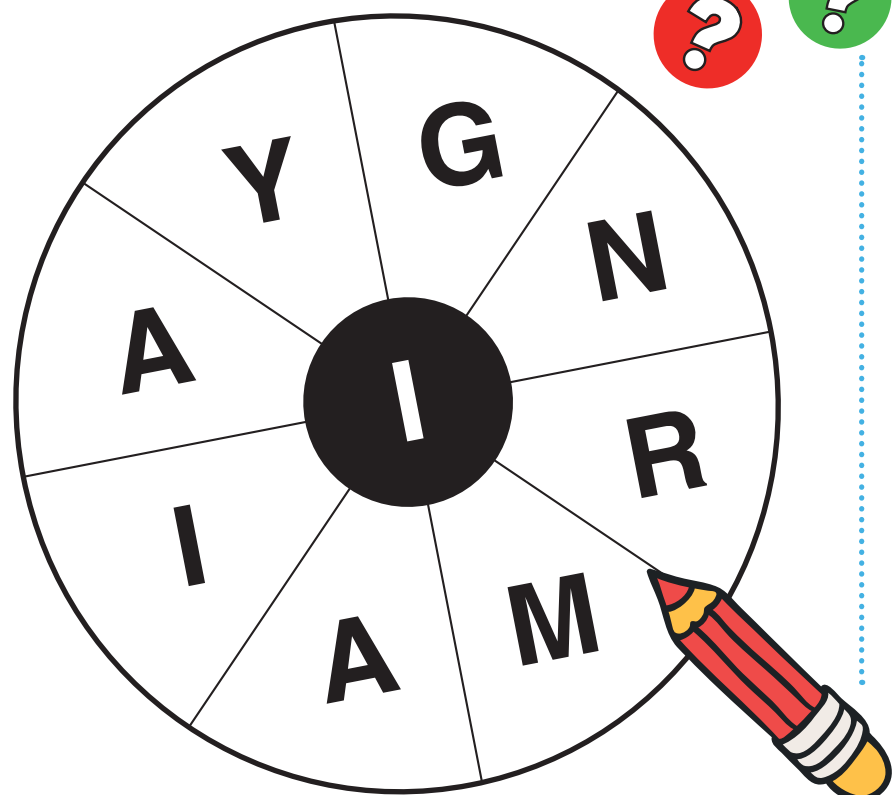
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

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

**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.

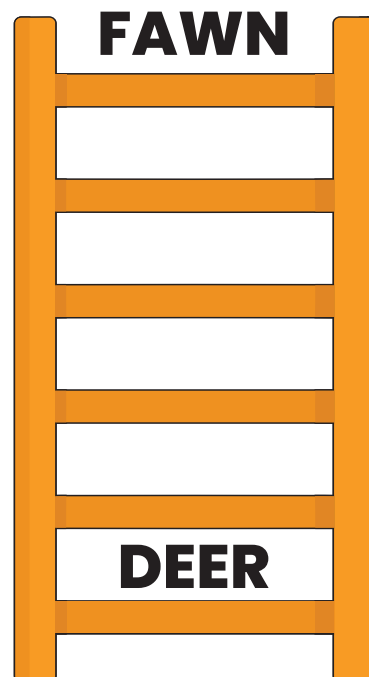
# Word wheel

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 983 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: depending.

Word ladder: deal, heal, head, herd, hard, card.

S	C	R	A	B	B	L	E
U	X			O	L		
T	H	R	E	E	T	A	B
R	E	S	T	O		A	
U	N	D	O	F	L	O	E
M		H		E		R	
P	I	C	N	I	C	T	A
E	O	D		T	D	N	
T	I	M	I	D		Y	O
I		E		P	L		
C	O	N	T	E	N	T	S

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



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



# WALK, WHEEL OR CYCLE



**halfords**

**What would encourage you to do more?** This is your chance to tell people in charge what you'd like to see in your neighbourhood and beyond!

WE know you want to walk, wheel and cycle more – and we want you to tell decision-makers and politicians how to make this happen.

The Sustrans Children's Index is the first study of its kind in the UK to dig into the behaviours, attitudes, barriers and solutions for young people when it comes to how you get about.

