





## Issue 779 £2.25 21 - 27 May 2021 HirstNew

#### NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

by editor in chief Nicky Cox





IF you were running the country, what would you spend money on?

That was the question we put to First News readers.

With 1,015 votes cast, we can reveal where you would splash the cash. Top of the list comes the National Health Service (NHS). Perhaps it's not surprising that looking after the health of British people got the highest vote – 215 – following a year fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

The results show that you're a caring bunch, putting other people first above your own interests. For example, support for poorer people came second with 191 votes, compared to just 25 votes for free activities for young people.

These are the six areas that polled the highest:

**Support for the** elderly: 45 votes NHS: 215 votes

**Building more renewable** energy systems: 93 votes

Schemes to help people be more green: 117 votes

Support for poorer people: 191 votes

**Education: 179 votes** 

The rest of the votes, in order of how they polled, were made up of: cheaper housing to help young buyers; the police; youth clubs and other free activities for young people; better transport; the Armed Forces; farmers and the agricultural industry; support for new businesses; and supporting cultural venues like museums and concert halls.

**YOUR SAY:** On p7 find out what First News readers are saying about positive things that have come out of living in lockdown – now restrictions are easing.



The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a climate report for the first time since 2016. The reports used to be every year but were put on hold by former president **Donald Trump. The report** marks the first time that the US federal government has said that humans are to blame for the climate crisis. The report found that certain coastal cities are five times more likely to flood than in 1950. It also reported that ice in the Arctic is getting thinner while ocean temperatures were at their highest last year.

#### **GLASS BRIDGE BREAKS**

A man in China had a lucky escape after strong winds broke panels on a glass-bottomed bridge near Longjing. The 100m-high bridge, which attracts thrill-seeking tourists, experienced winds of up to 150km/h (90mph) that caused several glass floor panels to come loose and blow away. Luckily, the man was able to get to safety. The bridge is now closed and an investigation is underway.

# GOATS IN I'M A CELEB

Could we see goats popping up in I'm A Celeb? A herd of goats that took over a Welsh town during lockdown have been invited to graze at a castle used by the show. The goats caused chaos in Llandudno last year, when empty streets led them to explore the town, wrecking gardens and pooing on pavements. Dr Mark Baker, who helped restore nearby Gwrych Castle, said: "We are very keen to welcome goats to the castle". I'm A Celeb used the castle last year when coronavirus restrictions meant the show couldn't be filmed in Australia as usual.

# **QUICK NEW**

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

#### **SEAGULL SARNIE HEIST**





A shocking theft was caught on film in Aberdeen recently. A seagull, known only as Gus, broke into a branch of the Co-op supermarket for the daring raid. Hopping onto a shelf, he picked out a tuna sarnie (we all know seagulls love fish). Patiently, he waited for a passerby to activate the automatic doors. It was a tense moment as another member of the public almost snatched the stolen goods, but Gus made his escape and trotted off happily. The sandwiches have now been moved further inside the store.



#### **NEW NOTE TALK**



The Bank of England Museum will host a free online event looking at the new £50 note on Thursday 27 May. The note has lots of cool features like holograms, see-through windows and foil patches to make it really hard to copy illegally. The new note is out on 23 June and features Alan Turing, a mathematician who helped to crack a Nazi code in World War Two, which helped to win the war. Sign up at bankofengland.co.uk/museum/ online-talks.

#### RARE FALCON BREEDS

The saker falcon has bred in Bulgaria for the first time in 20 years. Although there are believed to be between 6,100 and 14,900 breeding pairs worldwide, the falcon is on the IUCN Red List as an endangered bird. From 2015 to 2020, 80 Saker falcons were reintroduced to Bulgaria and a pair have now successfully bred. The programme restarted last year and will run until 2025, with 100 more falcons due to be released into the wild in that time. The aim is to get the falcons to breed enough to reach healthy numbers and continue growing their population without outside help.



#### **GOAL TO STOP COAL**

Alok Sharma MP, the president of the upcoming COP26 climate conference, says it is his goal to banish coal. Mr Sharma said that coal is "old technology", adding: "Let's make COP26 the moment we leave it in the past where it belongs, while supporting workers and communities to make the transition and creating good green jobs to fill the gap." He wants rich countries to lead the way and to help poorer countries make the change too. COP26 is due to take place in Glasgow in November.

#### UNLUCKY LOTTO LADY

A Californian woman who claims to have bought a winning lottery ticket can't get the money. She could have won \$26m (£18.5m) but she thinks she may have left the ticket in her pocket and destroyed it in the wash.



Greenpeace has released a report saying that the UK's plastic waste is being sent to Turkey, which it warns is becoming **Europe's "largest plastic waste** dump". The report said that Turkey received around 40% of the UK's plastic waste last year. Investigators looked at ten sites in southern Turkey and found UK waste in all of them, but some was also found by roads and in fields and waterways. Apart from the US, the UK creates more plastic waste per person than any country in the world.

#### **MOST DURABLE DJ**

A Hong Kong DJ has retired aged 96. Ray Cordeiro has been broadcasting for 72 years and received a Guinness World Record for 'Most Durable DJ' 21 years ago. The final song he played was called Time To Say Goodbye.

#### **WOLF CAT WONDER**

A kitten with a natural genetic mutation has gone viral, racking up 185,000 followers and millions of likes. Bree Walton, from Maine, USA, thought her kitten Gracie was ill when she started to lose her fur. It turns out that Gracie is perfectly healthy and is a rare wolf cat. A wolf cat, or lykoi, only has one coat of fur and moults (loses its fur) much more regularly than a normal cat. This process of losing and gaining fur has had the special cats compared to werewolves!



3. BIG NEWS



#### **BRITAIN** opened up on Monday 17 May – but scientists have warned that the so-called Indian variant may disrupt the roadmap out of lockdown.

In England, Scotland and Wales, rules have been relaxed so that groups of up to six people can meet indoors in homes, pubs, cafés and restaurants. Indoor entertainment venues such as theatres, museums, cinemas and children's play areas can open. Also, overseas travel is permitted now to certain countries.

But some scientists are urging people to stick to meeting outdoors for now to stop the new Indian variant leading to a spike in COVID-19 cases.

The Indian variant, officially called B.1.617.2, is one of five mutated versions of the coronavirus that UK health authorities have said are "of concern". That's because early evidence shows the variant can spread much more easily than previous versions of the coronavirus. At the moment, experts think the vaccines will protect against serious illness but more research is needed to be sure.

The number of cases of the Indian variant in the UK is rising very quickly, with particular hotspots in London and northwest England.

The Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, has said that the variant is likely to become the most common strain of COVID-19 across the UK.

Some scientists and opposition politicians have criticised Prime Minister Boris Johnson for not banning travel from India sooner. Cases there began to soar in early April but India was only placed on the Government's travel red list on 23 April.

# FEARS RISE WARNING OF CRISIS IN GAZA



#### THE United Nations has warned that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is in danger of becoming a "humanitarian crisis".

Fighting between Israel and the armed Palestinian group Hamas broke out almost two weeks ago. Before this, Israeli police fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians marking Ramadan at the Al-Agsa mosque in Jerusalem, which is located on a holy site for Muslims and Jews. The Israeli authorities say they were defending themselves from Palestinians who threw rocks at them.

As First News went to press, at least 212 people, including 61 children, had been killed in Gaza as a result of hundreds of Israeli airstrikes. Some ten people in Israel, including two children, were killed by rockets fired from Gaza.

Last week, Israel bombed a building containing the offices of the Al Jazeera news network and the Associated Press (AP) news agency. Israel says there was an office for "a Palestinian terrorist organisation" in the building but have not yet provided any evidence to back this up.

There have also been troubling incidents of mob violence between Jews and Palestinians on the streets of Israel.

The Gaza Strip is located between Israel and Egypt. Israel captured Gaza, along with the West Bank and the Golan Heights, in the Six-Day War in 1967. The United Nations describes the land as illegally occupied territory, but Israel says they are "disputed territories" and that its presence there is not illegal.



WOW! **HALFWAY through May, the National Climate** Information Centre said Wales had already got 129% of its average

rainfall for the whole month, while the entire UK had got 88% (61.1mm)!

