

ENQUIRER PRESENTS

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EYE ON LONDON

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

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N News

Work begins to build 83 new homes in North Kensington



Work has begun on the Barlby Road new homes site in North Kensington to build 83 new homes and a brand-new multi-purpose sports facility for local school pupils and the community. The development is part of the RBKC council's New Homes Delivery Programme which will offer 38 homes for social rent and 10 for key workers. The rest will be at market rent.

As part of the scheme, the council will also be carrying out improvements to communal gardens on Trevorton Street and building a studio unit for hire.

"Despite the challenging climate in which we are working," Cllr Kim Taylor-Smith, Lead Member for Grenfell Housing, Housing and Social Investment, said, "we are determined to deliver as many homes as possible across the borough to relieve the pressure on our housing register. "Everyone

deserves to have a roof over their head and a safe place to call home."

The council also aims to make its developments as green as possible. To that end, emphasis will be placed on sustainability and low energy lighting, enhanced insulation, and air source heating. All of this hopes to reduce energy bills for residents.

Work is expected to finish at Barlby Road and be ready for residents by the end of 2025.

"Our New Homes Delivery Programme will deliver 600 new homes, 300 of which are at social rent which will mean many people who have been waiting years for a home will get the keys to their own place," Cllr Kim Taylor-Smith said. "All homes will be built to the same specification whether they are for social, intermediate or market rent. This is something we are extremely proud of."

Keep Britain Tidy has recognized the success of Kensington & Chelsea in providing well-managed, accessible, and good quality green and open spaces with the award of 11 of its prestigious Green Flag awards. Parks throughout the borough, along with the Lancaster West Estate in North Kensington, have again received the award.

Judges noted that "standards of grounds maintenance is really good and you can tell that the park is really cared for" in Cremorne Park in Chelsea. They recognized "good links to wider community groups who actively engage within the park and make a positive impact" in Emslie Horniman's Pleasance in

North Kensington.

The Lancaster West Estate was praised as well. "Staff and community volunteers have been working very hard to take each and every opportunity to add greening, growing, biodiversity and colour to spaces that are underused or need to be cared for and loved."

Awards were given to the following: Avondale Park, Cremorne Gardens, Emslie Horniman's Pleasance, Gunnersbury Cemetery, Holland Park (which has held the award for over 20 years), Kensington Memorial Park, Lancaster West Estate, Little Wormwood Scrubs, St Luke's Gardens, Tavistock Square Gardens, and Westfield Park.

National recognition for outstanding parks and open spaces in Kensington & Chelsea



Image: Fahad Redha

Leighton House finalist for Art Fund Museum of the Year

Kensington museum Leighton House became a finalist in the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2023 as Glasgow's art museum The Burrell Collection won the £120,000 prize at the ceremony at the British Museum, hosted by renowned UK artist Grayson Perry.

Owned by the council, Leighton House has been a museum since 1900. Situated near High Street Kensington, it is dedicated to the private collection of former Royal Academy President Frederic Leighton, offering a glimpse into the inspirations, works, and glamour of Victorian artists society as well as Leighton's fascination

with Arabic and Middle-Eastern art and design. It reopened in 2022 after its 'Hidden Gem to National Treasure' redevelopment. The project allowed for better community engagement through its dedicated learning centre, and improved accessibility throughout the museum's public spaces.

The Art Fund Museum of the Year prize celebrates the breadth of culture among the country's 2,500 museums to shortlist just five. This year's shortlist includes The Burrell Collection (Glasgow), The MAC (Belfast), Natural History Museum (also in Kensington and Chelsea, London), and Scapa Flow Museum (Orkney).



Image: Aitchison, George - Culture Grid,

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EyeOnLondon founded in 2022 on the following principles.

- Committed to providing thought-provoking news & features.
- Delivering quality content
- Being a platform for nurturing trust and transparency within the media
- Cultivating the written and investigative talents of young journalist and interns.

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N

News



TfL joins call for better motorcycle training

TfL, motorcycling organisations, road safety charities, and other transport authorities have signed a letter calling on the government to improve the compulsory basic training (CBT) for motorcycles. The letter challenges the government to change the CBT to strengthen safety standards and reduce danger on roads. “Strengthening CBT would be a positive step to ensure safer motorcycling across the UK,” TfL says.

The current CBT for motorcycles and mopeds enables people as young as 17 to ride motorcycles up to the national speed limit with L-plates after just one day of training and without a theory test. It was developed over three decades ago.

Motorcycle riders face the greatest change of death or serious injury on the roads. In London, riders account for just 2.6% of vehicle kilometres driven but around 27% of deaths and serious injuries over the last five years. An average of 1,000 people are killed or seriously injured riding

a motorcycle in London with the majority being those on low-powered bikes and scooters riding with L-plates.

The letter calls on the government to introduce powers to revoke the CBT certificate or take other measures for learner riders who have accrued six penalty points. It also calls to restrict those who complete the course on an automatic bike to be restricted to only riding automatics on the road. A combined CBT and DAS instructor qualification assessment and changes to the CBT syllabus, including requiring instructors to ensure trainees are appropriately dressed, are also being called for, along with a theory test as part of or prior to CBT.

TfL is working with the food delivery industry to improve rider safety under the belief that better training is crucial. A range of free enhanced motorcycle training courses will be offered in partnership with the Met Police to deliver BikeSafe training.

Parents urged to check child’s MMR vaccine record

Parents, as well as carers, in the City of London are being encouraged to check their child’s MMR vaccine records. This is following a rise in cases of measles throughout London. The free measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect children against severe forms of the diseases, and is offered to children at one year old, and when they reach three years and four months.

It is important to have both doses of the vaccination and it is never too late to catch up on missed vaccinations. Measles currently has no cure and a vaccination is the only known way to reduce the risk of it spreading in the community and causing serious health complications for the more vulnerable.

Parents and carers alike are being asked

to check if their child has had two doses of the MMR vaccine. If they are unsure, they can contact their GP practice to check and book an appointment if necessary.

Measles is a contagious disease with symptoms that include a high fever, sore, red, and watery eyes, as well as coughing, aching and generally feeling unwell, and a blotchy red brown rash. The latter usually appears after the initial symptoms. Measles can lead to complications including an ear infection, pneumonia, and, in rare cases, long term disability or death.

Anyone with symptoms is advised to stay at home and call their GP or NHS 111 for advice, rather than visiting a surgery or A&E. This is to avoid further spread.

To find out more about childhood vaccinations, visit the NHS website: [nhs.uk/childvaccines](https://www.nhs.uk/childvaccines)



ULEZ expansion greenlit

The ULEZ is set to be expanded from the 29th August as the M25 ring road will form the rough boundary. A daily £12.50 non-compliance fee will be charged to drivers of petrol cars that don’t meet at least the Euro 4 emissions standards and diesel cars that don’t meet Euro 6. The plan has been controversial as many claim that the surcharge or changing to a complaint car could have a serious economic impact on affected drivers, especially when the cost of living is hitting record levels.

Five Tory-led London councils raised the issue in the High Court, arguing that the mayor “lacks the powers” to introduce such measures and the scrappage scheme designed to alleviate its impact is ineffective. Their appeal was lost and the scheme

has been greenlit.

The mayor, Sadiq Khan hailed it as a “landmark decision,” adding that the “good news” will mean that he can “proceed with cleaning up the air in outer London.” He pledged to do “everything possible to address any concerns Londoners may have,” as well as saying that “nine out of 10 cars seen driving in outer London on an average day are already compliant so won’t pay a penny.”

The scrappage scheme has been criticised for offering compensation to only a small proportion of the drivers affected in London. It was also criticised for offering only up to £2,000, an amount that is “unlikely to be enough to enable the purchase of a car which meets the current criteria to avoid the ULEZ charge,” according to vehicle valuation provider Cap HPI.

N News

An increase in the use of pesticides and fertilisers on farmlands has been found to be the main contributor to the decline in many bird populations across Europe, according to a major study. The study was published in the science journal PNAS and used the most comprehensive of its kind ever assembled to look into what drives population changes in European bird populations.

It examined how 170 bird species responded to major human-induced pressures. These include climate as well as changes in land use. Researchers monitored 20,000 sites across 28 countries over 37 years including the UK. Over the study period, between 1980 and 2016, common bird species in Europe were shown to have a general decline of around a quarter (25.4%) in "general abundance."

Farmland species have more than halved in the same period, a decline of 56.8%.

Drops were also seen in woodland birds (-17.7%), urban dwellers (-27.8%), among northern, cold-preferring birds (-39.7%) and southern, warm-preferring bird species (-17.1%).

One key finding in the study was the negative impact that intensive farming practices have had on bird species throughout Europe, even in the UK. Researchers noted that intensification, which they measured by the high use of pesticides and fertilisers, led to the decline of many populations. Those that rely on invertebrates for food were hit the hardest.

Researchers also found a direct relationship between declines in bird populations and other pressures linked to human activity. These include changes in forest cover, urbanisation, and climate change over the last decade. These tended to have an even greater impact on specific bird species.



Increase in pesticide & fertilisers driving down bird species

Orkney sees UK's first drone mail delivery

Orkney has become the first place in the UK to have mail delivered by drones. The Orkney I-Port was launched by Royal Mail and drone firm Skyports to distribute letters and parcels between the islands. In a partnership with Orkney Council Harbour Authority and Loganair, post will be delivered from the Kirkwall delivery office to Stromness. From there, drones will carry items to Graemsay and Hoy where mail staff will complete the delivery routes.

While the service will initially operate for three months, it could continue on a permanent basis under the existing regulations. This is due to the islands' unique landscape and close proximity to one another.

This is expected to improve service levels significantly as well as delivery times to Graemsay and Hoy where weather and geography have caused delays and disruption to services. It also promises to improve safety by ensuring that postal workers can deliver between ports with no risk.



London's tourist attractions see rise in visitors



London's tourist attractions saw a big increase in visitors in 2022 compared to 2021, new research has shown. Last summer's tourist season was the first in which there were no Covid-19 restrictions in place since the pandemic began. City Hall researchers found a big rise in international flights coming into London even compared to certain points in 2019.

In 2019, London was the world's third most visited city, receiving 21 million visitors. With the tourism industry employing 700,000 people, it accounts for 11.6% of the capital's economic output according to the London Assembly. However, this all came to a stop in 2020 thanks to lockdown and international restrictions.

In 2022, the mayor's office launched a

campaign to help the industry recover. Researchers at City Hall analysed tourism data and found that tourism attractions saw a 141% increase in footfall in 2022 compared with 2021. That's based on a survey of 85 venues by Visit England. A separate report by City Destination Alliance found that there was a 131% increase in accommodation bookings last year, making it the most popular city in the world for an overnight stay. There has also been a rise in international flights arriving in London than in 2019, before the pandemic began, according to Forward Keys.

Analysts from Tourism Economics predict that as many as two million more international arrivals will come to London this year compared to 2022, bringing in an additional £674 million to the capital.

International News

Aviation tends to receive less attention in discussions about global emissions compared to other transportation modes, mainly because its contribution to overall emissions is relatively smaller when compared to cars and ships. However, this doesn't imply that it is exempt from environmental concerns, and forward-thinking innovators are actively seeking to address this issue.

ZeroAvia, a pioneering company, aims to revolutionise commercial flights by achieving carbon-free operations as early as 2025. At the Cotswold Airport near Cirencester, the company has already conducted nine test flights utilising their hydrogen-electric engine, which emits only water, making it a promising step towards the "decarbonisation of aviation," as Vice-president Sergey Kiselev states.

While there are other firms with similar ambitions for zero-emission aeroplane engines, their efforts are not expected to take flight before 2035. The advantage of Gloucestershire-based ZeroAvia lies in its approach. Rather than designing an entirely new aircraft, it is modifying an existing one, the Dornier 228, a conventional 19-seater with two propellers typically powered by kerosene. One of the propellers has been replaced with an electric motor, drawing electricity from a hydrogen fuel cell onboard. During the testing phase, the other propeller still runs on kerosene, but once the technology is fully validated, both engines will operate using the fuel cell.

ZeroAvia emphasises its commitment to safety and compliance, actively working with the Civil Aviation Authority to achieve certification for the groundbreaking technology. By making steady progress and collaborating with aviation authorities, ZeroAvia aims to bring about a transformative shift in the industry, leading the way towards a greener and more sustainable future for aviation.

Hydrogen fuel cells are not a new technology. In recent years, both cars and trucks have been experimenting with these fuel cells, and several models, such as the Hyundai Nexa and Toyota Mirai, have already been sold with this technology integrated into them. Hydrogen fuel cells operate through a chemical process known as reverse hydrolysis. This process involves combining hydrogen with oxygen to produce heat, water vapour, and electricity. The hydrogen used in fuel cells is generated from water, making it an entirely renewable energy source that produces no greenhouse gases.

Currently, the prevailing method for hydrogen production involves treating natural gas with steam, which is considered highly unsustainable, according to the insights of Bath University's esteemed Professor Tim Mays. This approach generates significant greenhouse gas emissions, undermining the potential environmental benefits of hydrogen fuel cells. However, there is a promising alternative that offers substantial benefits to the industry and the environment alike. Enter "green hydrogen," a form of hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources. By harnessing sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, or hydroelectric power, the production of green hydrogen avoids greenhouse gas emissions altogether, making it a clean and environmentally friendly option.

