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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR\*



# First News

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Issue 985 £2.95 2 – 8 May 2025



NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT  
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS



**SOUVENIR PULL-OUT INSIDE**



## 8 MAY 1945

**CROWDS IN LONDON'S PICCADILLY CIRCUS  
CELEBRATE VICTORY IN EUROPE**

## HUGE WORLD EXCLUSIVE!

**INSIDE:** We reveal the title and cover  
of the fifth and final book in the epic  
**SKANDAR** series!

Coming  
28 August



23



## MEET THE TEAM



Editor  
in Chief  
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Cox



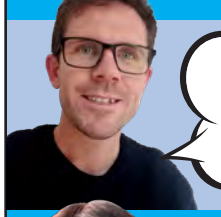
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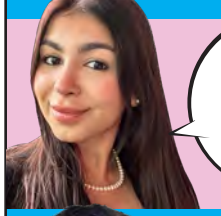
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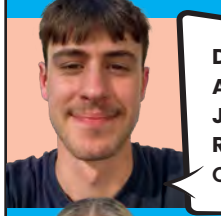
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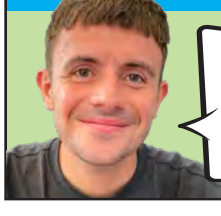
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Engagement  
Lead  
(Editorial)  
Milly Rusling



Creative  
Director  
Richard  
Robson



Senior  
Designer  
Dan Jordan

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!



## CLIMATE SUPPORT GREATER THAN PEOPLE THINK

A survey of 130,000 people in 125 countries by *Nature Climate Change* has found that 89% think their national government "should do more to fight global warming". But, crucially, they mistakenly think most people don't agree with them, so they are less likely to do anything about it. For example, only 69% said they would give 1% of the money they earn to help the environment. Experts found that when people learn the true level of support for climate action, they become more likely to contribute to environmental projects, to speak up about climate issues and pressure those in charge to do more.



## THEFT UP BUT VIOLENCE DOWN

Official data shows that personal theft of items like mobile phones and wallets rose by 22% (a fifth) in 2024 compared to 2023. Shoplifting is at the highest level ever and stealing parcels from doorsteps was also up. Violent crime stayed at its lowest level since 1981, and the number of murders was the lowest in ten years. Overall crime was down 75% (three-quarters) since the mid 1990s. Police are also putting 3,000 more officers on the streets to help tackle crime.

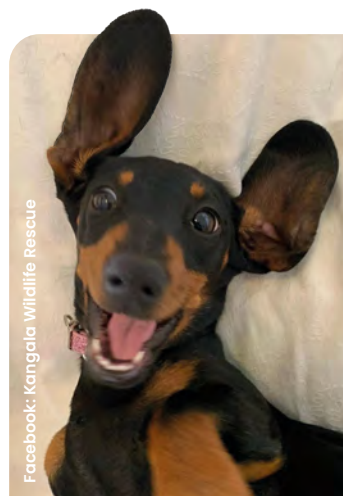
## THEY SAID THAT!



"I started noticing things... like a single tent peg, Mars bar wrappers and things they hadn't cleaned out. All similar to what you could have found in my stolen car."  
– Ewan Valentine

## MAN BUYS HIS STOLEN CAR

A man has bought his own stolen car, accidentally, thinking he was getting an identical replacement. Ewan Valentine, from Solihull, discovered the truth when he found his old addresses in the sat nav and familiar items inside the £20,000 Honda Civic. Police said the car had been "cloned" and the number plates changed. Mr Valentine's car was stolen from his driveway in February. He hopes to get his money back from the garage, which experts believe was also tricked by the thieves.



## LOST DOG FOUND AFTER 17 MONTHS IN THE WILD

Valerie the miniature dachshund has been captured after spending 529 days loose in the Australian wilderness on Kangaroo Island. The tiny dog disappeared during her owners' camping trip in November 2023, when she escaped from her playpen. After a massive search effort covering 5,000km, rescue teams finally caught Valerie using her owner's smelly T-shirt and a trap cage filled with food. Despite facing dangers like extreme heat and poisonous snakes, the brave pup survived against all odds.



## MEET MORE MONKEYS

The National Museum of Scotland opens its largest-ever primate exhibition this summer. Monkeys: Our Primate Family features more than 50 stuffed species, from tiny mouse lemurs to giant gorillas. It will also include rare animals and highlight urgent conservation efforts to protect endangered species and their homes. Tickets are on sale now and the exhibition runs from 28 June to 30 November. Kids under 16 go free with an adult.



## MOST BRITS AGAINST ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION

Seven in ten British people want the government to stop products linked to illegal forest destruction from being sold in UK shops, a new survey says. The study, by WWF and campaign group Global Witness, found that most people, no matter their age or political views, support a law to check where products come from. Foods like beef, palm oil, coffee and cocoa that reach UK shops are grown often on land where trees were illegally cut down, in places like the Amazon rainforest and Indonesia. Right now, companies don't have to check this, but a new law could change that.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE SIDELINED



Indigenous peoples (the first people who live in a particular place) make up just 6% of the world's population, but are protecting most of Earth's wildlife and nature. However, they receive very little help with climate change. A new UN report shows these communities, who look after 80% of the planet's plants and animals, get less than 1% of the money meant to fight climate change.

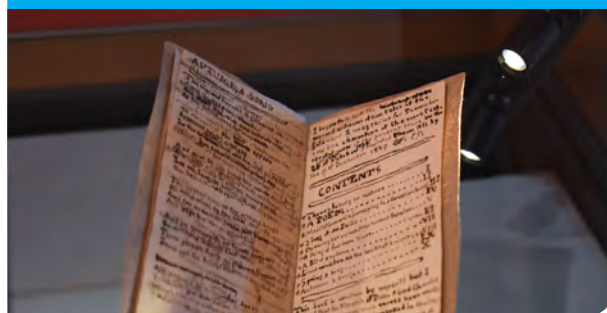


## AI MAKES UP MEANINGS

Google's AI chatbot Gemini has been caught inventing meanings for made-up sayings instead of admitting it doesn't know them. When asked about nonsense phrases like: "You can't lick a badger twice," the AI created detailed but completely false explanations and historical backgrounds. Experts warn this could make fact-checking more difficult in the future. The AI's tendency to make up answers rather than admit uncertainty is a growing concern for tech companies trying to make their chatbots more reliable.

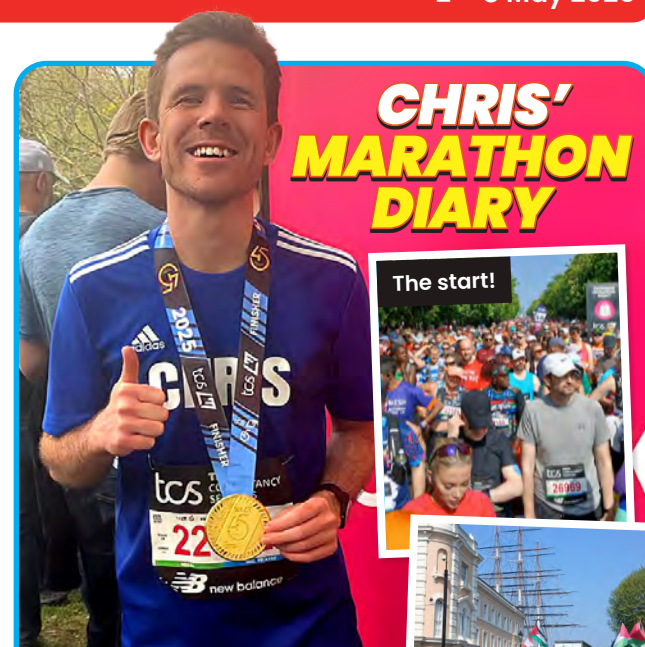
## FAMOUS POETRY BOOK FOUND AFTER CENTURIES

A collection of poems written by famous author Charlotte Brontë when she was just 13 years old has been published for the first time in nearly 200 years. The tiny book, with the misspelled title *A Book of Rhymes*, contains ten poems and is smaller than a playing card. It was bought recently by a library group and given to the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, West Yorkshire, where Charlotte grew up. Singer Patti Smith has written a special introduction for the book, which includes poems about nature and ancient ruins. Fans can buy their own copy of this rare piece of literary history now.

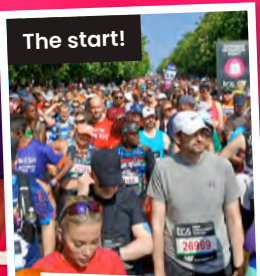


## HOT WEATHER HELPS EDEN PROJECT PLANTS THRIVE

England's sunniest March since records began in 1910 has triggered an incredible burst of plant life at Cornwall's Eden Project. The unusual weather has created perfect growing conditions, with warm sunny days and cool nights followed by April rains. Visitors can see displays of Icelandic poppies, purple anemones and rare tropical plants across the site's Mediterranean and Rainforest biomes. The Japanese garden is showing spectacular growth, too. "The next few weeks are a particularly lovely time for our local visitors to come to see us, with new plants coming into flower on a daily basis," says head gardener Catherine Cutler.



## CHRIS' MARATHON DIARY



Hi, guys! I'm Chris, one of your reporters at *First News*. I've been writing this diary about my preparations for running the London Marathon for UNICEF. I'm proud to say that last weekend, I completed it!

It was a day like nothing I've experienced before – possibly the best and hardest thing I've ever done.

It was the 45th edition of the event, and it fell on a very hot day with not a cloud in the sky so, at every opportunity, I kept hydrated and made the very most of the hoses that sprayed water over the runners.

I've been to watch the marathon before, so I knew all about the London crowds and how amazing the atmosphere is. In total, 800,000 people turned out to watch. It's a very strange feeling, having thousands of total strangers cheering your name all across the capital, playing music and holding their hands out for high fives! I was lucky to spot lots of my family and friends on the route – including *First News*' Hannah and Charlie! The noise kept me going to the finish.

I crossed the line in four hours, 39 minutes. Overall, out of a world-record 56,640 runners, that's 29,920th. I'll take it – but a huge congratulations MUST go to *First News* designer Dan, who overcame the baking sun to finish in a phenomenal three hours and three minutes!

Above all, I'll think of this incredible day as a lesson in perseverance. I've wanted to run the marathon ever since I was 12 and I tried to get a place year after year. I didn't give up – just like in the race itself – and, at last, I was rewarded with a lifelong dream come true.

Whatever your dreams and whatever you want to achieve, may the same one day be said for you, too!

### ● STAR WARS DAY 4 MAY

'May the fourth be with you', geddit? Why not enjoy a *Star Wars* movie or book in celebration?

### ● WORLD ASTHMA DAY 6 MAY

Aims to raise awareness and improve care for those with asthma. This is a common lung condition that causes breathing difficulties.



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





Will the Children's Codes protect you better?

# PLANS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE ONLINE REVEALED!

**APPS and websites must change their algorithms (set of rules followed by a computer) to hide unsuitable content from children, as part of Ofcom's new rules aimed at keeping you safe online.**

The new Protection of Children Codes say social media platforms must take stronger action to prevent children accessing harmful content online, and act faster to block such content. They must also make it easier for children to understand their services, and do better at checking whether a user is under 18.

Companies found to be breaking the rules could face fines or even be taken to court.

Ofcom says the Codes will offer "transformational new protections" for young people.

While some have welcomed the Codes, including the NSPCC, others say they don't go far enough. The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has argued that Ofcom has put the interests of tech companies before children's safety.

The new rules will come into force in July.