Children's voices are not always considered in transport decision-making, but our Children's Walking and Wheeling Summit is a chance to change that – and change our neighbourhoods, towns and cities for the better.



What changes would make your journey to school more fun?

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON TRANSPORT

IN May, Sustrans is getting decision-makers on transport together in Birmingham, and we want to show them what you want!

Your ideas will encourage pledges and ideas on actions to make it easier for young people to walk, wheel and cycle.

Pick a theme from the circles below, draw (by hand or digitally) a poster and ask a trusted adult to submit it via email to [activeposter@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:activeposter@sustrans.org.uk) by Friday 16 May.

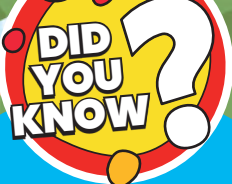
\*Sustrans plan to display these posters at the summit and they might be shared on Sustrans' social media channels and website. Please confirm your name and age, which will be displayed with your poster. Where possible, please let us know your town too!



What could help girls to cycle more?

How would you make walking or wheeling in your local area better?

How would you make your neighbourhood better for playing outside?



We use the terms walking and wheeling together to ensure we are as inclusive as possible. Some people who use a wheelchair or a mobility scooter might not identify with the term walking and prefer to use the term wheeling.

## THE STATS

The UK-wide Children's Walking and Cycling Index, published by Sustrans and sponsored by Halfords, shows:

- 62% of children walk, wheel or use a scooter five or more times a week.
- 28% of boys cycle at least five times a week, but only 17% of girls do.
- 51% of children want to cycle more and 33% of children want to walk or wheel more.
- 51% of children believe decision-makers are not doing enough to improve their neighbourhood and country.
- 81% of children want more traffic-free paths and quiet routes for walking and cycling.



The National Cycle Network is a UK-wide network of signed paths and routes for walking, wheeling, cycling and exploring outdoors. Scan the QR code to find traffic-free routes near you.



This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.





# DAZZLING DRAGONS!

THESE mythical beasts have appeared in many forms in books over the years! Here's the latest, dreamed up by Struan Murray – author of new fantasy tale *Dragonborn*.



Struan says...

"The dragons of *Dragonborn* are unique, because you could be sitting next to one of them right now and you wouldn't even know it.

"Your neighbours could be dragons. Your teachers. Your friends. In the world of my book, dragons found a way to take human form long ago, hiding among us in secret to escape a terrible war. And they hid so well, and for so long, that most of them forgot what they truly are.

"But while they might look like people, they are very much dragons. They are big, loud, wild, quick to laugh and quick to lose their temper. They can even breathe fire. And if they ever get too angry, or if they're in danger, they change

– transforming in a great explosion of smoke, showing their true self. A massive, monstrous dragon.

"And it's possible, of course, that you could be a dragon too. Your true self is just waiting to reveal itself..."



*Dragonborn* by Struan Murray is out now.



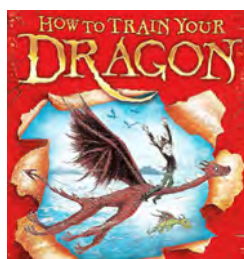
Illustration: Devin Elle Kurtz

## FOUR MORE FAMOUS BOOK DRAGONS



**Zog**

Have you ever read Julia Donaldson's tale of this clumsy young dragon?



**Toothless**

Hiccup's best pal in Cressida Cowell's *How to Train Your Dragon*.



**Hungarian Horntail**

Harry has to face this dragon in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.



**Smaug**

The fearsome, treasure-hungry dragon from *The Hobbit*.

## Book Clubs' big birthday

THIS year marks the tenth birthday of the charity Book Clubs In Schools – and it's celebrating in style!

The organisation has spent a decade providing books to schools and sparking a love of reading by helping pupils to set up their very own in-school book clubs.

These are led by pupils. Groups read the same books and then discuss them, learning to practise useful communication, leadership and social skills.

To mark its big milestone, the charity is holding the first Book Clubs In Schools Day on 1 May. Your school can sign up to three free virtual author and illustrator events hosted by David Litchfield, Sita Brahmachari and Soccer Diaries author Tom Palmer.

● Your school needs to be quick to secure its spot for the events! Head to [bookclubsinschools.org](http://bookclubsinschools.org) for more information.