In this context, Professor Tim Mays leads the UK Hydrogen Research Hub, a pivotal initiative focusing on exploring the vast

Carbon-free flights

"within two years"



Image: Airwolfhound

potential of hydrogen in combating climate change. Recently, this critical research endeavour has been generously endowed with £11 million in funding, empowering it to delve deeper into the possibilities and applications of hydrogen as a climate-friendly solution.

As the world looks for sustainable and low-carbon alternatives to combat the challenges of climate change, the innovative approach of green hydrogen holds tremendous promise for transforming industries and securing a cleaner, greener future. The efforts of researchers like Professor Tim Mays and the UK Hydrogen Research Hub stand at the forefront of this vital quest for a more sustainable world.

The Dornier 228 is a compact aircraft with a modest capacity, accommodating approximately 12 passengers, and covering a distance of 250-310 miles (400-500 km) as affirmed by Chief Commercial Officer Sergey Kiselev. To put this into perspective, it can travel the distance between cities like Bristol and Newcastle or London and Paris. However, ZeroAvia, driven by ambitious aspirations, envisions a future with even more significant advancements. By the year 2027, the company aims to develop a larger, more powerful engine capable of propelling larger aeroplanes over greater distances. The envisioned goal is to have these improved aircraft carry around 50 passengers, traversing closer to 1000 km or 620 miles on a single journey.

The potential of this endeavour promises to revolutionise air travel, offering more extensive reach and capacity for passengers, and setting the stage for enhanced

aviation capabilities on a global scale.

According to Professor Mays, despite its promise, hydrogen technology is not without its challenges. "Making it, transporting it, and storing it" all pose significant hurdles that need to be addressed. Similar to hydrogen fuel cell cars, the aviation industry will require the establishment of new infrastructure to effectively support this innovative technology.

To facilitate the use of hydrogen-powered aircraft, the creation of hydrogen production centres would play a pivotal role. These centres would form a network responsible for delivering fuel to airports, storing it efficiently, and managing the distribution process seamlessly. By addressing these critical aspects of infrastructure development, the aviation industry can pave the way for a successful integration of hydrogen technology and its broader adoption in the future.

Hydrogen, as a fuel for aviation, presents a stark contrast to kerosene, with its unique set of challenges. To be transported safely and efficiently, hydrogen needs to be compressed under extremely high pressure, occupying a significant amount of space. Alternatively, it can be transported as a liquid, but this requires chilling it to an extreme temperature of 253 degrees below zero. Airport authorities and aerospace companies are diligently studying these aspects to pave the way for its integration into the aviation industry.

While hydrogen shows potential as an aviation fuel, it is not yet optimised and lacks the necessary infrastructure for widespread adoption. Professor Mays

acknowledges that although flying with hydrogen is possible, it currently lacks super efficiency. Moreover, limitations in infrastructure are evident, with facilities like the Cotswold Airport hangar being too small compared to major aviation firms' research labs.

Despite these challenges, ZeroAvia has already demonstrated promising progress, securing over 1,500 orders for its hydrogen-powered engine. Airlines like Air Cahana, a Californian newcomer with ambitions to decarbonise aviation, and environmental entrepreneur Dale Vince, founder of Ecotricity, are among those placing their trust in ZeroAvia's technology. Vince is even launching his own airline, Ecojet, envisioning a future of passenger flights between Edinburgh and Southampton, powered by ZeroAvia's innovative motor.

These startups have captured the attention of larger aerospace companies like Airbus, whose research program ZeroE also explores hydrogen-powered aviation. However, while Airbus aims to take flight with hydrogen by 2035, it is notably a decade later than ZeroAvia's aspirations. Boeing, on the other hand, envisions hydrogen-powered flights to become a reality by 2050, underscoring the complexity of the challenge at hand.

Despite the hurdles, the pursuit of carbon-free commercial flights is both vital and promising. If ZeroAvia and similar initiatives achieve success, they have the potential to revolutionise the aviation industry, ushering in a sustainable and environmentally conscious future for air travel.

CRYPTO

Economic secretary to the Treasury, Andrew Griffith, said that equating crypto assets as a form of gambling would create the risk of misalignment with global approaches and standards, including from major economies including the European Union. Griffith was responding to a Treasury Committee report on regulations for crypto. He said that it would potentially create unclear as well as overlapping mandates between financial regulators and the Gambling Commission.

In the statement, Griffith said that regu-

He endorsed a financial services regulatory framework to address the risks of “unbacked crypto assets” and hopefully build an environment that can promote safe innovation. He pointed out that the government has been in the process of introducing a dedicated financial promotions regulatory regime for crypto assets. This was proposed to Parliament in June and has been through deliberation. It is slated to come into effect later in 2023. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is keen on positioning the UK as a crypto hub. However, these plans have met resist-



CRYPTO SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS GAMBLING SAYS MP

lating retail crypto trading in the same way as gambling would put the country at odds with the internationally agreed recommendations from various organisations and standard-setting bodies worldwide. These include the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)1 and the G20 Financial Stability Board (FSB). “HM Treasury firmly disagrees with the Committee’s recommendation to regulate “retail trading and investment activity in unbacked crypto assets as gambling rather than as a financial service,” he said. A system of gambling regulation, Griffith says, may struggle to successfully mitigate some of the critical risks associated with cryptocurrency assets including market manipulation, inadequate prudential arrangements, and deficiencies in key financial risk management practices.

ance from lawmakers. Bank of England Governor, Andrew Bailey, is one, having previously argued that Bitcoin and other crypto assets have “no intrinsic value.” The asset class was labelled a “wild west” by Harriett Baldwin, chair of the Treasury Committee, who highlighted the risks to consumers, as well as events, in 2022. Griffith’s statement came in response to a House of Commons Committee, which recommended regulating retail crypto trading and investments in the same way as gambling. It is based on the principle of “same activity, same risk, same regulatory outcome.” CryptoUK, a self-regulatory trade association for the country’s crypto-asset industry, also expressed dissatisfaction with the recommendation of treating crypto assets as a form of gambling.

The UK’s National Crime Agency (NCA) is hiring two positions for the role of blockchain investigator under the Complex Financial Crime Team (CFCT). This is part of the law enforcement agency’s efforts to combat crimes related to cryptocurrency.

conduct investigations into financial crimes and work in partnership with the City of London Police. In addition, the NCA announced at the beginning of the year that it will be strengthening efforts to combat crimes in the cryptocurrency space by creating a special unit dubbed the National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU) Crypto Cell. This announcement came after the introduction of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill in Parliament which gives law enforcement agencies



UK CRIME AGENCY TO HIRE CRYPTO INVESTIGATORS

The responsibilities for the two advertised managerial positions include overseeing the investigations into any crimes related to cryptocurrency. This is to ensure that those investigations are done in accordance with the Proceeds of Crime Act, legislation aimed at tackling money laundering and the confiscation of assets obtained through criminal activity. Candidates with experience in blockchain analysis and with in-depth knowledge of laws related to digital assets in the UK and worldwide are the ideal candidates for the roles. The agency is also looking for someone who is a member of the police force and is an accredited financial investigator. This is part of the UK’s efforts to regulate the rising cases of illegal activities in digital assets spaces. The CFCT will

more power to combat illegal crypto related activity. These include unlicensed operations of crypto ATMs. Finance Magnates reported that the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) had shut down over two dozen illegal crypto ATMs since the start of the year. The FCA had cautioned that unlicensed cryptocurrency ATMs contributed to illegal activities including money laundering. The UK is among many nations strengthening its law enforcement agencies to combat illegal crypto activities. South Korea has launched a special investigations unit to take on the rising cases of crypto-related crimes in the country. Its Supreme Prosecutor’s Office reports that losses from these crimes increased by 120% for the five-year period ending in 2022. Its unit hopes to protect investors in the country.

BUSINESS & FINANCE



GENDER PENSION GAP REVEALED

Women's private pension pots in the UK are worth around 35% less than those of their male colleagues by the time they reach 55. This is according to the first major government study into what is being referred to as "the great gender pension chasm."

Having analysed data for both sexes from 2018 to 2020, researchers concluded that for every £100 accumulated in men's private pension, women have an average of just £65. As a result of the imbalance, women could end up losing thousands in retirement income.

Lower overall earnings, time off for childcare and other caring duties, and the greater number of women in part-time work are thought to be among the factors that women's pension pots are just two-thirds the size of men's.

Several reports have been published in recent years on the gender pension gap but this is the first time that the government has calculated the true scale of the issue. The gap varied for different age bands and was lowest for people in their 30s, which suggests that time off for childcare was a big factor. For workers eligible for automatic enrolment, the gap shrinks, currently standing at 32%. Overall, it rises to 47% for those aged 45-49.

The study also found a gap in contributions made by men and women. In 2021, around £52 billion was paid into the private pension of women eligible for automatic enrolment. By comparison, £62.6 billion was paid into men's pensions. This is a gap of 17%.

It is "less of a gap, more of a gaping chasm" according to Helen Morrissey, the head of retirement analysis at Hargreaves Lansdown. "The government recently announced childcare reforms which should help more women keep working and contributing to their pensions, but the gender pension gap looks set to remain with us for some time yet," she said.

Laura Suter, the head of personal finance for investment platform AJ Bell, said that the figures show that once women reach their 40s, they drop behind men in their pension savings. "A lot of this will be due to women taking career breaks to have children, working part-time around caring responsibilities, or the gender pay gap meaning they earn less – which all filters through to lower incomes and lower pension contributions."

The figures do not include people who have no pension wealth when they reach retirement age which Suter says would make the gap even bigger as women are more likely to have no pensions.

"The success of automatic enrolment has transformed the UK pensions landscape and brought millions of women into pension saving for the very first time," pensions minister, Laura Trott, said. However, while the participation gap has closed, the wealth gap persists. The publication of an official annual measure will help us track the collective efforts of government, industry and employers to close the gender pensions gap."

INVESTMENT NEEDED TO TURN
BRITAIN'S ECONOMY AROUND

Multiple factors are affecting Britain's economy at the moment with spending power dropping due to high inflation. This is causing family finances to dwindle. House prices are seeing a drop as sellers lower prices to find buyers amidst high mortgage rates. In response to weakening consumer confidence, external demand is also dropping as the global cost of living continues to bite.

One area that's yet to drop so sharply is business investment. This may come as a surprise to many people as it's an area that many experts tipped as a weak point in the country's economy particularly after Brexit. However, it seems to be recovering, up 0.7 percent from the first three months of the year, meaning that the gap between its present and pre-pandemic level is the smallest since the pandemic began.

The uptick is also unexpected given the predictions over where economic growth was headed this year. The Bank of England expected the longest slump in a century back in November. But early 2023 jump could be a wolf in sheep's clothing, being driven by temporary factors that have made it appear better than it is.

The Prime Minister's super deduction, allowing businesses to take off 130 percent of the value of certain investments from their corporation tax liabilities, ended in March. "The breakdown of the business investment data for Q1 suggests that investment was artificially boosted by businesses bringing forward planned spending in order to take advantage of

the government's super-deduction policy," analysts at Pantheon Macroeconomics have said. A "front-loading" effect happened as many companies raced to get that tax break.

High interest rates are also bad for business investments particularly when debts are structured around spot rates rather than being fixed and locked in over a long period of time. Around 80 percent of corporate debt in the UK works this way.

Rates have been pushed up by the Bank of England to 4.5 percent and markets hope that they are on track to bring them up to at least 5.25 percent to tame inflation. This would list rates on new corporate lending to around 6.5 percent according to Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Britain is tipped by the IMF to avoid a recession though the call comes before markets raise their peak interest rates expectations. The threat of a deeper slump is very real if market expectations are not met. This would amplify caution over how businesses manage finances. Repaying debts with any excess cash could be a higher priority compared to new IT equipment or moving to a new office. Some sectors could aim to trim capital expenditure more than others. Real estate and manufacturing are very sensitive to rate changes because of their end consumers usually borrowing money to fund the product.

In order to turn the country's economy around and hope for better growth and living standards, investment is needed but the chances are slim.



THE BOTTOM LINE

I was pleased to be described by one reader as leftwing. Well to be precise, I was delighted to hear I had a reader. I would prefer to be seen as apolitical but anti-establishment whoever is making a mess of running our lives for us. The Register of Overseas Entities (ROE) strikes me as a relatively sensible innovation. I can't remember many others in the last decade of Tory misrule.

REGISTER

The creation of the ROE and the requirement for beneficial owners of UK properties to be reported to Companies House has significant implications for taxpayers. The main goal of this measure, introduced as part of the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022, is to improve transparency and tackle tax evasion and money laundering involving UK properties.

Do I think sophisticated intentional money laundering will be stymied by this latest act of state control? I'll come back to that one. What the ROE will do is codify and document taxable property assets like some latter-day Domesday Book. HMRC introduced measures indexing residential lettings about 15 years ago and the ROE seems a natural extension. The lettings initiative targeted estate agents to increase declared rent and increased disclosure of residential sales.

I doubt the register will help or hinder professional money-launderers much. The larger property transactions with money coming in offshore are too visible for much to get away. The yardstick is that money-laundering is 2% to 5% depending on how you look at it and what the real tax impact is. What the ROE will do, is what the government does so well, and target the essentially honest middle-income earners trying to make ends meet and accumulate some capital in a world dedicated to making that virtually impossible, for all but a few. In that, unusually, I suspect the ROE will generate a good return.