## Calls to fine 'headphone dodgers'



Okay or not okay?

**THE Liberal Democrats are calling for 'headphone dodgers' – people who play loud music on public transport – to be fined up to £1,000.**

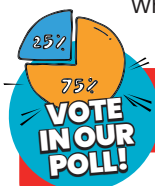
Some forms of anti-social behaviour are already banned on trains and buses, but the Lib Dems want to introduce a specific ban on people playing music and videos out loud without using headphones.

A poll commissioned by the party found that 38% of the 2,000 participants asked had experienced people playing music out loud on public transport on a regular basis, and more than half (54%) say they wouldn't feel comfortable

asking somebody to turn down their music.

The party now wants to introduce a change to the Bus Services Bill, which is going through Parliament at the moment. It also wants to see a national campaign to crack down on headphone dodging, which would include posters at train stations and bus stops.

Liberal Democrat Home Affairs spokesperson Lisa Smart said: "Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected on public transport." What do you think?



**Should 'headphone dodgers' be fined £1,000?**

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

## Increase in anti-Hamas protests in Gaza

**PROTESTS against Hamas are increasing in Gaza, as more and more residents are speaking out.**

Hundreds of people are taking to the streets to share their upset at how the territory is being managed and calling for Hamas to leave. Hamas is classed as a terrorist group by the UK. It has ruled Gaza for nearly 20 years and

in that time there have been three major wars with Israel.

Many are now risking their safety to protest in public, with some demonstrators being jailed and even killed. It's thought that a rise in protests shows how people are starting to fear Hamas less and that the group may be losing control.

### EDITOR'S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

**EIGHTY years on from VE Day, we remember the sacrifices that secured peace in Europe.**

On 8 May 1945, millions rejoiced as WW2 ended in Europe. Remembrance Day every 11 November honours those who served, suffered and died for freedom. It connects generations, reminding us of the cost of conflict and the value of peace.

With war ongoing in Europe once more, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, recalling the courage and unity of 1945 helps us reflect on who we are and what we stand for.

Remembering is not just about the past – it's an inspiration for a better future.

**Wind power is a great source of clean energy**



All pics: Getty



### Green energy

A NEW wind farm has been switched on in Scotland that can power half of the country's homes. Moray West offshore wind farm will generate up to 882MW, which is enough to power a whopping 1.3 million homes! It's a step closer to achieving the UK government's 43-50GW offshore wind target that's been set for 2030.



**Queen Beatrix with her painting**



### Maashorst town hall

AN original Andy Warhol artwork is thought to have been taken out with the bins when Maashorst town hall in the Netherlands was being renovated last year! The council said the print of the then Queen Beatrix was among 46 valuable artworks that likely ended up in the rubbish. Oops!

### 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.







**KENYAN athlete Faith Kipyegon is on a mission to become the first woman in history to run a mile inside four minutes – and sports brand Nike wants to help her do it!**

The 31-year-old will attempt the feat on 26 June in Paris – the city in which she won the 1,500-metre gold medal in last summer's Olympic Games.

Kipyegon is the holder of the existing women's one-mile record of four

minutes and seven seconds, which she set in 2023.

To trim eight seconds off that time, Nike experts are designing her a super shoe with

special spikes to boost her pace.

They're also using the latest tech to create an aerodynamic running suit and will help her to prepare mentally for the challenge.

Stade Charl  ty is the chosen arena because Paris in June has an ideal climate, and because athletes tend to run fast there.

Some experts doubt that all this will be enough to enable her to shave such a big chunk of time off her existing record.

However, Kipyegon says: "If you believe in yourself, and your team believes in you, you can do it."

"I want this attempt to say to women, you can dream and make your dreams valid. This is the way to go as women, to push boundaries and dream big."



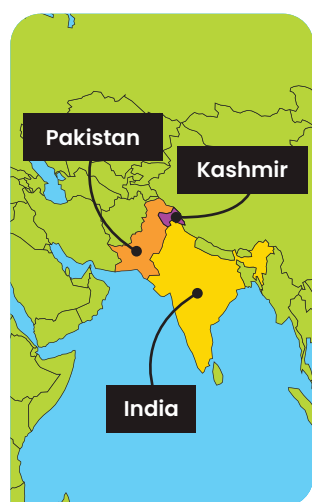
Nike is calling the event Breaking4: Faith Kipyegon vs the 4-Minute Mile

### FAST FRIENDS

In 2019, Nike designed special shoes for male athlete Eliud Kipchoge (below) to wear to become the first person to run a marathon inside two hours. Lights flashed on the track to help him keep pace, and other runners surrounded him in an arrow formation. Perhaps Kipyegon (who has the same coach and agent as Kipchoge) can expect the same!



## Shots fired between India and Pakistan



**INDIA has banned entry into the country for all Pakistanis, after a terrorist attack in Kashmir that killed 26 people.**

It also ordered thousands of Pakistanis already in the country to leave, and suspended the Indus Waters Treaty – an agreement from 1960 between India and Pakistan to share water supplies.

Kashmir is between India and Pakistan. The two have fought over its ownership for decades, and the territory is split down the middle. China also controls part of it.

On 22 April, five armed men opened fire on a local guide and tourists who were visiting a beauty spot in the Indian-run side of Kashmir – 25 Indians and one man from Nepal were killed. A group called Kashmir Resistance has

said it was behind the attack, and India has accused Pakistan of helping it. However, the group then denied being involved.

At a remembrance event for the victims, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that his country will pursue the attackers "to the ends of the Earth."

Pakistan has challenged India to prove it had anything to do with the attack. It's called India's threat to withhold water "an act of war" and, in response, it's banned Indians from entering Pakistan and suspended all Indian planes from flying over the country.

Indian and Pakistani troops have exchanged gunfire across the 'Line of Control' that divides Kashmir.

The United Nations has called for calm.

## A power plant on the moon!

**CHINA has shared its plans to build a nuclear power station on the surface of the moon.**

It will be used to support the International Lunar Research Station – a permanent moon base that China plans to build with Russia, and which it aims to finish by 2035.

This station would be used to

conduct research on the moon, and to launch missions to other planets.

The country's president, Xi Jinping, says that becoming recognised as a major power in space discovery is China's "eternal dream".

The USA also hopes to build a base on the moon, in order to help with future missions to Mars.



Schoolchildren 50 years ago, in 1975

## WAS LIFE BETTER 50 YEARS AGO?

**A MAJOR report by the United Nations (UN) has revealed that many people think life was better 50 years ago than it is today.**

The *World Social Report* is produced each year by the UN to survey people on life satisfaction, which is affected by things like wealth, jobs and trust in politicians and other people.

Here are some stats from this year's report...

**6.85** Over a third (2.8 billion) of the world's people live on less than \$6.85 (£5.10) per day.

**2/3** Two-thirds of people live in countries where the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

**3/5** Nearly three-fifths of people have low confidence in their governments.

**1/3** Less than a third of people believe that most other people can be trusted.

The report says that misinformation spread online is affecting the trust we have in one another, while climate change and wars are leading to rising inequality around the world. To lift everyone's spirits and quality of life, it calls on governments to improve access to quality education, housing and healthcare.

UN Secretary-General Ant  nio Guterres said: "Now more than ever, we must... come together and build a world that is more just, secure, resilient [strong] and united for each and every one of us."



**THE biscuit big shots at McVitie's have revealed that we're eating their famous chocolate digestives upside down!**

Most of us tend to hold the biscuity side at the bottom, with the chocolate on top.

However, Anthony Coulson, boss at the McVitie's factory in Stockport, told the BBC that when he joined the company, one of the first things he learned was that the chocolate should hit the tongue first. "It starts to melt, starts to get the flavour and away you go," he said. "Makes sense, right?"



**Which way round do you eat chocolate biscuits?**

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





## London, UK



Jack Gamble

FIRST News' marathon heroes Dan (left) and Chris conquered London in the sun! They completed the 26.2-mile (42.2km) route along with tens of thousands of other runners. See what Chris had to say on p3, and read more about the London Marathon on p28.



Chris Towers



Getty

THERE were lots of eye-catching outfits at the London Marathon, from both runners and supporters!



Getty



Getty



Getty



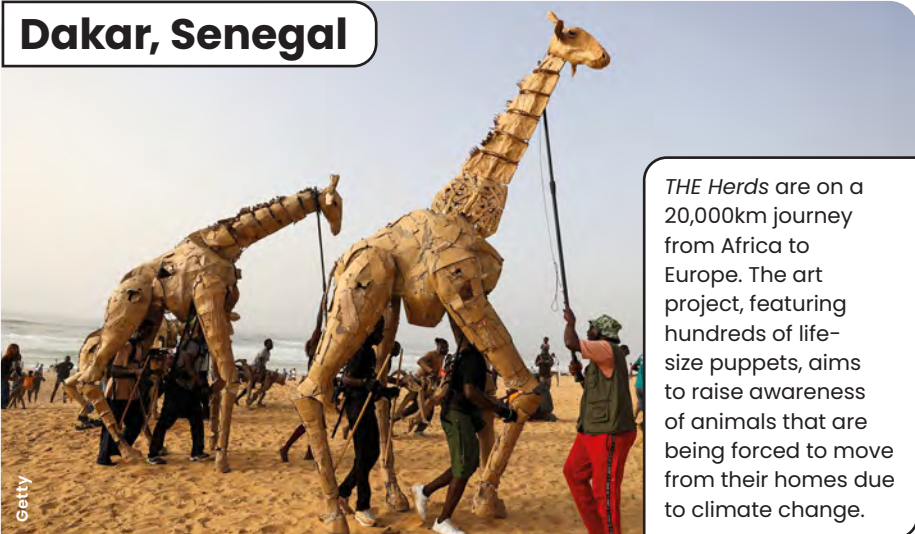


## Scarborough, UK



"ARE you sure this is the Millennium Falcon?" A visitor dressed as Chewbacca, from the *Star Wars* film series, takes part in the Sci-Fi Scarborough weekend.

## Dakar, Senegal



*THE Herds* are on a 20,000km journey from Africa to Europe. The art project, featuring hundreds of life-size puppets, aims to raise awareness of animals that are being forced to move from their homes due to climate change.

## Oświęcim, Poland



A STUDENT leaves a message on the train tracks of Auschwitz-Birkenau on the annual March of the Living. Every year, thousands of people gather at the former Nazi concentration camp to pay tribute to the millions of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust during World War Two. This year marks 80 years since the camp was liberated (the people were freed).

## Vatican City



CARDINALS, who are senior members of the Roman Catholic Church, attend the funeral of Pope Francis. The leader of the Catholic Church died on Easter Monday aged 88. Cardinals must now gather in Vatican City's Sistine Chapel to vote for who will be the next pope. This secret meeting, called the conclave, will begin on 7 May.



WORLD leaders at the pope's funeral included (L-R) French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.



## COLINTRAIVE

### Special sculptures

An outdoor maze of sculptures is returning to Scotland. From today (Friday 2 May) to 29 June, Caol Ruadh Sculpture Park will host artwork from award-winning artists, along with hands-on workshops. These will include clay making and live storytelling sessions, where budding artists can learn from experts. Owner and curator Karen Scotland, who first opened up the grounds to the public in 2012, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming local people and visitors to the region and keeping our fingers crossed for some good weather!"