**CHINA** has successfully landed its first Mars rover, named Zhurong, on the Red Planet. The name means 'God of Fire'.





#### SWIFTS have set a new record for swiftness!

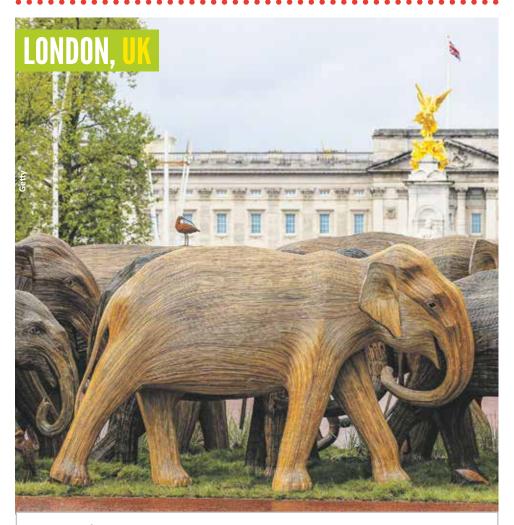
A new study has found that common swifts travel 570 kilometres (354 miles) on an average day. But the speedy birds are able to go "much farther and faster", the research team from Sweden said. The maximum recorded distance in the study was more than 830 kilometres (515 miles) per day over nine days!

They achieve this amazing feat with a "flyand-forage" strategy, meaning they grab food on the go to keep them fuelled. They mostly feed on flying insects. The swifts also cleverly seemed to time their departures so that the winds would be favourable.

Professor Susanne Åkesson of Lund University says this is "the fastest migrations of swifts recorded so far" and well above predictions. Åkesson and her team used miniature tracking technology to follow adult breeding swifts from a breeding location in northern Europe.



SOMEITY, the official mascot for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, presents the symbol for the Games during a ceremony to mark 100 days until the action will officially begin.



A HERD of wooden elephants cross the road outside Buckingham Palace, to celebrate the Elephant Family's CoExistence campaign. The campaign aims to highlight how many elephants now live in human-dominated landscapes and raise awareness of how we can all better coexist with the animals in our habitat. The exhibition features 100 beautifully crafted life-sized elephants.



THE Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, has announced a huge \$11 billion (£7.8 billion) plan to tackle environmental issues, including funding to create a habitat for threatened bees that play a vital role pollinating the state's crops.



NURSES read out the names of the 400 nurses who have died in the US during the coronavirus pandemic, during a demonstration for better employer protection from catching COVID-19 while at work. The group placed a pair of shoes for every nurse who has died during the pandemic.



DAREDEVIL abseilers have begun the task of cleaning the iconic 19.5m-tall (64ft) pyramid and nearby dome building that are home to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium. The centre is due to reopen on 22 May.

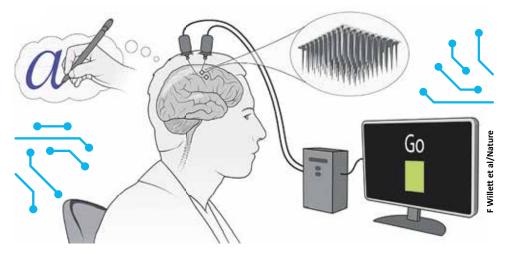






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# 5. BIG NEWS WRITING 2



ASTONISHING new technology has meant that a paralysed man (who can't move his body) can write sentences again, just by thinking about writing with a pen.

Scientists at Stanford University in the US placed two implants into the 65-year-old man's brain, and connected them to a computer.

These implants then look for the brain signals that people produce when they think about writing with an imaginary pen.

When the man thinks about writing letters the computer uses a clever algorithm to understand the signals produced. It figures out how the

imaginary pen is moving and what letters are being written. The sentence he imagines writing then appears on a screen in front of him.

The man was able to write around 15 words a minute by using the technology, with around 95% of those words being understood correctly by the computer.

The researchers say that they can see the tech being very useful to someone who could neither move nor speak, but who wanted to write emails or code.

# LIGHTNING

**NINE-YEAR-OLD Jordan Banks** tragically died after he was struck by lightning last week while playing football in Blackpool.

Jordan was a fundraising superstar, having raised £3,000 for mental health and counselling services in his home town.

His dad said that Jordan "always told us he wanted to be able to help other people" and that his organs have been donated to help sick children who needed a transplant. "Even now his kindness has meant that three other children may be able to live."

Tributes for Jordan have come from across the country, and he received a special shout out from his favourite football player,

car with the windows up. If of water, metal objects, trees

Liverpool's James Milner, who said that he was "a special boy taken far too soon". An online fundraiser has seen more than £110,000 raised for Jordan's family.



In a thunderstorm, the safest place to be is indoors or in a you're caught outside, you can reduce the risk of being struck by lightning by avoiding bodies and telephone poles.

IT is always so interesting to read your views on some of the news stories we cover in First News. So, on p7 this week, we have started a new column called "Your Say". Every week we will be publishing your comments. There are several ways you can tell us what you are thinking – by commenting on the polls at by leaving comments at first.news/fyi or by emailing

us at n

### GOOD WEEK

THE Government has announced plans to ban dogs with cropped ears being brought into the UK. Ear cropping is a painful procedure where the floppy part of a dog's ears is removed, usually for appearance. A petition calling for action to stop the rising number of dogs with cropped ears has passed 100,000 signatures.



#### **BAD WEEK**

#### AMERICA

AFTER 17 years underground, trillions of cicadas with red eyes have begun to emerge from their long hibernation across the US. Known as Brood X cicadas, the creatures are completely harmless - but look a bit freaky, and can create a deafening noise.



#### **SAVING THE EYE OF THE T**

A VETERINARY surgeon has performed the world's first ever operation of its type to save a tiger's eye.

Ratna is a 17-year-old Sumatran tiger who lives at Shepreth Wildlife Park near Cambridge. She had previously had a cataract removed from her eye back in February.

After that operation, staff at the wildlife park noticed that the eye was getting worse. Surgeon

Dr David Williams, from the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, carried out a 'hood graft procedure', which allows the cornea to heal itself.

While it's not an unusual procedure for a domestic cat or dog, the surgeon is pretty sure it's the first time it's ever been done on a tiger. Apparently, Ratna needed "a lot more anaesthetic"!

Dr Williams says that Ratna is now "absolutely fine – you'd never know anything had been wrong".



# ELEPHANT GETS ARTIFICIAL FOOT

A TEAM in Cambodia have been busy making replacement feet to keep an injured elephant happy.

Chhouk the elephant was found as a calf in 2007 with a horrible injury: a wire snare had cut off his foot and his leg was infected.

Conservationist Nick Marx rescued the baby elephant and nursed him back to health. The team at Phnom Penh Physical Rehabilitation Centre worked together to create an artificial limb so Chhouk could walk again.

Sisary Kheng, who worked

on the design, said: "Chhouk's shoe has two separate parts: a soft, flexible inside shoe and a hard, durable [hard-wearing] outside shoe with a tractor tyre on the bottom.

"Every six months he needs a new shoe, and every time we work together to make one. So far, Chhouk has had 17 new shoes. Prosthetic limbs aren't just for people; they can be for elephants too."









**BROADBAND** internet speeds improved by a quarter last year, Ofcom has said. The organisation's report says the average download speed in the UK increased from 64 megabits per second to 80.2.







#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY 21 MAY**

Celebrate, learn about and take action to protect threatened and endangered species! The IUCN Red List, which keeps track of endangered species, says that more than 37,400 species are threatened with extinction.

#### **TOWEL DAY 25 MAY**

This funny day is a tribute to Douglas Adams, whose book, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, joked that "a towel... is about the most massively useful thing a hitchhiker can have".



The bill covers lots of things, but focuses on

protecting children and stamping out hate speech and racist abuse. Under new laws, social media companies will be at risk of huge fines if they don't remove harmful content quickly.

Under the new guidelines, people may even have to prove their age to access social media sites. Most sites say you must be at least 13 to use them, but currently you don't have to prove that.

Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden said: "We wouldn't allow an 11-year-old to walk into a shop and buy

cigarettes simply by claiming they were

over 18. And yet underage children routinely skirt age limits online by declaring they're old enough."

Although the Government promises "groundbreaking laws", there are concerns on both sides of the online safety debate. Some feel the bill doesn't go far enough, with Labour calling the proposals "incomplete". Others are more concerned about censorship, worrying that the new laws will mean less freedom to speak openly online.

# RECYCLING DOWN



**GOVERNMENT** data has shown that recycling rates in England dropped during the start of the pandemic.

The findings show that, between April and June 2020, the rate of recycling for waste from households was 45%, down from 48.4% between April and June 2019.

The total amount of waste recycled was also lower. From April to June 2020, it was 2.6m tonnes, a 10.1% decrease from the 2.9m tonnes recycled from April to June 2019.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) put the decrease down to the effects of the pandemic and the first national lockdown.

Go to first.news/polls to vote

While the effect on local authorities varied, there were disruptions and some cancellations of kerbside collections of recycling and garden waste. Household waste recycling centres were also largely closed during the time period.

**THE United Nations' Global Road Safety Week** runs until 23 May, and this year, it is calling for driving speeds in urban areas to be reduced to 20mph (30 km/h).