**1 May**  
**Book Clubs**  
**in Schools**  
**Day**



School book clubs, run by pupils, for pupils!

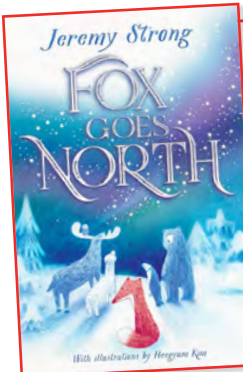
## Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



## Beating the odds!

THIS weekend, thousands of people (including *First News*' Chris and Dan!) are running the famous London Marathon for charity. To celebrate, here's a list of books with characters who overcame huge obstacles to achieve big things!



**Fox Goes North** by Jeremy Strong

Travelling in an extraordinary house on wheels, Fox must gather all her courage to journey to the Snowlands to see the northern lights.

**Birdsong** by Katya Balen

After a car accident, Annie can't play her flute and retreats from the music she once loved. Can the blackbirds near her flat reignite her passion?



**Feather** by Manon Steffan Ros

Huw's nan starts to show signs of dementia, and mistakes him for her unmentionable late brother, Johnny. Can Huw uncover Johnny's story?

**Double Felix** by Sally Harris

Felix has obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and his life revolves around the number two – that is, until Charlie arrives and turns his world upside down!



**The Song Walker** by Zillah Bethell

Two girls – one who doesn't know who she is, the other hiding a mystery – trek across the ever-changing Australian outback in search of answers.





# The story of Skandar's covers



Author AF Steadman

THE saying goes that readers shouldn't judge a book by its cover – but what do their authors really think of them?

The Skandar series by AF Steadman (above) is about a boy who trains to become a rider of fearsome unicorns, and the books have captured the hearts and minds of millions of young readers.

There have been four books so far, and this week, *First News* spoke to the author to find out the story behind each of their covers, ahead of the big release of the final book of the series this September...



## **The Unicorn Thief**

AF Steadman says:

"Having my unicorns brought to life for the very first time was magical and nerve-racking. Would the designers understand that they were bloodthirsty? I shouldn't have worried – it's flame-filled perfection."



## **The Phantom Rider**

AF Steadman says:

"This scene featuring a water unicorn guarding an ancient tomb was thrilling to write, so it's unsurprising this art is my favourite so far. I also love how Skandar is older on each cover."



## **The Chaos Trials**

AF Steadman says:

"I was worried about yellow – would it be epic enough? But when I saw this wild unicorn, my worries disappeared. It's brilliant that Goshawk's Fury is seen rotting, with bones exposed – no danger of cuteness!"



## **The Skeleton Curse**

AF Steadman says:

"The elemental predator has such amazing detail, and I was delighted that Bobby features, since she is a fan favourite. Each book is element-themed, and I love how here the ground itself is cracking open."

# PSST!

If you're a fan of the Skandar series, you do NOT want to miss next week's issue of *First News*, when we'll be bringing you a very special, world-exclusive reveal...

**FIVE  
MINUTES  
WITH...**

# SUZIE EDGE

author of *Wee, Snot And Slime Through Time*

## ● Hi Suzie! What can we expect from *Wee, Snot And Slime Through Time*?

Hello. We're back with another instalment of the History Stinks series! It's packed with fascinating facts and familiar characters from history, like Henry VIII and Alexander Fleming. From Ancient Romans whitening their teeth with pee, to snot being behind one of our most useful medical advances, we learn about pus, blood, vomit, wee and more, and how we've used them for good... and sometimes for bad.

## ● How on Earth did you find this stuff out?

As a doctor I've been surrounded by lots of wee, snot and slime, and as a historian I'm always on the lookout for gory stories from history. Any juicy tale about the human body captures my eye and I find myself wanting to learn even more!

## ● Okay, tell us something weird from the Tudor times!

Okay! Henry VIII was the Tudor king who reigned from 1509 to 1547. He's remembered for having six wives and chopping the heads off two of them. One day he fell from his horse while jousting and he was never the same again. He injured his leg and the wounds never healed – instead, they grew painful and stinky with pus. The stench was so bad his servants could smell him from other rooms in his grand palace.