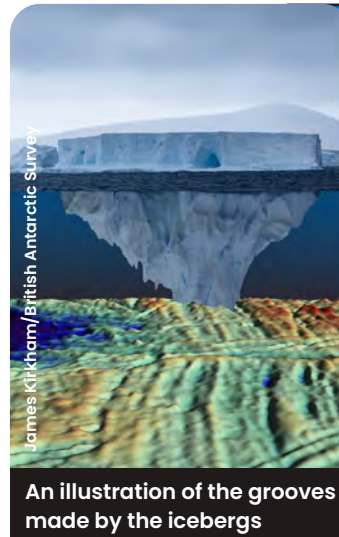
A seal sculpture at the park

Caol Ruadh Sculpture Park

## ABERDEEN

### UK had huge icebergs

Icebergs as large as cities once drifted off the coast of the UK, scientists have found. Wide marks were discovered on the North Sea floor off the coast of Aberdeen. These marks were created by huge icebergs that dragged along the sea floor more than 18,000 years ago, says the study published in *Nature Communications*. The icebergs, which are like the ones seen today in Antarctica, could have measured tens of kilometres wide. This would make them as large as a medium-sized UK city, such as Cambridge or Norwich. The findings could help scientists understand how climate change affects Antarctica.



An illustration of the grooves made by the icebergs

James Kirkham/British Antarctic Survey

## CUMBRIA

### Helping dragonflies to flutter back

A rare dragonfly has been introduced to Cumbria in the hope of growing its population in England. The white-faced darter is seen regularly in western Scotland, but can be found only in a few English locations due to habitat loss. They have a striking appearance – males are black with vibrant red-orange markings, while females are black with yellow markings. As part of conservation efforts for the endangered species, ideal peat bog habitats have been created at RSPB Campfield Marsh for them to thrive in.

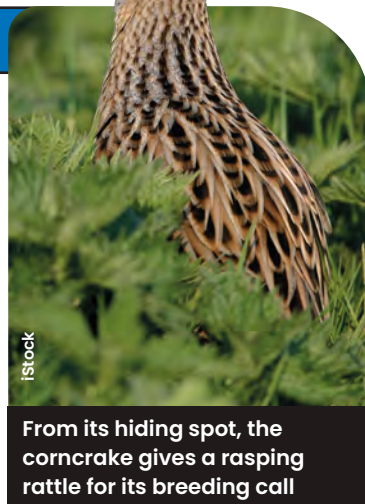


A male and female (inset)

## RATHLIN ISLAND

### Corncrakes to settle in nettles

Stinging nettles are usually something to be avoided by humans, but they're a plant that could help save an endangered bird species. Multiple tonne bags of nettles have been moved from Northern Ireland to Rathlin Island to support the corncrake. Planting tall nettles helps the secretive bird to hide when it returns from wintering in Africa. Corncrakes are on the Red List of conservation concern in the UK, meaning urgent action is needed to save them from extinction. Three to five calling males have been spotted on the island over the last five years, but the RSPB hopes that the nettles will boost the corncrake population even more.



iStock

From its hiding spot, the corncrake gives a rasping rattle for its breeding call

## CHESTERFIELD



Getty

Super seagull screecher Cooper Wallace even looks the part!

### Gull-screeching success yet again

You may remember that last year Chesterfield's Cooper Wallace won gold at the European Gull Screeching Championship. Well, 'Seagull Boy' has only gone and done it again! Ten-year-old Cooper took home junior gold against 21 contenders in Belgium. His impressive vocals also won him a hamper full of sweets and other goodies. However, there is someone looking to seize Cooper's crown – his seven-year-old sister, Shelby! She came fourth in this year's competition, so let's see if 'Seagull' can screech her way to success next year...

## LONDON

### Terrific Brunel tunnel

The Brunel Museum is celebrating 200 years since construction started on the Thames Tunnel. The Brunels were an engineering family who changed the world, and one of their most impressive feats in 19th century London was the Thames Tunnel. Running from Rotherhithe to Wapping, it was the first ever tunnel dug underneath a river. It also hosted the first-ever underwater concert party in 1827. The museum, located in Rotherhithe, is running special events to mark the 200th anniversary. These include the free-to-enter Party in the Piazza featuring creative activities, as well as hands-on science experiments and gardening clubs.



Brunel Museum





# PLASTIC PROBLEM IS DECADES OLD

**IT'S only in recent years that people have been talking about the potential dangers of microplastics, but insects have been affected by them since at least the 1970s.**

Scientists in the Netherlands have been looking at the casings of caddisfly larvae. The adult insects look a bit like moths, but their larvae live underwater and make elaborate little houses that they carry around for protection.

The larvae use anything they can get their mitts on to make their casings, from stone, shells, sand, leaves... and microplastic.

Until now, the earliest known use of microplastic in a caddisfly

casing was 2018, but a new report has pushed that date right back to 1971.

The study in *Science of The Total Environment* says that the researchers looked at preserved insects held in the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, which has a huge collection of creepy-crawlies.

We don't know much about whether these bits of plastic harm the larvae in any way. However, the study says that many of the pieces are bright and colourful, and also more buoyant (floatable), which could make the larvae easier prey for birds and fish.



Main: an adult caddisfly. Top: a caddisfly larva case made out of bits of rock. Bottom: one found in May 1971 that contains bits of yellow plastic



THE word 'microplastic' has only been in use since 2004, when it was coined for a study published in the journal *Science*.



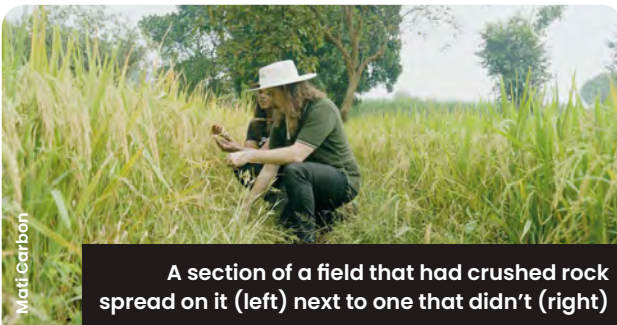
## Millions awarded for carbon removal projects

**A TEAM of scientists are celebrating after winning an enormous prize of \$50 million (£37.5m) for their efforts fighting climate change by removing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the air.**

The team, Mati Carbon, were the main winners of the XPRIZE Carbon Removal contest, held by the XPRIZE Foundation. The competition challenged researchers to come up with ways of removing large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air or sea. CO<sub>2</sub> is the most widespread greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, and the large amounts produced when humans burn fossil fuels is the main driver of global warming.

### Like nature, but faster

Mati Carbon used a technique called enhanced rock weathering (ERW), which is a sped-up version of a natural process. Rocks naturally break down, reacting with CO<sub>2</sub> and water to form bicarbonate ions (electrically charged molecules). These get washed into rivers and streams, then out into the ocean, where they sink to the bottom and are stored for more than 10,000 years. In the ERW method, Mati Carbon spread crushed rocks and minerals onto agricultural land in India, Tanzania and Zambia.

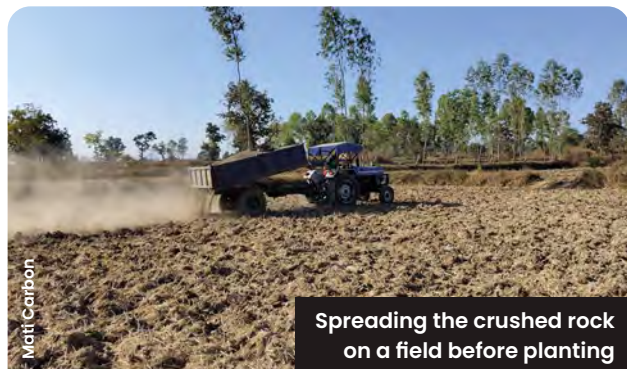


A section of a field that had crushed rock spread on it (left) next to one that didn't (right)

As well as removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the air, the process also helps to improve soil health, so the farmers benefit without having to pay any money. Mati Carbon says that the farmers' yields (how much food they get out of their land) can increase by up to 20% (a fifth) thanks to ERW.

Three runners-up in the competition also got big wins of \$15m (£11.2m), \$8m (£6m) and \$5m (£3.75m).

"This is a monumental milestone for the climate movement at large," said XPRIZE's David Babson. He added that it showed how competitions with big prizes can have a huge impact on speeding up new solutions to the world's problems.



Spreading the crushed rock on a field before planting

This report is from the  
**Science Museum Group**

**SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP**

**WHY is this 19th century chair so high? It wasn't a questionable choice, but served a purpose: the chair was used for exercise.**

Made from wood and leather and measuring just over 2m high (6ft 5in), this exercise chair was said to be the equivalent of riding a horse.

It was known in the 1800s as a 'chamber horse', and the user sat on the seat and bounced up and down on the springs, which was like trotting on a horse. Horse riding was considered a form of healthy exercise, so this would have been seen as a form of indoor sport session.

Find more surprising objects and guess their uses in our quizzes on our learning website Wonderlab+ at [tinyurl.com/wonderlabquiz](https://tinyurl.com/wonderlabquiz).



Science Museum Group

It's a bit different from modern gym equipment!





# GIVE HEDGEHOGS THE EDGE!

**THIS Hedgehog Awareness Week (4-10 May), we're all being encouraged to 'Give hedgehogs the edge!'**

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) is asking people to make the edges of their gardens and green spaces welcoming for wildlife, and is encouraging schools and councils to do the same.

The BHPS suggests leaving log piles and leaf heaps to attract food and provide shelter; creating 13x13cm

holes to act as 'hedgehog highways' at the base of walls and fences; providing water sources, but making sure ponds have sloping edges for escape routes; and adding stones so other wildlife can perch to drink; removing litter and avoiding the use of pesticides.

Hedgehogs are good at highlighting problems in nature. They don't need a lot to survive, so if they're not doing well, then their habitat isn't providing enough.

## Growing to Love

**MORE than 30,000 children will be growing their own tomatoes this year, to learn about where food comes from.**

The Growing to Love campaign was launched last week by Veg Power, a group that is on a mission to get us all to eat more veggies to improve our health.

Pupils are tasked with planting tomato seeds at school before the summer holidays, then bringing their seedlings home to care for them over the holiday. When the budding gardeners return to school after the summer break, the tomatoes should be ready to harvest and eat in September or October.

To celebrate the launch, Veg Power has shared these top tips on how to grow your own tomatoes:



### Top tips for growing tomatoes

- **Prepare:** Gather supplies and choose a sunny spot.
- **Use a propagator:** Propagators are like small greenhouses that warm the compost for better germination.
- **Monitor water:** Keep soil consistently damp, but make sure not to over-water.
- **Turn pots:** Ensure even sunlight exposure by rotating pots.
- **Feed regularly:** Apply plant food every 10-15 days.
- **Remove shoots:** Remove side shoots at leaf joints when they are 2.5cm long.



## OLDEST OYSTERCATCHER FOUND



**TWO oystercatchers spotted in wetlands on the north Norfolk coast have set a record for the oldest birds of their species in the UK.**

Scientists say the birds are aged 41 and 43 years old, which is more than three times their normal lifespan of 12 years.

The black and white wading birds, known for their orange beaks and pink legs, were identified by their leg rings. They were both found at the RSPB Snettisham nature reserve.

These discoveries show how important the wetlands are for protecting wildlife, because the birds return to the same spots each year to find food and shelter.



**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...**

## BARN OWL



### HABITAT:

- They live in open countryside, farmland and buildings like... barns!