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, said: "We need a new vision for creating safe, healthy, green and liveable

cities. Low-speed streets are an important part of that vision. As we recover and rebuild from COVID-19, let's make

> Every year, more than 1.3 million people die in road traffic crashes around the world - that's one person every 24 seconds.

safer roads for a safer world."



**PINK drinks make** you exercise more, a new study has found. Runners were given either a pink or clear drink - the only



difference was the colour. The pink drinkers ran an average 212m further, as they associated the pink drink with sweetness and acted as if sugar (which wasn't there) gave them a boost!



A LITTLE while ago, we asked you: "What things from lockdown would you like to see continue?" Here are some of your responses.

All the family walks and spending time with family!

marmoty100

I would love to keep having less air pollution as it makes such an impact on so many different things.

historygal

I like the fact that essential workers are getting more credit for the effort and time they put into their jobs. My parents are both teachers, and I know that home school has been a struggle for them as well as children. The NHS is another example of people that work all day to keep normal life going in these hard times. They deserve this.

meepemeeps

ME-TIME: Delving into my own mind, thoughts and discovering more about myself, my personality and how to be the best I can possibly be. I believe everyone should do this! It is very beneficial for your mental health.

nim-pom

I think it's great to spend more time doing your hobbies.

sparkle29

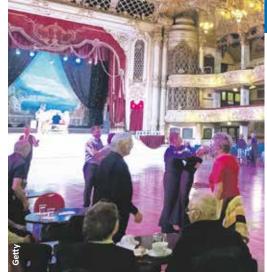
#### UK

#### New home needed

A record-breaking model is looking for a new home. The huge 14-metre model is a replica of the Bloodhound supersonic car. It took 1,287 hours to build and is made up of 383,422 pieces of K'NEX, and holds the Guinness World Record



for the largest K'NEX structure ever made. After being housed at Coventry Transport Museum, it's now in storage while a new home is found.



#### **BLACKPOOL**

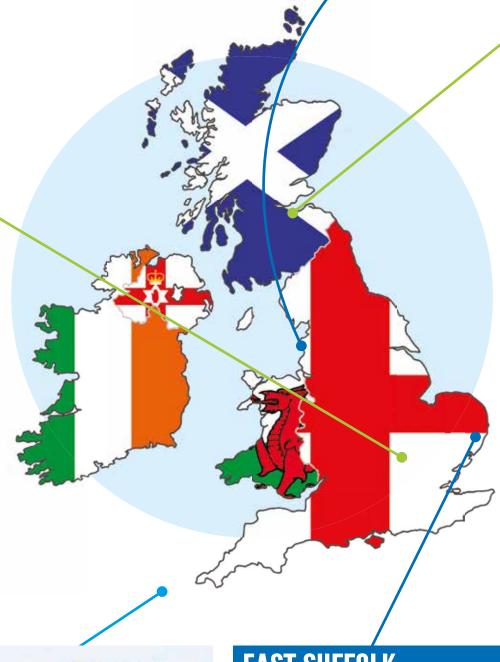
#### Waltzing back to ballroom

Blackpool Tower's famous ballroom has been given a £1.1 million makeover. The historic ballroom has undergone major work and a deep clean, taking a team of skilled craftspeople 21,000 hours to complete! During the project, the team unearthed some very unusual items, too. Hidden in the angel statues in the ceiling were newspapers dating back to 1911, and an old walking stick. The ballroom, which is used for a special episode of Strictly Come Dancing each year, hopes to reopen to people from 21 June.



#### Big birthday

Whipsnade Zoo celebrates its 90th birthday on 23 May. The UK's largest zoo opened back in 1931, when it was known as Whipsnade Park Zoo. It attracted thousands of visitors and even acted as a refuge for animals evacuated from London Zoo during World War 2. Today it is home to 3,500 animals. This weekend (22-23 May), and throughout May half-term, the zoo will be running a special treasure hunt to mark the birthday.



### QUEENSFERRY



#### Watersports for all

A charity that gives disabled people the chance to access watersports is setting sail for Scotland this week, as part of a big fundraising drive. Wetwheels, founded by disabled yachtsman Geoff Holt MBE, will moor one of its specially built, fully accessible powerboats at Port Edgar Marina on the Firth of Forth between 20-23 May. The charity hopes the visit will help towards its goal of raising £250,000 to set up a permanent base and boat in Scotland. Wetwheels already has six boats throughout England.

#### **SCILLY**

#### Flying postie

Royal Mail is to trial using drones to deliver health equipment, coronavirus testing kits and other mail to the

Isles of Scilly, near Cornwall. The company plans to send parcels on a large drone to the islands' airport in St Mary's, then use a smaller drone to deliver items to specific areas. The drones will be autonomous, which means they won't need any humans to operate them. If the trial is successful, drones could be used to help postal workers deliver to remote places elsewhere in the UK.

#### **EAST SUFFOLK**

#### Emergency texts trial

A new system will be trialled in East Suffolk this summer, to find out whether the Government can use mobile phone texts to alert people about public health emergencies, severe floods, fires, industrial incidents and terror attacks. The system wouldn't use people's phone numbers, but would just send text alerts to everyone in a specific area. Similar systems exist in other countries, including New Zealand and the US.



# PRICKLY PROBLEM

CONSERVATIONISTS in Indonesia should be concerned about the future of porcupines, after a study showed how often the animals are the victims of illegal trading.

Data showed that animals or animal products from an estimated 452 porcupines were found in 39 seizures by officials across Indonesia from January 2013 to June 2020. Indonesia is home to five different porcupine species - only one of these is fully protected, but it is still illegal to catch or trade the animals.

Porcupines are mostly hunted for their meat and their quills, which are used for decoration or as a symbol of good luck. Some traditional forms of medicine in Indonesia call for

porcupine bezoars, which is a hard lump of undigested material that is often found in their stomachs, and is another reason the animals are hunted.

Four out of the five species of porcupine in Indonesia have restricted ranges, which means that once their numbers drop too far, it is very hard for the species to recover again.

The full research was published in the scientific journal Nature Conservation.



A RARE white-tailed sea eagle is the latest addition to Robin Hill nature park on the Isle of Wight.

Ten-month-old Chief arrived from the Scottish Eagle Centre. He already weighs 4.3kg and has a wingspan of 2.3m! Staff at the park hope that Chief and his trainer Charlie can help educate visitors about the species and why it is so important to help protect them. The park was due to reopen on 19 May.

White-tailed sea eagles are the largest birds of prey found in Britain, although spotting one in the wild has been pretty tricky after they became extinct in the UK in the early 20th century. The species has successfully been reintroduced to Scotland, where there are now 130 breeding pairs, with another reintroduction programme planned in Norfolk.



A FAMILY of marmosets has been rescued from a house in West Yorkshire and re-homed by the RSPCA.

The owner of the monkeys called the RSPCA and asked for its help, as she could no longer care for the animals. The rescued marmosets have been taken to a private exotic animals specialist in Cambridgeshire where they have a huge enclosure full of branches to climb and toys to play with.

Animal charities have been calling for a ban on keeping primates as pets for many years. The RSPCA is urging the Government to support the ban and a consultation was launched last year. Primates have complex needs and are not suited to life in a cage in a house.

# SHARK SPOTTING





WITH lots of people planning a holiday in the UK this year, Shark Trust is asking for your help to spot the biggest shark in our waters.

Basking sharks visit the UK every spring and summer, and there has never been a better time to spot one of these gentle giants. If you are lucky enough to see one, you can record your sighting at cording.sharktrust.org/sightings/record, which will help build a better picture of the number of sharks visiting the UK. Remember, if you see a shark, give it plenty of space and observe from a distance to avoid disturbing it.

#### USA



#### Mask rules change

President Joe Biden's government has announced that fully vaccinated people will no longer have to wear a mask, even indoors. They will still be required on public transport and in airports. "The rule is very simple: get vaccinated, or wear a mask until you do," Mr Biden said. The change has been criticised by some medics, who say that lots of unvaccinated people will abuse the rule.



#### **BULGARIA**

#### Vulture returns

After 50 years, the griffon vulture is no longer extinct in the Eastern Balkan Mountains. Since 2009, conservation groups have been working to bring vultures back to Bulgaria. One of the largest birds of prey in Europe, the griffon vulture "provides an amazing service for people and healthy ecosystems," says Elena Kmetova-Biro, project manager at the Green Balkans conservation group.