For taxpayers who own or are associated with overseas entities holding UK property, there are sev-

eral important considerations. First and foremost, they must ensure that their overseas entities are compliant with the new requirement to register with Companies House and declare their beneficial owners or managing officers. Companies were expected to register by 31 January 2023. Failure to do so may

result in monetary penalties or other sanctions.

The introduction of the ROE has given HMRC access to a wealth of data, helping them identify non-compliant overseas entities and scrutinise individuals or companies with beneficial interests in UK property or land. As a result, taxpayers who may have undeclared or incorrect UK tax liabilities related to their beneficial holdings, could come under HMRC's investigation.

To encourage voluntary compliance, HMRC has set up a new disclosure facility. Taxpayers who suspect they may have undisclosed tax liabilities are encouraged to use this facility to get in contact with HMRC. Making unprompted voluntary disclosures may lead to lower penalties com-

pared to if HMRC initiates the contact.

It's important for taxpayers to be proactive and ensure they are compliant with the new regulations to avoid potential penalties or legal consequences. HMRC's active use of the ROE data shows

that they are committed to pursuing tax compliance, and non-compliant taxpayers may find themselves subject to increased scrutiny and enforcement.

In conclusion, the implementation of the ROE and the reporting requirements for beneficial owners have given HMRC more tools to identify tax evasion and promote transparency in property ownership. Taxpayers must ensure compliance and take advantage of the disclosure facility if they have any concerns about their tax liabilities related to UK property or land holdings.

My aforementioned reader will have heard my reworking of the famous Churchill's democracy quotation (that it is the worst system of government ever devised except all the others), applying it to HM Revenue and Customs. (Have you learned to say "His Majesty's" yet?). If you think our Revenue is tough, spend a couple of days with us dealing with the implications for US citizens who have overlooked their UK properties. All the ROE cases we've taken on have involved disclosure problems in the country of residence of the property-owning vehicle. Now, that isn't going to be surprising. If you have outstanding disclosures where the asset is,

it's likely that there will be implications where ownership lies. It is likely that your solution will be driven by settling the UK position first because ours is probably the least worst legislature when things go wrong.

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-CHURCHILL-

Health & Wellbeing

Study into genetics offers hope for bone conditions

Six million years ago, our ancestors began to walk on two legs. This shift to being bipedal is believed to have made primates more adapted to a diverse range of habitats and freed their hands, allowing them to make and use tools, which further accelerated cognitive development. This set the stage for the evolution of modern humans.

The genetic changes that made this possible have been uncovered in a new study by researchers from Columbia University and the University of Texas. The findings were published in the journal *Science*. The study was co-led by Vagheesh M. Narasimhan, PhD, assistant professor of integrative biology and of statistics and data sciences at the University of Texas at Austin.

The researchers used a combination of deep learning (a type of artificial intelligence) and genome-wide association studies to build the first map of the 'genomic regions' responsible for skeletal changes. The map revealed that the genes that underlie the anatomical changes seen in the fossil record were strongly acted on by natural selection, giving early humans an evolutionary advantage.

"On a more practical level, we've also identified genetic variants and skeletal features that are associated with hip, knee, and back arthritis, the leading causes of adult disability in the United States," says Tarjinder Singh, PhD, assistant professor of computational and statistical genomics (in psychiatry) at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

and a co-leader of the study.

One example is slight deviations from the average hip width-to-height ratio, which is linked with an increased risk of hip osteoarthritis, and slight deviations in the tibia-femur angle were linked with an increase in the risk of knee osteoarthritis. These findings could help researchers develop new ways to prevent and treat these conditions.

The researchers applied deep learning to analyse over 30,000 full-body X-rays from the UK Biobank. Deep learning is a technology modelled after the brain's neural networks. It trains computers to do what comes naturally to humans such as driving a car or translating languages. In this case it was used to examine X-rays, remove any images with quality issues, and precisely measure dozens of skeletal features. These tasks would take researchers months or even years to finish. This was followed by a scan of the genome to identify any regions associated with the variations in the skeletal measurements.

"What we're seeing is the first genomic evidence that there was selective pressure on genetic variants that affect skeletal proportions, enabling a transition from knuckle-based walking to bipedalism," says Narasimhan.

The study also highlights the power of combining large-scale biobank data, along with machine learning and genomics to help understand human health and disease. This technique is now being applied to understand the causes of mental illness.



Late breakfast linked to increased diabetes risk

Having breakfast after 9am is linked with an increased risk in developing type 2 diabetes by as much as 59% compared to those who have breakfast before 8am. This was the conclusion drawn by a study in which ISIGlobal, an institution supported by Catalanian non-profit the "la Caixa" Foundation, followed over 100,000 participants in a French cohort. The results showed that the risk of developing diabetes can be reduced not just by changing what we eat but when we eat it.

Type 2 diabetes is associated with modifiable risk factors including an unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, and smoking. However, now there seems to be another factor that plays a part in the onset of type 2 diabetes; the time we eat. We know that meal timing plays a key role in regulating circadian rhythms and glucose and lipid control, but few studies have investigated the relationship between meal timing or fasting and type 2 diabetes," says Anna Palomar-Cros, ISGlobal researcher and first author of the study.

In this study, a team from ISIGlobal joined with a team from INSERM in France to investigate the link between meal frequency and timing and the incidence of type 2 diabetes among the 103,312 adults from the French NutriNet-Santé cohort. Participants, 79% of whom were women,

filled in online dietary records of what they are and drank over a 24-hour period on 3 non-consecutive days, along with the timing of their meals. The team then averaged the dietary records for the first two years of follow-up, assessing the health of the participants over the following years.

There were 963 new cases of type 2 diabetes during the study. The risk of developing the disease was significantly higher among those who had breakfast after 9am compared with those who ate before 8am. "Biologically, this makes sense, as skipping breakfast is known to affect glucose and lipid control, as well as insulin levels," explains Palomar-Cross. "This is consistent with two meta-analyses that conclude that skipping breakfast increases the risk of type 2 diabetes," she adds.

The team also found that a late dinner, after 10pm, seemed to increase the risk, while eating more frequently, around five times a day, was linked with a drop in disease incidences. In contrast, prolonged fasting seems to only be beneficial if it is done by having an early breakfast and an early dinner.

"Our results suggest that a first meal before 8 am and a last meal before 7 pm may help reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes," Manolis Kogevinas, ISGlobal researcher and co-author of the study concludes.

Education

Arts

Introduction to Printmaking Techniques

City Lit

This course focuses on introducing different printmaking techniques. By trying these, hands on, you will gain a broad practical overview of how prints are made and have experience of processes you may wish to develop further. During the course you will try out different basic printmaking techniques; monoprinting, relief/linocut intaglio/etching. The course is suitable for anyone who would like to gain an insight into the various printmaking techniques covered on longer courses in short, practical, 'have a go' sessions. Basic drawing skills would be an advantage
1-10 Keeley Street, London, WC2B 4BA
citylit.ac.uk

September 13-27

Business

Social Media Marketing Course

Brain Station

Social media has emerged as one of the top digital marketing channels for all brands. Customers go to the top social media platforms to search for purchase inspiration, explore different social media content, and engage in conversations. In BrainStation's live Social Media Marketing course, learn to understand your customers and build a tailored social media strategy. Evaluate and choose your social platforms, define your social media content strategy, and leverage social media advertising opportunities

Enquiring Minds



across paid and organic channels to build brand awareness and a social community.
55-57 Rivington Street, London, EC2A 3QA
brainstation.io

See website for dates

Culinary

Sushi Making & Cocktail Masterclass

The Avenue Cookery School

Thrill your tastebuds with a delicious evening of Japanese cuisine and cocktail sipping. Roll with some tasty sushi and make friends with the muddlers and jiggers. This cooking class in London begins with a sparkling demonstration of how to shake your way to a perfect drink. Then it's your time to shine. You'll be mixing up two tasty cocktails that will tickle all your senses and kick your night into gear — clink, clink! Once you're done with your drinks, it's time to delve into the world of sushi. Perfect the sushi roll, cook flawless rice, and figure out the balance of soy, crisp veggies and salty fish. You'll get a brief history of this incredible Japanese creation, all while having fun learning a tasty new talent.

3 Enterprise Way, Wandsworth, London, SW18 1FZ

classbento.co.uk

See website for dates

Adult Education Courses



Image: Think Draw

Language

British Sign Languages

King's College London

British Sign Language (BSL) is a unique language developed by the deaf and hearing-impaired community in Britain. It was recognised in 2003 by the British government as a language in its own right. It has almost 200,000 deaf and hearing users all over the UK. It is often assumed that BSL is just an interpretation of English but in fact, English and BSL are very different. BSL has its own grammar and sentence structures. BSL is a visual language and therefore easier to learn. Many of the words used are common gestures and require use of your hands, face and body to communicate. The alphabet is quick to learn, and after some practice students can sign their names.
King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS
kcl.ac.uk

See website for dates

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Maths

Wildlife Photography

City Academy

If you have a passion for wildlife photography and want to develop essential skills without having to travel, our Wildlife Photography Courses are perfect for you. Armed with your camera you'll go deep into Richmond Park – the largest enclosed space in London – to photograph herds of Red and

Fallow deer. Following the workshop, you will also have the opportunity to receive feedback on your images in a one hour online session with your tutor. In a natural environment, you'll get hands-on experience of observing and photographing wild animals. As with all photography workshops at City Academy, you will learn from professional photographers with years of experience, and your amazing photos will reflect the level of teaching.

Richmond Park

city-academy.com

See website for dates

Sport & Fitness

Dance Classes & Lessons in London

Dancebuzz

All popular types of dance classes in London. Whether you want to get fit, try a new hobby, have been inspired by all the dancing shows on TV or are looking for a fun way to meet new people, the aim is to give you a dance buzz! The team of professional and welcoming dance instructors are here to make sure you have a fun and enjoyable experience! Look through the list of the adult dance classes on the website and start learning how to dance now. Various locations, see website for more information
dancebuzz.co.uk

See website for dates

PEOPLE AND PLACE
Sykourio and Stories of Diaspora
28 August - 02 September 2023

Experience an unforgettable six-day summer school in Sykourio, where you'll delve into the enchanting rural idyl, envision sustainable futures, and celebrate the beauty of the present. Through artistic practices, deep listening, and mapping, we'll craft a captivating narrative from local knowledge and diaspora experiences. If you're passionate about architectural and visual art, this is your chance to be part of a transformative journey, engaging in scoring, sculpting, and exhibition to bring our vision to life. Don't miss out on this immersive and enriching opportunity!

WWW.PEOPLEANDPLACESYKOURIO.COM

University of Reading Manchester Metropolitan University

Education



UN warns against smartphones in schools

The United Nations has warned of the risks of smartphones in schools. The organisation has stated that “only technology that supports learning” should be “merited” in schools. Mobile devices, according to Unesco, can be distracting as well as posing risks to both privacy and cyber-bullying.

Fewer than a quarter of nations have any laws or policies in place to ban phones in school, its report found. In the UK, restrictions apply in many schools as headteachers set the rules.

Manos Antonis authored the 2023 Global Education Monitor. The study found “examples of smartphone use in school that is distracting students from learning and increasing risks to their privacy at the same time,” he told the BBC, adding that “only technology that supports learning has a place in school.”

However, he also warned against shielding students completely from technology. Countries, he said, needed to give better guidance on the type of technology that should be allowed in school. A number of studies have found that banning mobile phones from school can improve academic performance.

In 2021, the then-education secretary Gavin Williamson called for a ban on mobile phones in schools in England. The current Department for Education (DfE) guidance leaves it up to head teachers to decide but it does warn that allowing access to phones in schools can be detrimental to learning. “Head teachers should consider restricting or

prohibiting mobile phones to reduce these risks,” its guidance states.

A parents association for eight primary schools in Ireland introduced a voluntary ban on smartphones for children in the home and at school back in June. Some felt that banning them in the home was excessive, saying that mobile phones can be useful for contacting parents.

In 2017, Bangladesh banned both students and teachers in schools and colleges from bringing phones into classrooms. France also has a ban in place, though an exception is made in certain cases, such as for students with disabilities, or when smartphones can be used for teaching. In 2024, the Netherlands will “mostly ban” phones, tablets, and even smartwatches from secondary school classrooms.

A ban on phones could work for some schools but in others, it can cause more problems than it solves. That’s what Sarah Hannafin, head of policy at school leaders’ union NAHT, says. It can lead “to pupils becoming more secretive about their phone use meaning problems are hidden from staff and therefore more difficult to spot and address,” she said. “There are also practical reasons why pupils may need a mobile phone such as while travelling to and from school.” Schools help to prepare young people for the outside world and that includes managing screen time, she said. “Individual schools know their pupils and communities so are best placed to develop their own policies when it comes to mobile phones.”



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DANCE & OPERA

MAGIC MIKE LIVE

Hippodrome Casino

Conceived and directed by Channing Tatum, MAGIC MIKE LIVE is an unforgettable fun night of sizzling, 360-degree entertainment based on the hit movies. It's hot. It's hilarious. It's the great time you've been waiting for! If you're looking for the ultimate girls' night out or an electrifying date night, look no further than MAGIC MIKE LIVE. If you're not into letting your hair down, laughing out loud and really hot guys, then it's probably not for you. Cranbourn Street, Leicester Square, London, WC2H 7JH

magicmikelondon.co.uk

See website for dates

La Bamba!