### FUN FACTS:

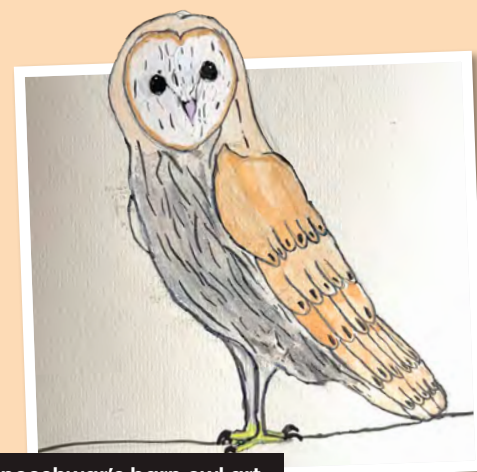
- Barn owls swallow their prey whole, then regurgitate (bring back up from the stomach) tough materials like bones and fur as pellets.
- They have asymmetrical ears, with one ear slightly lower than the other, to help them pinpoint the direction of sounds.

### SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

- They are quiet hunters. Their soft-edged feathers help them fly almost silently, so they can hear even the tiniest sounds made by prey.

### CONSERVATION STATUS:

- Barn owls are of least concern, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's barn owl 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.







**AN Australian woman has set a new Guinness World Record for the largest collection of Minions memorabilia.**

Liesl Benecke's home is bursting with 1,035 items of Minion merch, including toys, posters, clothes and cushions.

She started collecting the *Despicable Me* characters in 2010 after taking her daughters to see the movie. Liesl told Guinness World Records: "I remember laughing so much

at the cute, little pill-shaped henchmen. Since then I have always been on the lookout for Minions everywhere I go."

Her favourite is Stuart, the one-eyed sassy Minion – she even has him tattooed on her arm!

She said: "I love being surrounded by their beautiful, bright yellow smiles. They are in every room and on every spare wall."

## Man bins alligator!

**AN animal trapper in Florida, USA, used a wheelie bin to capture a large alligator loose in a garden.**

Mike Dragich, a Marine who is also known online as The Blue Collar Brawler, had to leave his Easter dinner in a rush to answer an emergency call from a worried woman in Jacksonville who discovered the big ol' reptile while letting her dog out for a wee.

Alligators are native to the southeastern states of America, and sometimes wander from the swampland into urban areas looking for food.

Wearing shorts, a vest and no shoes, Dragich captured the 8ft-long (2.4m) alligator, by laying the bin flat and coaxing it into the top.

"Thankfully, no animals or people were injured," he wrote on social media.



## Woman tricks magic society



**THE Magic Circle, an exclusive magicians' club, has apologised to magician Sophie Lloyd, more than 30 years after they threw her out for tricking her way in disguised as a man.**

The Magic Circle only admitted men in 1991, but Sophie had secretly already joined 18 months earlier, passing the entry exam as 'Raymond Lloyd'. Sophie told Sky News: "We had to have a wig made... the main thing was my face; I had plumpers made on a brace to bring the jawline down."

The Magic Circle began tracking down Sophie last year, and have now finally allowed her back into the club that failed to spot her ultimate illusion.

Other famous members of the society include David Copperfield and Dynamo.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





**CANADA**A wet and wild  
Easter weekend!**Puddle girls make a big splash**

A pair of sisters had their phones taken away over the Easter weekend – and then went viral online! Lillie and Harper's mum wanted them to cut back on screen time, so sent them outside to play. The sisters, aged 11 and ten, spotted a huge puddle on their street in St Thomas, near Toronto, and decided to make a big "SPLASH US" sign for passing cars. The motorists didn't disappoint, repeatedly drenching them with enormous waves of rainwater. Some even did two laps to splash them twice! Their mum posted a clip of the fun on TikTok, and it got more than ten million views. Lots of grown-ups complimented the girls' idea and dreamed of the days when they were kids, too. Lillie and Harper say they plan to get their sign out again the next time there's a big puddle outside. "We learned that you don't need to spend every rainy day inside on your phone," said Lillie.

**LITHUANIA****City sets invasion escape plan**

Lithuania's capital city Vilnius has come up with an escape plan in case it's ever invaded by enemies. Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, and Lithuania shares a large border with Belarus, where thousands of Russian soldiers are based. Kaliningrad, a heavily defended Russian territory, also borders Lithuania. The escape plan identifies 150 routes out of the city. If its 540,000 residents had to leave, they'd be alerted by text messages and sirens. Some roads will be improved to help traffic move quickly. Mayor Valdas Benkunskas said the plan shouldn't cause "panic" and would only be used as a last resort.



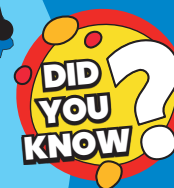
Vilnius

**JAPAN**

Japanese shoppers buying South Korean rice

**Japan's rice in a sticky situation**

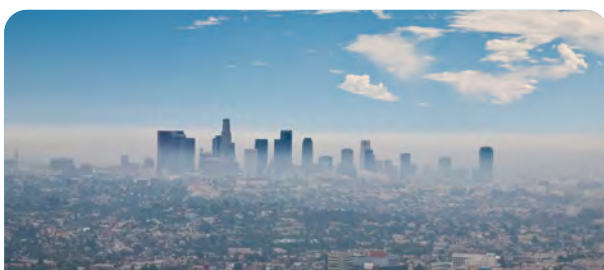
Rice is a key part of a lot of famous Japanese dishes – think of sushi and katsu curry. However, over the past year, the price of homegrown rice has doubled in supermarkets, thanks to poor harvests and distribution issues. To fix the problem, Japan has imported cheaper rice from South Korea for the first time in 25 years. The *Guardian* reports that lots of Japanese shoppers have avoided buying foreign rice in the past because they don't like the taste as much, but the soaring prices have left them with little choice – on 6 April, a 5kg bag of Japanese rice cost £22. For comparison, you can buy the same amount of Thai rice for £8 in British supermarkets.



THE government in Japan keeps a huge stockpile of rice for emergencies just like this. It's released 210,000 tonnes of it since March.

**USA****Half of Americans breathe unsafe air**

A study by the American Lung Association (ALA) has found that over 156 million people – nearly half of the USA's total population – is breathing unsafe levels of polluted air. The amount of soot and smog has risen since last year, made worse by heatwaves and smoke from wildfires like the ones that struck Canada in 2023. The ALA also found that a person of colour is twice as likely to live in a badly-polluted neighbourhood than a white American. It's worried that the situation could become worse as the new president, Donald Trump, is cutting budgets for protecting the environment.



Polluted air isn't good for playing sports – but the USA is a co-host of the 2026 men's World Cup, and the host of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games

**TURKEY****Earthquakes rattle Istanbul**

More than 200 people were injured when a series of earthquakes struck Turkey's largest city, Istanbul, on Wednesday 23 April. The biggest had a magnitude of 6.2, and it was felt as far away as the capital Ankara, 270 miles (435km) away. Residents fled into parks and open spaces to escape shaking buildings, but no deaths were recorded. A number of the Earth's fault lines run through Turkey, and earthquakes aren't uncommon – a huge one struck the country and Syria in 2023. Experts warn that Istanbul could experience a major quake at any time.

Residents  
gathered in  
open spaces**AUSTRALIA**Koalas are listed as endangered  
in other parts of Australia**Koalas shot from helicopters**

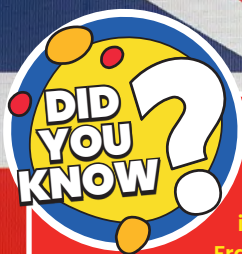
Authorities in the state of Victoria have faced anger from the public and animal groups for shooting more than 700 koalas from helicopters. The cull (organised killing) began in April after bushfires in Budj Bim National Park destroyed a large area of their habitat. This left many koalas hungry and dehydrated, so the state government chose to reduce their numbers to end their suffering. However, groups like Friends of the Earth Melbourne and Koala Alliance argued that many healthy koalas may have been shot, leaving their joeys (babies) orphaned.



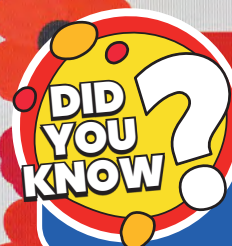


# MARKING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

ON 8 May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that the Second World War had ended in Europe. Speaking on the BBC, Mr Churchill declared that the German army, navy and air force had surrendered entirely to the Allies and, at the same time, to the Soviet Union. It meant British troops would soon be returning home to their families. Thousands of people came out onto the streets to celebrate the news, with parties and parades taking place across the UK. The day became known as Victory in Europe (VE) Day and this year marks the 80th anniversary.



**THE Second World War** started on 1 September 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The UK and France then declared war on Germany. Nearly every country in the world became involved, with two sides battling each other – the Allies and the Axis.



**THE war in the Far East** didn't end until 15 August 1945 with VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day).

# VE DAY 80



Prime Minister Winston Churchill (centre) joins the royal family after giving his victory speech

## The 2025 line-up of events

Celebrations will take place across four days this week. Here's what you can look forward to:

### Monday 5 May

- A military procession from Whitehall to Buckingham Palace and a flypast of current and historic military aircraft, including the Red Arrows.
- Street parties and community events, including a party on HMS Belfast.

### Tuesday 6 May

- An installation of nearly 30,000 ceramic poppies will return to the Tower of London.
- Historic landmarks will be lit up across the UK.

### Wednesday 7 May

- The Parliament Choir will host a Victory in Europe Day Anniversary Concert in the famous Westminster Hall at the Palace of Westminster.

### Thursday 8 May

- A special service will be held in Westminster Abbey to remember and celebrate all those who fought and lived through the war.
- There'll be a big concert at Horse Guards Parade in London, featuring stars from TV, film and theatre.



Celebrations in the streets

## FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IN COMMON WITH A KID FROM WW2

by Jenny Pearson, author of historical wartime novel *Shrapnel Boys*, out on 8 May.

### 1 Collecting things

You might collect Pokémon cards, stickers and Funko Pops, but kids during World War Two also enjoyed collecting. Many would collect shrapnel – the debris left after explosions. Marbles were also popular.

### 2 Street games

Kids back in those days would play games like tag, kick the can or stickball in the streets. Nowadays, it's not so different – kids still play tag, football, or even hide-and-seek.

### 3 Hand-me-downs

Not the first person to wear that hoodie? Yeah, neither was a WW2 kid. Clothes were repaired, re-used and passed down like heirlooms. Vintage thrift? They invented it out of necessity.

### 4 The school day

School ran from 9am-3:30pm, like many schools do today. Although this could vary with the intensity of the bombings, and sometimes lessons would be disrupted when children had to be ushered into the bomb shelters.

### 5 A sweet tooth

Kids in 1940 were as much of a fan of sweets as we are today. Particular favourites included aniseed balls and barley sugar. The war caused shortages – sugar was largely imported, and the shipping routes were threatened by German U-boats. In 1942, sweets were rationed to 113g per month! That's less than one packet of Haribo, or about 25 cola bottles! People became inventive though – how do you fancy some carrot fudge?





# WAR VETERANS SH

## What is **VE Mail**?



Over 30,000 children and young people from schools and youth organisations across the UK are taking part in a campaign to connect with World War Two veterans who experienced VE Day.

The initiative, called VE Mail, is all about bringing young and old together through traditional letter writing. Participating veterans will share some of their wartime

experiences and what VE Day means to them all these years later. Young people will then be able to write back to the veterans to express their own thanks and talk about why the sacrifices made 80 years ago still matter today.

VE Mail has been organised by the Together Coalition and is supported by Royal Mail.

Schools and youth organisations can register for VE Mail until 9 May.  
Sign up now at [www.together.org.uk/vemail](http://www.together.org.uk/vemail)



WW2 veteran Tom Jones visits pupils at James Brindley Community School

The year is 2025 and I am now 103 years old. It's hard to believe that on 8 May, it will be 80 years since VE Day – the day the war in Europe finally ended. But for me, that news didn't arrive right away. At the time, I was serving as a wireless operator in the Burmese jungle [Burma is now Myanmar].