#### **EGYPT**

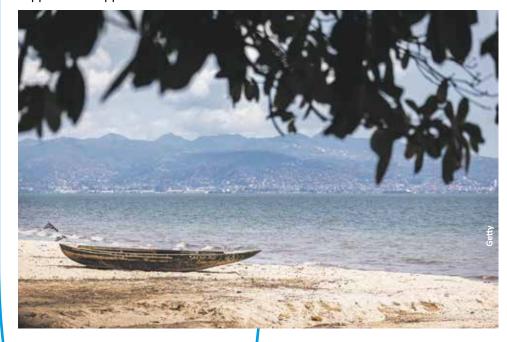
#### Widening the canal

Egyptian authorities have announced plans to widen the Suez Canal, to stop future ships becoming stuck, like the Ever Given container ship was in March. The head of the Suez Canal Authority said a 30km part of the canal would be widened by 40 metres, and made 10 metres deeper. It will take around two years.

#### **SIERRA LEONE**

#### Selling a rainforest

The government of Sierra Leone has agreed to sell 100 hectares (247 acres) of beach and protected rainforest to China, so that it can build an industrial fishing harbour. Black Johnson beach is home to endangered species, including the duiker antelope and pangolins. Conservation groups have said that building the harbour there would be "a catastrophic human and ecological disaster". Dr Sama Banya, of the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, said that the development on the beach would have a "disastrous" impact on tourism and "the very fish industry that it's supposed to support".





**EVER** 

#### **CHINA**



#### Chicken cheater

A student who used a glitch in KFC's online voucher system to order £6,500 worth of food, has been jailed for two and a half years. Twenty-three-year-old Xu found a way to generate free food vouchers, so for six months, he used the glitch to order food for himself. He also shared the secret with four friends, who managed to get £15,500 worth of food before they were caught. Xu even sold on some of the meals at a discount to his classmates.

#### **NEPAL**



#### Everest oxygen needed

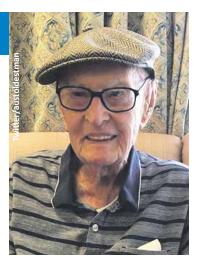
Nepal's increasing COVID-19 crisis has meant that the country is running out of the oxygen cylinders that COVID-19 patients need to help them breathe. Officials from the Nepal Mountaineering Association have asked Everest climbers to bring back their empty oxygen cylinders once they've come back down from the world's highest peak. A government health ministry official said: "We need about 25,000 oxygen cylinders immediately to save people from dying. This is our urgent need."

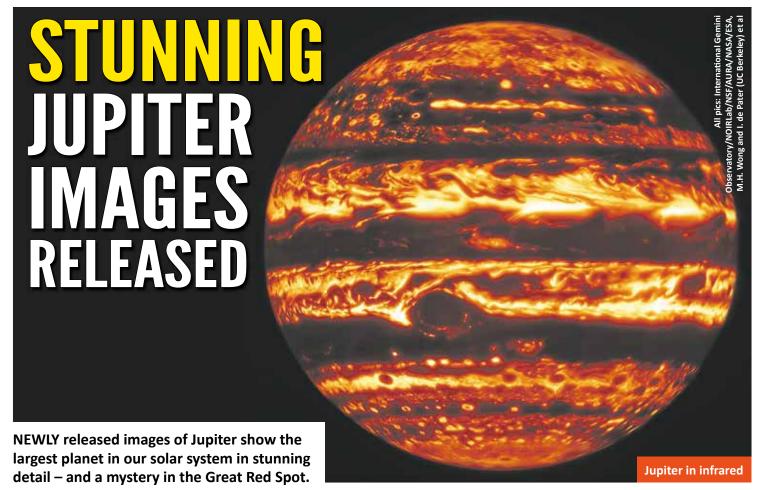


#### **AUSTRALIA**

#### Eat brains, live longer

Dexter Kruger, Australia's oldest man, has said that eating chicken brains has helped him to live for more than 111 years. Dexter took the record for the oldest Aussie this week after living for 124 days past his 111th birthday. In an interview, Kruger said that he recommends eating "delicious little" chicken brains weekly.





The pictures show the gas giant in three different types of light: infrared (above), visible (below left), and ultraviolet (below right). The images below were taken by a powerful camera on the Hubble Space Telescope, while the infrared snap above comes from the Near-InfraRed Imager (NIRI) instrument on the US island of Hawaii.

They were taken at the same time on the same day in January 2017, but were only released to the public last week.

Seeing a planet across different wavelengths of light can uncover otherwise invisible aspects and features. Comparing them helps scientists better understand the planet and how it is changing.

The Great Red Spot is a giant storm permanently raging in Jupiter's southern hemisphere. The storm is 1.3 times wider than the whole of planet Earth! Its red clouds spin at wind speeds much faster than any storm on Earth.

The new images have revealed something of a mystery in the super-storm. There are gaps in the Giant Red Spot that look like clouds in visible light (as in the picture to the right), but which

actually are not present (as in the image above). The dark features are actually holes in the cloud layer. In the infrared image, scientists could see that the brightness of Jupiter's heat escapes into space through those holes.

Information from these images will also be used to help study why the Great Red Spot is shrinking. Even though it remains huge, the storm has been steadily getting smaller since it was first monitored in 1930.

Red Spot Junior, a smaller storm located to the bottom right of its bigger brother, can be seen in the images below. It formed when three storms joined together in 2000.





#### **ONLINE SKILLS CAN PROTECT** THE ELDER



A NEW study has found that older people who use online communication such as Zoom and Skype are less likely to develop dementia.

Dementia is a condition in which the brain's functions - including memory - start to decline severely. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers at the University of West London and University of Manchester studied the communication habits of 11,418 men and women aged between 50 and 90 over the course of 15 years.

They found that those who frequently used internet communication as well as traditional interactions, such as meeting up and having phone calls, experienced less memory loss.

Lead researcher Dr Snorri Rafnsson said that the study showed how engaging with technology stimulates the brain in a way that keeps memory function active. The social contact older people had through the internet also benefited the brain. He said: "It's fair to say that all the Zooming that went on during lockdown might well have provided older people with a protective cushion against dementia."

#### BANG! NEW **WORKSHOPS LAUNCH**

THE Royal Institution in London has launched a series of live online workshops for schools and home educators both in the UK and worldwide.

The new series of one-hour science sessions on Zoom comes from the Institution's L'Oréal Young Scientist Centre. They're aimed at primary schools and feature various practical experiments and exciting explosions in the lab! They're also interactive, so pupils can chat, ask questions and make scientific predictions while watching along. Co-presenter Jemma Naumann told us: "Kids will get a front-row seat in the laboratory – a close-up look at the experiments and explosions!" Your teachers can find out more about the workshops and their prices by emailing the Royal Institution at ysc@ri.ac.uk.



This report is from the Science Museum in London

**EVER heard of graphene?** You probably use this wonder material every day.

The 'lead' in your pencil is made of a material called graphite, and this is made up of millions

of incredibly thin layers of graphene. It is the thinnest, strongest, most conductive (it can transfer electricity) material ever discovered. It's a million times thinner than paper and 200 times stronger than steel. And it's almost invisible to the human eye!

For some time, this curious material had scientists stumped. They wanted to know how to peel off one of its layers. But in 2004, two scientists working in Manchester, Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov, managed to do just that, using little more than their curiosity and sticky tape!

You can learn more in the Science Museum Group's podcast, A Brief History of Stuff.



# MEET STABILO'S LOCKDOWN DIARY OMPETITION WINK

THE results are in and it's time to reveal the winner for STABILO's Lockdown Diary competition.

Drum roll please... congratulations, Freya Cohen!

Freya wrote a lovely diary entry about the shows that she and her sister performed during lockdown for their family abroad. How wonderful! Freya had this to say about winning the competition:

"Lockdown has been challenging at times, but I have really enjoyed doing shows with my sister for my family and learning new skills. Winning this competition is the greatest end to an unusual year as we hopefully come back to normal life!"

fantastic class pack for her class to enjoy wher

Thank you to all who entered. We found it very hard to judge, as all of the entries were brilliant to read. Freya's entry was heart-warming and brought back a lot of memories for those on the panel. The calibre of diary entries we received really varied in focus and style and we were blown away with the positivity during this tough time! Congratulations to Freya, we hope that she and everyone else who entered the competition continue to write.

Vanya Hunter, STABILO **Marketing Manager** 

We would also like to give a special mention to our runners-up: nabelle, Arun, Emeline, Jamie and Sana. These entries were all great

to read!

If not for lockdown, my sister and I wouldn't have found one of our hidden talents. Every few months my sister and I would do shows for our grandparents over Skype. My sister and I would practise every Sunday afternoon

in our club called Sisters Club, which is every Sunday afternoon. We really enjoy doing these shows to entertain our grandparents and our uncle and aunt in Israel. Our dream is to perform in the theatres. My sister is seventeen and has autism. I am nine and have anxiety. Practising hasn't always been easy but at least people enjoy it!



show FYI and the First News has teamed up with making programmes and videos about the news, which you can watch on First News Education TV. And, we launch the FYI News Club! See below...

