

NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR\*



# First News

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2.6M READERS\*



NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT  
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS

# FUNDING FAIL AT COP16

## NO COMMITMENT ON CASH TO HELP NATURE

by Ian Eddy

**THE COP16 biodiversity conference has come to an end, with rich countries again failing to agree on how much money they're prepared to cough up to protect nature.**

The meeting in Cali, Colombia, was praised by many for being the most inclusive ever, and there was an agreement on how to involve local communities and indigenous (native) people in efforts to preserve ecosystems and boost wildlife populations.

However, the huge amount of money that's needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 meant that no agreement was reached on how much

countries will pay. It's estimated that \$700 billion (£540bn) every year will have to be found to fill the 'biodiversity funding gap'.

Around \$200bn of that is new cash that's needed, while the rest is made up of money that is currently going towards activities that harm the planet, such as deforestation and producing fossil fuels.

Greenpeace said it was "unacceptable" that rich countries couldn't agree about funding.

### Hope for health

One agreement that was reached was to put in place a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health. This is intended to prevent future pandemics of diseases

like Covid-19, improve people's health, reduce habitat destruction and promote sustainability.

The World Resources Institute (WRI) called the meeting "a cautious step forward to safeguard nature," but said that much more effort is needed.

"Countries are not on track to protect 30% of the world's land and water by 2030," the WRI said. "Without conserving the most critical ecosystems, the consequences for all countries will be immense."

To read about FYI's investigation into the biodiversity crisis in the UK, see p12-13

INSIDE!



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WORLD WAR TWO CODEBREAKERS!

\* Newspaper Awards 2023, Niche market Newspaper of the Year. First News readership is 2,626,625. Source: Opinion Matters 2020. First News is the widest-read of all children's publications audited in the UK. First News supports children's charities.

## MEET THE TEAM



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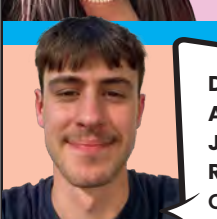
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# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Snappy stories to get you talking!

## New school funding not enough, say experts



Experts and teaching unions have said that the government's new school funding isn't enough. Around £9 billion is meant for things like fixing buildings and helping children with special needs, but experts say the money will be used up quickly. While school leaders are happy about the extra funding, especially the £1 billion for special needs education, they warn that schools still face big challenges, including not having enough teachers and the need to pay staff better. Some think that even though this is a good start, schools will need more help in the future to solve all their problems.

## Ancient 'vampire' face brought to life



Scientists have recreated the face of a young woman buried 400 years ago with 'anti-vampire' measures. The skeleton of Zosia, as she was named by locals, was found in Poland in 2022 with a curved blade called a sickle across her neck and a padlock on her foot. These were thought to stop alleged vampires rising from the dead. Using her skull, DNA and 3D printing, researchers built a clay model of Zosia's face. They believe she was 18 to 20 years old when she died and may have come from a wealthy family. The discovery sheds light on past beliefs about the supernatural and old burial practices.



A tram crashed through a building in Oslo, Norway, after derailing and sliding out of control. Around 20 people were on board and four people suffered minor injuries. Fortunately, no-one was seriously hurt.



## FA aims to boost girls' football in schools

The Football Association (FA) has set a big goal for girls' football in England. It wants nine out of ten schools to give girls the same chances to play football as boys by 2028. This is part of a new plan called Reaching Higher, which aims to help women's and girls' football grow over the next four years.



*"Although diversity within the women's game is improving, we must double our efforts to ensure every girl and woman feels they are welcome within the football family whether as players, coaches, officials or leaders."*

– Baroness Sue Campbell from the FA

## Girlguiding and bank team up to boost money skills



Girlguiding and the bank HSBC have joined forces to help young girls become better with money. They've created a new money-confident badge and fun activities for girls aged 4-18. The project aims to teach over 300,000 girls across the UK how to manage money more efficiently. This comes after a study showed that a third of girls don't feel sure about handling their finances. Activities include coin collecting for younger girls and budget planning for teenagers. The bank will also train Girlguiding leaders to improve their own money skills so that they make smart money choices in the future.

## Thousands join march for cleaner waters



People from all over the UK joined the March for Clean Water in London to ask the government to enforce laws to protect our rivers and seas. The march, supported by 140 groups, aimed to stop sewage spills in UK waters. These spills, which occurred over 3.6 million hours last year, can harm wildlife and swimmers. Famous wildlife presenter Chris Packham attended the march, as did *First News* columnist Aneeshwar Kunchala.

## 251 million kids missing school, says UN



A United Nations (UN) report has revealed that 251 million children worldwide are missing out on school. It finds that over half of these children are from sub-Saharan Africa, with many from the world's poorest nations. Globally, one in four primary schools don't have access to drinking water, proper toilets and handwashing facilities. The report also finds that the quality of teaching standards is dropping across multiple continents, including Europe. To tackle the issue, the UN is calling for increased funding for the education industry worldwide.

## England's smoke-free goal faces delay, says charity

Cancer Research UK warns that England might not reach its goal of being "smoke-free" until 2039, nine years later than planned. The government wants only one in 20 adults to smoke by 2030, but progress is too slow. The charity says that while fewer people are smoking, the change isn't happening fast enough. They also found that poorer people are more likely to smoke than wealthier people. This means more work is needed to help everyone quit smoking.



## Cyclists using phones in Japan may be jailed



Japan has introduced a new law to fine or jail cyclists who use their phones while riding. Those caught risk a six-month prison sentence or a fine of 100,000 yen (£500). Japanese authorities say this is because one in four traffic accidents last year involved bikes and phones.

## Four-day work week trialled at more places in the UK



A trial is giving 1,000 UK workers an extra day off each week without losing pay, part of a growing trend called the 'four-day work week'. Seventeen companies are trying the new way of working, hoping it makes employees happier and more productive. Some politicians support the idea, but the government hasn't officially backed it. Still, many businesses are going ahead on their own. The group running the trial, the 4 Day Week Campaign, plans to show the results to the government next year. It hopes this will encourage more companies to adopt shorter working weeks.



A bush baby on a tree

## Zoo's night-time wonders

London Zoo has used special night-vision cameras to take amazing pictures of its nocturnal animals (those that are active during the night). Keepers got close-up views of rare creatures like the aye-aye and bush baby, which are usually hard to see. These animals usually sleep during the day and have special features to help them in the dark. The pictures help keepers check on the animals' health without disturbing them. They also hope these images will make people care more about protecting these unusual species in the wild.

## US election updates

The 2024 presidential election took place on 5 November. You can watch the FYI video about what American children want from their next leader at [first.news/kidselection](https://www.firstnews.com/kidselection). Make sure to check the *First News* app for updates.



### ● REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10 NOVEMBER

The day is a chance to remember the service and sacrifice of all those in the armed forces and their families.

### ● ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

11 – 15 NOVEMBER

The week aims to raise awareness of bullying as a serious issue for children and young people. The events also include Odd Socks Day on 12 November.



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



# WILDLIFE TRUSTS' NEW NATURE HAVEN!

**THE Wildlife Trusts are buying a huge area of land in Northumberland and plan to transform it from hunting grounds into a haven for nature.**

The group of charities are splashing the cash on all 3,850 hectares (9,500 acres) of the Rothbury Estate, which has belonged to the Duke of Northumberland's family for 700 years.

The land has been described as a "paradise" for people who enjoy "world-class fishing" and "pheasant and grouse shooting". However, once The Wildlife Trusts own it, shooting will be banned and only nature-friendly farming will be allowed.

## Astonishing and spectacular

"Our vision is to create an absolutely astonishing national flagship for nature recovery," Wildlife Trusts' chief executive Craig Bennett told the *Guardian* newspaper.

"We want to create something really spectacular, at a much bigger scale than has ever been done before in England. This is an extraordinary once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore nature."



A red grouse

**3,850 hectares = about 5,800 football pitches**

**30**

Once the deal is done, this will be the largest estate sold in England in 30 years.

Getty

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

AS you can see from our front page and our FYI report on p12-13, nature is in trouble all around the world.

But although governments still aren't doing enough to turn things around, there are plenty of signs that things are at least changing.

Thankfully, charities and other organisations such as The Wildlife Trusts are being much more ambitious and are making things happen on their own (see left).