Peacock Theatre

La Bamba! is an explosive new musical starring Strictly Come Dancing's Pasha Kovalev, The Wanted's Siva Kaneswaran and rising star Inês Fernandez in the lead role of Sofia. With breath-taking choreography from Strictly favourite and Italian Latin champion Graziano Di Prima, Erica Da Silva and associate choreography by Giada Lini. A jaw-dropping new production – La Bamba! combines Latin, R&B, and timeless rock and pop to tell the ultimate feel-good story of a young Latin American girl with a big voice, big dreams, and an even bigger heart. How can one decision alter her story forever?

Portugal Street, London, WC2A 2HT
saderswells.com

August 22 – September 2

Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet

Sadler's Wells Theatre

Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet gives Shakespeare's timeless story of forbidden love a scintillating injection of raw passion and youthful vitality. Confined against their will by a society that seeks to divide, our two young lovers must follow their hearts as they risk everything to be together. A masterful re-telling of an ageless tale of teenage discovery and the obsession of first love, Romeo and Juliet received universal critical acclaim when it premiered in 2019. Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4TN

saderswells.com
Until September 2

Peter Grimes

London Coliseum

Featuring some of the most powerful and evocative opera music ever written, Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes paints a vivid picture of a small community's transformation into a hateful mob in the face of a local tragedy. Peter Grimes' apprentice goes missing in mysterious circumstances. The townspeople's mistrust of the fisherman then turns into something far darker. Gossip becomes suspicion. Suspicion descends into accusation. The villagers come together with devastating consequences to confront the outsider Grimes. Part-psychological thriller and part-morality play, Peter Grimes is an elegantly simple story. Beautifully expressed musically, about ever-present forces of fear, suspicion and intolerance. Forces, that if left unchecked, repress our differences and drive us apart as individuals and communities.

St Martin's Lane, London, WC2N 4ES
eno.org

From September 21

What, When, August - Sep

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



The Big London Tattoo Show

Excel

The Big London Tattoo Show returns for the 2nd year after an amazing debut edition which saw packed crowds, amazing tattoos and an electric, fun and friendly atmosphere. With free fairground rides, art exhibitions, side-shows, vaudeville experiences, alternative market, interactive entertainment food & drink court and 400 world class tattoo artists, tattooing "live". Watch as they create amazing masterpieces on skin, or dive in and get tattooed by the best. Whether you are a seasoned tattoo enthusiast, someone looking for inspiration in getting their first tattoo, or just want to enjoy all the vibrancy and colour of this hugely creative event, there is something for everyone.

Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London, E16 1XL
excel.london

August 26-27

EXHIBITIONS

Indo + Caribbean: The creation of a culture

Museum of London

Following the end of enslaved African labour, British planters in the Caribbean devised a new scheme to source cheap labour for their plantations: recruiting workers from India to work for three to five years in return for transport, a minimal wage and some basic provisions. The display features letters petitioning the government from planter Sir John Gladstone, as well as contracts, shipping company records, postcards and papers from the Parliamentary Archives that give insights into the realities of life under indenture. The display also draws on photos, jewellery, film and artwork to uncover personal stories and family memories from London's Indo-Caribbean community.

No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, London, E14 4AL

museumoflondon.org.uk

Ongoing

The Artistic Home

Victoria & Albert Museum

British art pottery from the Ian and Rita Smythe Collection. Displaying art pottery was key to creating a fashionable, 'artistic' home in the late 1800s. This display showcases the creativity and innovation of British art potteries and their artists, many of them women, who painted and decorated wares by hand.

Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL

vam.ac.uk

Until September 25

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

The London Textile Fair

Business Design Centre

With 500 exhibitors, TLTF is the UK's premier platform for fashion fabrics, apparel accessories, print studios and vintage garments. Held at the Business Design Centre twice a year, it's an unmissable event for all industry professionals. The London Textile Fair is the biggest industry show in the UK, showcasing collections from 500 international exhibitors. The show takes place twice a year in January and September and it is now the biggest textile exhibition within the UK and one of the largest in Europe. In response to the need for a dedicated trade exhibition in London, the show has developed into a quality event, attracting the most influential buyers and designers from the major high-street retail stores as well as independent designers and buyers from their contract manufacturers.

52 Upper Street, London, N1 0QH
thelondontextilefair.co.uk

September 4-5

Top Drawer

Olympia

Restock your shelves and revitalise your edits for the season ahead, as Top Drawer, the UK's leading design-led trade show, returns for its Autumn/Winter edition. Looking for your next best seller? Bringing together expertly curated edits and the newest stories across the lifestyle spectrum, source the freshest product launches across the show's distinctive sectors. With each sector curated with you in mind, explore showcases across Craft, Fashion, Food Emporium, Greetings and Stationery, Home, Launchpad, Play and Wellbeing. With a diverse mix of rising stars and household favourites, sourced from 1,500 UK and international brands under one roof, including Aery, Belly Button Designs, Bookspeed, Branche d'Olive, Gin In A Tin, Hippychick and RokaLondon.

Hammersmith Road, London, W14 8UX
olympia.london

September 10-12

FAMILY & CHILDREN

Wonderlab: The Equinor Gallery

Science Museum

Come and think like a scientist at Wonderlab: The Equinor Gallery. This unmissable interactive experience will ignite your curiosity, fuel your imagination, and inspire you to see the world around you in new and exciting ways. Enjoy live science shows and demonstrations, meet our wonderful science Explainers, and reveal the beauty of the science and maths that shape our everyday lives. Spread across seven different zones, there's loads of opportunity to interact with real scientific phenomena. See lightning strike before your eyes, play with forces on giant slides or travel through space under a canopy of stars.

Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 2DD

sciencemuseum.org.uk

Ongoing

Hairy

Polka Theatre

Hairy arrives at Hairy Mission Control with big dreams - to be Head Hair. He's done his time being a toe hair, a knee hair, even a solitary mole hair! But is he ready to move to the top job? His three follicle friends are on hand to put him through his paces and make sure he's ready to be a Super-Hairo. Hair is amazing. It can be styled, waxed, fashioned, jheri-curled, dreadlocked and shorn! Hair can be striking, funny, scary,

EXHIBITIONS

Norman Thelwell Saves the Planet

Cartoon Museum

The Cartoon Museum is celebrating this important work in 2023 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Thelwell's birth and Quiller Publishing re-releasing the book over 50 years since it was first written. This year, The Cartoon Museum takes the torch that Thelwell was trying to pass on. There's a fine history of cartooning being used for public messaging whether that be for health of the body, mind or planet. That's because where some more scientific communication may be harder to decipher, cartoons are and always will be accessible and engaging. 63 Wells Street, London, W1A 3AE
cartoonmuseum.org
Until September 4



Do you have an upcoming event to publicise?

Where? September '23

surprising, gorgeous and greasy! Long, short, curly, straight, thick, thin - it's everywhere. Will they survive a shaving by the demon Barbers of De-Ville? Will they be able to defeat Major General Nit and his nitwit army from taking over the world? Perhaps... with the help of their slippery new invention, the Large Hedrin Collider? 240 The Broadway, London, SW19 1SB
polkatheatre.com

Until August 20

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

Paul McCartney Photographs 1963-64 Eyes of the Storm

National Portrait Gallery

In this show, we focus on portraits captured by McCartney, using his own camera, between December 1963 and February 1964 - a time when The Beatles were catapulted from a British sensation to a global phenomenon. These never-before-seen images offer a uniquely personal perspective on what it was like to be a 'Beatle' at the start of 'Beatlemania' - and adjusting from playing gigs on UK stages, to performing to 73 million Americans on The Ed Sullivan Show. At a time when so many camera lenses were on the band, it is Paul McCartney's which tells the truest story of a band creating cultural history - in one of its most exciting chapters. St Martin's Place, London, WC2H 0HE
npg.org.uk
Ongoing



Image: LKFairlight

MUSIC

Joanna Eden Cadogan Hall

Joanna Eden presents a 'labour of love' show celebrating the music of her vocal hero Ella Fitzgerald. From the throw-away 'A Tisket A Tasket' which brought Ella to fame in the '40s with the Chick Webb Orchestra to later songbook album classics like Porter's 'Every Time We Say Goodbye' and Gershwin's 'Someone to Watch Over Me', Eden mines the rich seam of Ella Fitzgerald's unrivalled canon with humility, style and obvious deep affection. Joanna launched Embraceable Ella to much acclaim at the London Jazz Festival 2016 and tours this heart-warming collection of songs and anecdotes all over the UK and Europe with her world-class band, the Chris Ingham Trio.

5 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ
cadoganhall.com

August 8

A Night at the Musicals Battersea Park in Concert

Immerse yourself in the fun, romance, and drama of your favourite West End shows in this unique show-stopping experience, brought to life by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra conducted by Richard Balcombe, and a host of special guest vocalists. Avoid the rush for a perfect spot and book a Golden Circle Seat in front of the stage with the best views and sound right in the heart of the action. Seating is provided but is unreserved, all seats will have a prime view in front of the stage. Children must have their own seat booked with the exception of 'babes in arms.' Please note that whilst you can bring in your own food and drink, your belongings will need to fit under your seat.

Battersea Park
batterseaparkinconcert.com

August 26

TALKS, TOURS, & WALKS

Beyond the Label

The Jewish Museum

Explore the highlights of the Jewish Museum London's collection and discover the story of objects beyond the label. The collection covers over a thousand years of Jewish history and culture. Discover objects that tell of the long history of Jewish people in Britain and celebrate the diversity of Jewish culture. Highlights include our 17th century Italian Ark and the mediaeval mikveh.

Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London, NW1 7NB
jewishmuseum.org.uk

Ongoing

FAMILY & CHILDREN



London Zoo's Big Summer of Fun London Zoo

Get set for heaps of family fun this summer with a whole day packed with wild games, over 14,000 animals, and giant attractions including England's biggest penguin pool, London's biggest living rainforest and, of course, big cats. Only for this summer, prepare to take on London Zoo's Really Wild Challenge! Throughout the school holidays the Zoo will be filled with a host of favourite family games, all with a really wild twist! Go head-to-head with your

'troop' and channel your animal skills to battle it out to find out who takes top spot. Away from the games, London Zoo is full of big experiences, from playful Humboldt penguins darting around England's biggest penguin pool (don't miss the incredible underwater viewing bubble!), to the towering Monkey Valley walkthrough exhibit where you can go in with leaping black and white colobus monkeys.

londonzoo.org

Until September 3

Royal London Walk

Explore Royal London through its green and open spaces. The entire walk is on footpaths through parkland or gardens passing many of central London's prestigious royal palaces, households and other historic attractions. Follow in the footsteps of King Charles II and walk on 'royal soil' from Westminster to Kensington ending in the tranquil Italian Gardens. For your comfort WALKLONDON's free self-guided walking tour passes many cafes, refreshments, facilities and places to rest. Take a picnic and make a day of it!

Starts at St James's Park

walklondon.com

See website for dates

Sir Ranulph Fiennes: Mad, Bad and Dangerous

Alexandra Palace

Sir Ranulph has circumnavigated the surface of the globe from pole to pole, became the first person to cross the Arctic and Antarctica on foot, broken countless world records of endurance, and discovered the Lost City of Ubar in Arabia. Despite his infamous fear of heights, he is the oldest Briton to summit Everest, achieved on his third attempt. But these extraordinary accomplishments have come at a cost: he has lost half his fingers to frostbite, almost died countless times, and suffered a heart attack and double bypass only three months before he completed seven consecutive marathons in seven days on seven continents. Now, he has a new challenge. Live on stage, Sir Ranulph will share stories from his legendary exploits and adventures, telling untold tales of the world's most extraordinary feats of daring and exploration.

Alexandra Palace Way, London, N22 7AY
alexandrapalace.com

September 7

THEATRE

UNION

Arcola Theatre

On the eve of the biggest deal of her career, Saskia, an uber-successful property developer runs from the meeting, all the way home down the Grand Union Canal. Plagued by phone calls and ghosts, she meets a myriad of characters looking to make or break her. She realises, as her shiny life unravels, that she doesn't know herself anymore or the city she once loved. Can she still save a little piece of it? UNION follows Max Wilkinson's hit play RAINER which played at the Arcola last summer. UNION is a wildly hilarious odyssey through London, in all its brilliant, booze-soaked yuppified but still punk glory. Just as Saskia fears she is losing her own soul to greed, it's about the fear that London is losing that same battle but is still defined by a beautiful beating heart and the people who live in it.

24 Ashwin Street, London, E8 3DL

arcolatheatre.com

Until August 12

GroundHog Day

Old Vic Theatre

Phil Connors is a pretty awful guy. But when the cynical Pittsburgh TV weatherman is sent to cover the kooky annual Groundhog Day event in the small town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, he finds himself caught in a time loop that sends him on a hilarious path to enlightenment and redemption. A comic parable of love, hope and transformation from the creatives behind Matilda The Musical and The Old Vic's A Christmas Carol, this Olivier Award-winning (Best New Musical, Best Actor) musical sensation based on the 1993 hit film returns to The Old Vic this summer. 103 The Cut, London, SE1 8NB
oldvictheatre.com

Until August 19

Compiled & edited by Fahad Redha

Contact our team at sales@eyeonlondon.online

Antiques & Art



The party's over! The London Art Week, which ended its week's run on 7th July, attracted many private collectors from around the world. Among items finding new homes were three pastels by Edouard Vuillard (1868-1940), acquired by a European collector and a Thames London scene by Theodore Roussel, which David Messum Fine Art sold for a six-figure sum to a UK collector.