# **VEGAN CHEF.** AGED 12

#### THIS week on FYI, we meet 12-year-old vegan chef Omari McQueen.

"Hi, my name is Omari, and I'm a vegan chef.

I got into cooking when my mum was sick and my dad was going to work. Then I saw my dad in the kitchen cooking, and I thought it was really fun – so I wanted to join in. My dad taught me and my older brother how to cook some food.

Being vegan means that you don't eat any dairy, meat or eggs, and it means that you don't use any animal products."

#### Omari has started his own business!

"The business that I opened is called Dipalicious, where I sell vegan snacks, dips and, soon, meals.

When I first made my vegan pizza, it was too dry, so I made this sauce for it, made everyone in my house taste it and they said it was delicious.

The way my business works is that when you go on my website, you could order a dip and, because my dips are freshly made, I make them as soon as the order comes in and then I have them delivered.

I think children like us should learn how to cook vegan food by themselves because it would make them think twice about the junk food they're putting in their body."

Watch Omari's film on FYI episode 123 at first.news/EducationTV.



#### **WILL SCOTLAND BREAK AWAY?**

WE have a UK Government, but something called devolution means some power has been handed to Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish parliaments to make decisions on things like health care, education and housing.

In elections last week, the SNP (Scottish National Party) gained control of the Scottish Parliament for another five years. The SNP wants Scotland to be a completely separate country to the rest of the UK, and it wants the people there to vote on it. Last time there was a referendum on Scottish independence, the people voted to stay part of the UK.

But do people think the same now? A panel of young people had their say on FYI last week. Watch their discussion at first.news/EducationTV in episode 122.



#### WE'VE launched the FYI News Club! Why not set one up at your school?

First News works alongside Sky News and Sky Kids to help create FYI: For Your Info, the award-winning weekly 15-minute news magazine show. Each week, FYI investigates the big issues young people need to know about. There are reports from around the globe, explainers, debates, Fake News or Fact?, "Kidversations" between young people around the world, and in-depth reporting. The FYI team also get big-name interviews, from world leaders to pop and film stars.

In your school's FYI News Club, you can watch the show and talk about what you've found out, with your friends and schoolmates. The topics up for discussion will range from fascinating to serious and sometimes a little silly.

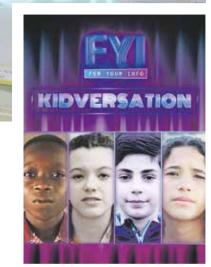
To help with this, each week First News is creating a weekly FYI News Club



Chat resource with lots of questions and ideas to get you thinking and talking about what you've watched in the show. These can be downloaded from first.news/EducationTV.

being debated in class

We will also be creating regular fun news quizzes for your News Club so you can test your topical knowledge! And, we'll be asking for your ideas about what you want the FYI team to investigate.



Ask your teacher to go to first.news/EducationTV to find out more about the FYI News Clubs.



First News Education TV is our free video platform for schools and families. First News subscribing schools can also download accompanying resources for the classroom. Go to first.news/EducationTV to find out more!



LAUGH AT ME77

WE caught up with Joe Tasker, the fun-loving presenter of CBBC HQ and Saturday Mash-Up!

What does a normal day look like for a CBBC presenter?

The funny thing is, there is no normal,

average day; it is always so different. I present CBBC HQ with Hacker and Rhys, then I also do Saturday Mash-Up! On Saturday Mash-Up! we could be promoting the green badge with Blue Peter, or we could be doing some physical games with people who call in to the show. For Saturday Mash-Up! we will read through the whole script on a Friday, walk through the show and do a few rehearsals.

#### • What kind of things have you had to learn while working on the shows?

The weirdest thing I have had to learn is how to throw a bucket of slime – at the perfect velocity – into a celebrity's face. I've got a technique where if you push the bucket out and pull it back at the same time, it kind of goes up and then slaps down. I picked that up very quickly on the first day! The other is that there is always around 100 pages of script for the show, so I never learn it word for word. I kind of learn the structure of the show and what the different elements are in that show. It's fun, though, and I think because it is a live two-and-a-half hour show it adds pressure, which I really love.

• How hard is it to host a live show? What do you do if you mess up?

I think that is the best thing about it. It is so live and so chaotic and everyone is in it together, even the audience watching it. When I was younger, I kind of preferred watching presenters when they made mistakes, because you see that realness. It

happens so much with me

that it has just become part of the show. The audience know what is going on, so I never feel embarrassed by anything that happens, although me and Harpz do face some surprise challenges from the audience, but it's all part of the fun!

#### ● Tell us about one of the most memorable challenges you've been set!

I'd say the most recent one was when me and Harpz did a zorb ball race outside in Media City. We had to race from one side to the other, it was a very hot day and we were racing in these giant balls. That was brilliant because it added a really live element. Because of everything that has been going on over the last year, the producers have to really plan what you can do, so it has been very structured.

But we didn't have to worry about any of that, because it was obviously very safe inside these giant inflatable balls. It was a fun challenge!

#### You have a lot of celebrity guests on the show, but who would be your dream guest?

It's been amazing learning how to interview the guests. We never have enough time on the show, but I try to talk with them as much as possible. We're all just there to have a fun time, so it's all very relaxed and fun – before I chuck slime in their face! Dream guests for me would be any comedy actors. I would love to have Rowan Atkinson on as Mr Bean, Jim Carrey or anyone like that. If not I'll have Justin Bieber on so I can chuck slime at him and help him change his hair colour again.

#### What's the slime like?

Strangely, there is actually a lot to making the slime. The art and design team are always so busy stirring up their pots. The majority of the time it is very cold and it is normally runny, which creates all the mess that we see. Every so often it is a bit thicker and I have to warn the guests, so it isn't a shock when it lands on their face. The slime is actually very good for your hair. It gets everywhere but it makes your hair feel really soft afterwards, which is the only advantage, I guess!

#### When did you realise that you wanted to be a TV presenter?

I've always loved presenting, and ever since I was little I watched people like Sam and Mark on TMi and Ant and Dec. When I went to school I thought I wanted to be a presenter or a comedy actor, and after I left school there were lots of presenting courses, so I started to create my own videos online. In a way, that was a form of presenting and I guess that has helped me with confidence and learning lines and things like that. Making people laugh was always important to me. I don't mind if people laugh at me, I have no boundaries or issues with that!

Joe and his
Saturday Mash-Up!
co-presenter Harpz

Catch Joe on Saturday Mash-Up! every Saturday morning on BBC iPlayer and CBBC

# BRILLIANT BRITS!

THIS week the BRIT Awards 2021 became the first major music event to be held in the UK since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was part of a Government trial to see how large events can safely resume this summer. Here's what you need to know!



The glitzy awards ceremony featured a small audience of artists, music industry experts and key workers who were invited to thank them for their efforts over the last year.

Winners at the ceremony were given two awards; one to keep and a smaller one to donate to someone they thought deserved it.

Taylor Swift became the first woman to win the Global Icon award.



Dua Lipa picked up two awards: Best Female Artist and Best Album. She used one of her acceptance speeches to thank Folajimi Olubunmi-Adewole, a young man who died last month while trying to save the life of a woman who had jumped into the River Thames.

Little Mix made history by becoming the first girl band to win the award for Best British Group.

Harry Styles' Watermelon Sugar won Best British Single. He thanked the NHS audience members in his speech.

Performances during the show included Coldplay with a pre-recorded performance from a barge on the Thames, Dua Lipa, Arlo Parks, Olivia Rodrigo, Griff, Elton John and Years & Years, plus The Weeknd, who performed virtually.

If you missed The BRIT Awards 2021 you can catch up with all the performances now on ITV Player

# OF THE WEEK

#### SKY One is showing an exclusive, live concert starring KIDZ BOP.

Filmed remotely during lockdown with a live virtual audience, KIDZ BOP Live In Concert is a jam-packed show full of pop tunes, energetic dance routines and conversation with the KIDZ BOP kids. It's the first time that UK fans will be able to catch them live. There are two versions of the concert to watch: a compact one-hour special or a two-hour extended edition, as well as four short behind-the-scenes mini-episodes.

See KIDZ BOP Live In Concert on 28 May (extended version) on Sky Kids; KIDZ BOP Live In Concert - Behind The Scenes episodes 29 May at 8am on Sky One; KIDZ BOP Live In Concert (one-hour show) on 30 May at 9:05am on Sky One.