And whether you go litter-picking on your own or join an environmental group, there are things that we can all do to help, so don't be afraid to join in and fight for nature!

Nicky Cox MBE



## Kemi Badenoch

THE Conservative party has made Kemi Badenoch its new leader, taking over from Rishi Sunak. She becomes the first black woman to lead a major political party in the UK, and she's promised to win back voters' trust after the Tories lost the election to Labour back in July.



## Word of the Year for 2024 is...

**brat**

**BRAT** has been named Collins English Dictionary's 2024 word of the year.

It used to be quite a mean word to call a person who's misbehaving – but Collins defines it as someone with a "confident, independent attitude" which actually sounds more like a compliment!

It's inspired by the singer

Charli XCX (pictured), and was the title of her No 1 album. She says a brat is an honest person who "parties through" tough times.

Collins looks at social media and popular trends to pick their words of the year. Last year, it chose 'AI', after the boom in artificial intelligence.

## SOME OTHER OF COLLINS' TOP WORDS FOR 2024

**Era** – An important period in someone's life or career (inspired by Taylor Swift's Eras Tour)

**Brainrot** – When someone can't think clearly because they've watched so many rubbish online videos

**Romantasy** – Books that blend romance and fantasy

**Delulu** – When someone has unrealistic ideas or expectations

**Rawdogging** – Doing a task without any preparation or support



Getty

## Rise in risk to kids used for crime

**THE number of children in England at risk of harm as a result of adults using them to commit crimes has risen, government figures show.**

Criminals and gangs have been known to trick or pressure children as young as 12 into things like stealing or carrying drugs or weapons. This is called child exploitation.

Official figures show that 15,750 children in England were at risk of coming into harm as a result of child exploitation in 2023/24, which is 1,350 more than in 2022/23.

This harm could come in the form of kidnapping or physical assault.

"This is child abuse," says Sharon Maciver, from the charity Action for Children. She adds that, on top of the government's tally of 15,750 children, "many more will be suffering in silence".

Action for Children says the police's top priority should be to protect these child victims, rather than treating them as criminals. It's calling for more funding and a clear national plan to tackle child exploitation.

## Car thieves

A DREAM collection of 30 stolen luxury cars worth £6m have been returned to their rightful owners in the UK. Police found them spread over nine locations in Thailand. Among them were Lamborghinis, BMWs and Porsches that had been swindled from their rightful owners in 2016 and 2017.

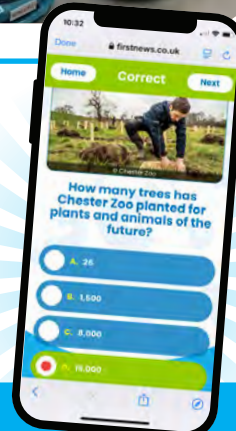


National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service



## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEEKLY QUIZ!

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



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



Getty

If you're affected by this story, help is at hand. Visit [nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) or talk to someone at Childline on **0800 1111**



# CHIMPS CAN'T APE SHAKESPEARE

It's not to be!

IT'S long been suggested that, if you sat an ape (other than a human!) in front of a keyboard and let it type away for long enough, it would produce the complete works of famous playwright William Shakespeare.

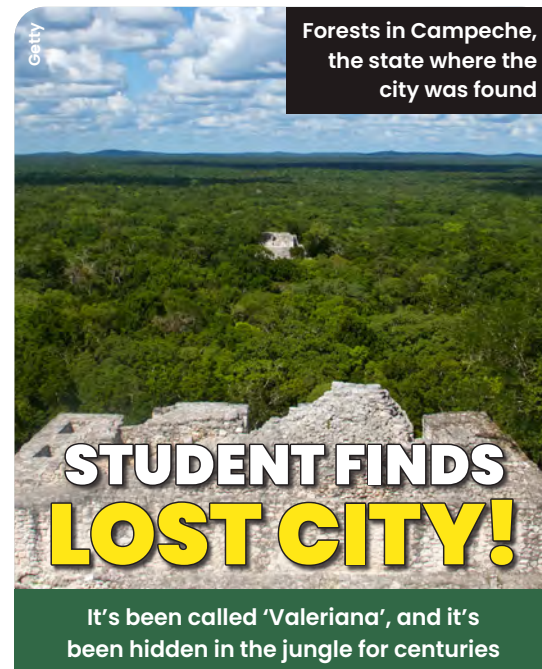
The idea is that, by chance, it would eventually hit the keys in the perfect order to copy the 884,000 words used by the Bard of Avon. It's known as the 'infinite monkey theorem'.

However, a new study claims that actually, this is impossible, because the time it would take for a monkey to get it right is longer than the lifespan of our universe.

In fact, even if all of the world's 200,000 apes were on the case, it still wouldn't happen in time.

It's thought that the universe will last for trillions of years to come, before expanding so much that it freezes and dies.

Stephen Woodcock and Jay Falletta, from the University of Technology Sydney in Australia, calculated that if a chimp spent its whole life typing, there's a 1-in-20 chance it could write the word 'bananas' – so it seems we'll never be able to rely on one to write a good story!



Forests in Campeche, the state where the city was found

## STUDENT FINDS LOST CITY!

It's been called 'Valeriana', and it's been hidden in the jungle for centuries

A UNIVERSITY student has stumbled upon an ancient Mayan city, complete with pyramids, patios and even its own reservoir!

Valeriana lay hidden deep under jungle trees for centuries. Writing in *Antiquity*, Luke Auld-Thomas and his colleagues say they found it using a technique that uses lasers to map areas of land. In this case, it revealed over 6,600 structures invisible beneath the treetops.

Auld-Thomas now plans to head to the jungle to explore the site further. "The ancient world is full of examples of cities that are completely different than the cities we have today," he said.

He added that the fact that nobody knew about this city proves that there's a lot more about the ancient world that we have yet to find.

## The big switch-off!

**SCHOOLS and pupils are being asked to save energy to save the planet!**

Switch Off Fortnight takes place from 11–25 November, and the challenge is to see how much energy – and money – your school or household can save by switching off unnecessary lights, screens and other appliances.

The Pod has produced lots of free resources and posters to help your whole school take part. Join the fun by visiting [jointhepod.org/SOF](http://jointhepod.org/SOF).

**FUN FACT**

LEAVING a computer on every night for a year creates enough carbon dioxide to fill two phone boxes!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

THE Maya was a civilisation from Central America that peaked between 250ACE and 900ACE. They lived in cities, studied the stars, created farms and killed prisoners as gifts to their gods.

## Government announces UK Budget

THE Government has announced a new Budget – a plan for how it will spend and save money to try to make the UK a better place to live.

It was announced in Parliament by Rachel Reeves, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. She and her office, called the Treasury, look after the country's finances.

Mrs Reeves said her "responsible" Budget will "protect working people". She announced that:

- The Department for Education will get £6.7 billion to spend on hiring teachers, fixing school buildings and funding breakfast clubs in England.

- The NHS will get an extra £22.6 billion.
- In April, adults' minimum wage will go up from £11.44 to £12.21 per hour.
- Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are getting money to spend how they like.

To fund the plans, taxes (money that people and businesses pay to the Government) will go up. The price of riding buses and trains is rising in parts of the country, as well as private school fees and the price of vapes.

However, not everyone agreed with the Government's ideas. Here are the reactions of ex-Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and two more organisations...



Rachel Reeves' red briefcase, carrying the UK's Budget plans



THEY SAID THAT!

"They're taxing your job, they're taxing your business, they're taxing your savings. You name it, they'll tax it."  
– Rishi Sunak



"Raising rail fares is a kick in the teeth for people, especially those on low income."  
– Campaign for Better Transport



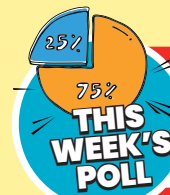
"This Budget has welcome steps forward for tackling poverty, but the richest aren't [paying] their fair share."  
– Oxfam



Look out, buddy!

WHAT'S your favourite type of sausage – chicken, veggie or straight-up pork? One butcher in Germany has started selling sausages filled with the meat of raccoons!

The number of raccoons is soaring in Germany, and the country is struggling to control them. Michael Reiss says his bangers are big sellers. "It has a delicate taste," he says. "It's difficult to describe but... I've looked into thousands of faces at my food stand and they looked happy!"