I originally joined the army as a volunteer on 11 May 1939 after hearing about the threat of war in Europe. I was just 17 years old and too young to be sent away, but keen to do my part in supporting the nation. I was accepted in the 2/8 Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers (TA) Regiment and supported the army as a volunteer during the Liverpool Blitz. In 1942 I was sent overseas, where I would remain for the next few years, living off rations that included canned meat and biscuits. The war was a hard time and I had to grow up fast.

There were lots of wild dangers during my time away. I trained in India and one of my friends, Pete, was chased by a wild elephant over a clifftop! Thankfully he managed to land on a bamboo raft that had been left in the water below.

I stayed out in the jungle serving until VJ [Victory over Japan] Day, 15 August 1945.

**An extract from a letter by Bombardier Tom Jones, aged 103**

*"80 years ago we were part of something historic; a victory in Europe and in Asia that protected democracy and our country for our whole lifetime."*

**WW2 veteran, Tom Jones**

I was a P-51 Mustang American fighter pilot during the Second World War.

In April 1945, I was taken prisoner after my plane was shot down just outside Berlin in Germany. I was held as a prisoner of war at Stalag III in Luckenwalde for a week, before escaping and fighting alongside the Russian Red Army until the war's end. On VE Day, I was in Wittenberg, Germany, having been retrieved by an American army unit just a day or two before.

Though the war outside of Europe wasn't over, my first thought was that I was going to get home and marry my fiancée, Josephine, whom I named my aircraft after.

**An extract from a letter by Colonel Joseph Peterburs, aged 100**



Thousands of people took to the streets of London to celebrate the end of the war in Europe



# ARE THEIR STORIES

It seems like another lifetime when I was 'called up' at 19 to serve my country during the Second World War. I was stationed at the Fleet Air Arm station HMS Raven in Eastleigh, near Southampton on the south coast. My rank was Leading Wren Green, my maiden name. I worked in the Regulating Office, welcoming new recruits: brave, frightened young men, the same age as me, missing home, surrounded by strangers, many wondering whether they would live or die.

We were trained in firefighting, gunnery, first aid and marching in perfect unison. Discipline was drummed into us, and we used naval jargon [slang]. We ran on naval time, meaning you had to arrive five minutes early for everything – or you were 'on jankers', usually peeling potatoes or doing another task.

I vividly remember D-Day. There were so many ships, it looked like you could walk from England to France. The sky was black with planes, and it felt like day had turned into night.

**An extract from a letter by Jean Rees aged 101**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

MONDAY 5 May has been dedicated to community celebrations!

## WHAT EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE?

### The Great British Food Festival

On 5 May, everyone is encouraged to come together and share food, be it a barbecue, a picnic or a big street party! What could you make to take along? Nothing beats a Victoria sponge cake for us!



### Letters to Loved Ones

A campaign called Letters to Loved Ones by the Imperial War Museums is all about sharing letters or postcards sent by your family members during the Second World War to their loved ones. Some of the letters will be shown at the IWM North in Manchester on 7 May. If you have any letters you'd like to share, visit [ve-vjday80.gov.uk/letterstolovedones](http://ve-vjday80.gov.uk/letterstolovedones).

### Anniversary yarnbomb

The Secret Society of Hertford Crafters has created a woolly tribute to our military, civilian and animal heroes from 1945 to 2025. Check out the special yarnbomb in locations across the town!



### VE Day at National Trust Chartwell

Mark the anniversary at wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill's former home. There'll be live music and performances, a children's trail and a special tour. Visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell).

### Tour Clapham South Tube station

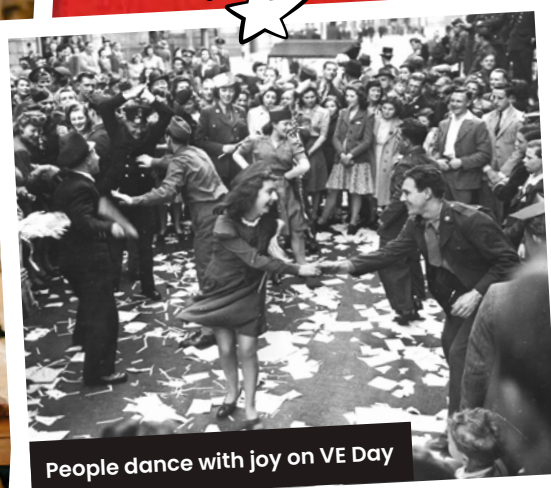
Did you know that during the Second World War, eight deep-level shelters were secretly built under the streets of London to protect Londoners from air raids? One of those is located directly under Clapham South Tube station, and it can still be visited today! London Transport Museum runs regular tours of the shelter through its Hidden London programme. Get hands-on with genuine Second World War torches and discover what an Anderson shelter looked like. Visit [ltmuseum.co.uk/hidden-london](http://ltmuseum.co.uk/hidden-london).



Find out about events near you at [ve-vjday80.gov.uk/events](http://ve-vjday80.gov.uk/events).



WW2 veterans John Eskdale and Jean Rees



People dance with joy on VE Day

I was too young to fight at the time, but was keen to do my part, and so I signed up as a volunteer with the fire service in Bristol. The city was heavily bombed throughout the war and I had already experienced the impact of conflict before I joined the Royal Marines in 1942. Once I became a Royal Marine aged 17, I travelled extensively across the globe, to places I had previously only heard of. My military service took me to Malta, Italy, Japan and Australia. One of my most difficult memories took place in late 1943, when German torpedo boats struck the HMS Charybdis, the Royal Navy ship on which I served. I spent a harrowing five hours in the freezing water on a Carley float [life raft] before I was rescued.

**An extract from a letter by Commander John Eskdale, aged 101**



## VE DAY FACTS AND SNAPS

Some people began celebrations early on 7 May!



Celebrations in Leicester

The opening hours for pubs were extended so that people could stay out late!



Trafalgar Square, London

St Paul's Cathedral held ten services in a row giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people.



A street party takes place in Netherfield, Nottinghamshire

Bonfires and fireworks were lit to mark the occasion.

Due to the time difference, the official VE Day in New Zealand was 9 May.



Nurses celebrate in Liverpool

Various events were organised to mark the occasion including parades, thanksgiving services and street parties.



Crowds in New York celebrate VE Day



V-shaped tables at a party

Victory in Europe was celebrated all around the world!

### STAY TUNED FOR A SPECIAL EPISODE FROM FYI

Find out about a street party happening at this year's celebrations, a VE Day cadet event and hear from a World War Two veteran.

Head to [first.news/tv](https://www.firstnews.tv) to watch it next week.

**FYI**

**sky kids**





# 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.

## BBC PROMS ANNOUNCES ALL-NIGHT CONCERT

THIS year's BBC Proms will feature a special concert that runs throughout the night! The Dark Till Dawn Prom will take place at the Royal Albert Hall in London on 8 August and is being organised by organist and TikTok star Anna Lapwood. The musician said she wants people to experience what it's like to be in the famous building in the middle of the night.

Check out more on spotting fake news at:  
[first.news/fakeorfact](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/fakeorfact) • [first.news/spotfakenews](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/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://www.firstnews.co.uk/fake-news)



Anna Lapwood

THIS story is REAL.  
 Anna is organising the all-night concert this summer, with performances from cellist Andstasia Kobekina, pianist Hayato Sumino and Norwegian ensemble Barokksolistene.

**IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!**

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

**THE BIG LUNCH**

**BAFTA TV AWARDS**

**DON'T MISS IT!**

Do you want to write for

# FirstNews?

Look out for opportunities on the  
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**YOUR NEWS THIS YEAR**  
A ROUND-UP OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE IN 2024

**JANUARY**

**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH**

**APRIL**

**MAY**

**JUNE**

**JULY**

**AUGUST**

**SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER**

**NOVEMBER**

**DECEMBER**

FEATURE IN YOUR NEWS IN 2025!

FirstNews FYI NEWS CLUB





Olly Scholey

# LET'S SHELL-EBRATE!

SIR David Attenborough isn't just celebrating his 99th birthday on 8 May – he's also releasing a brand-new documentary film called *Ocean with David Attenborough*. The legendary broadcaster and film-maker is looking at some of our greatest discoveries in the world's ocean and why underwater habitats are so important. *First News*' Safiyyah went to watch it, so here she is with the lowdown.

## ● What's *Ocean with David Attenborough* about?

In the film, Sir David takes viewers on an incredible journey through the world's ocean, showing us why it's so important for our planet's survival (confusingly, 'ocean' can mean the whole body of water that covers much of Earth, or separate parts of it). It features amazing underwater scenes of coral reefs, kelp forests and open ocean life.

## ● What issues does it show?

The film reveals serious problems like harmful fishing methods (such as bottom trawling) and coral reefs turning white and dying (called coral bleaching). These are shown in ways never captured before on camera.

## ● What's the message?

While it shows significant

issues, the main message is hopeful! Sir David shares inspiring stories from around the world, showing how the ocean can recover and become even more beautiful than we've ever seen.

## ● What did Sir David have to say about it?

The biologist and natural historian said: "My lifetime has coincided with the great age of ocean discovery. In this film, we share some of those wonderful discoveries, uncover why our ocean is in such poor health, and, perhaps most importantly, show how it can be restored to health."

**You can see *Ocean with David Attenborough* in cinemas from 8 May. Just head to [oceanfilm.net](http://oceanfilm.net) to find your nearest cinema.**



Getty

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

CHECK out these fun facts in celebration of Sir David!

**1** He has had more than 50 species named after him, including a butterfly, a gecko, a shrimp and an extinct marine reptile.

**2** He loves animals and the natural world, but hates rats, revealing: "If a rat appears in a room, I have to work hard to prevent myself from jumping onto the nearest table."

**3** In 2015, he broke the record for the deepest ever dive on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, diving 1,000ft (305m) in a submersible (a small craft that can travel underwater).



**FIVE  
MINUTES  
WITH...**

# ROWAN ATKINSON

ROWAN is world-famous for playing the comedy character Mr Bean. We caught up with him to celebrate *Mr Bean: The Animated Series* returning to our TV screens for a fourth series this week.

## ● Where did the idea of creating an animated series for Mr Bean come from?

I was always a bit self-conscious about Mr Bean getting visually too old. I liked the idea of him as a timeless, cartoon-like character, so animation felt like a logical development. I quite like the fact we've taken Mr Bean as a character from the theatre, where he started in the 1970s when I was a student at university, to when we did the first live-action TV show. Then we put him into movies and now animation. That's been the fun of Bean!

## ● What can fans expect from the new series?

I like all the different situations we put Mr Bean in – I like him playing with remote control cars, I like him in a bowling alley, in a go-kart! There's an episode in which he is stuck in his flat for a whole day and refuses to get out of his bed.

## ● Who are some of your favourite characters we get to meet?

We've got a boy who's the nephew of Mr Bean's landlady. We've got an aspirational neighbour who lives opposite, who lives the life that Mr Bean would like to live, but he can't afford to. And of course he's got his landlady, Mrs Wicket, who is her normal grumpy self.

## ● Why do you think Mr Bean is so popular with kids and adults?

I suppose it's the simplicity and childlike feel to the show and character. Children can identify with this, and adults enjoy this as it's funny to watch an adult behave in a childish way, which Mr Bean undoubtedly does.