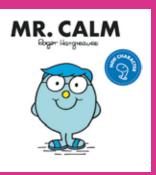
#### THIS WEEK

The hit Andrew Lloyd **Webber musical School** of Rock is touring the UK for the first time. The tour will kick off at Hull New Theatre on 7 September.



Two new Mr Men characters have been announced. Mr Calm and Little Miss Brave are the brand-new characters voted for by the public to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Mr Men and Little Miss books. The new characters will have their own books out this September and will help to shape the next 50 years of Mr Men and Little Miss!





A sequel to The Railway Children is in production. The Railway Children Return will star Sheridan Smith, Tom Courtenay and a new cast of children. Filming started earlier this month and the film is due to be released in April 2022.

# NEXT STU

# LONDON TRANSPOR MUSEUM!



Check out a new digital installation, created by students from Central Saint Martins, to get a glimpse into the future. The new display explores what environmental change and new technology could mean for people living in London in 2030.

Get hands-on with interactive exhibits in the Future Engineers gallery. Try out a futuristic ticket scanner that can read your hand, drive a modern Elizabeth line train, see your face on the cover of The Engineer magazine and design a future city.

It's not all about the future though. Step back in time with the award-winning Hidden London exhibition. Enter a maze of passageways and

secret spaces to discover the forgotten parts of the Tube network that have incredible stories to tell about London's past and present.

The Museum's popular All Aboard play zone has been revamped too, with green-themed activities. With its mini fleet of iconic London vehicles for little ones to climb aboard, it's the perfect pit stop for families with children aged 0 to 7 years.

Kids get in for free at the London Transport Museum and an adult ticket gives you unlimited trips for a whole year!



# **MAY HALF-TERM AT THE**



#### **EXPLORE London's transport past at the Museum** Depot in Acton Town for half-term family fun.

Catch a ride on our miniature railway, travelling on models of London Tube trains that were used up to 100 years ago. All aboard!

Design a board game inspired by historic buses and trains to play at home. You can also get creative with a kids' pack, featuring crafts and activities to use during your visit and for extra fun at home.

May half-term at the Museum Depot takes place on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May, and from Wednesday 2 to Sunday 6 June 2021.

Book online at Itmuseum.co.uk/depot







# STHE ANSW

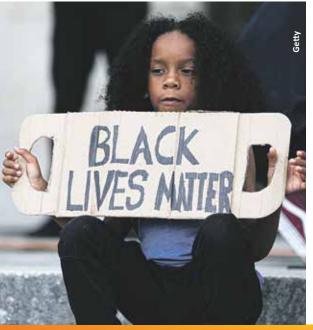
FRESH from winning a British Book Award for Black and British: A Short, Essential History, we spoke to author and historian David Olusoga about the book, and why it's important for us to remember the past.

#### Congratulations on winning the Children's Illustrated & Non-Fiction award for your book. How did it feel to win?

It was such a surprise! In some ways, the whole thing was a surprise. I didn't set out to write a book for children, but after I'd published my adult book, Black and British: A Forgotten History, I kept being asked to write a children's version – for years! Parents would say they liked the adult book but it was 600 pages long. They said you really should write a book for children. Eventually, in 2019, I said they were probably right, I should do a children's book. There's a reason that people keep saying this to me. There's a need there. To be honest, I should have known that from my own childhood, that there was a lack of books that covered black history.

#### Can you tell us about the book?

The book puts black people back in the story for Britain. It puts black people back into the history, because we know they were there. We have the documentation and the evidence, and the legal documents. It's not a particularly controversial book. It's just putting people, who for all sorts of reasons have been marginalised [left out] or ignored, back into the mainstream British history where they always were and always belonged.



#### Was it difficult to translate the adult version into a kids' version?

Well, I had lots of help! I had a huge amount of help from the wonderful team at Macmillan Children's Books, and I couldn't have done it without them.

#### Was there an event you found particularly interesting to research?

This is a history that I've been learning about for a long time and I'm very familiar with it. There was never a period where I was going back through the archives. I think what's fascinating about this history is that people often think they know about it, but there are whole aspects they don't. Lots of people don't know that money was paid to the slave owners when slavery was ended in Britain. Lots of people don't know about the uprisings and revolutions in the Caribbean that were significant in the ending of slavery. What's surprising about this history is how little it's known - but also how much it means to people when it's returned.

To understand how to change the future, we must understand the blueprints of the past, and that is what appears on the pages of history books

#### It seems like more people are now interested in this history than before. Why do you think that is?

I think it's for two reasons. One is because the country is changing. Lots of the country's younger generation are black or mixed race or Asian or different ethnicities, and lots of them have friendship networks with people from all over the world. That generation is fascinated by this history. The other thing is that there is an awakening to the idea that the stories of the British Empire have not been properly told. And black history in Britain is a big part of that.

British: A Short. **Essential History** is available now

#### Is that side of history talked about in schools?

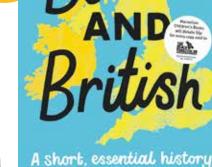
We think about 11% of children doing GCSEs encounter some form of black history. In many cases they're learning African-American history or the history of the slave trade – but not how it relates to Britain. I don't think it's just schools though. For a long time, people have wanted to forget about the British Empire and we've not wanted to talk about it.

#### If you could go back in time and speak to a person from history, who would you choose? I'm more interested in events and things. If I could go back in time, I'd like to walk around the London of the

1870s. There are fragments or parts of that London that are still standing, but much of it's gone.

#### What advice would you give to readers who want to make our world more equal?

What I would say as a historian is that in order to change the world, to create a more equal society or societies, you need to understand where inequality came about in the first place. Those inequalities were invented, they were created, there were people who gained from them. The answers to those questions, how this unequal world was created, those answers lie in history. To understand how to change the future, we must understand the blueprints of the past and that is what appears on the pages of history books.



Black and

#### CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY





























DAVID OLUSOGA



### APPLE COURT CASE GOES BANANAS

THERE was some light relief during tech giant Apple's court case with Epic Games this week, when lawyers discussed whether Fortnite's banana man, Peely, was in fact naked!

Apple and Epic Games (makers of Fortnite) have been in court for weeks, battling over Apple's App Store pricing. But that's not important right now. A nearly-naked banana is what's important!

In a fruity exchange, Apple's lawyer asked Epic Games marketing vicepresident Matthew Weissinger about how Epic makes money in Fortnite. The lawyer showed a picture of Peely, saying: "We have a large yellow banana here, in a tuxedo?"

Weissinger responded by saying: "Yes, that's Peely." Apple's lawyer said: "I thought it was better to go with the suit instead of the naked banana, because we are in federal court right now."

Later, Epic's lawyer said Apple had suggested that a suitless Peely might have been "inappropriate", and asked Weissinger if "there [was] anything inappropriate about Peely without clothes?" Weissinger replied: "It's just a banana, ma'am."



# 20 YEARS OF XBOX!

#### THE original Xbox games console was launched 20 years ago!

The console officially launched back in November 2001, but celebrations began last week, with the release of some special merchandise and the announcement of the Xbox FanFest, which will offer "exclusive sweepstakes, FanFest gear and digital experiences".

Microsoft has also released a special 20-year gamerpic and an old-school Xbox-themed dynamic background for the Xbox Series X/S.

Twenty years ago, playing on the Xbox meant hooking up the console with a bunch of cables to your TV, and buying games by waiting in line at a store. Back then, games did have multiplayer, but that usually meant playing while sat next to a friend on the sofa!

Today, gaming looks very different! You can play with friends all over the planet on a console, computer or mobile. Some games will even let you play with others on different consoles – something only dreamed of 20 years ago!

#### PERRY AND POKEM



#### KATY Perry has released a new song for Pokémon's 25th anniversary celebration.

Called Electric, the song will be a part of Pokémon 25: The Album, a compilation of songs by famous musicians, all about Pokémon!

The album is set to be released this autumn.

Katy said that her song was about "resilience and igniting your inner light", which "have guided my life, and also parallel Pokémon's story and characters."

In the music video, Katy and Pikachu think back to when they were both younger, when Pikachu was just a little Pichu. Katy says that the video shows how "we both evolve, yet retain a sense of playfulness".

#### **SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

### THE *FIRST NEWS* SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2020-2021 IS OPEN FOR ENTRIES!



WE'RE out to find the best school newspapers of 2020-21 and to discover what you junior journalists have been up to.

It's been a challenging year with another pandemic lockdown, so we know it will have been a tough task for you to write, create and publish your school newspapers with all this going on.

Last year, we were so impressed with all the entries we received and were amazed at what you'd managed to achieve. So, we can't wait to see what you have been up to this year.

It doesn't matter whether you have created a newspaper, newsletter, blog, podcast or broadcast, or whether you've been contributing to a local newspaper or news website, all entries are welcome.