## ● Oof. What about the Ancient Roman times?

Romans understood how useful wee could be. They used it to whiten cloth to have shiny white clothes but they also used it in their mouths to have shiny white teeth! I wonder if they used it cold or warmed up?

## ● Erm, moving on... who was the grossest king or queen in British history?

William I (known as the Conqueror) died in 1087 but when he died it took an age for them to decide what to do with his body. All the bacteria inside his guts started eating away at him. The bacteria grew and multiplied and burped and let off a lot of gas. His body swelled up so much that at his funeral, it burst over the mourners!

## ● Yuck! Are there any gross ideas from the past that you think might be useful for us to bring back?

We could learn a lot from the past about how to put wee to good use. In the last book, *Poo Through the Ages*, we saw how using poo for fertilisers is far better for our environment than some modern chemicals. A lot can be done with wee too, like using the ammonia in it as a bleach. Maybe not on our teeth, though!

## ● We're off to wash our hands. Thanks, Suzie! Any parting message for the big history fans reading?

There are so many different ways we can look at history. Whatever we might be interested in can steer



**William the Conqueror's body swelled up so much that at his funeral, it burst all over the mourners!**

us. You might not like learning about, say, war or politics, but you might find you love social stories of everyday life, or you might even adore reading and learning about sticky and stinky human bodies like me. Keep an eye out for the stories you'll love, and have fun!

*Wee, Snot And Slime Through Time* by the hilarious doctor and historian Suzie Edge is out now.





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

I hope you had a great Easter holidays! Over the past few weeks, junior journalists have been sent out on reporting missions for us. You can check out how a few of them got on in this week's issue.

If you fancy being a junior journalist for *First News*, you can find out how to do that in the top right of these pages! And if you want to have your story published in an issue of the paper, just ask a parent/guardian to get in touch with us by emailing [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk).

# EVERY VOICE MATTERS



School councils join forces!

WE know how important it is for young people to have their voices heard, so we were thrilled when Jayden told us about this event in Hertfordshire that gives pupils the chance to speak out.

by Jayden, aged 13

Back in March, the Bishop's Stortford Pupil Voice Network all came together at Bishop's Stortford College Prep School. This fantastic event is an opportunity for school councils from Bishop's Stortford and surrounding villages to share and present their ideas about the projects they have worked on within their school communities.

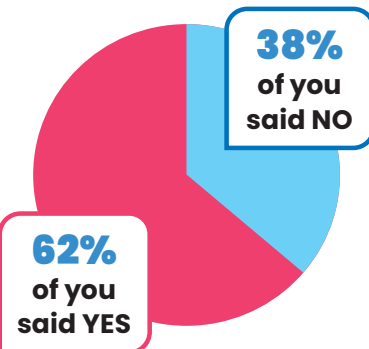
This year's theme was 'Every Voice Matters and Every Voice Heard'. We completed lots of different activities, which helped us to understand that in our schools, every voice should be heard, despite hurdles that might make this difficult, such as being neurodiverse, having a disability or speaking English as a second language – something I have first-hand experience of, with Korean being my first language.

Our mayor, Richard Townsend, joined us to judge the entries in our Community Network Award. This award celebrates the work being done by local school councils. The Bishop's Stortford High School was a very deserving winner. The day was a super success.

## THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 5,369 of you:

Should scientists leave the Titanic shipwreck alone?



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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

## Making Egypt at Young V&A

NEWS Club member Kai headed to Young V&A to check out a new exhibition called Making Egypt. Here's what he has to say about it.

by Kai Gellard

Making Egypt at Young V&A was a great experience! It's an exhibition where you can learn all about Egypt's art and mythology. We entered the exhibition, greeted by reeds and a quest to find the body parts of Osiris (an Egyptian god). This may sound like an odd touch, but this is based on an actual Egyptian myth, which I believe is an excellent way to introduce myths in a fun and interactive way.

The theme of interaction was in other places at the exhibition, too. You could draw artefacts or listen to myths on headphones. This kept children interested when they were touring the exhibition, which was necessary, as there is quite a lot of reading to do (which was very informative!).