Museums, particularly American, were also enthusiastic buyers.

However, now it's August, traditionally the month the art trade has a well-earned repose. A few dealers, such as The Maas Gallery in Duke Street, do lock up shop for the entire month, but in these days of high overheads, there is a more philosophical "business as usual" approach. So, there are enough shows to keep all but the most fanatical 'exhibitionholic' engaged.

Once hailed as London's bohemian quarter, Chelsea, has been the home of many celebrated artists – the likes of Augustus John (33 Tite Street) Singer Sargent (31 Tite Street), Turner (Davis Place, later 118-119 Cheyne Walk), Whistler (15 Tite Street) and Pre-Raphaelite members William Holman Hunt (5 Prospect Place) and Dante Gabriel Rossetti (16 Cheyne Walk) come to mind. Also, one must not forget The Sketch Club, based at 7 Dilke Street, one of the oldest drawing clubs in Britain, and the Chelsea Art Society, which, founded in 1910, is the sole survivor of the art groups that once blossomed in Chelsea. Naturally, the artistic kudos for exhibitions remains – catch these if you can!

Chelsea,

I recommend starting in Sloane Square, which embraces a central island with its Venus Fountain, a bronze created in 1953 by sculptor Gilbert Ledward (1888-1960). First take sustenance at one of the fashionable eateries, such as **Colbert**, which offers a classic Parisian café menu, or **The Botanist**, where you can sit back, relax, and sample their botanical gin cocktail menu. If you can wrench yourself away, enter the frenetic Kings Road, so named because it once served as a private road used by Charles II to travel to Kew. Here you will find the impressive **Saatchi Gallery**, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, SW3 4RY. Opened on 9th October 2008, the iconic, Grade II-listed building has fourteen equally proportioned exhibition spaces, spanning three floors. Currently, there are four exhibitions taking place. *Want the World to Know*, highlighting new sculptures by Nottingham-based Michael Forbes and while *Beyond the Gaze: Reclaiming the Landscape*, explores contemporary painting by women (both shows end on 28th August). Finishing

on 17th September, *Civilization: The Way We Live Now*, features 350 works by 150 internationally renowned photographers. Personally, I staunchly advocate making your way to Gallery 3 by 31st August to view the colourful and highly imaginative paintings by Ukrainian folk artist Maria Prymachenko (1908-1997). When a child she contracted polio and art became her antidote. Self-taught, she lived a humble life, but her captivating, naïve work, which includes extraordinary mythological creatures, was recognised in 1970 when she was officially acknowledged as the 'People's artist of Ukraine'. Preserved by the artist's family for more than fifty years, these creations have never been seen in the UK before. Prymachenko's luminous compositions and the story behind them render this an experience not to be missed.

At the other end of the Kings Road is the **Box Galleries**, 402 Kings Road, SW10 0LJ, which, founded in 2012, specialise in bringing together well-established artists and emerging talent. Until 29th August the gallery presents their Summer Exhibition, featuring the striking, colourful, graffiti-inspired paintings and limited edition

the King's Road in 1927, moved to Fulham Road in 2018, where they now host over 30 exhibitions a year. Continuing until 29th August, the gallery's current offering is their Summer Exhibition, an eclectic mix by established and emerging artists, including Max White (b. 1998), who this year was elected a member of The Wapping Group of Artists. Then, between 4th-9th September, London-based artist, Charlotte Sutton, will mount her second solo show at the gallery. Her impressive paintings of animals and flora are captured in photorealistic detail.

Off the Kings Road, is 20 Park Walk, SW10 0AQ and the gallery of **Jonathan Cooper**. Well-known for representing contemporary artists working in traditional techniques, the gallery celebrates 35 years of business by presenting a display of paintings, drawings and sculpture by 35 artists represented by the gallery. On view from 13th September - 7th October, the offerings include the skilful botanical watercolours of Fiona Strickland (b. 1956), the oil paintings of garden and wildflowers by Jane Wormell (b. 1960) and the bold, expressive images of animals by Devon-based Michael J. Austin (b. 1959).

Hilton (1911-1975) and Leon Underwood's (1890-1975) oil painting of 1923 *Iceland's All*.

The excitement of the Ashes may be over, but we can cheer ourselves up with *A Summer of Cricket*, taking place at the **Chris Beetles Gallery**, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, St. James's, SW1Y 6QB, until 2nd September. On display are over 60 cricket themed artworks, most of a comical nature, such as Henry Bateman's (1887-1970) 1930s watercolour (£3,750) depicting a wicketkeeper frantically shouting, "How's That", while the distracted umpire, a glass of Guinness in hand, mutters, "Very refreshing!" More academic is James Butler's (1931-2022) fine, large bronze (£9,500) of W. G. Grace with a bat, which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 2018. Prices start at a modest £150. Running alongside there are 60 oil paintings, the majority on the theme of cricket, by Jack Russell (b. 1963), the retired international cricketer.

For us devotees of works of art it is always comforting to have a few forthcoming events pencilled in the diary, so here are four worthy nominees. The **LAPADA Fair**, Berkeley Square, W1J 6EN, which opens on 27th September and closes on 1st October, has over 100 specialist dealers, displaying quality works of art ranging from antiquities to modern designer furniture. The **British Art Fair**, taking place between 28th September - 1st October at the Saatchi Gallery brings together top dealers from London and the provinces tendering top-grade Modern British and Contemporary art. Finally, one of my favourites, **The Decorative Fair**, Evolution London, Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ. Running from 3rd - 8th October, the fair will have the bonus of **Tribal Art London (TAL)** – fifteen international dealers showcasing stunning objects drawn from Africa, Oceania, Asia, Europe and the Americas. I will, of course, be covering these events in detail in the September issue.

Anthony J. Lester, FRSA
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London's bohemian quarter

prints by the artist known only as 'The Ripper'; sculpture by Alexandre Poplavsky (b. 1991); the punk inspired hand-blown glass neon creations of Mark Sloper; the wacky paintings and prints of Tommy Fiendish and the glittery mixed media images of Emma Gibbons, who, for 7 years, worked for Damian Hirst.

From the King's Road, walk down Old Church Street, past number 143, the home of the illustrious Chelsea Arts Club (a private members club established in 1891, it was originally located at 181 Kings Road and moved to its current premises in 1902), and enter Fulham Road. Here you will locate the **Green and Stone Gallery**, 251-253 Fulham Road, SW3 6HY, who, first established on

Business longevity is also celebrated at **The Redfern Gallery**, 20 Cork Street, W1S 3HL. Founded in 1923 by Arthur Knyvett-Lee (1887-1974) and Anthony Maxtone Graham (1900-1971), the gallery's first home was on the top floor of Redfern House in Bond Street. It was here, in 1924, the motivated dealers showcased the sculptures of students Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. In 1936 the gallery moved to Cork Street and in celebration of their illustrious history stage, until 1st September, an exhibition of carefully selected paintings and sculptures. On parade are 1930s linocuts by Sybil Andrews (1898-1992), abstract paintings by Paul Feiler (1918-2013), Adrian Heath (1920-1992) and Roger



End of the Match, oil on linen (£4,000), by Ronnie Copas (1936-2017), Chris Beetles Gallery



The New Seasons Batsmen, ink (£1,450), by Leslie Illingworth (1902-1979), Chris Beetles Gallery



I Was Spinning on the Spinning Wheel by Maria Prymachenko (1908-1997), Saatchi Gallery. ©Estate of the artist

Arts & Culture

Sculpture in the City

Still life in a glass forest



Pittu Pithu Pitoo, 2022 © Simeon Barclay
Courtesy of the artist and Workplace UK. Photo © Nick Turpin



Untitled, 2020 © Arturo Herrera. Courtesy the artist, Thomas Dane Gallery and Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York. Photo © Nick Turpin

Sculpture in the City, says Will Gompertz, artistic director of the Barbican Centre who also has oversight of the City of London's cultural profile, is "telling the story of the present and future while reflecting on the past".

He sees the 18 sculptures just unveiled dotted around the Bishopsgate neighbourhood of the City as evoking some of the history of the place going back to the Romans' arrival here in 43BC, to the present age in which a steeping forest of glass and steel dwarfs human life at its feet.

In those distant Roman days, of course, Londinium was of comfortable people size, a wood and brick town whose fortunes were governed by the trade on the river beside it. Now the City's riches are largely virtual, trading happening sometimes dozens of storeys into the sky, the land below a kind of bustling desert of anonymity.

Sculpture in the City (SitC) was devised a dozen years ago to bring a humanising influence to the stalking and largely soulless architecture of the 21st century, amid what seems the endless activity of cranes hundreds of metres above the ground. SitC is funded by the City entrepreneurs themselves who, in these post-pandemic days,

would surely love to entice their workers back to their offices within the business communities, which have been given personalities by the work of contemporary artists, and they have donated the sites.

The artists are drawn from around the world by SitC's curator, Stella Ioannou, a multi-disciplined creative, an architect who trained as a dancer and who in 2010, founded Lacuna, the studio set-up that specialises in contemporary art and events in public places. Her purpose with SitC, she says, is to give air to emerging talent with existing works seen in unconventional spaces, outlining "the City's dynamic urban spaces in dialogue with contemporary art".

There is no budget to commission work, but a submission of existing pieces from across the globe – this year there were 447 bids – gives the advisory panel a wide choice. The panel is made up of experts such as Iwona Blazwick, the former director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery just a few hundred yards from the SitC sites, the Barbican's curator, Lotte Johnson, and Tate's Andrea Schlieker, who was the first curator of the Folkestone Triennial, which introduced the idea of a temporary public art exhibition around an urban space.

There is also input from the Corporation selecting the sites around the area, over which Ioannou then consults with the artists. Their pieces will be on show until April, with two remaining, having been bought by the City. So in this 12th edition of the annual free show there are 18 pieces by 17 artists from ten countries, and nine of them are new works adding to those that have been kept from previous years - in the first year there were just four including Anish Kapoor and Julian Opie. Several of the approved submissions are not included because the right site couldn't be found for them.

In a short time, the art becomes street furniture, familiar in a way it never could be in a gallery with children climbing on it, bikes leaning against it, rubbish tossed into it.

Phyllida Barlow, who died in March, has her first piece in the selection. Her untitled: megaphone at Crosby Square is a six-metre tall pole with a megaphone made from woven timber at its top, what she called a representation. One of the most popular new pieces is going to be at Undershaft with Simeon Barclay's Pittu Pithu Pitoo, a playful grey pile of fiberglass boulders with a colourful cockerel perched at its summit, already nicknamed "The Cock on the Rock". Larry Bell's Pacific Red (IV) at 100 Bishopsgate is actually a deep pink 1.83m tall glass tank with a smaller one inside, which iridescence on its Bishopsgate surrounds as the light changes through the day. With it, Ioannou admits, goes a small troop of council cleaners on hand armed with step ladders and fruit picker sticks to empty the piece of the crushed drinks cans, polystyrene hamburger boxes and apple cores that will accrue each day.

Arturo Herrera has two works, one on

the underside of two escalators on the Leadenhall Building and the other a 21m high abstract explosion of colour bringing a smile to the face of an otherwise grim Creechchurch Lane building with the Gherkin towering above, while at 20 Fenchurch Street you have to look up to see Mika Rottenbergh's Untitled Ceiling Projection in which a woman is seen smashing colourful but now obsolete light bulbs, eternally destroying the proverbial glass ceiling. Back at the Leadenhall Building, a glance high on the wall is met by Emma Smith's apparent failing neon piece in which the letters flicker and change from reading *WE ARE ALL ONE* to *WE ARE ALONE*.

There is life in the City, asserts this SitC, even in the roadside trees where Victor Lim Seaward's Nest Series is a group of hanging forms that echo the shape of the beech tree leaves, but are actually functional bird boxes. In the yard of Shakespeare's parish church, St Helen's, the late American sculptor Iasmu Noguchi made his SitC debut with the three-piece galvanised steel Rain Mountain, Duo, Neo-Lithic, his metaphor for industrialisation in the most pastoral nook in this business land.

It is an appealing way to see a City that at first seems to offer nothing to the visual observer, but actually has crannies that these works of art point you to, and a theme that will undoubtedly be seen more and more as our urban centres come back to life post-pandemic. Most importantly, it is a chance to be aware of what our artists, established and emerging, are thinking.

Simon Tait

sculptureinthecity.org.uk

Classical Music

Good Times In Bad Kissingen

Throughout the middle of Germany there are dozens of towns and villages with the prefix Bad. It is one of those unfortunate sideswipes of linguistic history that the German word for bath or spa should be the same as the English adjective for rubbishy or rotten. Maybe it reflects the mediaeval dislike of washing. Just think how unfair it would be if some of the most elegant spots in this country had that epithet: Bad Cheltenham, Bad Buxton, Bad Tunbridge Wells... Tchaikovsky once spent a rainy month outside Frankfurt at Bad Soden, though, which seems to have summed things up nicely.

In the 1850s Rossini found himself with an unfortunate and embarrassing complaint, a result of a man behaving badly, and decided to try the watery treatment rooms at a little spa in the northern hills of Bavaria (Germany's answer to the Cotswolds) called Bad Kissingen. The waters, massages, steam cabinets and cream cakes may not have done much for his infections but he did at least start

composing again after over twenty years, apparently wandering around town handing out visiting cards with little scraps of music doodled on them. These he worked up into a collection of non-operatic pieces he eventually published as *Sins of my Old Age*, which for those in the know punned on his reasons for going to the spa in the first place.