Last year's winners (I-r): Faldingworth Community **Primary School** 

St John's Marlborough

Bessemer **Grange Primary** School

#### WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN ENTRY THAT...



- has stories and content that is just right for your readers
- informs your community of the important issues they need to know about
- challenges readers to think about the problems and dilemmas that affect us all
- provides a little bit of fun and fascination to make your school newspaper a must-read for everyone!

#### THIS YEAR'S AWARDS.

- Primary School Newspaper
- Secondary School Newspaper
- Editorial Team of the Year
- Innovative News Award for clever ways of sharing news, like a podcast
- First News Young Reporter Award - for those who have created a newspaper at home for friends and family, or for a star school newspaper reporter, submitted by a teacher.

More details and the competition entry form can be found at f

Closing date for entries is Friday 18 June 2021.



# ANIMALS BORN DIFFERENCE

EARLIER this year, a six-legged puppy with two tails was born in America. Little Skipper was described as a "miracle" and is expected to live a healthy life. Being born different doesn't mean you can't live a happy life – just look at these animals who were all born with unusual features.

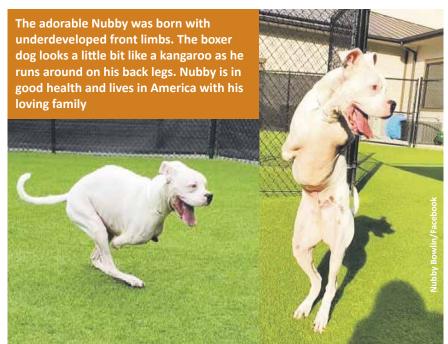




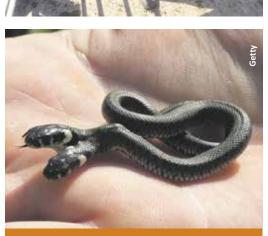
Jake the lamb (above and below) was born with an extra leg and became an online sensation. He died in 2017, but lived much longer than vets thought he would



These dogs were born with two noses! Snuffles (above) and Toby were both born with the harmless condition. It's not known if they have an increased sense of smell, but dogs are pretty great sniffers anyway



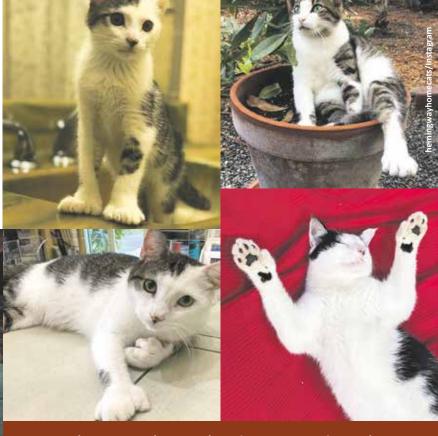




This teeny, two-headed snake was found in a garden in Croatia by a kind-hearted animal lover







A museum that was once home to the writer Ernest Hemingway houses about 60 cats. Half of the furry felines are polydactyl, which means they have extra toes, and can make it look like the cats are wearing mittens!

# CUTHBERT'S CHARITY SKYDIVE!



#### **CUTHBERT** the caterpillar has taken his recent fame to new heights, and is believed to have completed the world's first ever caterpillar cake skydive!

Aldi's infamous chocolate insect was launched from a specially-built aircraft 40,000ft (12.2km) above ground. He travelled at over 50mph (80km/h), before his parachute landed him safely back on solid ground. The daring feat was part of Aldi's #CaterpillarsForCancer campaign, to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Cuthbert has returned to Aldi stores for a limited time, but M&S is still taking Aldi to court for copying its cake, Colin the Caterpillar.



#### A BUSINESSMAN in **Guatemala has found** an unusual way to make pizza - cooking it over an active volcano!

David Garcia uses the hot lava rivers from the Pacaya volcano to conjure up his Italian dishes. It gets so hot that he has to wear protective clothing and use special metal trays that can cope with temperatures of up to 1,000°C.

David said he has to be very careful that the pizza dough doesn't burn or drift away!

The volcano pizza is now a hit with tourists in the area, with people visiting just to take pictures.





#### A PAIR of foxes have been caught bouncing around on a family's trampoline.

The playful pair were spied on a security camera having a little late-night jump. One of the foxes takes flight first, before his bouncing buddy joins him and gets in on the action.

The footage, which was filmed in a back garden in Stratford, east London, has made lots of people smile. Many say it reminds them of the 2016 John Lewis advert, which saw a group of animals having fun on a little girl's trampoline.



the most out of anywhere in the UK, research for Beano comic has found. Residents of the northeastern city laugh on average 33 times a day!











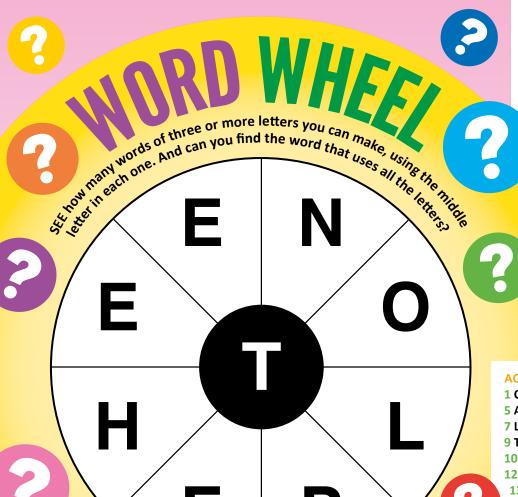
LOOK



filling in the numbers one to nine?

end in your answers and one lucky winner will win a SuperThings Power Machines bundle, thanks to Magic Box Toys. Collect 80 characters, including a new Ultra Rare glow-in-the-dark character – Dr Volt. Plus there are also Power Jets, Giant Power Bots and Battle Spinners to collect, along with great value packs and the

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



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.

**NEAT** 

**CAN** you complete our crossword puzzle using the clues below?

Send in your answers and two winners will win a copy of Ancient World Magnified. This fascinating book whisks readers on a journey through time, free magnifying glass in hand, for a search-and-find adventure at the beginning of human history. See Quarto.com.



#### 10 11 12 13 14 15 17 16 18

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Comprehend (10)
- **5** Around (5)
- 7 Less (5)
- 9 Tidier (6)
- 10 Opposite of shut (4) 12 Type of racing toboggan (4)
- 13 Small doll on strings (6)
- 16 Jewelled headdress or crown (5)
- 17 Least good (5)
- 18 Temperature measure (10)

- 1 \_\_\_ Bolt: 100 metres world record holder (5)
- 2 Gone off (of food) (6)
- 3 A soft white food used in vegetarian diets (4)
- 4 E.g. First News (9)
- 6 Fizzy, fruit-flavoured drink (9)
- 8 Sprint (3)
- 11 \_\_\_\_ van Beethoven: famous composer (6)
- 12 Large amount (3)
- 14 The name of a book or song (5)
- 15 The actors in a play (4)

# POTTHE DIFFEREN

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from The World According to Grandpa on Channel 5?





# WORDSEARCH WHAT

CAN you find the words in our garden-themed wordsearch? Remember that the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

Н	I	т	A	J	Ν	U	C	R	z	S	F	М	Т	S	н	W	Н	V	F	L	Q	J	Ν	D	S	Ν	A	U	D	K
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Grass Sandpit **Butterfly** 

Shed

**Swing Flowers** 

Rake Bird feeder

**Bench Football Blossom** Wheelbarrow

of these are associated with weddings. Can you guess what they are?









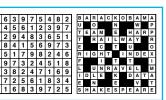




COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Email us at win@firstnews.co.uk putting 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), in the subject box. Please note: First News will not share your personal details with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

#### **LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:**

Spot the difference: leg has been added, teeth are bigger, eye has been removed, spike is missing from helmet, hat is now blue. Word ladder: mice. mile, tile, tale, tall, tail. Word wheel: motorbike. What on Earth?: bluebell, snapdragon, dandelion daisy, primrose, buttercup.



# T'S IN THE SHOPSY

#### MAKE YOUR OWN MARBLE RUN **CURIOUSUNIVERSE.CO.UK**

Build your very own awesome marble run and learn how to make other DIY creations with this clever pack. The kit contains detailed instructions and all the parts you need to construct one epic marble run, including eight marbles and 89 press-out pieces. And there are step-by-step instructions for creating eight other DIY projects.

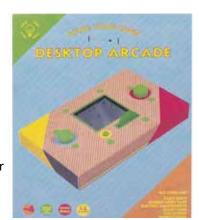


#### **MAKE YOUR OWN DESKTOP ARCADE IWANTONEOFTHOSE COM**

£16.99

Everything you need to create your own desktop arcade game. Simply fold and stick all the cleverly designed card nets together, then pin all of

the electrical components on to the card housing. Once complete, you'll be able to challenge anyone to a game of virtual tennis or pit your wits against the computer!