I loved the attention to detail; for example, the panels resembling ancient broken pottery, the part about how hieroglyphs are understood, and the mythological activities such as the Osiris body hunt, where you can win a stamp at the gift shop. This exhibition is a must-come-and-see!



Kai at Making Egypt



## NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... Pebble Brook School, Southbank International School Kensington, Hylands Primary School, Kent College and Kendall Church of England Primary School!





# A trip to Buckingham Palace

JACK and Alex headed to Buckingham Palace during the Easter holidays to check out an exhibition all about the Edwardian era!

by Jack and Alex Stockdale

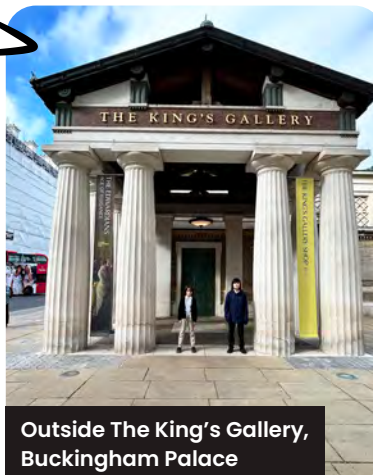
The Edwardians: Age of Elegance exhibition at The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, is the first to showcase



more than 300 objects exploring the Edwardian period from King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra's wedding in 1863 up to the end of the First World War.

There is a tremendous range of items, from Alexandra's personalised tea set with her own photos on (which was very experimental and unheard of at the time) to an intricate beaded coronation gown that would have been dazzling under the first electric light used in Westminster Abbey.

While this exhibition is not aimed at younger people, there are family events, which would be the ideal time to come. We would like to see more interactive or hands-on elements at this gallery in the future, as it felt very traditional. We loved the location though, and it was so close to St James's Park, so we could have a picnic and a play afterwards.



Outside The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace

**WANT TO  
FEATURE ON  
THESE PAGES?**

FirstNews

**FYI**

**NEWS**

**CLUB**

sky kids

If you want to be a junior journalist for *First News* and go to cool press events or write about something that you're passionate about, get in touch by asking a trusted adult to email us at [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk). Or, get your teacher to sign up to the *First News* FYI News Club at [first.news/fynewsclub](http://first.news/fynewsclub).

# The Minecraft Experience

JEM went to check out the Minecraft Experience: Villager Rescue. Here's what he thought!

by Jem, aged eight

When we arrived at the Minecraft Experience we were given an orb. An orb is a cube with lights inside that flash different colours when you're in danger or need to move to the next game. The goal of the whole game is to save the villagers, who have been turned into zombies. In each room is a different *Minecraft* experience and you stand on squares to use your orb to mine, fight and collect items by waving it around. The walls and floor and items in each room can sense your orb and react! You save the villagers by collecting items for a potion in the different zones.

The Minecraft Experience was fun and very exciting. I would recommend it to other kids, even if they don't play *Minecraft*, because those villagers need saving!



Jem and his sister Molly at the Minecraft Experience in Canada Water, London

# Minecraft Live!



Elliot is a big *Minecraft* fan!

*MINECRAFT* Live took place on Saturday 22 March, with fans around the world joining the interactive virtual event. Elliot was one of those who logged on to find out all the latest news about games and much more. Here he shares some of his highlights.

by Elliot

The update of *Minecraft* Live was called the spring update, and some of it was about the ghastlings. They're so cute!

You can get the ghastlings by going into the Nether and finding a Nether Fossil. Next to it, you'll find a dry ghast. You can break it and carry it back to the Overworld, dig a hole, put the ghastling inside, pour water on it – and then it will hatch! Then, you can feed it ghast tears, after which it will grow up to be a happy ghast!

You can put the special helmet on the ghast and ride it with up to three other players. These aren't like other ghasts – they don't shoot fire at you. They can be a helpful companion in the Nether when flying over lava.

*Minecraft* Live was pretty cool. We got a trailer about two days before it went live. It showed Steve pouring a water bucket into a hole, but we didn't see the thing inside it. When he poured the water bucket on it, particles came out.

I love *Minecraft* because anything is possible and creativity has no limits.

In *Minecraft* Live, lots of other things got announced, like there being fireflies at night, the fact they're doing two *Minecraft* Lives a year now and, of course, the ghastlings.