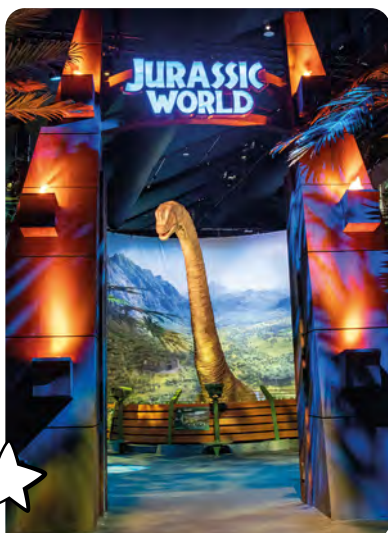
**Catch new episodes daily on Boomerang and ITVX.**



# WOW!

## ● A roarsome new experience!

*Jurassic World: The Experience* is set to open at London's Battersea Power Station on 23 May. The immersive exhibition will transport visitors into a prehistoric world and bring them face to face with all sorts of incredible dinos. You can find out more at [jurassicworldexperience.co.uk](http://jurassicworldexperience.co.uk).



## ● A Paddington musical!

*Paddington The Musical* will receive its world premiere in London this autumn! The show is based on the best-selling books by Michael Bond, with music written by McFly star Tom Fletcher. Fans can catch their favourite bear at the Savoy Theatre from 1 November. Find out more at [www.paddingonthemusical.com](http://www.paddingonthemusical.com).







# FORTNITE FEELS THE FORCE



A LONG time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... came *Fortnite*!

An awesome new collab has dropped just in time for May the Fourth, aka Star Wars Day. Epic Games' Battle Royale is getting new characters from the iconic film series, including an evil Jar Jar Binks (inset)! Darth Jar

Jar will be joined in *Galactic Battle* by the likes of Mace Windu and Emperor Palpatine. Players will get the chance to pilot iconic X-wings and TIE fighters, and can also check out themed map locations.

*Fortnite: Galactic Battle* starts on 2 May, with a new *Star Wars* theme dropping every week for the next month.



## Survival strategies

KONAMI has reimagined a classic game from 1999, exclusively for the Nintendo Switch 2.

*Survival Kids* sees up to four players face the challenges of survival after being swept into a mysterious hidden world. Players will need to chop, cook, fish and solve environmental puzzles to ensure their safety.

*Survival Kids*, originally released on Game Boy Color 26 years ago, is out on 5 June.



PRINCE William wins a *Mario Kart* race against children at Mentivity youth club in south London.

Ten-year-old Zia Adeniyi said afterwards: "He said he didn't know how to play it and he kept asking me the controls and then he beat me." However, the Prince of Wales couldn't snatch victory in a virtual football match, where he lost playing as his beloved Aston Villa.

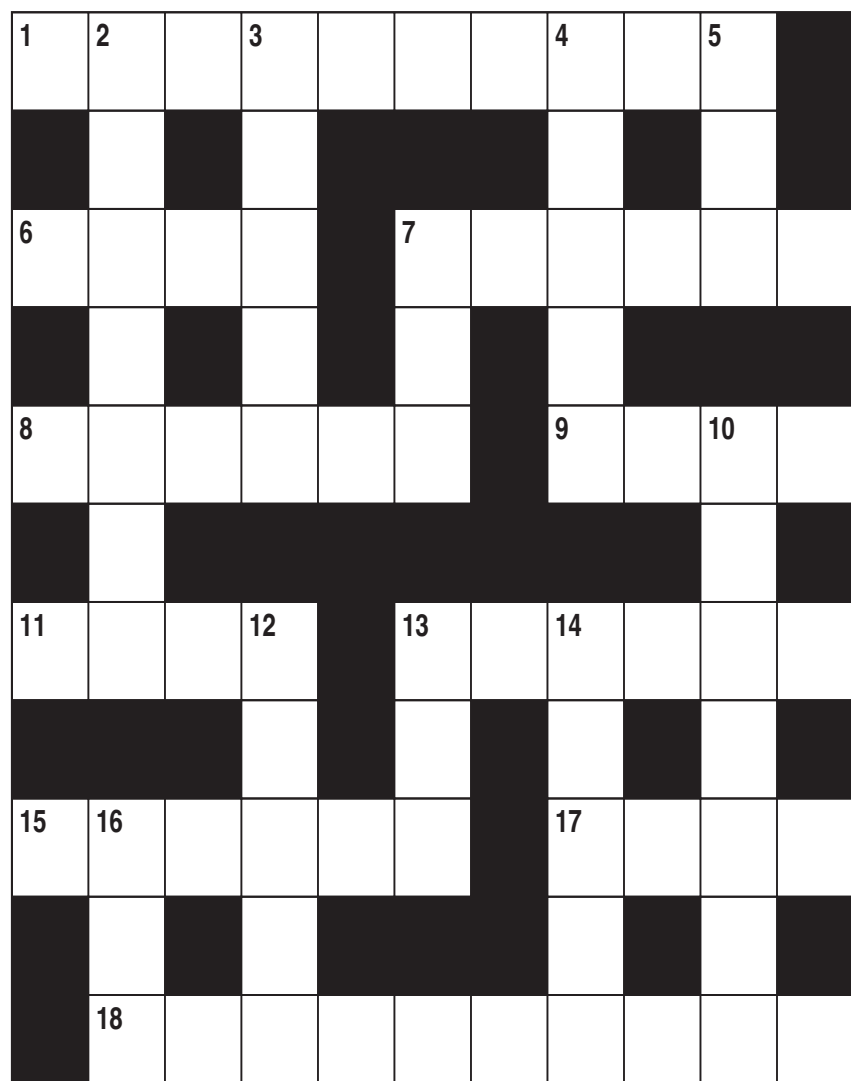
He praised Mentivity, which aims to give young people key skills for the digital world and help them reach their full potential.





# CROSSWORD

CAN you solve our crossword puzzle using the clues below?



## ACROSS

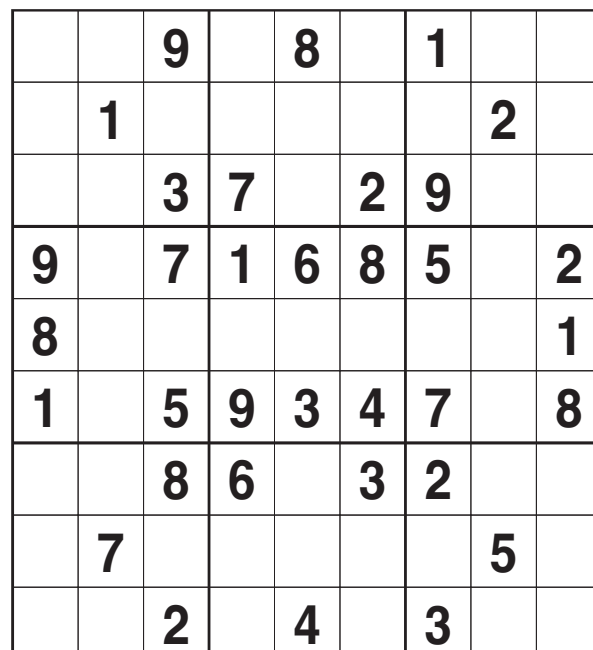
- 1) Device used to do sums (10)
- 6) Requests (4)
- 7) Amend (6)
- 8) Soft rubber stationery item (6)
- 9) Cries (4)
- 11) Still; not emotional (4)
- 13) Feeling the need for food (6)
- 15) Pictures (6)
- 17) Close by (4)
- 18) Item that a TV presenter speaks into (10)

## DOWN

- 2) Vienna is the capital of this country (7)
- 3) Items of luggage (5)
- 4) Rips (5)
- 5) Type of carpet (3)
- 7) Road vehicle (3)
- 10) Something bought at a really good price (7)
- 12) Wizardry (5)
- 13) Belonging to him (3)
- 14) Next after eighth (5)
- 16) Mother (3)

# Sudoku

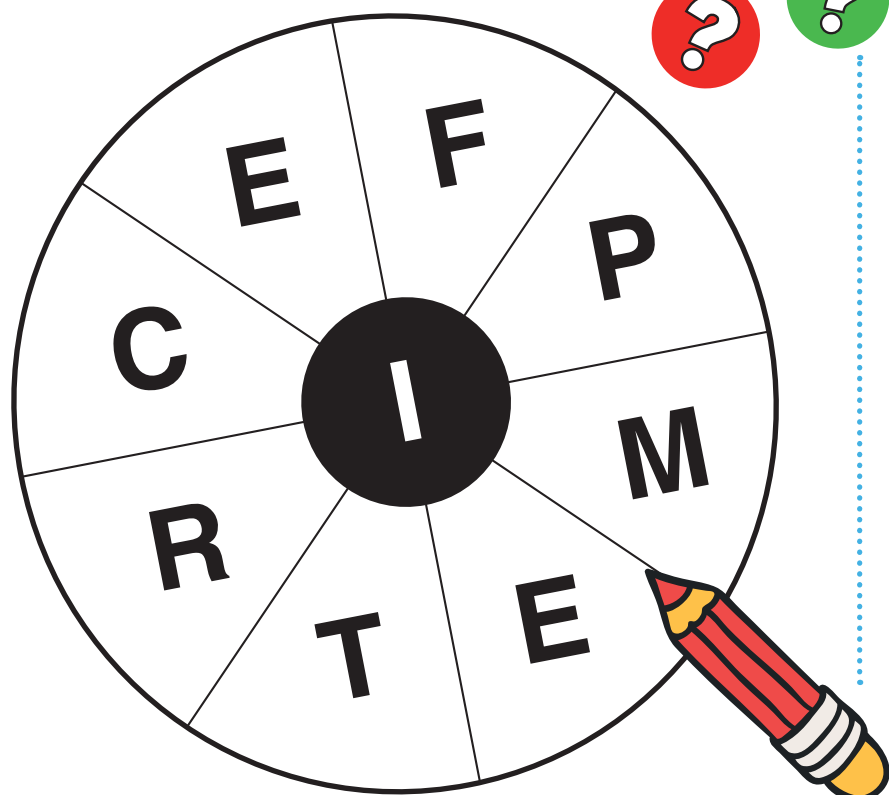
CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?



**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.

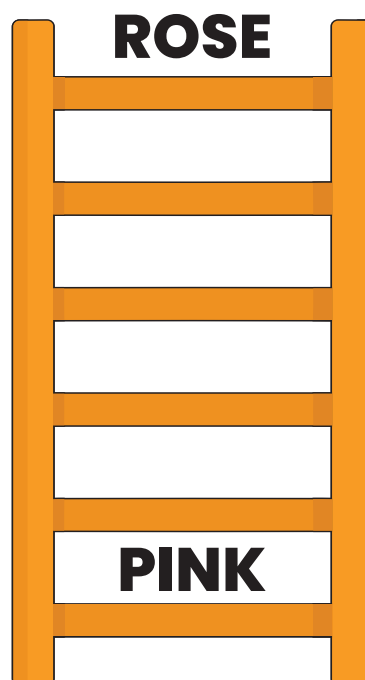
# Word wheel

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 984 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: imaginary.

Word ladder: fawn, sawn, sown, seen, seer, deer.



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



**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**

**CAN you find the ten changes we've made to this supermarket scene?**



# Wordsearch

IT'S Star Wars Day on 4 May. Can you find all of these *Star Wars* characters? Tick them off as you go!