Would you try Michael's raccoon sausages?

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



## Lochaber, UK



Woodland Trust

THE tree-mendous Skipinnish Oak, an ancient tree hidden in Scotland's Highlands, has been crowned UK Tree of the Year. Believed to be between 400 and 1,000 years old, the oak was rediscovered in 2009 during an event where traditional Scottish band Skipinnish was playing. It won a public vote against 11 other trees and, in honour of the tree, Skipinnish are composing a special song to perform in Glasgow next year. The Skipinnish Oak will now compete for the European Tree of the Year title!

## Baramulla, Kashmir



Getty

WE'RE not sure this cat is enjoying its 'treat' of some chicken legs...!



Getty

## Bucharest, Romania

THIS incredible mural of Brazil and Real Madrid star Vinícius Júnior takes up the side of a ten-storey block of flats. It was created by Brazilian street artist Fábio Gomes Trindade.



Getty

## San Jose, USA

THE San Jose Sharks ice hockey team make their way onto the rink through the club's fantastic shark's head. Watch your heads on those teeth!

## New York, USA



Getty

MODEL Heidi Klum's Halloween parties have become legendary and there are always some amazing outfits on show. This year, Klum (right) and her husband Tom Kaulitz (left) were rocking some very convincing ET costumes!



## Hatfield Broad Oak, UK



THE owners of Cammas Hall Farm spent more than £10,000 on this cool pumpkin mosaic in a bid to attract visitors to the farm's pumpkin patch. It's made from 3,500 pumpkins and took around 1,000 hours to make!

## London, UK



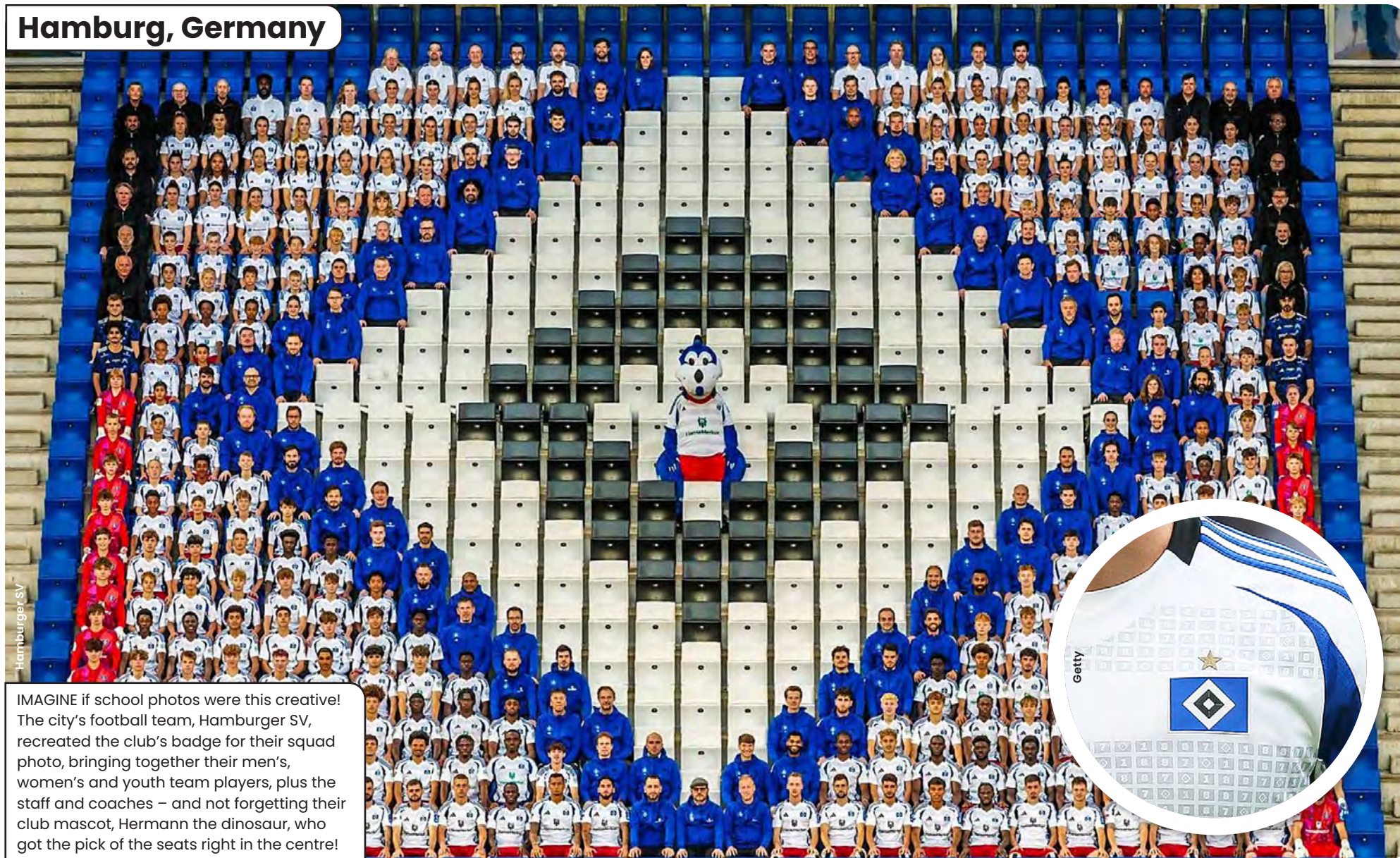
LARRY the Downing Street cat comes to investigate what all the fuss is about after candles are lit for a celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights.



## Sherbrooke, Canada

FROM 6pm to 10pm every night during the week of Halloween, this huge water tower was turned into a scary pumpkin, thanks to two projections created by film director Sébastien Croteau. The smiling face on the left turned into a more sinister one after 8pm so that it didn't terrify any young kids with early bedtimes!

## Hamburg, Germany



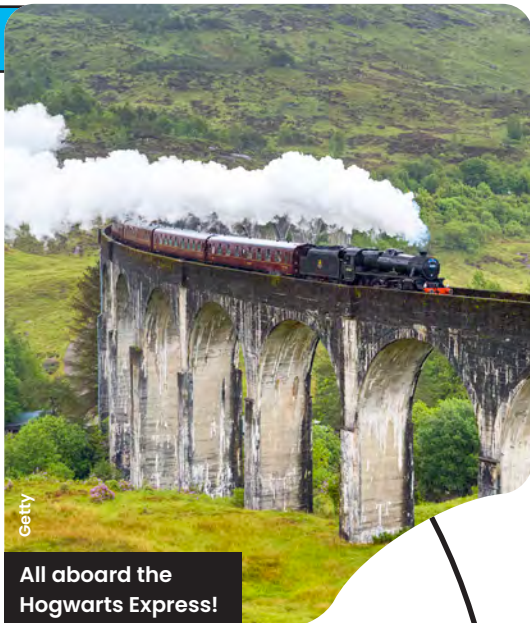
IMAGINE if school photos were this creative! The city's football team, Hamburger SV, recreated the club's badge for their squad photo, bringing together their men's, women's and youth team players, plus the staff and coaches – and not forgetting their club mascot, Hermann the dinosaur, who got the pick of the seats right in the centre!



## GLENFINNAN

### A magical makeover

The famous Glenfinnan Viaduct, known for Harry Potter's steam train rides to Hogwarts, has been undergoing restoration work. Workers have been hanging from ropes to repair the 123-year-old bridge's arches and tracks, with tourists still visiting and trains still running. Alistair Macleod, a bridge worker, told the BBC that conditions were "difficult" but that he's "proud to do a good job". Network Rail's Laura Craig described working on the bridge as a "bucket list job". The goal is to keep this iconic landmark standing strong for future generations, including many more Harry Potter fans!