I'm so excited that *A Minecraft Movie* is out now, too.



# THE BIG PICTURE



**A GIANT blue whale leaps from the waters of Canary Wharf in London.**

The 11m-tall (36ft) sculpture, called *Whale on the Wharf*, has been created out of plastic litter found on the beaches of Hawaii.

Its underwater concrete base is made of used coffee grounds from Canary Wharf's cafés and restaurants.

Artists Jason Klimoski and Lesley Chang created the sculpture to highlight the increasing problem of plastic pollution. They say there is now more plastic floating in the world's oceans than there are whales – an estimated 150 million tonnes of the stuff.



# 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 lost two-year-old in the US state of Arizona was saved by what animal?

**2** What song from *A Minecraft Movie* has broken a UK chart record?



**3** Who is the author of the Skandar book series?

**4** Buskers have been banned from which famous London area?

**5** True or false – the masked shrew gets bigger in winter to save energy?



**6** What animal is this?



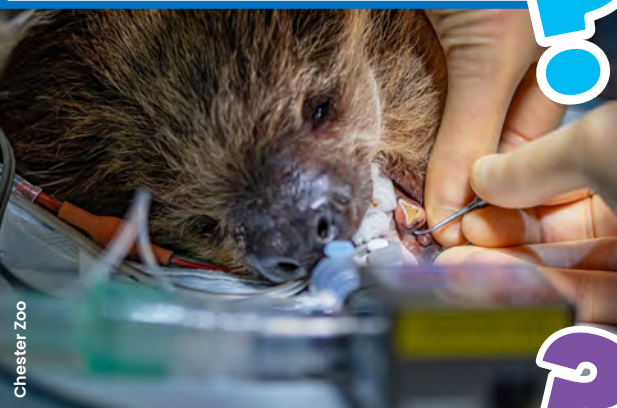
**7** What is the name of the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, who has died aged 88?



**8** On what date will local elections take place in England?

**9** Which wildlife presenter is taking his *Deadly* series on a UK tour?

**10** What is the name of this sloth that has undergone historic dental surgery?



**11** The Royal Institution is celebrating how many years of its Christmas Lectures?

**12** The world's tallest bridge is set to open in which country?

**13** What animal is shown here to highlight plastic pollution?



**14** A whopping 87 Guinness World Record attempts will take place at what race this year?

**15** Which two teams are facing off for the Women's Six Nations crown?

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) A dog 2) Steve's Lava Chicken 3) AF Steadman 4) Leicester Square 5) False – it gets smaller! 6) A colossal squid 7) Pope Francis 8) 1 May 9) Steve Backshall 10) 200 years 12) China 13) A blue whale 14) London Marathon 15) England and France

First News team details available at [www.firstnews.co.uk/team](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/team). For editorial enquiries, contact [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk).

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# THE NEW PRINCE OF CRICKET

Getty

**VAIBHAV Suryavanshi had an incredible debut in the Indian Premier League, smacking his first ball for six, just days after he turned 14.**

The Rajasthan Royals batsman followed that up with another six on his third ball. His innings only lasted for 20 balls, but he racked up 34 runs before he was stumped – and only two batsmen on each team

**Suryavanshi on his eye-catching debut in the IPL**

scored better than him in the match.

Suryavanshi was signed up for the Royals when he was still 13, and played his first match in the IPL last week, less than a month after his 14th birthday.

Although the Royals lost by two runs to Lucknow Super Giants, Suryavanshi's first IPL appearance was still one to remember.

## Braydon's on the ball



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

With the champions and relegated teams now pretty much all confirmed, the final excitement of the Premier League season can be found in the race for the Champions League spots. Five games are now left and only three points separated third and seventh after last weekend's games.

Forest held onto third following their win at struggling Spurs. Their incredible season rolls on, with goals from Elliot Anderson and Chris Wood enough to secure the points. Newcastle follow in fourth, but they had a day to forget as they crashed 4-1 to a Villa side inspired by Ollie Watkins. He was on fire from the start and scored after just 33 seconds to become Villa's joint-top Premier League scorer with 74 since joining from Brentford. Man City were in fifth before their mid-week match with Villa, and they continue



**Ollie Watkins with the early goal against Newcastle**

to quietly pick up points in what has been an inconsistent season. A tough game at Goodison Park saw them come away with a 2-0 win, with goals from Nico O'Reilly and Mateo Kovačić.