Over the rest of the 19th century and up until WWI, the facilities attracted a steady supply of German aristocrats and the upper middle classes. Before the fashion for seaside bathing, the pleasant hills and charming villages were the perfect summer escape from noxious cities. Bad Kissingen built fine hotels, gracious gardens and a complex of halls and performances spaces to cater for those who did not want to spend their entire time being boiled and purged. The Vienna Symphony Orchestra came for the summer season as did many of Bohemia's best musicians.

Everything then gradually declined as war and the division of Germany (the border with the East was not far away) removed

Anne Sophie Mutter and Friends in the Max Littmann Saal.
Photo: Julia Milberger



An elegant after concert party in Bad Kissingen
Photo: Julia Milberger

all those comfortable certainties for half a century. Then, in the mid-1980s, the town's mayor decided to plough resources into a music festival, using the two fine halls - the Rossini Saal for recitals and the lovely wood-panelled Max Littman Saal for symphonic concerts. Bavarians take their music seriously, so that Bad Kissingen (with a population of only 20000 plus visitors) has a budget for its festival in June and July not much smaller than Edinburgh's. And even if the spa's adherents are still mostly elderly Germans in need of hope as much as therapy, the concerts are well supported. Pick any handful of days to visit and the programme will offer a sumptuous combination of good performers and interesting music: well-known works mixed with the adventurous and unusual.

This year I was invited to spend a long weekend getting to know the festival, Kissinger Sommer. In just four days there were as many fine pianists; Leif Ove Andsnes, as always drawing fascinating links between each of the pieces he played and bawling applause in between (hooray!), Beatrice Rana, equally inventive in her phrasing for Schumann's Piano Concerto, and two up-and-coming players who have made a name for themselves in Britain too, Ariel Lanyi and Lauren Zhang, giving half a recital each.

Then there was an excursion to a former convent in the countryside for superb

chamber music either side of Sunday lunch from the Modigliani Quartet and others, including an exhilarating performance of Tchaikovsky's *Souvenirs de Florence*. Back in town that evening the great violinist Anne Sophie Mutter, was celebrating her 60th birthday year by putting together a group of friends and her one-time students to play in the modern baroque manner - standing, moving around, with rarely more than two instruments to a part. Without baroque bowing techniques, pitch and interpretation this does not quite work for Bach and Vivaldi - these days we expect more subtlety - but Mutter knows her audience and is always sincere. She was actually at her best when leading her group in the *Nonett* by her late (and much missed) husband, André Previn.

Before and after the music some of Bad Kissingen's most attractive assets are the cafés and restaurants lining the riverside path and rose gardens just across the road from the concert halls. They are not open very late but for a pre-concert cocktail and wind-down afterwards, they are thoroughly civilised. I became quite partial to something at the Café am Rosengarten called a gin spritz which had more than gin and fizzy water but exactly what, I was not allowed to know.

Simon Mundy



The 60th Anniversary Reissue of Jean-Luc Godard's *Le Mépris* aka *Contempt*

There is no God. Only the word God within Godard. "Gods didn't create man", said the German film director Fritz Lang in Godard's *Le Mépris*, instead "Man created Gods". 'And God Created Woman', namely, Brigitte Bardot, who became a screen Goddess in that her best on-screen performance next to *Le Mépris*

"The greatest film in cinema history!" declared *Le Monde*. *Le Mépris* has to be Godard's masterpiece. Stunningly remastered and re-screened on the very day of its 60th Anniversary at BFI Southbank, London, on June 2nd 2023. Selected for The Cannes Film Festival 2023, it was praised in spades when 'newly nuanced' into a contemporary bigger widescreen format from its original Cinemascope negatives. Stunningly regraded into a vibrant colour positive of Mediterranean blues. Add to that Raoul Coutard's breathtaking cinematography, taking us back to the blistering Italian summer of 1963, and we have an example of unsurpassed European visual splendour.



All photos and posters appear courtesy of their respective studio / publisher

Godard: The Godfather of The French New Wave

In late 1963 *Sight & Sound* magazine's Tom Milne said that Godard proclaimed, 'God is a Camera'. This is how the film begins. A shot of a huge movie camera with a widescreen hood, moving towards us to fill the screen. It is as if Godard is watching us, watching his film. A spoken quotation is heard in voice-over from Godard (wrongly attributed to *Cahiers Du Cinema*'s André Bazin rather than Michel Moullet). This begins the aforementioned sequence by proclaiming

"... Cinema substitutes for our gaze, a world that corresponds to our desires ..."

Le Mépris features the making of a fictional Fritz Lang 'movie-within-a-movie' about Homer's *Odyssey* as recreated within Alberto Moravia's novel *Le Mépris*, which is initially set in Rome at Cinecittà Studios. We then venture inside a 1960's designer apartment of the two bickering central

characters. They are invited to the Isle of Capri, the home of the film's producer. Here we have the set piece of *Le Mépris*, namely Casa Malaparte. An architectural gem with a stepped terracotta roof, leading to a red tiled sunbathing area, perched-up high on the rocky spur of Punto Masullo, overlooking the Gulf of Salerno. The building was designed in 1938 by Adalberto Libera. One of the key architects of the Italian Modernist Movement. Add to that a sumptuously romantic score by Georges Delerue, which becomes a musical motif for Camille's (Brigitte Bardot's) despair at the sudden loss of her love for screenwriter Paul (Michel Piccoli) and you have the magic of a Nouvelle Vague epic unfolding.

During the opening Cinecittà Studio scenes, we witness Camille's mistrust of her husband after his flippant decision to allow her to be driven-off in the producer's

two-seater Alfa Romeo. This sows the seeds of distrust in his relationship with the 28-year-old former typist, and wife, Camille Javal. All reflected in the new script that Paul Javal is writing for director Fritz Lang (as himself) and the producer Jeremy Prokosch (Jack Palance) that leads to a fateful conclusion. Godard's humour features aplenty. Mainly from the crazed producer Jeremy Prokosch with his tiny little red book of well-rehearsed retorts. All aimed at his newly commissioned screenwriter, Paul Javal, who assumes a Dean Martin look throughout. Seeing rushes of the film that Lang is making, Prokosch enlists Paul to rewrite the script on his terms, set against director Fritz Lang's plans. All for a fat cheque that he then hands to Paul. Paul questions the rewriting of Homer's *Odyssey*, bearing in mind that Prokosch hates the current version. Prokosch forewarns him about the said script, "To know that this is a mistake, keeps one from making it!" Later scolding Paul by suggesting that, as a writer, "A wise man does not humiliate a man with his superiority!"

After an audition attended by Paul and Camille Javal in an old Italian Cinema, Fritz Lang expresses his disdain for producer Prokosch. He questions Prokosch's desire to have him remake *The Odyssey* for Hollywood, but concedes that he has become a Studio's job-for-hire filmmaker. "Every day, to earn my daily bread, I go to the market where lies are traded", he confesses to Camille Javal.

"Who said that that?" she enquires.

"B.B", answers Fritz Lang, wryly. Camille slips out of her on-screen persona to become Brigitte Bardot (B.B) spontaneously laughing out loud. Lang enlarges with a correct reply, namely, "Bertolt Brecht!!"

Years ahead of its time in terms of film narrative, insights into relationships, and power games, *Le Mépris* is ultimately a combination of inventive film making, yet simple storytelling. A structure that hooks you right in from start to finish. Deftly honed by Godard, the Godfather of the French Nouvelle Vague.

Watch this movie online on BFI Player.

"My Imaginary Country becomes a new Chile", says Patricio Guzman

This awe inspiring documentary comes from the veteran Chilean director Patricio Guzman who made the 1974 three-part observational documentary serial *Battle for Chile* with French 'Nouvelle Vague' cameraman Chris Marker. Last year he refocused his 'razor sharp gaze' upon his former homeland, journeying back to Santiago after some 30 years on the 50th anniversary of the dictator General Pinochet's military Coup D'état.

A country seemingly on the verge of change sees the director focus-in on a nation where 73% of its populace are single mothers. 2019 saw millions of masked women rise-up to take over the streets in order to overthrow a brutal military police force. Millions are seen singing en masse on the streets of Santiago, punching the air in unison to rhythmical songs of hope.

My Imaginary Country is an in-your-face, heart pounding, poetic tale for civic justice. Epic aerial drone camera work captures street revolution fused with violence, set against intimate interview testament. A Chilean tale that began as a flickering flame of hope that ignited a flaming fireball of music, art, and protest. Undertaken in order to change contemporary history and enable a democratically elected 35-year-old President, who plans to nullify Pinochet's still-in-place dictatorial constitution.

The new President secured a whopping 4,700,000 majority vote and aerial drone shots of the joyous millions are literally jaw dropping. Let's hope that this time around America doesn't send back its battleships - like they did 50 years ago in Guzman's *Battle for Chile* - enabling yet another dictator.

My Imaginary Country is an international Arte Co-Production screening exclusively in the UK through Curzon online.

Henry Scott-Irvine





London Men's Home Football

August 12, Arsenal v Nottingham Forest, 12:30
 August 13, Chelsea v Liverpool, 16:30
 August 19, Crystal Palace v Arsenal, 15:00
 August 19, Fulham v Brentford, 15:00
 August 19, Tottenham v Man United, 15:00
 August 26, Arsenal v Fulham, 15:00
 August 26, Chelsea v Luton Town, 15:00
 September 2, Arsenal v Man United, 15:00
 September 2, Chelsea v Nottingham Forest, 15:00
 September 2, Crystal Palace v Wolves, 15:00

Women's World Cup

August 11-12, Quarter-Finals
 August 15-16, Semi-Finals
 August 19, Third place play-off
 August 20, Final

England International Rugby

August 12, England v Wales, London, 17:30
 Augusts 19, Ireland v England, Dublin, 17:30
 August 26, England v Fiji, London, 15:15

2023 Formula 1 Calendar

August 27, Netherlands, Zandvoort
 September 3, Italy, Monza
 September 17, Singapore
 September 24, Japan, Suzuka

October 8, Qatar, Lusail
 October 22, USA, Austin
 October 29, Mexico City
 November 5, Brazil, Sao Paulo
 November 18, Las Vegas
 November 26, Abu Dhabi, Yas Marina

World Rally Championship 2023 Calendar

September 7-10, WRC EKO Acropolis Rally Greece
 September 28 – October 1, WRC Rally Chile Bio Bio
 October 26-29, WRC Central Europe Rally
 November 16-19, WRC Forum8 Rally Japan

Golf

courtesy of BBC Sports

August 10-13, FedEx St. Jude Championship, TPC Southwind, USPGA Tour, Stroke Play
 August 10-13, AIG Women's Open, Walton Heath GC, Women's Majors, Stroke Play
 August 17-20, BMW Championship, Olympia Fields Country Club, USPGA Tour, Stroke Play
 August 17-20, ISPS Handa World Invitational, Galgorm Castle Golf Club, DP World Tour, Stroke Play
 August 17-20, ISPS Handa World Invitational, Galgorm Castle GC, Ladies European Tour, Stroke Play
 August 24-27, Tour Championship, East Lake Golf Club, USPGA Tour, Stroke Play
 August 24-27, Czech Masters, Albatross GR, DP World Tour, Stroke Play, CPKC Women's Open, Shaughnessy G&CC, USLPGA Tour, Stroke Play

August 31 – September 3, European Masters, Crans-sur-Sierre GC, DP World Tour, Stroke Play
 August 31 – September 3, Women's Irish Open, Dromoland Castle GCC, Ladies European Tour, Stroke Play
 August 31 – September 3, Portland Classic, Columbia Edgewater Country Club, USLPGA Tour

Tennis

courtesy of BBC Sports

August 13-20, Western & Southern Open, Lindner Family Tennis Center, ATP, Outdoor, Hard
 August 14-21, Western & Southern Open, Lindner Family Tennis Center, WTA, Outdoor, Hard
 August 20-27, Winston-Salem Open, Wake Forest Tennis Complex, ATP, Outdoor, Hard
 August 20-26, Cleveland Championships, Nautica Entertainment Complex, WTA, Outdoor, Hard
 August 22-26, US Open, Qualification ATP, USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Grand Slam Qualification, Outdoor, Hard,
 August 28 – September 10, US Open ATP, USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Grand Slam, Outdoor, Hard
 August 28 – September 10, US Open WTA, USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Grand Slam, Outdoor, Hard,
 August 30 – September 9, US Open Mixed Doubles, USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Grand Slam, Outdoor, Hard

Marathons in the UK

marathonrunnersdiary.com

August 13, Isle of Man Marathon, Ramsey, Isle of Man
 August 19, Coll Half Marathon, Isle of Coll, Argyll and Bute
 August 20, Isle of Wight Half Marathon, Sandown, Isle of Wight
 August 20, Two Tunnels Marathon, Bath, Somerset
 August 26, Penine Trail Marathon, Burnley, Lancashire
 September 3, Dunstable Marathon, Dunstable, Bedfordshire

Marathons in Europe

marathonrunnersdiary.com

August 13, Monschau Marathon, Monschau, Germany
 August 19, 6 Lakes Marathon, Uppsala, Sweden
 August 19, Reykjavik Marathon, Reykjavik, Iceland
 September 9, Jungfrau Marathon, Interlaken, Switzerland

Marathons International

marathonrunnersdiary.com

August 27, Hyderabad Marathon, Hyderabad, India
 August 27, Bali Marathon, Bali, Indonesia
 September 10, Ladakh Marathon, Ladakh, India

Compiled & edited by Fahad Redha



Caterham has made a name for itself building replicas of the Lotus Seven. Available as either a kit-build or a factory-built car, the Seven is one of the lightest and simplest sports cars on sale. But no car maker can ignore the environmental elephant in the room. To that end, Caterham has revealed the Project V, its first new car and first ever electric car.