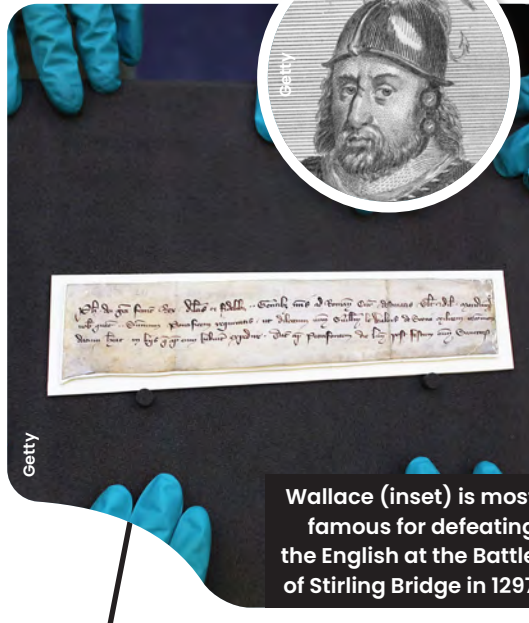
Getty

All aboard the Hogwarts Express!

## EDINBURGH

### Legendary letter

A 700-year-old letter linked to one of Scotland's greatest leaders will go on display on St Andrew's Day (30 November). The letter was written in Latin in 1300 by the King of France for William Wallace. It's a letter of recommendation from King Philippe IV, who asks the Pope in Italy to support the Scottish knight. However, little is known about what William's mission was in Europe at the time. The letter will be on display for just five hours, and people will be able to see it for free in General Register House at 2 Princes Street.



Getty

Wallace (inset) is most famous for defeating the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297

## NORTHERN IRELAND



### Future tech giants

Northern Ireland is set to become a UK hub for inventions, research by Samsung claims. Nearly four fifths (77%) of young people there want to pursue a career in technology. As a result, it's been branded as the UK's own Silicon Valley, after a region in California, USA, that's a global centre for innovation. Some of the most popular pathways that young people in the UK would like to go down are app development (two fifths, 41%) and cybersecurity (a third, 35%). However, despite the ambition, most of those polled believe that there are barriers, such as a lack of mentors, to entering the tech world.

## ORFORD

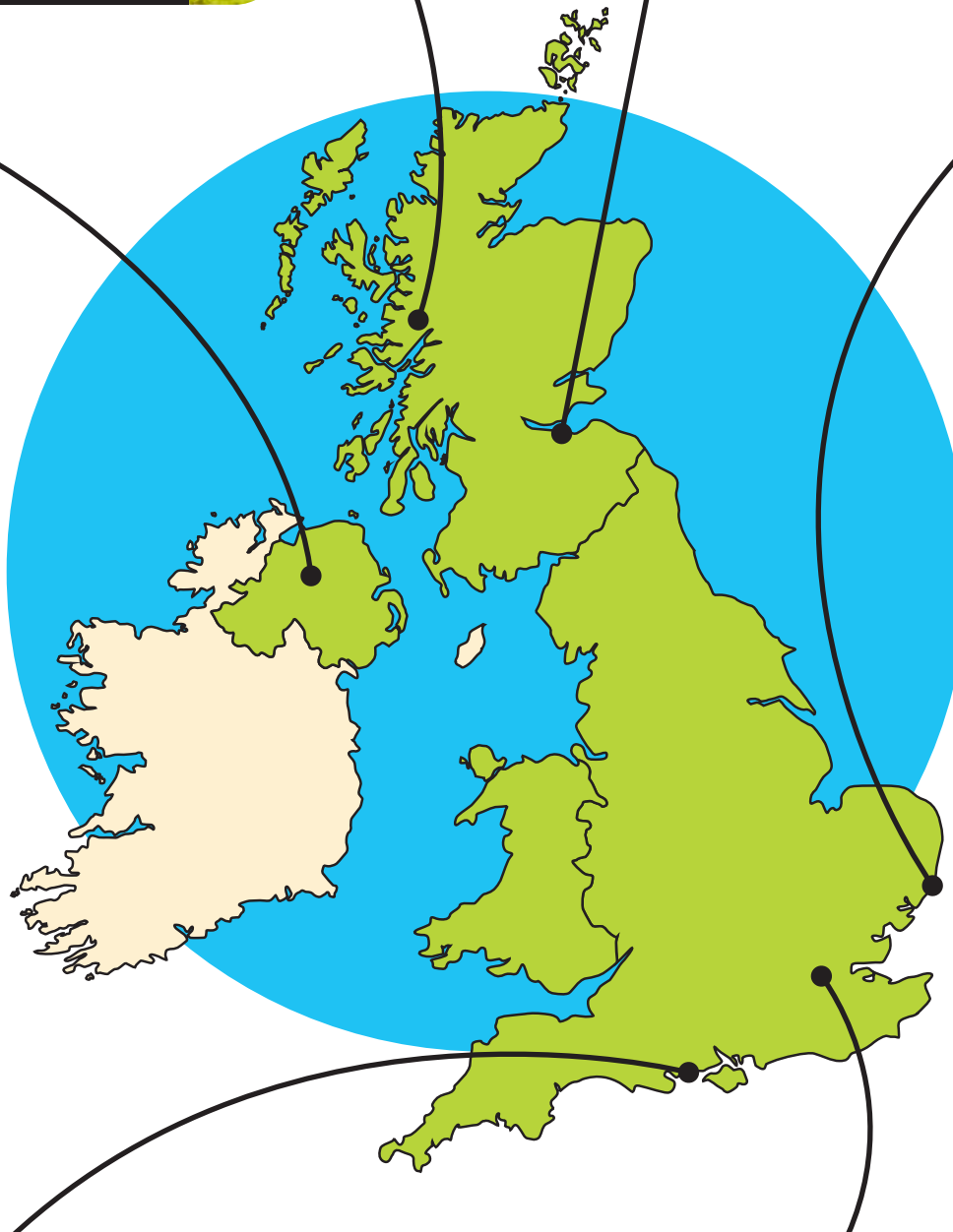
### 'Crawling' with spiders

A record number of spider species have been recorded at an internationally important nature reserve. Orford Ness, which is cared for by the National Trust, was found to be home to 55 different species of spider. Twelve of these, such as *Neon pictus*, are extremely rare. This type of jumping spider has previously only been found in six other locations across Britain. Don't be fooled by the seemingly scary picture, though. The majority of the spiders found by the British Arachnological Society were so small that only experts and their equipment could have spotted them.



British Arachnological Society/Richard Gallion

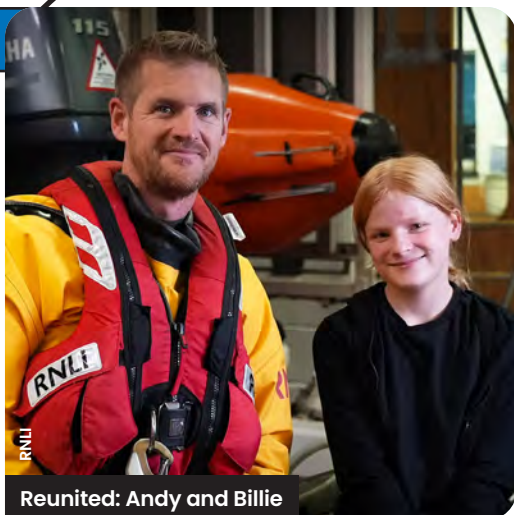
The fascinating (and tiny) *Neon pictus*



## MUDEFORD

### Float to live

An 11-year-old girl who was saved by RNLI advice has been reunited with the volunteer who rescued her. In September, Billie had been having fun with a friend in ankle-deep water when they were suddenly swept out to sea. Andy, an RNLI volunteer, was on Avon beach at the same time and immediately swam out to them. While waiting to be rescued, Billie and her friend used the RNLI's Float to Live advice to stay above water. Billie said: "I was scared, but I felt like I knew what to do, and I made a starfish on my back."



Reunited: Andy and Billie

## LONDON

### Big act for Big Game

Big Game is back with a bang for its 16th year, with music group Rudimental headlining. The event, which sees both the men's and women's teams of Harlequins rugby club play on the same day, is the largest annual club rugby match in the world. This year, an 82,000 sell-out is anticipated at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, as the Harlequins teams take on Leicester Tigers' men's and women's teams. Rudimental will perform, with family fun off the pitch too, in the form of fairground rides. Big Game 16 takes place on Saturday 28 December.



Members of Rudimental





# SURGE IN JELLYFISH SIGHTINGS



iStock

**THE Marine Conservation Society's annual Wildlife Sightings Report shows a 16% rise in sightings of the Portuguese man o' war.**

Closely related to jellyfish, they are rare in the UK and usually found in warm seas, but were spotted 280 times last year, second only to moon jellyfish sightings at 288.