Chelsea also left it late, recovering at Fulham to win 2-1. Tyrique George levelled on 83mins and a dramatic half-volley from Pedro Neto in the 93rd minute boosted the Blues' hopes of securing a Champions League spot. So, the five teams involved are closer than ever as they all chase the big prize of a place in the Champions League. My guess is that it'll be City, Villa and Forest who'll make it, with Newcastle just missing out.

At the other end of the table, Wolves ended any lingering fears of relegation. They were struggling in 19th when Vitor Pereira took over in December but he has completely transformed them and the victory at Old Trafford completed a league double over Man United. For the Reds, their season will be defined by the Europa League and they now face Athletic Bilbao over two legs in a tough semi-final.

**Centre Stage** this week are Southampton, who are no longer the worst team in Premier League history! Their 1-1 draw at West Ham means they're up to 11 points for the season, drawing level with the Derby County side of 2007-08, who hold the unwanted record of fewest points in a season.

**Braydon's Team of The Week:** Aston Villa, who thumped Newcastle 4-1.

**Braydon's Player of The Week:** Ollie Watkins, who inspired Villa's win.

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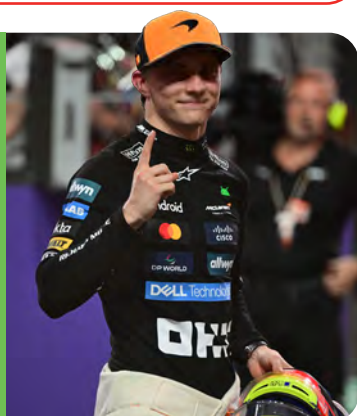


**The third-fastest woman of all time**

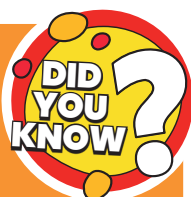
**The other mums**

If you've ever seen your mum or dad struggle in a parents' race on school sports day, spare a thought for the mums in Jamaica who recently came up against Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. The two-time Olympic and five-time world 100m champion wasn't messing about when she flew off the line and made the other mums look like they were standing still!

McLaren driver Oscar Piastri took the lead in the F1 drivers' championship after winning the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, his third win out of five races. He's ten points clear of his team-mate Lando Norris, with Max Verstappen two points further back.

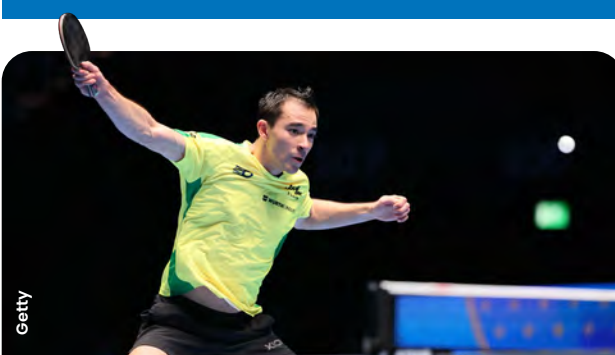


**THE** damning stats just keep adding up for Man United. Their defeat against Wolves means they've now lost eight home league matches this season, which is their worst record since they lost nine in 1962-63. For Wolves, it was the first time they've won five league games in a row in the top division since 1970!



**England's Claudia MacDonald breaks through to score her second try in a 59-7 win over Scotland**

England and France will be playing for the title and a Grand Slam (winning all five matches) when they face each other in the last game of the Women's Six Nations tomorrow (Saturday 26 April). Whoever wins will finish top of the table, although England have scored 213 points to France's 141, so the Red Roses will definitely be the favourites.



China is so utterly dominant in table tennis that Hugo Calderano's win in the ITTF World Cup is a historic moment. The Brazilian beat China's Lin Shidong, the world No 1, 4-1 in the final to become the first non-Chinese player to win a major men's singles tournament since 2017. The women's final was an all-Chinese affair, with defending champion Sun Yingsha beating 21-year-old rival Kuai Man 4-0.