While this is a concept for now, the firm says that it has “the potential to arrive in late 2025 or early 2026.” The design comes courtesy of Anthony Jannarelli, the firm’s new design boss as well as Italdesign. The Project V bears some resemblance to Jannarelli’s own design as well as Caterham’s stillborn Alpine A110 based C120.

Power comes from a 200kw (272ps) electric motor mounted on the rear axle and plugged into a 55kWh lithium-ion battery pack with the ability to recharge from 20-80% in as little as 15 minutes using a 150kW DC rapid charger. That all allows it to spring to 100kph (62mph) in just 4.5 seconds from rest and an estimated top speed of 230 kph (143 mph). It also promises a range of 400 km or 249 miles between charges.

That is all thanks to a lightweight body. Caterham targets a kerb weight of just 1,190 kg thanks to “an innovative carbon fibre and aluminium composite chassis.”

The concept uses a ‘2+1’ seating layout and the production car will come with the option of 2+2. This “optimises ingress and egress, provides more comfort for the rear seat passenger and offers greater flexibility in how a prospective owner may use the car.” The driver-focused interior comes with smartphone mirroring and a digital instrument cluster to give the driver key information. The driver can choose

All-electric Caterham Project V unveiled



between Normal, Sport, and Sprint driving modes which adjust the acceleration and steering for different environments.

The concept car boasts double wishbones at the front and rear with fully adjustable

geometry, along with electrically assisted power steering. Michelin Pilot Sport 4S tyres (19” front and 20” rear) bring the power to the road and brake discs with high-performance callipers help keep it in check.

The show car made its debut at the Goodwood Festival of Speed at Caterham’s stand. Caterham has stated on its website that it will cost less than £80,000 when it goes on sale.

Aston Martin has revealed the Valour to celebrate its 110th anniversary. The V12-powered sports car will be limited to just 110 units, “aimed squarely at those who relish a truly involving driving experience.” It will be the only V12 powered sports car available with a manual gearbox, a “purist approach is

unique in 2023 and a thrilling tribute to a golden era of driving,” according to Aston Martin.

Inspiration comes from the original V8 Vantage and Vantage based Le Mans racer, the RHAM/1 ‘Muncher’ from 1980. Cars such as the 1990s twin-supercharged V600 Vantage also played a part in inspiring the

car as well as previous special editions, the One-77 and Victor.

The 5.2-litre twin-turbocharged V12 boasts 715PS and 753Nm of torque and can be optioned with a six-speed manual transmission, giving a truly unique driving experience. A mechanical limited-slip differential “enhances the sense of direct analogue

connection between car and driver” while electronic traction and stability control helps keep everything in check. Underneath, a bespoke suspension system with adaptive dampers, springs, and anti-roll bars are all “honed specifically” to the Valour. Carbon ceramic brakes are standard on the Valour ensuring “ample stopping power.”

This, Aston Martin says, is “a road car first and foremost,” which means “successfully striking a sporting balance of taut, precise vertical body control and resolute resistance to roll, while offering the compliance to shine on great driving roads.”

The Valour celebrates Aston Martin’s heritage in its interior as well, with a “timeless” two-seater cockpit, including exposed shift mechanisms to help emphasise the mechanical connection. The gear lever itself is available in either machined aluminium, titanium, carbon fibre or walnut. The rest of the interior can be similarly tailored to each car. Further personalisation is available for the livery. Throughout the Valour’s body, buyers can choose from an extensive array of hand-painted stripes and graphic designs in any of 21 paint colours.

Or you can go beyond that with Q by Aston Martin to make a truly bespoke creation. Examples of this include design of a one-off livery, fully exposed 2x2 twill carbon fibre bodywork with a choice of red, blue or green tint, painted wheels, Mokume carbon fibre interior detailing or a choice of Johnsons of Elgin tweed and cashmere fabrics for the seats and headlining.

Production will begin later in 2023 with the first cars being delivered at the end of the year for what Aston Martin calls “precious collector’s piece that demands to be driven.”

Aston Martin celebrates



110th anniversary with Valour



GREEN HOMES: THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN THE UK



As a nation we are becoming more environmentally conscious. Electric cars are on the rise while single-use plastics are declining. This trend also continues with housing as many are taking into consideration when moving. Research has shown that many are prioritising the energy performance of new homes.

All buildings in the country are the second highest carbon emissions contributors with residential properties making up a significant proportion of this. However, the UK's home builders are taking action to create more green homes powered by less energy to help cut down the nation's carbon footprint as well as saving money.

Zoopla's Watt a Save July 2023 report, finds that the average new-build consumes 55% less energy, cutting bills by £135 a month and reducing carbon emissions by 60%. This is despite new-builds often being bigger than older properties.

With 247,000 new-builds given an EPC in the year to the 31st of March 2023, we see that last year's new-build homeowners helped cut emissions by 500,000 tonnes collectively compared to if they had been built to the same standards as the average older property.

New houses have offered a cheaper and

more environmentally friendly option for the running of homes. They are designed with improved energy efficiency in mind all the way through to the construction thanks to modern building practices, technology, and materials. Today, there are more rigorous building standards than ever before.

Changes last year to building regulations were introduced to set standards specifically related to the energy performance of buildings. Zoopla's research finds that homes built to these standards will emit 71% less carbon than the average older property. And that's not the end of it.

In 2025, the Future Homes Standard is due to come into force requiring new homes to cut emissions by an additional 75-80% over current building regulations. This can be achieved in part by moving away from gas boilers to modern heat systems including heat pumps. Homes built from 2023 onwards will emit 29% of the carbon of an average existing property and those built from 2025 will emit just a tenth.

Assuming that housing delivery levels in 2025 are the same as current levels, under the changes, new homes will see carbon emissions cut by a further 270,000 tonnes a year.

Research by estate agent Nested has found that the traditional brown front door is falling out of favour with half of homebuyers admitting that the colour of a house's front door influences their decision to buy a home. Front doors can affect the overall aesthetic of a house. The material, era, and any design features including stained glass and heavy iron door knockers, can all affect the overall feel of a house and colour is among them.

Nested commissioned a survey of 1,000 UK homebuyers. It found that 94% of them admitted that the colour of the front door has an impact on the overall appeal of the external aesthetic of a property. Half of them admitted that the colour has some influence over their decision to either buy the house or look elsewhere. It seems that the colour of a front door can be a deal breaker for some.

The favourite is grey with 18% naming it as their first choice, suggesting that buyers are looking for a very modern look. Other popular choices are black (18%), blue (16%), green (16%), and white (11%).

The least popular is the traditional brown with only 3% of buyers preferring

the traditional natural wood-finish or any style that resembles it. The colour preference is all part of the overall aesthetic of a home and 41% said that they would pay a price premium to secure a property with the right aesthetic.

"It's strange to think that something so simple as the colour of a front door could sway someone's decision to buy a home," Alice Bullard, Managing Director at Nested said, "and the reality is that the door itself can be easily changed, but it's the overall first impression it adds to that is of the utmost importance when looking to attract a buyer."

In the current market, she added, buyers have the upper hand and drawing them in with a good impression can maximise the chances of selling. "If they're deterred at the first hurdle it's likely to dent their enthusiasm throughout the rest of the viewing and, ultimately, can result in your home sitting on the market for a longer period of time. So if you are struggling to sell, it's worth considering if your front door needs a little TLC as it's a cost effective step to take, particularly if it boosts your chances of securing a sale."

FRONT DOOR COLOUR CAN INFLUENCE HOMEBUYERS



grandappetites

In the midst of the evolving landscape of the City of London, particularly within the hospitality sector due to the growing remote work trend, I recently stumbled upon a culinary gem that caught my attention - The Cinnamon Kitchen at Devonshire Square. Nestled within a converted courtyard adjacent to Liverpool Street, this establishment provided a refreshing haven under a glass roof, framed by the prominent Gherkin building. The setting exuded a certain charm, featuring well-established trees, understated fairy lights, and an array of dining options, contributing to the area's revival.



Cinammon Kitchen

Devonshire Square

Upon entering The Cinnamon Kitchen, I was warmly received by Peter, an attentive waiter who exuded Mediterranean hospitality. He graciously led me to a comfortable balcony overlooking the bustling square. The menu offered a captivating blend of contemporary Indian cuisine, thoughtfully incorporating locally sourced British ingredients, resulting in a pleasing gastronomic experience.

The culinary journey began with a selection from the à la carte menu, complemented by Indian-inspired cocktails. The Mumbai Sweet Manhattan, priced at £11.95, masterfully integrated Indian spices, while the non-alcoholic Lemon and Lime Jack offered a crisp alternative. Peter's suggestion of the St Laurand, a refined South of France Chardonnay at £35 per bottle, harmonised beautifully with our starters: Punjab Samosa Smash (£8), Chargrilled

Lamb Fillet (£12), and Chettinad Shrimps (£11). The chef's expertise shone as each dish unveiled its distinct flavours prior to the infusion of aromatic spices.

After a leisurely interlude, our main courses were presented with finesse. The Tandoori Venison Rump (£29), sourced from a Scottish estate, accompanied by Garlic Rice and Savoy Cabbage, was an engaging highlight. A side of House Black Lentils (£5.50) and freshly baked Tandoori Bread provided a touch of indulgence. The addition of Homemade Chutney (£4) elevated the dish further, infusing it with a burst of complexity. The meticulous preparation of Chargrilled King Prawns (£25), delicately seasoned with turmeric, showcased a visually appealing and flavorful creation.

For someone who appreciates desserts, a satisfying conclusion to the meal is incomplete without a sweet touch. The Cinnamon Kitchen's innovative twist on classic desserts piqued my interest. The Mango Crème Brûlée (£7.50), featuring a subtle chilli note, was a delightful revelation. The Royal Punjab Malai (£6.70), a decadent fusion of double cream, condensed milk, vanilla, and ice cream, stood out as an unrivalled indulgence. A soothing mint tea provided a harmonious conclusion to the dining experience.

Nestled within the vibrant ambiance of Devonshire Square, renowned for its diverse businesses, architectural splendour, and culinary establishments, The Cinnamon Kitchen seamlessly integrated itself into the landscape. The same can

be said of the way the captivating atmosphere and memorable gastronomic journey merges with the lively surroundings. While savouring the delightful meal, I became aware of The Cinnamon Kitchen's 15th-anniversary celebration. To mark this milestone, they introduced "Thrill of the Grill" - an enticing Indian feast encompassing 15 of their most cherished dishes from the past and present. This exclusive celebratory menu, priced at £48 per person, offers a unique opportunity to appreciate the evolution of The Cinnamon Kitchen's flavours while observing the skilled kitchen brigade, led by Vivek, meticulously preparing each dish live at the central open grill.

Philip Ashby Rudd





CROSS CODE

3	15	13	15	24	19	26	18	25		10		7
	19		9		7		22	26	11	4	26	14
26	5	7	24		8	1	26	8		1		5
	4		7		4		14	7	7	19	1	7
15	25	22	7	6	11	25		24				1
14	7	7	19		25	1	26	7		11	26	26
17		15		24		7		24		24		22
4	14	21		7	16	7	25		16	4	20	7
26				19		22	2	12	15	10	15	25
18	14	4	23	18	7		10		24		25	
25		26		6	1	18	8		10	18	11	7
1	4	11	24	7	25		26		1		7	
2		15		19	7	22	1	26	2	4	14	9

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
L			I									
14	N	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
												26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

SAME FEMALE PUPILS

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. In civil engineering, what is the function of a caisson?

2. In 2019, football manager Brendan Rodgers left Celtic for which Premier League club?

3. Emma Willis presents which reality TV singing competition?

4. The Very Hungry Caterpillar was created by which children's author?

5. Which is the only English county to share a border with just one other county?

6. 'Goodbye Norma Jean, though I never knew you at all' is the beginning of which Elton John song?