- ☐ Leia
  - ☐ Yoda
  - ☐ Luke
  - ☐ Han
  - ☐ Grogu
  - ☐ Chewbacca
  - ☐ Ahsoka
  - ☐ Darth Vader
  - ☐ Jabba
  - ☐ Rey

q q p m k d c u l s m k g n g z f b y y d c l g a  
g f u n z x q a o e s r y z l b e u t k o w u k s  
n j b m e k d t b p i i z z o k d x r b w j a o k  
r s l q f s j a b b a a l w u m s m u r e i h i g  
p n w e b o s s b t o t m l p f e l t j l m n d w  
m c d p s d i w e r a o l t z r f m y g q v d y a  
g n h d q g m z w d e k c o g y k n y y o d a k w  
o v i e c w b x g c k y b v q v x j r o h a o n m  
v q y k w k l w r v k s l r g l a p q o p s d j c  
l x m x f b x o o u r y c i s j w v h b h q z r p  
g i k m b o a z g i q d j q l d y l g a b n s c x  
a t v j c y n c u o g o h i q h p v l f m f e r k  
g s q u p o i j c f y q b e v a p b c o j n n k z  
x p b p g c p l u a c j o w h n x s x m i x c i q  
o v v v j x d a r t h v a d e r j w q l u g k f s





# THE VERSE UNIVERSE

YOU might have come across books that are written 'in verse', but what does that mean? Who better to explain than Meg Grehan, an author who specialises in the style?

by Meg Grehan

SO, what is a novel in verse? It's a whole book written in the style of poetry, and it can be many poems or one big, long poem.

I love novels in verse, I love writing them and reading them and talking about them. I think they are just so, so fun. Mostly this is because there are no rules, you can do whatever you like with your words. Maybe a word feels like it should be over

here.

So you put it there.

Maybe a word feels big or small or maybe even massive so you make it **big** or **small** or maybe even

## MASSIVE

I have written five books and they've all been written in verse. It's just my favourite way to write. It makes me feel that I'm really expressing myself, it makes me feel free and it makes me feel connected to the words I'm writing.

Novels in verse can seem intimidating, a little scary or difficult to read. But actually, verse should guide the

reader, it should flow when it needs to flow, it should be fast or slow or smooth or bumpy when it needs to be fast or slow or smooth or bumpy. Verse novels show you exactly how to read them! Poetry can seem difficult, but really all the answers are there and in only a few words.

Readers who might find it difficult to pick up and read a whole book might actually have an easier time with a book written in verse. To put it simply, there are fewer words! A whole story is told using just a portion of the page and just a fraction of the word count, but nothing is missing or left out.

My new book is, of course, written in verse. It's called *The Brightest Star* and it follows the same characters as my book *The Deepest Breath*. My characters know a lot about themselves and a lot about the world around them. They have big feelings, big fears and big goals. They each have their own personality and story.

It's all a lot to fit in one little book, but verse can handle it. Every word carries weight and does what they need to do. Using just a few words put in the right places, you can create a whole, full and wonderful world.

*The Brightest Star* by Meg Grehan is out now.



## Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



## War stories

THIS Thursday is an important day – it's the 80th anniversary of VE Day, which signalled the end of World War Two in Europe. These books take us back to the time when the war was still going on.



**One Day** by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Benjamin Phillips

Based on the true story of a Jewish resistance member who escaped from a convoy to Auschwitz, this story reminds us of the best of people, in the worst of times.

**The Lion and the Unicorn** by Shirley Hughes

A young boy finds comfort in the badge of a lion and a unicorn, and the friendship of an injured soldier, when he is evacuated during the war.



**Nisha's War** by Dan Smith

Having fled to England after the Japanese invasion of Singapore, lonely Nisha encounters a ghostly boy in a forbidden treehouse who promises to save her mother's life.



**The Girl Who Said No To The Nazis** by Haydn Kaye, illustrated by Amerigo Pinelli

Discover the story of Sophie Scholl, one of the members of the White Rose resistance movement that worked to undermine Hitler and the Nazi Party.



**Shrapnel Boys** by Jenny Pearson

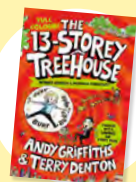
Every morning, Ronnie races to collect the best bits of bomb shrapnel. He isn't expecting to uncover secrets that could change the fate of the war...



## READER REVIEWS

SHOUT-OUT to the students at Selly Oak Trust School in Birmingham who sent us four fabulous book reviews recently – check them out! Remember, if you'd like to review any book you've read for *First News*, aim for 100–120 words and send it to [bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk).

**The 13-Storey Treehouse** by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton



"Two guys, Andy and Terry, live in the best-ever treehouse and have a fun time! It's chaotic and goofy, with lots of super illustrations. The main purpose is to write a book, or else they go to monkey school. No-one wants that! It was fun to read and the stories were entertaining. They seem to always get into trouble in a nanosecond. I loved it!"

**Dragon Mountain** by Katie and Kevin Tsang



"It's about a young boy called Billy Chan. He and his friends find out about a secret, which is that dragons are alive. It's a great adventure story about friends helping each other. My favourite bits are when the friends are together and having fun! I really liked the pictures and mystery, as well as how great the different dragons were."

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl



"This is a great story about a young boy, his family and dreams. Five children win a competition by finding a golden ticket in a bar of chocolate. They then get to tour around the amazing and magical chocolate factory that belongs to Willy Wonka. My favourite bit is the magical glass elevator. I also like the fact that Charlie is always kind – and gets a reward for this."

**The Alex Rider graphic novels** by Anthony Horowitz



"These are great adventure stories. I love graphic novels, as you can see what's happening in your head. The character, Alex, is a teenager who is always getting into trouble, but escapes! I recommend this for everyone who loves an adventure story, and I will be reading more graphic novels in the future."



**BREAKING NEWS**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**BREAKING NEWS**

# COMING THIS AUGUST

# SKANDAR AND THE SPIRIT WAR

**WORLD EXCLUSIVE**  
cover reveal!

PRE-ORDER  
YOUR EXCLUSIVE  
EDITION NOW  
FROM  
Waterstones

Don't miss this epic final adventure in  
the No 1 best-selling **SKANDAR** series...

**BLOODTHIRSTY UNICORNS.  
UNLIKELY HEROES.  
A MORTAL ENEMY.**

SKANDAR is in hiding after his biggest secret was revealed at the Chaos Cup. But as preparations begin for a Mainland invasion, the Islanders are not sure who to trust.

With one of Skandar's closest friends now fighting for the enemy, Skandar must build new alliances. Skandar and his friends will need to look back to the origins of the Island, and harness the full power of their elemental magic.

Can Skandar become the leader he needs to be – to save the Mainland, and the heart of the Island itself?

Get ready for sky battles, ancient secrets and elemental magic in this highly anticipated adventure that will keep you reading after lights out!



*"The most popular children's fantasy hero since Harry Potter" – Telegraph*

*"Deft, dazzling and breathlessly exciting – it's a joy to enter Skandar's world" – Jonathan Stroud, author of the Lockwood and Co series*

**BREAKING NEWS**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**BREAKING NEWS**

Other titles in  
the best-selling  
**SKANDAR** series



Available from  
**Waterstones**





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

This week we have some amazing stories on Your News. Check out the group of friends helping the homeless, plus Lucy, who wants to help penguins! I'm always amazed at all the things you're taking action for.

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).

## THIS WEEK'S POLL!

We asked 5,543 of you:

**Do you think you should be able to use phones in class to learn?**



**73%**  
of you  
said YES

**27%**  
of you  
said NO

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

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



Lucy

**WE know how much you care about animals, and Lucy is no exception! She wants the penguins at Sea Life London to be treated better. Here's why...**

by Lucy

As the Child Environment Secretary for the Sir David Amess UK Children's Parliament, I'm really upset about what's happening to the penguins at Sea Life London Aquarium. At school, we've been learning about animal welfare and a new law approved by King Charles III in September 2023 called the Animals (Low-Welfare Activities Abroad) Act. What's truly alarming is that cruel animal tourism is taking place right here in the UK!

Did you know there are 15 gentoo penguins living underground at Sea Life London? It's like they're trapped in a dungeon! These amazing birds live near Antarctica and can swim super fast (up to 22mph or 36km/h) and dive really deep (to around 600 feet or 183m) in the wild. But at Sea Life, they only have a tiny pool that's just six to seven feet (2m) deep. That's so unfair! They don't even get to feel the sun or breathe in fresh air. Imagine how awful it would be to live in a basement forever!

The people running Sea Life say they are helping the penguins by educating visitors and raising money. But what are we really learning? I think the only lesson here is that it's wrong to keep animals in small spaces just for people to look at. My classmates

# SAVE THE PENGUINS!



and I believe animals should live in their natural homes, not be trapped in tiny enclosures.

Born Free and Freedom for Animals, two groups that help animals, are asking Sea Life to send the penguins to a better home. I think that's an amazing idea! These penguins deserve to live somewhere more like their real home, with lots of space.

I want to tell Merlin Entertainments, the company that owns Sea Life, to stop breeding penguins and keeping them for shows. It's not fair to treat animals like they're just there for entertainment.

It's time for adults to listen to kids like us. We care about animals and want them to be happy and healthy. Let's work together to find a better home for these penguins and make sure all animals in the UK are treated kindly.



*"The gentoo penguin habitat at Sea Life London Aquarium was designed with help and advice from specialist vets. It provides an excellent balance of water and land for the penguins, which enables them to express their normal behaviours and there is space for them to ensure they have sufficient [enough] privacy."*  
– Sea Life spokesperson

## Helping the homeless

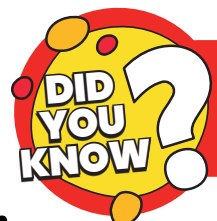
A GROUP of friends wrote to us to let us know how they're helping homeless people in their community. They hope it might inspire you to do the same!

by Christabel, Taybah, Kaecee, Bridget, Hasnat, Charrise and Pavleen

We wanted to raise awareness about spreading kindness within our community! Recently we have witnessed a rise in homelessness on our streets and although we are unable to do much as we are just secondary school students, we wanted to help where we could! We decided to form mini bundles including sanitary pads, water bottles, tissues, hand sanitiser and other small necessities. We believe that everybody has a right to being clean and staying healthy and that no-one should have to suffer alone.

We hope that we inspire others to look out for those less fortunate within their community. Even just giving somebody an apple might brighten their day. We believe that there is unity in numbers, meaning that we should help out those struggling in our communities.

We hope that this spreads awareness of what's happening to homeless people and inspires you to do what you can to help!



HUNDREDS of thousands of people across the UK are homeless. This number has been increasing for the last two years.



This group of friends has been delivering food and hygiene packages to homeless people in their community

## NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO... ACS Egham International School, Caterham School, Craigmarloch School, Palmers Green High School and Greenbank Preparatory School!





# A trip to *My Neighbour Totoro*

RUBY went to watch the theatre version of *My Neighbour Totoro* for her birthday recently and wrote in to tell us all about it!

by Ruby

For my birthday present this year, I went to see *My Neighbour Totoro* and it was absolutely amazing! I'm not just saying that, I really mean it! I love Studio Ghibli movies like *Spirited Away*, *The Boy and the Heron* and of course, *My Neighbour Totoro*. It was the best play I have ever seen. It was unique in its own way, a one-in-a-million, as I would say. No other play could ever be like it!

Daniel Evans and Tamara Harvey created the whole thing and they aren't afraid of crazy ideas. The inflatable Catbus was cool as it lit up, and so were all of the props, but best of all was the giant life-sized Totoro! It was really cute and made the audience gasp.