Scientists think that strong westerly winds

and climate change might be behind the increase in the numbers.

The report, which focuses on jellyfish and turtles, also says species including the endangered Kemp's ridley turtle were seen.

The charity is asking people to report any unusual sea creatures they spot, as it could be a sign of shifting ocean temperatures

A Portuguese man o' war

# Rare leeches hatch in UK



Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

**BABY medicinal leeches have hatched at the Highland Wildlife Park in the Cairngorms.**

These small, rare creatures, once common across the country, are now making a comeback thanks to a dedicated breeding programme.

Twenty baby leeches were born, giving new hope to scientists trying to save these unusual animals. The parent leeches were found in one of the few places where they still live in the wild in Scotland.

Despite their creepy reputation, these leeches are important for nature and can even help in medicine.

Scientists hope that, one day, they can release the bred leeches back into Scottish lochs, helping to bring back a lost part of Scotland's wildlife.

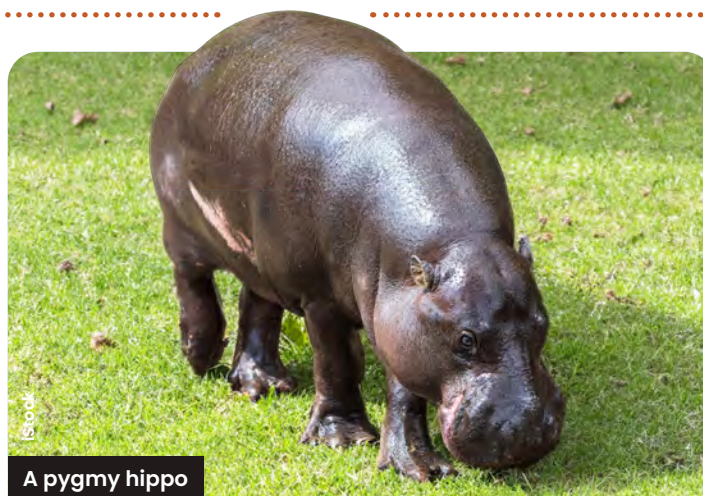
# Tiny hippo's habitat disappears

**A PYGMY hippo named Moo Deng has become an internet sensation from her Thai zoo enclosure, but her popularity has shed light on a serious problem.**

These tiny, rare animals are in danger of disappearing in the wild, where there are fewer than 2,500 remaining.

Their homes in West African forests are being destroyed to make way for farms and mines.

Conservationists are calling for new ways to protect these habitats and the animals that live in them, including Moo Deng's wild relatives.



A pygmy hippo



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

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

# CAPYBARA



**HABITAT:**

Capybaras live in northern and central South America. They don't mind living alone, but can also live in groups of up to 40.

**FUN FACTS:**

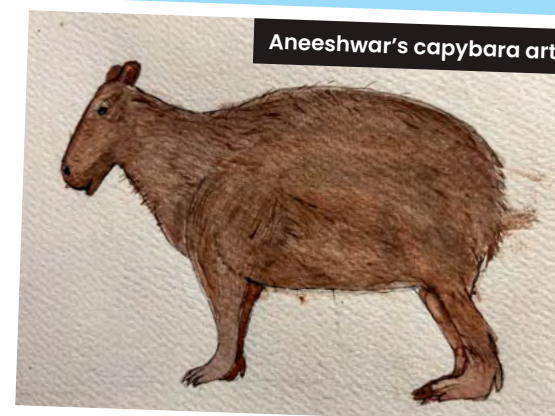
- They are the largest rodents in the world, with adults growing up to 1.4 metres long.
- They are closely related to guinea pigs.

**SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:**

They're strong swimmers. They are adapted to semi-aquatic life with webbed feet, and their eyes, ears and nose lie high on their heads.

**CONSERVATION STATUS:**

Of least concern, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



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





# RESCUING ANIMALS

## FOR COP29 IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

### 11 – 22 NOVEMBER



COP29 will see 200 global leaders, environmental groups, scientists and activists gather with a shared mission to tackle one of humanity's greatest challenges – climate change.

One organisation trying to change things for the better is International Animal Rescue. Find out more about them on this page, and how you can help the cause too.

## WHY IS COP29 SO IMPORTANT?



COP29 is essential for several reasons. It provides an opportunity for countries to check progress, set new goals and reaffirm their dedication to sustainable projects. This conference follows a year marked by extreme weather, including record-breaking heat, wildfires and severe droughts, all emphasising the urgency of the climate crisis. COP29 is a critical step in maintaining the momentum to limit global warming and encouraging immediate action that can make



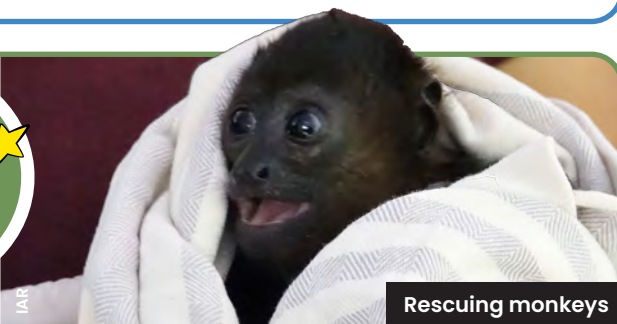
Restoring mangroves

a meaningful difference. A major focus of COP29 is on solidarity – nations working together to support each other, especially developing countries who get an unequal share of climate impacts. The goal is to strengthen international partnerships, ensuring a resilient, environmentally sustainable future for younger generations.

## HOW IS INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RESCUE CONTRIBUTING?



International Animal Rescue (IAR) plays a significant role in addressing both environmental and animal protection needs across continents. For example, in Indonesia, IAR is working with local coastal farming communities to restore vital mangrove forests. The mangroves form a buffer to protect the farms from rising sea levels, but are also thriving ecosystems that boost biodiversity, improve sea water quality and store



Rescuing monkeys

carbon. This community-centred approach enables IAR to create long-lasting change that benefits both people and the environment. By working with local people, IAR helps restore degraded landscapes, protect endangered species, and support communities in adapting to climate impacts.

## THE POWER OF MAMA

The Power of Mama is an amazing 96-strong team of women firefighters on the island of Borneo, Asia. They are working hard to protect the rainforest and the animals that live there. These brave women are the first-ever female firefighters in their area; many are mums and even grandmothers!

Every day, they ride on motorbikes and walk through forests to spot fires before they spread. They also talk to farmers to teach them safe ways to clear land without starting fires that harm the forest.

These women are like real-life superheroes. Not only do they put out fires, but they also teach people in their villages about keeping the environment



Meet the team

clean and healthy. By protecting the forest, they are helping to save critically endangered animals like orangutans. It also helps to keep the air quality cleaner for their children, keeping their families safe and inspiring others to care for the Earth.

These 'Guardians of the Forest' show that women can be strong protectors of nature. Mrs Mai, one of the Power of Mama team leaders, says she hopes that more people, especially kids, will grow up loving and protecting the forest just like they do.

This is just one of International Animal Rescue's projects. They also work to educate children through reading programmes and many other projects. You can find out more about them at:

[www.internationalanimalrescue.org](http://www.internationalanimalrescue.org)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

While global negotiations may seem far removed from daily life, real impact is often created through small, consistent actions. Each individual has the power to shape a better future, whether by choosing eco-friendly products, reducing waste, recycling or supporting local conservation initiatives.

Think before you buy – take a pre-purchase pause and ask yourself five questions:

- Do I need it?
- Can I buy second-hand or can I borrow?
- Is it eco, ethical or Fairtrade?
- Is this brand and packaging good for the planet?
- Am I using my buying power wisely?



Gavin Bruce, CEO,  
International Animal Rescue:

"I love that one of the most simple steps we can take can have a big impact. If we all think carefully before we buy, every purchase can help us create a more nature-friendly world. Together, our actions add up to big change."





# ELEPHANT-PROOF FENCES ARE THE BEE'S KNEES

**A STUDY** into 'beehive fences' has shown that they're very effective at keeping elephants away from crops in Kenya.

As the African country's population expands, humans are taking away more of the elephants' habitat, which often leads to conflict when elephants raid farms, eating and trampling crops.