# **MAKE YOUR**



### FELT PUG PILLOW KIT

This Make Your Own Felt Pug Pillow kit is perfect for those learning to sew, with easy-to-use materials and a cool design that you'll love! The kit includes the cutout felt pieces you'll need, plus thread, stuffing and a needle.

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#### FIRST NEWS HOME IHUB





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Smyths, Amazon, B&M and Game.

# YOUR READS!

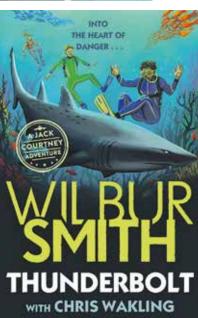
#### THUNDERBOLT **WILBUR SMITH**

Thunderbolt is a gripping story about a boy and his friends searching for treasure in Africa.

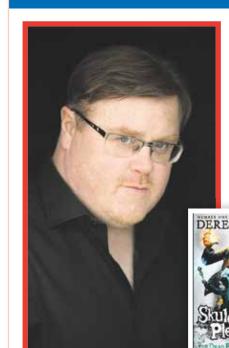
Jack is a 14-year-old boy from England. He lives in a normal house, goes to a normal school, but finds adventure on holiday when he and his friends are spotted by pirates and is in for all sorts of trouble. Little does Jack know that Somali pirates are roaming around on their oil-stained boats, searching for trouble. This story is very intense and you always want to read more, and when you feel like Jack is safe, he has just fallen into a bigger hole than before. The author's writing style transported me to the scenery and people, so when reading I could almost walk into the scene and have a look around for myself. I have really enjoyed Jack's extreme adventure on the seas and can't wait for the next book.

Thunderbolt really opened my eyes about modern pirates, child soldiers and the reallife dangers around the world, and gave me an understanding of different lives and how lucky I am to have a life far away from war.





# National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



#### **MEET Skulduggery Pleasant with** Derek Landy!

Derek is our Virtual School Library author of the week. Visit the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read Skulduggery Pleasant for free!

Derek recommends these three reads:

- Abarat by Clive Barker
- His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman
  - The Three Investigators series by Robert Arthur, Jr

Step inside the library to watch an exclusive video with Derek Landy and read a Q&A! Derek Landy's new book, The Skulduggery Pleasant Grimoire, is out on 27 May.



Virtual School Library

FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK



# OUR RIGHTS ARE GOLDEN

by Daniel Redmond, St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School

OUR school is a Rights Respecting School (RRS)! We started our RRS journey in December 2015 and worked really hard spreading the UNICEF message that all children have rights.

I feel very proud that the hard work of our pupils and teachers has been recognised, as in October 2018 we were awarded the gold standard for being a RRS (we had obtained bronze in April 2016 and silver in July 2017). This gold award was in recognition of how our school community has come together to make sure that every child and adult in our school understands the rights of children, as detailed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that these are part of our everyday school life.

We are currently the only school in Liverpool to have achieved the gold standard!

During the coronavirus pandemic our pupils and staff have worked hard to continue this gold standard. Online each week we were assigned an activity around children's rights or UNICEF's OutRight campaign, which this year was about educating and giving children a voice on climate change.

We have our monthly newsletter, which is a great way for us to keep our wider school community up to date with our RRS information.



As a rights-holder I feel safe and protected knowing that I have rights. I feel proud that my school community has worked hard during these difficult times to make sure children are accessing their rights even though they have, at times, had to be away from school and learning from home.

Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? How has the coronavirus affected your school, friends and family? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

Email your report (including pictures) to yournews@firstnews.co.uk

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

# HIDDEN HISTORY

I HAVE been inspired by others taking up different challenges in lockdown, so I decided to take one up myself.

I live in Leeds in Yorkshire and had always seen signposts near our house for the Leeds Country Way. I decided to do some research into it and found out it was a 62-mile circular walk right round Leeds. I then told my dad about it and we decided it would be a great challenge to do.

We decided to walk one day each weekend, and we started and

finished from our front door. We walked by so many historical places and saw some amazing views; my favourite was the one where I could see over the whole of Leeds.

Each day we took a packed lunch and off we went exploring the outdoors. I was the map reader and tried to stop us getting lost and keep us on the correct route.

There were some really muddy sections where it went way past our boots; my dad almost slipped and it was so funny.

It was great fun and I really loved getting outdoors and seeing loads of places I never even knew existed so close to home.

As May is National Walking Month, I really encourage you to go on a walk and enjoy the outdoors – you never know what you will find.

### RUNNING FOR RSPCA

by Daya Gill

I HAVE completed a 30km running challenge over the course of a month, to raise funds for the RSPCA and help animals in need.

I love animals and really want a dog, so I chose to raise money for the RSPCA through my running challenge. I love running and I am really proud of what I have done.

I thought it would be really hard to do 30km but actually I was surprised that I did it when my mum totalled up my distance one day.

My running challenge was actually quite fun! The hardest part was on a day that I went running when I was already too tired because I'd been gardening. I ran out of energy and fell and hurt my knees badly. I only managed 1km, when usually I can do 3.2km or more.

My best run was when I managed 5.4km, when I ran through the University

of Reading and around Whiteknights Lake. It was an amazing feeling.

The funniest time was when I ran around a local lake dressed up as a dog. I made friends with lots of other dogs who were also on their walk!

I managed to raise a whopping £446 for the charity.



SUBSCRIBE FOR SCHOOL - FIND OUT MORE AT SCHOOLS.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK







**28.** SPORT by Richard Mead First News Issue 779 • 21 – 27 May 2021

# THE FINALS COUNTDOWN



#### AFTER battling their way to cup finals, two English football teams were hoping to record historic victories.

Chelsea Women have had a remarkable season, after triumphing in the League Cup and winning the Women's Super League. But this match against Barcelona was the team's first appearance in a Champions League final – and the first for any English women's side since Arsenal lifted the trophy in 2007.

Unfortunately for the Blues, the tone of the game was set in the first minute – or 33 seconds, to be exact. That was the time on the clock when the ball rebounded off Chelsea's Melanie Leupolz and into the net for an own goal. A 14th-minute penalty doubled Barça's lead. Two more first-half goals from the Spanish side followed, to leave Chelsea in shock. The Blues' performance improved in the second half, but it was too

late to fight back and the game finished 4-0 to Barcelona.

The Chelsea men's team have their own Champions League final on 29 May against Manchester City, but before that contest they faced Leicester City in the FA Cup final. Chelsea have already picked up the trophy eight times, with the most recent being in 2018, while Leicester's best ever result was as runners-up. However, this season's league performances indicated the teams were well matched, and the game proved to be quite edgy. The deadlock was finally broken in the 63rd minute when Youri Tielemans scored a stunning long-range goal. A last-minute Chelsea goal was then ruled out by VAR, leaving Leicester to celebrate their first ever FA Cup win.

# TENTENNS TRIUNDES Rafael Nadal won his first Italian Open title in 2005 – and successfully defended his title the following year

#### TWO very different finals took place at the 2021 Italian Open in Rome.

In the men's competition, world number one Novak Djokovic was pitted against number three Rafael Nadal and the match didn't disappoint. Nadal edged the first set 7-5 before Djokovic took complete control of the second, winning it 6-1. Nadal steadied his nerve for the decider, taking it 6-3 and securing his tenth Italian Open title.

The women's final between Poland's Iga Świątek and the Czech Republic's Karolína Plíšková was a much shorter match Teenager Świątek, who won the French Open in 2020, played a perfect game, outclassing her opponent to win 6-0, 6-0 in just 45 minutes!



The tournament also saw an incredible achievement, as Serena Williams played her 1,000th match. Unfortunately for the American legend, her first game in three months saw her narrowly defeated 7-6, 7-5 by Argentina's Nadia Podoroska.

months after winning gold in the 200m at the 2019 World Athletics Championships, Dina

Asher-Smith competed at the same distance in Savona, Italy. It was her first 200m race since that stunning victory and saw the British sprinter win with a time of 22.56 seconds.



477

attempts to win a European Tour title were made by golfer Richard Bland – but his 478th try saw

him finish first in the British Masters. However, he still had to face a suddendeath play-off against Guido Migliozzi first! Bland became the oldest first-time winner of a European Tour title.



0

goals had been scored by a Liverpool goalkeeper in any competitive match – until Alisson hit the

back of the net against West Bromwich Albion. With the score tied at 1-1, the Brazilian came up for a corner in the 95th minute and headed the ball home to give Liverpool the win!