Now, for the cast. I thought that they were out of this world. Absolutely breathtaking! Utterly outstanding! The actors were really dramatic, and made it feel like the story happened in real life.

And the puppeteers, I can't even put into words! They controlled big puppets like the house (I know!), Catbus and Totoro.

The music was exactly the same as the movie's, and was



Ruby in London's West End

truly magical. Best of all, Joe Hisaishi was the composer of these terrific tunes, and he has composed melodies in 11 Studio Ghibli films!

It was a truly magical experience, and if you're interested in going to see it, please visit [www.totoroshow.com](http://www.totoroshow.com).

**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/tynewsclub](http://first.news/tynewsclub).

# A letter from my favourite author!

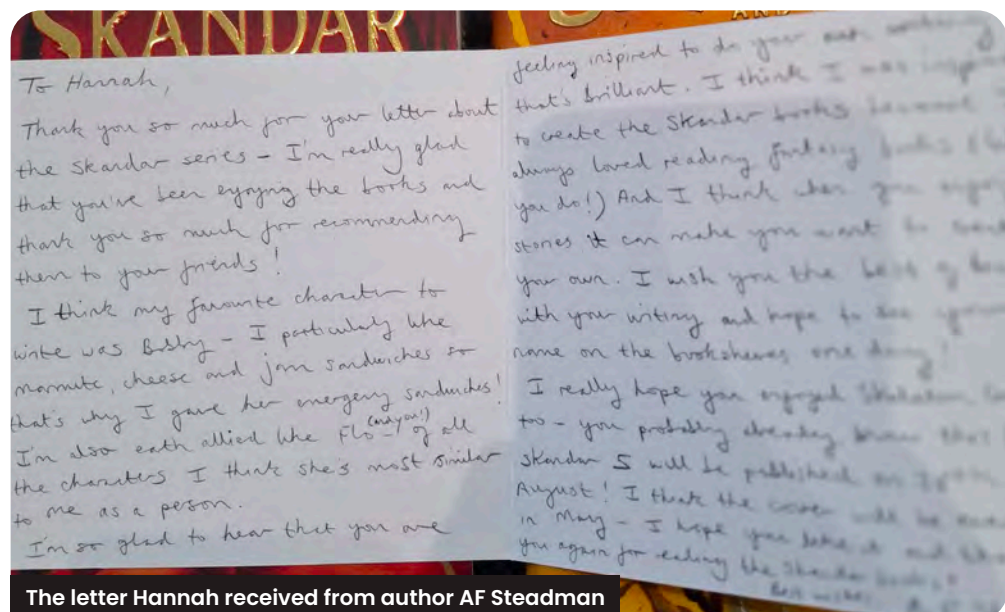
KEEN reader Hannah wrote to her favourite author AF Steadman (the creator of the Skandar series), and she replied! Check it out below.

by Hannah

In my spare time I love to write. On one particular occasion, I wrote to my favourite author, AF Steadman.

I told her about myself and asked her questions about the Skandar books, including why she chose for characters to have certain personalities. I let her know how I relate to certain characters, too. A short while after sending the letter, AF Steadman replied with a beautiful handwritten card. There was so much detail to the questions I had asked. She said: "Thank you so much for your letter about the Skandar series – I'm really glad that you've been enjoying the books and thank you so much for recommending them to your friends!"

I recommend the Skandar books to everyone! They are full of adventure, bravery and friendship.



The letter Hannah received from author AF Steadman



Hannah's favourite books are the Skandar series



# THE BIG PICTURE



Getty

**PROTESTERS** from Extinction Rebellion demonstrate at the famous *Charging Bull* statue near the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City, USA.

The activists spray-painted climate messages on the statue, including "Greed = death", in protest at the damage that big companies are doing to the environment.

A 'bull market' is the name for a time when an economy is doing well and lots of people are investing in companies. That's why the bull statue is often targeted by protesters, because it's seen as a symbol of greed and inequality. However, it actually has nothing to do with the NYSE – it was illegally placed there by Italian artist Arturo Di Modica in an attempt to inspire people after the stock market crash of 1987 that led to lots of people losing money.



# 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** The Women's Six Nations had a dramatic finale, but who came out on top – England or France?

- 2** What race did *First News*' Chris and Dan take part in?



- 3** VE Day marks the end of which war in Europe?

- 4** True or false: huge icebergs once drifted off the coast of the UK?

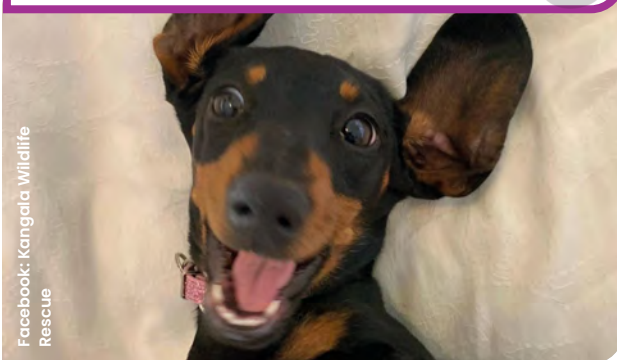
- 5** What is the name of the exclusive magicians' club that has apologised to Sophie Lloyd, who was kicked out more than 30 years ago?



- 6** What is the name of the art project on a 20,000km journey from Africa to Europe?



- 7** What is the name of this miniature dachshund that has been found after spending 17 months in the wild?



- 8** Australians are angry after authorities shot what animals from helicopters?

- 9** The conclave will gather in Vatican City to vote for a new what?

- 10** Which sports brand is helping Kenyan athlete Faith Kipyegon to run a mile inside four minutes?



- 11** What food will more than 30,000 children be growing for the Growing to Love campaign?

- 12** Which country is in a sticky situation over its rice?

- 13** What age does Sir David Attenborough turn on 8 May?



- 14** Which iconic film series has *Fortnite* teamed up with?

- 15** Which team have been confirmed as Premier League champions?

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!



- Answers:**  
1) England 2) London Marathon 3) Second World War 4) True 5) The Magic Circle 6) The Herds 7) Valerie 8) Koalas 9) Pope 10) Nike 11) Tomatoes 12) Japan 13) 99 years old 14) Star Wars 15) Liverpool.

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# GRAND SLAM RECORD FOR ENGLAND

England's Abby Dow got two tries, making her the tournament's top try scorer with six. The top points scorer was France's Morgane Bourgeois with an incredible 73, which was 36 more than anyone else!

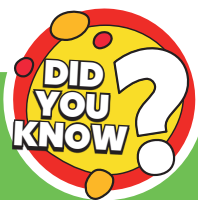
**THE climax of the Women's Six Nations really couldn't have been any closer, but a single point helped England to beat France and claim another Grand Slam (winning every game).**

The title decider was 31-7 to England in the first half, but a stirring comeback by France took the game to the very last seconds, with England clinging on to win 43-42 at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham.

It's the seventh year in a row that England have won

the tournament, and they also became the first team ever to bag a Grand Slam four years in a row.

**WALES** lost 44-12 to Italy to complete a disastrous year for Welsh rugby – they matched the men's team's record from earlier this year of winning the wooden spoon (losing every game in the tournament).



Mo Salah captures the moment

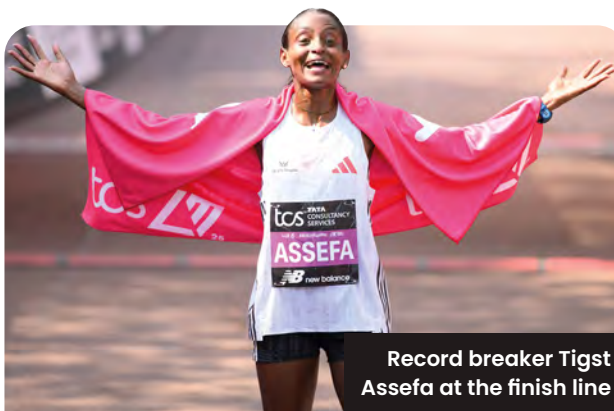
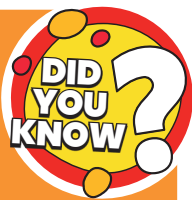
Liverpool have been confirmed as Premier League champions again, after a 5-1 demolition of Spurs. It puts Liverpool equal with Man United's all-time record of 20 league titles. This season, Liverpool have put 15 goals past Spurs in all competitions, which is their joint record against one opponent in a season. The last time they did it was against Rotherham in 1895-96!

A superb 4-1 away win against Lyon has put Arsenal in the final of the Women's Champions League for the first time in 18 years. The bad news is that they face Barcelona, who've won three out of the last four finals. They thrashed Chelsea 8-2 over two legs.



Alessia Russo meets the travelling Arsenal fans

**SNOOKER** star Judd Trump has become the first player to ever get 100 century breaks in more than one season. His 100th came in his last-16 match against Shaun Murphy at the World Snooker Championship. He also got 102 in the 2019-20 season, while Neil Robertson is the only other player to have done it (103 in 2019-20). Trump's bonus for the feat was a cheque for £100,000!



Record breaker Tigst Assefa at the finish line

Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa knocked 26 seconds off the women's world record to win the London Marathon. "It means so much to win the race and break the world record," she said. Kenya's Sebastian Sawe had never competed in the event before, but ran the second best time ever on the London course to win the men's race! The wheelchair races were again dominated by the mighty Swiss pair of Catherine Debrunner and Marcel Hug, who both retained their titles. Records were also broken in the Mini London Marathon, which saw more than 15,000 young people take part – the most since that event began in 1986.



Japanese golfer Mao Saigo won her first ever major tournament, after a nervous five-way play-off at The Chevron Championship, which was held at Carlton Woods in Texas, US. She celebrated winning the trophy and the top prize of \$1.2m (£900,000) by taking a dip in the pond next to the 18th hole (pictured above, in the middle).

## Braydon's on the ball



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

An eventful weekend saw Liverpool finally crowned as champions in some style and with four games to spare. The Reds have led the table for pretty much the whole season and finally sealed the trophy with a commanding 5-1 victory over Spurs. For the Liverpool fans it was certainly an occasion for celebration, as the last time they won it was in 2020 when football was still subject to restrictions because of the Covid pandemic.

This year's FA Cup finalists were also confirmed, with Crystal Palace set to face Man City at Wembley on 17 May. A sensational performance from Palace secured their place at the expense of Aston Villa, with the Eagles comfortable throughout and fully deserving of their 3-0 victory.



Palace and man of the match Eberechi Eze enjoy their win

In the other game, City reached the final for the third year running by beating this season's surprise team, Nottingham Forest. An early goal from Rico Lewis put City ahead after two minutes and they dominated the first half, and although Forest hit the woodwork three times after the break, City deserved to go through.

The Championship will see Leeds and Burnley take the battle for the top spot to the final day, with both sides locked on 97 points, and 100 points within sight. Leeds do have a far superior goal difference though, and that will make all the difference should both teams win their final game.

League One's Wrexham secured Championship football with a 3-0 win over Charlton to start the party in Wales and deliver a third successive promotion. They'll now compete at their highest level for 43 years and there'll be a lot of interest to see if they can manage to go all the way to the Premier League in such a short time.

In League Two, Doncaster and Port Vale confirmed their promotions, and Barnet return to League Two as champions of the National League.

This weekend will see the final round of fixtures in all except the Premier League, with many promotion, relegation and play-off places still up for grabs. For some, it will all come down to the last moments of a very long season, and there'll be some nervous players and fans on Saturday!

**Braydon's Team of The Week:** The league champions, Liverpool.

**Braydon's Player of The Week:** Mo Salah, Liverpool's star man.

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