After research showed that elephants are naturally afraid of being stung by bees, farmers experimented with hanging beehives on wire fences. Now, the results of a nine-year study on 26 farms has proved how effective they are.

A report in *Conservation Science and Practice* looked at more than 3,000 incidents where elephants approached farms. More than three quarters (76%) resulted in the elephants being scared off by the hives.

However, droughts can lead to a fall in bee numbers, which makes the hives less effective at scaring elephants away. Farmers can feed the bees to keep the population up, but this reduces their profits.

The report says that although the beehive fences are very effective, farmers need to use a wide range of tactics if they want to protect as much of their crop as possible. Other things that work are strips of metal on the fences that bang together and make a noise, bottles full of smelly liquids, and growing crops that elephants won't eat, such as sunflowers, chillies, ginger and other spices.

The report ends by saying that these methods are in some way just a distraction from the "more complicated, escalating" environmental issues caused by humans building roads, railways and homes in previously wild areas.

Between 2009–2012, more than 100,000 elephants were killed across Africa for their ivory

WWF estimates that there were 3–5 million elephants in Africa in 1940. There are now 550,000

In 1948 Kenya's human population was 5.4 million. It's now 52.4 million



"Aaagh, bees!"

**ALTHOUGH** elephants are huge and have thick skin, angry bees can sting them on more sensitive parts of their body, such as their eyes, mouth and trunk, which is why hefferlumps hate hives!

Not only do the bees protect and pollinate crops, but their hives allow farmers to make extra money by selling honey and beeswax

Melha Kumar/Save the Elephants

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

This report is from the Science Museum in London

HELEN Sharman was 27 in 1989 when she heard an unusual radio advert while she was driving home. The advert was inviting applications for a mission to the Russian Mir space station.

It declared: "Astronaut wanted. No experience necessary". At the time, she was working as a chemist at Mars, the chocolate and confectionery company. Over 13,000 people applied for the job, and Helen was selected to become the first Briton to go to space.

Getting through the selection process was only the beginning; Helen then spent 18 months training for her time in space, including learning Russian so that she could speak with her fellow cosmonauts!

She spent eight days in orbit, where she carried out a series of medical and agricultural experiments, and also spoke to British schoolchildren on the radio.



Science Museum Group

Helen Sharman at the Science Museum with the spacesuit that she wore in orbit

# NASA picks moon targets

NASA has narrowed down the list of potential sites for the first manned moon landings since the 1970s.

The Artemis III mission is due to put people on the moon for a week at the end of 2026, and it'll be the first time that people have set foot in the moon's south pole region.

NASA has ruled out some previous targets and included some new ones on its list of nine potential sites.

One of the candidates is the Malapert Massif, a 5km-high mountain. Another is the Haworth crater, which is named after British chemist Sir Norman Haworth, who won a Nobel Prize for helping to make vitamin C in the lab. There are also areas that have been named after Belgian naval officer and explorer Adrien de Gerlache, and Italian pilot and explorer Umberto Nobile.

Lots of the craters at the south pole have parts that are in permanent shadow, so could contain ice that will come in handy for future missions.

"Any of these landing regions will enable us to do amazing science and make new discoveries," said NASA's Sarah Noble.

Only 12 people have ever set foot on the moon

There were six manned moon landings in NASA's Apollo programme. Each one put two people on the moon

All 12 of those astronauts were white men. Artemis III is due to put the first woman and first person of colour on the moon



A map of the nine shortlisted locations

# SAVING NATURE: WHERE HAS OUR WILDLIFE GONE?



**One in six species in the UK are at risk of extinction**

THE UK's wildlife is in serious trouble. In this *FYI Investigates*, Scarlett and Jeriah look into the state of nature in the UK, learn about the species struggling to survive and meet those fighting to protect the natural world before it's too late.

## WATCH THE FILM



*FYI Investigates* are short documentaries from our partner weekly news show that dive into fascinating topics such as vaping, gaming and mental health. Watch the full film *Saving Nature: Where Has Our Wildlife Gone?* and more episodes of *FYI Investigates* at [first.news/investigates](https://www.first.news/investigates) or by asking a responsible adult to scan the QR code.



**SAVING NATURE: WHERE HAS OUR WILDLIFE GONE?**

A GROUP of leading conservation organisations called the State of Nature Partnership has recently found that on average, wildlife in the UK has fallen by around a fifth since 1970, with one in six species threatened with extinction. They believe that there are several main reasons for this, including climate change, intensive farming, overfishing, invasive species and pollution. It's sad to know that all of this is happening, but the good thing is, you can do things to help out! Let's look at some of the animals and habitats that are suffering, and why, and find out how you can help them to recover.

### Rivers

One of the factors having an impact on the UK's biodiversity is pollution. In the last year alone, there were over half a million recorded incidents where sewage flowed into rivers and lakes.

Scarlett wanted to find out more about the impact of pollution in waterways and where it comes from, so went to meet wildlife presenter and naturalist Steve Backshall. He lives by the River Thames and has been monitoring river water there for several years. Over that time, he's seen a decrease in wildlife and an increase in pollution. Steve tells Scarlett that pollution is a big threat facing UK rivers, and it mainly comes from farming and sewage.

THERE were half a million recorded incidents where sewage flowed into rivers and lakes in England And Wales last year. That's the same as sewage pouring in for about four and a half million hours.



### What can you do to help UK rivers?

Learn about wildlife in UK rivers and help to raise awareness of how we can protect it. You could also join a campaign against pollution in rivers. Charity Earthwatch says one simple thing you can do is to only put the three Ps down the toilet: pee, poo and paper!

### Butterflies



The *State of Nature* report, about the UK's wildlife, found that over the last 50 years, the number of pollinating insects like moths, bees and butterflies have fallen.

The Butterfly Conservation charity has even declared a butterfly emergency. But one person who is trying to help them, is Becca. She is very passionate about protecting butterflies, and has been since she was just three! This summer, Becca and 85,000 others took part in a big UK survey called the Big Butterfly Count. It found that butterfly numbers are down nearly half compared to last year. Butterflies are a key indicator of climate change, so if numbers are low, it can mean climate change is getting worse. There are lots of reasons the number of butterflies is falling, including:

- New buildings taking away their habitats
- The use of chemicals that are harmful to butterflies
- Wet and windy weather

### How can you help to boost butterfly numbers?

Find out which butterflies are in your local area and plant some wildflowers as food for them. You could also find out where your local wildlife meadow is and get a group of friends together to help take care of it!

Butterfly numbers are down nearly half compared to last year.



Becca and Jeriah outside the butterfly farm she created in her back garden

### Red squirrels

There used to be 3.5 million red squirrels in the UK, but now they are one of our most endangered animals. This is mainly due to an invasive species, the grey squirrel.

The grey squirrel is a problem because it has been out-competing red squirrels for food and habitats. It also carries the squirrelpox virus, which is really harmful to red squirrels. In the film, Scarlett goes to a Scottish nature reserve where a team are doing everything they can to increase the population of red squirrels there. She learns that the only effective way to help red squirrels is by controlling the greys. This means taking them out of the environment and humanely killing them. Although it is really sad to kill an animal, it's essential to improving biodiversity and the numbers of native species.

### What can you do to help?

Monitor and report any squirrel action in your garden. If you are lucky enough to have a red squirrel, leave out some food for it, like nuts and seeds.



I'm here to take over!

No you're not, that's nuts!



Scarlett speaks to wildlife presenter and naturalist Steve Backshall about pollution in UK rivers

## Trees

It's not just animals in the UK that are under threat, trees are too!

Britain is covered in woodland and forest, and trees are more than just a part of the landscape, they're nature's superheroes! They're a powerful tool in the fight against climate change, providing homes for wildlife and even reducing pollution from cities. Without them, our world would look very different. Jeriah heads to Kew, a Royal Botanic Garden in London, that is the world leader in plant science. He finds out that because of climate change, over half of UK trees could be at risk by 2090. To help the situation, the team at Kew are using cutting-edge science in labs. They're testing to see which trees can live the longest without water, so that they can survive drought. They've also started introducing trees from other warmer countries. Kew's experts are hoping that these trees might be more resilient to less rainfall, and better suited to our changing climate.