7. If you were served coquilles St Jacques in a restaurant, what would you be eating?

8. The 2021 film The Dig, starring Carey Mulligan and Ralph Fiennes, is set in which county?

9. A wrass is a type of which creature?

10. Which word connects Hampshire, Mexico, York and Jersey?

NONAGRAM

R	O	W
E	O	I
S	M	R

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
17 Good; 20 Very Good; 23 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

		T				
	E	X	F			
	Y	X	R	A		
O	X	M	X	E	R	
W	Y	N	H	Y	A	T

FIVE ALIVE

ZP	EO	OA	CM	SH
RE		LU		AE
OR	IS	GI	IE	RD
WO		HE		LO
SL	AI	TN	EA	NY

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

	1	2		3		4		5		6		7
9									10			
									11			
12		13						14				
								15				
16								17			18	
								19				
20												
21												

ACROSS

1. School bill is returned (4)

4. Scoundrel will rave over dried fruit (7)

8. He fights for nothing (7,5)

9. Bird of the length in question (8)

10. Turn twice to the desert? (4)

12. It's an awful pity, by the way, for an office worker (6)

14. Cook us some dessert (6)

16. Part left among eggs (4)

17. Trade vehicle I take to the cape (8)

20. Booze rules at about this temperature (8,4)

21. Keen to break covering in one's leg (4-3)

22. Trust entirely, not half (4)

DOWN

2. Times I follow occasional worker (5)

3. Mark suit containing money (8)

4. Endless courage moved large cat (6)

5. King has order for dressing-gown (4)

6. One with ten debts is apprehensive (7)

7. Trains Des organised suffered from unpunctuality (9)

9. Does high tide leave this on the paper? (9)

11. Artillery weapon with zero displaced (8)

13. In chapel is self-conscious wearing a cloak (7)

15. Baptist Union initially puts up with the quarrel (4-2)

18. Loner came to register (5)

19. Do not completely obstruct the group (4)

SUDOKU

Easy

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Hard

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

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

EQUALISER

12	7
1 ○ 1 ○ 4	
12 2	
20 ○ 2 ○ 2	
3 6	

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

This puzzle page is supplied by Sirius Media Services Ltd.
To try our new puzzle, Zygolex, go to www.zygolex.com
© Sirius Media Services Ltd

QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2		3		4		5		6		7	
9									10			
11		12				13		14		15		16
17						18						
						19						
20	21		22					23		24		
25								26				
								27				28
29								30				
32												

ACROSS

1. Excessive praise (8)

6. Of that kind (4)

8. Eggs (3)

9. Shaped metal (8)

10. Shade (4)

12. Plant barrier (5)

14. Flat cap (5)

17. Cure (4)

18. Cuban dance (8)

20. Primitive wind instrument (3-5)

24. Secure (4)

DOWN

25. Organic compound (5)

26. Threescore (5)

29. Outbuilding (4)

30. Private road (8)

31. Boy (3)

32. Great anger (4)

33. Threatening (8)

2. Cooking fat (4)

3. Glittery garlands (6)

4. Sufficient (6)

5. Carrying frame (4)

6. Shiny fabric (6)

7. Easy gallop (6)

11. Form (5)

12. Visit often (5)

13. Roof overhang (5)

14. Luggage (3)

15. Pass along (5)

16. Silent (mus.) (5)

19. Man's title (3)

21. Respiratory disorder (6)

22. Hawk, sell (6)

23. Apelike (6)

24. Strain (6)

27. ---- and ends (4)

28. Decline (4)

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1. Excessive praise (8)

6. Of that kind (4)

8. Eggs (3)

9. Shaped metal (8)

10. Shade (4)

12. Plant barrier (5)

14. Flat cap (5)

17. Cure (4)

18. Cuban dance (8)

20. Primitive wind instrument (3-5)

24. Secure (4)

DOWN

25. Organic compound (5)

26. Threescore (5)

29. Outbuilding (4)

30. Private road (8)

31. Boy (3)

32. Great anger (4)

33. Threatening (8)

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3. Glittery garlands (6)

4. Sufficient (6)

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9. Shaped metal (8)

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12. Plant barrier (5)

14. Flat cap (5)

17. Cure (4)

18. Cuban dance (8)

20. Primitive wind instrument (3-5)

24. Secure (4)

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26. Threescore (5)

29. Outbuilding (4)

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14. Luggage (3)

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21. Respiratory disorder (6)

22. Hawk, sell (6)

23. Apelike (6)

24. Strain (6)

27. ---- and ends (4)

28. Decline (4)



CHESSThree By Barry Martin

Nothing Sub Anymore

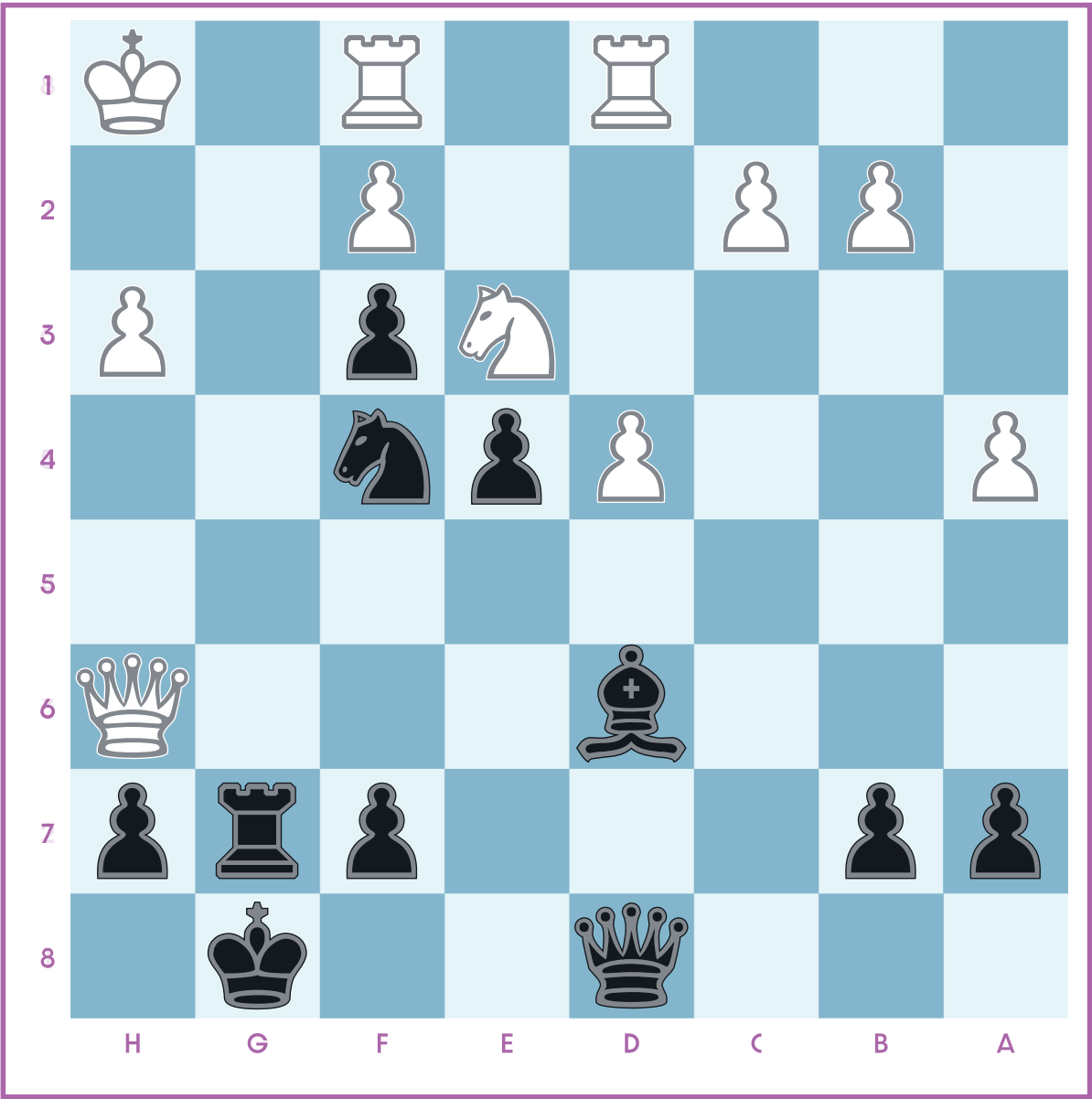
There is nothing sub anymore about the subcontinent of India when it comes to chess. Magnus Carlsen states in *The Indian Express*, “We’re at the beginning of a chess revolution in India which started with Vishy Anand.” In 2010, there were 20 Grandmasters, which has now jumped to 82 in the past 13 years. There are currently 9 Indians in the top FIDE 100 players with Classical Chess rankings. Vishy Anand is 9th; Gukesh D is 13th; Vidit Gujrathi is 26th; Arjun Erigaisi is 30th; Pentala Harikrishna is 32nd; R. Praggnanandhaa is 47th; Nihal Sarin is 53rd; SL Narayanan is 85th; Aravindh Chithambaram is 100th. Four of these are still in their teens. Carlsen says, “It’s awesome to see both the interest in chess from the general public and media in India, and also the huge number of young Indian players that are taking over the chess scene. I think we’re just at the beginning of a chess revolution that started with Viswanathan Anand becoming a GM and eventually winning the World Championship. What we are seeing now, it’s only going to get better.” Carlsen is teammates with Gukesh D, Arjun, and Praggnanandhaa in the Global Chess League (Tech Mahindra), playing for the team SG Alpine Masters, who are currently in joint first position with Ganges Grandmasters, each with 12 match points. Vishy stated, “We (India) have a talented group getting ready for the Candidates series of matches to determine who will challenge Ding Liren for the world title.” Carlsen also went on to say, having been asked how different his life was

The Challenge

In the Grand Final for the 2023 Junior Speed chess Championship between GM Gukesh D and Raunak Sadhwani. Gukesh won by a massive 7 pts. He had previously beaten the best juniors in the world with a 6 pts.lead to challenge Sadhwani, who had a 100 pts. higher rating with Chess.com for speed chess. However, although Gukesh clearly defeated Sadhwani overall in the tourney, in the following game Raunak shows his mettle with just 2 secs left on his clock trapping his adversary’s Queen!

What are the moves leading to the entrapment? White has just played 36.Qh6,... see diagram

The answer is opposite.



after stepping down from the World Championship Title, which Diren won against Nepo, “The thing people don’t realise is that my life isn’t so different now than it used to be. I’m still playing tournaments, preparing for them, and travelling around. I enjoy it immensely. This is what I was doing before I started playing in the World Championship. And, this is what I plan on continuing to do for a while.”

The rise in chess prowess in India, exalted by the likes of Magnus Carlsen and others, and given a massive boost by Vishy Anand, comes on the back of the long history India has had in chess development. More surprising perhaps is the length of time it has taken in the intervening centuries for it to come to this recent flowering. Chess appears to have been a socially practised game during the past 1000 years but producing few exceptional players? Chess historians, like most historians, beg to differ often over dates and sources, birth and development. Historically, several of the most celebrated chess historians, Murray, Van der Linde, and Von der Lasa, believed that chess was invented and developed in northwest India during the 6th century A.D. Board games numbering around 550 different types of chess are ascribed to

ancient Egypt, leading some to suggest chess was played in Ancient Greece and Rome. However, the earliest “clear references” to chess, i.e., a board game without the use of dice and chance, etc., date from about 600 A.D. Excavations in 1955-62 of a 5000-year-old town, Harappa, on the river Indus, revealed game pieces similar to chessmen, with recognisable elephants and knights as well as chariots and warships. (In Indian 4-handed chess, our present-day rooks were represented by chariots, or warships.) Other interesting finds were game boards with 8x8 squares. “Archaeology of India” vol. 11. pp.502-11. Written proof was further announced by Dr. Joachim Petzold of Berlin, May 1990, “Deutsche Schachblätter,” pp.58-60. “4 to 5 thousand years ago, on the banks of the Indus, games existed that were at least the precursors of chess. The pieces used were models for later designs of chessmen.” Chess moved from India to Persia in the late 500s A.D., and the Arabs learned of it when they conquered Persia around 650 A.D. and so on. With such a rich history in India for chess, it is most possibly providential that chess would again rise to be a celebrated and worldly successful game in a new generation of rising stars in this 21st century.

Gukesh D’s recent successful

performances would be an elation to any GM. He is the third youngest person in history to achieve the title of Grandmaster, awarded in March 2019, born in May 2006. His FIDE rating in June this year is 2736! In Oct. 2022, he became the youngest player ever to defeat the then World Chess champion Magnus Carlsen in the Aim Chess Rapid Tournament, a part of The Meltwater Champions Chess Tour. Gukesh stunned Carlsen, creating a Vesuvius seismic moment in the history of chess and possibly dented Carlsen’s usually implacable mental armour. Gukesh’s rise to play in this impressive Champions Tour was earned by winning The Gelfand Challenge Tourney, and he received a ‘wild card’ entry for the elite Meltwaters Chess Tour. Again, and very recently, he had remarkable wins in The Norway Chess 2023 against strong GMs such as Alireza Firouzja. At 17 years old, he is number two behind Anand. Closer to home and also with Indian connections is Bodhana Sivanandan, born in 2015, who already has a FIDE title, Woman Candidate Master! In December 2022, the seven-year-old broke the record to share The English Women’s Blitz title! A Harrow school-girl, she lowered the record for a National Women’s Champion by over 4 years after sharing the crown. International seasoned rivals such as Elmira Mirzoeva, 41 years old, a former Moscow champion, and playing under a neutral FIDE flag, was the Open Winner and is now a resident in London. Bodhana shared the title with Sussex-based Kamila Hryshenko, aged 20, who as a Ukrainian was the 2019 World Girls Under 18 Blitz Champion. David Howell, The Times chess correspondent, who recently visited her, has said she is “One of Britain’s most exciting talents.” Reporting on her skills he said, “I watched in awe as Bodhana took on 6 opponents in a simultaneous exhibition match at Harrow Chess Club where she triumphed over 5 of the 6 boards with just one loss. In June 2023, she became a double World Champion in her age group. In the Rapid and Blitz contest for under 8-year-old girls, she scored an incredible 100% with 22 wins from 22 games.”

Barry Martin

The Solution

38.Qh5,Rg5. 39.Qh6,Bf8!
The Knight’s ability to block out the
36....Rg6. 37.Rg1,Ng2!

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