**biodiversity** – the variety of plant and animal life in an environment  
**extinct** – when there are no animals of a certain species left alive  
**endangered** – any type of plant or animal that is in danger of disappearing forever  
**conservation** – the protection of things found in nature  
**ecosystem** – all the living and non-living things in an area  
**invasive species** – when a species is introduced from another country or area and upsets nature's balance



Chris Packham tells Scarlett that young people need to use their voices to stand up for nature!



**TREES** are nature's superheroes! They provide homes for wildlife and help to remove pollution!



In 2022, there was a big drought in the UK that caused the loss of 400 trees at Kew

### How can you protect trees?

You could plant a tree in your back garden. Just one tree can make a big difference! If you don't have a garden, you could campaign with friends to protect trees in your local area.

## Birds

Many animals depend on our trees, including birds, which have seen a devastating decline in recent years.

Bird charity the RSPB says that since 1980, there has been a loss of one in six breeding birds. That's 600 million birds! One of the worst affected birds is the skylark. They are vulnerable to being disturbed because they build their nests on the ground. This means that people walk very close to them, and so do dogs. When this happens, the birds often abandon their nests.

Skylarks build their nests on the ground, which makes them very vulnerable



*"Please use your voice and believe in yourself. Every single last one of you is important. You are not just a drop in the ocean. Because what is an ocean, but a multitude of drops. Every drop counts."*

*You count. Use your voice for change. Demand that change. Put your case across. If you put a good case across then people will start to act upon it."*

– Chris Packham

### What can you do to help skylarks?

If you see a sign saying that skylarks are nesting, make sure to stay on footpaths. If you have a dog, keep it on a short lead.

## Marine life

Biodiversity isn't just being affected on land. Climate change and pollution are affecting our seas too.

In Cardigan Bay in South Wales, a group of young people are helping to monitor and protect their coastline. The Living Seas Youth Forum takes part in beach cleans and dolphin surveys to monitor wildlife and make sure it isn't decreasing.

Some of the challenges that marine life is facing are:

- Plastics
- Pesticides
- Nets washing up on beaches

### What can you do to protect our seas?

Go and join in with a beach clean. Or if you don't live near a beach, help to clear up rubbish wherever you live. Less plastic pollution in general means a safer marine environment for all animals!



## Use your voice!

BRITAIN is a nation of animal lovers, but if we aren't careful, we could soon be left with just our pets. Our wildlife has suffered a devastating decline over the last 50 years and now we need to do our bit to stop it disappearing forever.

In the film, Scarlett and Jeriah discover what young people are doing to save nature for future generations, and look at how you can make a difference.

It's so important to use your voice to spread awareness of the decline in nature so we can better protect it!

## What is the government doing about it?

FYI asked the UK government what it is doing to help our wildlife. It said: "The government has strict targets to meet to restore nature, and is taking action to do this by creating habitats which provide homes for our wildlife, helping to increase their numbers. We have also said that we will take serious action against those who pollute our rivers and lakes."



## SET UP A FIRST NEWS FYI NEWS CLUB AT YOUR SCHOOL!

Start a *First News FYI News Club* and you could create your own report for *FYI*, and have your story featured in *First News*. It's easy to get involved, just ask your teacher to head to [first.news/FYInewsclub](https://first.news/FYInewsclub) to find out more.

You can watch the show every week on the *First News* app, at [first.news/tv](https://first.news/tv), or on Sky News and Sky Kids.





**IRELAND**

**Ireland overturns 140-year-old murder verdict**

Ireland has pardoned two men who were convicted of killing a man because the evidence wasn't good enough. This means that they're off the hook. There's just one problem – they were executed in 1883. Sylvester Poff and James Barrett were hanged for the shooting of farmer Thomas Browne in late 1882. But although they were in the area at Browne's time of death, they didn't match the witness description. At a ceremony last week, following an expert review of the case, Irish President Michael D Higgins, said: "We can't undo what happened [but] what happened... was a great wrong."



President Michael D Higgins



**THE NETHERLANDS**

**Publisher tries using AI to change books' language**



A recent survey suggests that AI is taking work away from human translators

The biggest book publisher in the Netherlands is seeing whether it could use artificial intelligence (AI) to translate books from one language to another. The company, Veen Bosch & Keuning (VBK), is owned by Simon & Schuster, the publisher of the *Skandar* series. VBK will see how good AI is at translating a small handful of fiction books. However, human translators like David McKay warn that AI could translate stories incorrectly or make them less interesting. "If I were one of VBK's authors, I'd be very worried about how these AI translations will reflect on my work and affect my reputation," he said.



**GREECE**

**Wildfire heroes demand permanent jobs**



A firefighter battles a wildfire last month

Greek firefighters say that increasing heatwaves, caused by climate change, have made battling wildfires a year-round job – not just one for summer. Around 2,500 firefighters in the country have just become unemployed because their summer contracts ended, but hundreds of them

popped their uniforms back on and gathered outside Greece's Civil Protection Ministry to demand full-time jobs. They're usually only hired from May until October. So far this year, an area over three times the size of Manchester has burned in Greece, including one fire that nearly reached Athens.



**SPAIN**

**Furious flood victims throw mud at king**

King Felipe of Spain had mud thrown at him while visiting a town devastated by floods. On 29 October, parts of the Valencia region were hit by a year's worth of rain in just eight hours. It caused flash floods to surge through towns and villages, killing at least 217 people. The water swept away buildings and bridges and left streets filled with hundreds of piled-up cars. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez described it as "the worst natural disaster in our country's recent history", and sent 10,000 troops and police officers to help with rescue and clean-up efforts. King Felipe also declared three days of national mourning (sadness).



Cars washed up in a street in Valencia

**Residents feel abandoned**

A lot of the victims are angry with the country's leaders, including the King and

prime minister. They say that warnings about how serious the floods were came much too late. Residents in Paiporta told King Felipe that he had "abandoned" them, and that he should have visited immediately after the floods happened, rather than four days later.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

**YouTube star killed by snake**



Dinkelman in action

A popular YouTube star has died a month after being bitten at his home by a green mamba, a highly venomous snake. Graham 'Dingo' Dinkelman was a 44-year-old wildlife campaigner whose daring videos with dangerous animals led him to be likened to Steve Irwin, a legendary animal lover from Australia. Dinkelman had quit his finance career to help animals. Alongside his YouTube channel, which has over 110,000 followers, Dinkelman ran breeding programmes for endangered animals and a wildlife education centre for children. Green mambas are shy and it's rare for them to bite humans, but it's serious when they do.





## PAKISTAN

### City smog shuts schools

Lahore in Pakistan has been declared the world's most polluted city, based on dangerous air quality. As a result, all of its primary schools were shut last week and some pupils have been told they won't be doing any outdoor activities until January. "This smog is very harmful for children. Masks should be [worn] in schools," said a senior minister, Marriyum Aurangzeb. The government announced a "green lockdown" to cut pollution – half of the city's office workers were asked to work from home and some types of barbecues and vehicles have been banned.



Children have been told to wear masks to school



## JAPAN



Since records began, Mount Fuji has never been bare of snow so late into the year

### Mount Fuji breaks no-snow record

When most people think of Japan's famous Mount Fuji, they picture it with a white, snow-capped peak (as seen in the small picture) – but that's not been the case for much of this year. In fact, last week marked the longest time that snow has yet to settle on its summit since records began in 1894. In an average

year, the top starts getting snowy on 2 October. The previous record for Fuji's first snowfall of the year was 26 October, which happened in 1955 and 2016. Japan sizzled in its joint-hottest summer this year, which experts link to climate change.



## CHINA

### Kindergartens close as fewer babies born

Almost 15,000 kindergartens closed across China last year, and some were turned into retirement homes instead. This is because fewer babies are being born in the country, so the average age of the population is getting older.

KINDERGARTENS IN CHINA	
289,200	274,400
2022	2023

There are worries about what this means for the future of the country. China's population fell by over two million people last year. In some villages, the government is offering parents money to have more children.



## AUSTRALIA

### Sanctuary celebrates life of largest captive croc

A wildlife sanctuary based on a tiny island on Australia's Great Barrier Reef has paid tribute to its most famous resident, Cassius, the world's largest captive crocodile. At 5.48m (18ft) long, Cassius was colossal. He weighed more than a tonne, and was thought to be over 110 years old! He died last week after a spell of ill health. The Marineland Melanesia Crocodile Habitat on Green Island said: "Cassius will be deeply missed, but our love and memories of him will remain in our hearts forever."



Cassius had lived on the island for 37 years



## INDONESIA

### New iPhone gets banned from shops

Indonesia has blocked the new iPhone 16 from being sold in the country, because it doesn't meet national requirements. Indonesia demands that 40% of phones are made from local materials in order to support the country's economy, and the government says that the iPhone 16 falls short of that. It's thought that 9,000 of the phones have entered the country so far, but selling them would break the law. Experts say Apple is missing out on lots of sales, because Indonesia loves mobile phones – 350 million of them are being used in the country, which is even more than the total population. Apple boss Tim Cook visited Indonesia in April for talks to expand its investment in the country.



There are no official Apple stores in Indonesia

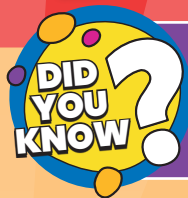


# PADDINGTON'S OFF TO PERU!

IT'S the movie we've all been waiting for – *Paddington in Peru* is finally here (squeal!). The third movie in the series sees Paddington and the Brown family head off on an adventure to see Aunt Lucy at the Home for Retired Bears. But when they arrive, she's nowhere to be seen. Can they solve the mystery and survive the Amazon?! We're certainly excited to see! Here, we catch up with actors Madeleine Harris (Judy Brown), Samuel Joslin (Jonathan Brown) and Carla Tous (Gina Cabot).

● Hi Maddie, Samuel and Carla! How did you prepare for your roles? Did you do any research on Peru?

**Samuel:** I think our team was really helpful. The directors did so much research into the background of the film and Peruvian culture. Especially with the language and symbols in the film.



THE cast is packed with famous actors including Olivia Colman, Antonio Banderas, and Imelda Staunton as the voice of Aunt Lucy.

● If you could take Paddington on your own adventure, where would you go?

**Maddie:** It'd be a good trip around Europe for me.

**Samuel:** I think both North and South America would be fun!

**Carla:** I'd say a safari around Africa would be really cool.

● Do you have a favourite moment or life lesson from the film?

**Maddie:** When Paddington's Aunt Lucy says: "If you're kind and polite, the world will be right." Also: "Everyone in London is different, which means anyone can fit in."

**Samuel and Carla:** "If the skies are grey, hope is the way."

● Finally, in the spirit of Paddington's love for marmalade, do you have a comfort food you like to eat when you're away from home?

**Samuel:** I'd say a greasy kebab. Such a comfort food!

**Maddie:** When we were filming, the catering team made this delicious kale salad. Weirdly, I've been trying to remake it myself as it's so good. Every time I eat it I get wonderful memories.

**Carla:** My comfort food is ramen. Always!



● Carla, as a newcomer to the Paddington films, how does it feel to be part of such an iconic series?

**Carla:** I think at the premiere when I finally see people's reactions, everything will become real. For now, it's just a vision, but I can't wait to see how the audience feels. It was just amazing to work here. I was so blessed and everyone was so welcoming.

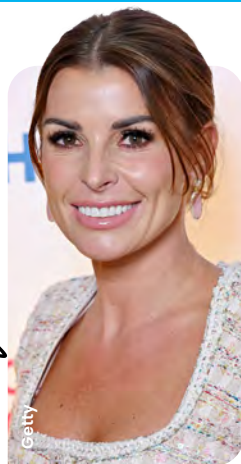


*Paddington in Peru* is in cinemas now.



● **MTV EMAs come to Manchester!**

This weekend (10 November) a whole host of music stars will descend on Manchester's Co-Op Live arena for the MTV Europe Music Awards (EMAs). Taylor Swift is expected to win big, after receiving seven nominations.



● **'I'm A Celeb' line-up 'revealed'!**

The rumoured line-up for this year's *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* has been revealed. Coleen Rooney (pictured) has reportedly secured the biggest deal in the show's history to take part. She'll be heading to the Australian jungle with the likes of McFly star Danny Jones, former *Strictly* judge Oti Mabuse, radio DJ Melvin Odom and presenter and YouTuber GK Barry. The show kicks off on 17 November.



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

## DINOSAUR FILM-MAKERS!

THE Into Film Festival kicks off today (8 November) and five young students will see their very own creation beaming into venues. We chatted to Leah, Christina, Eva, Patee and Lia, all in Year 12 at All Saints Catholic High School in Sheffield, about their film, *Dinosaur*.

● You won Into Film's Time to Inspire Storyboard competition. How did that feel?

None of us expected to actually win; just having the chance to share our ideas was already an incredible opportunity. It was such a mix of excitement, disbelief and joy.

● Tell us about your winning film.

*Dinosaur* is about a primary school boy named Matthew who wears his cultural clothing to school. He feels like he stands out compared to his peers, making him feel as though he is wearing a dinosaur costume. Overwhelmed, he seeks comfort from his mother, who reassures his identity. With a new-found sense of individuality, Matthew returns to school. He sees a young girl named Lily with an Opticlude eye patch (to help a weaker eye become stronger). She stands out among her peers, so he befriends her. This causes classmates to approach as they feel inspired by their connection, realising their own individuality, as they all wear dinosaur costumes.



● What do you hope young people take away from the film?

We hope the audience takes away the message to just be themselves and embrace their uniqueness.

Read the full interview on our *First News* app!

The Into Film Festival takes place from 8-29 November. It's the UK's largest free film festival for schools and young people, with events, screenings and activities. To find out more, visit [www.intofilm.org/festival](http://www.intofilm.org/festival).

WHAT'S HOT

LIKE





# A WEEK OF NEW HORIZONS!



## Nintendo's new music app

CHORES around the house just got a whole lot more exciting, as Nintendo has launched a new app full of magical music from its games!

Free for Nintendo Switch Online members, *Nintendo Music* will allow you to bring soundtracks of your favourite characters from 40 years of Nintendo history into your daily life.

You can create playlists full of iconic tunes from the worlds of *Pokémon*, *Super Mario*, *Animal Crossing*, *The Legend of Zelda* and many more.

*Nintendo Music* has a similar look to apps like Spotify and Apple Music, where you can search different categories of music and create playlists.

We think one of the coolest features is the fact that you can avoid pesky spoilers by hiding soundtracks that might give away a big ending.

***Nintendo Music* is available now on the App Store and Google Play.**

## Music legends join *Fortnite*

IN even more musical news, *Fortnite* is releasing a new season filled with awesome artists.

Chapter 2 Remix will feature Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Ice Spice and (appearing after his death) Juice WRLD.

Throughout November, they'll revamp maps from the game, all linked to their biggest hits.

For example, the Grotto will be renamed Spaghetti's Grotto after Eminem's famous 'mom's spaghetti' lyric.

These artists are the latest in the line of stars to take to the *Fortnite* stage, following the likes of Billie Eilish and The Weeknd.

Also, an awesome finale will close out the month of November, with a yet-to-be-announced in-game event.



Snoop Dogg and Ice Spice gave a surprise performance in New York, USA, to launch the *Fortnite* news



©2018 The LEGO Group

Emmet, voiced by Chris Pratt, from *The LEGO Movie*

## Live-action LEGO movies?!

LEGO is set to release four live-action films, breaking away from their previous use of animation, says *Deadline*.

Live-action movies use photography, meaning that these would be 'real-life' LEGO films.

Since 2014's original hit *The LEGO Movie*, all LEGO films over the last ten years have been animations.

While live-action bricks may be hard to imagine at this point, what we do know is who will be behind them.

Directors Jake Kasdan (the *Jumanji* series) Patty Jenkins (*Wonder Woman*) and Joe Cornish (*The Kid Who Would Be King*) will lead the creation of three of the films for Universal Pictures, while the fourth one is set to be a LEGO *Ninjago* film written by Kevin and Dan Hageman, who wrote the animated series.

# ON A MISSION FOR MARMALADE



PADDINGTON has entered the world of *Roblox* for one of the crossovers of the year! In celebration of new movie *Paddington in Peru*, out in UK cinemas on 8 November, fans can play as the bear online in the suitably-named *Mission Marmalade*. *Roblox*'s 79 million daily users will be able to explore all of the places that Paddington calls home, from the busy streets of London to the more mysterious Peruvian jungle. As the name suggests, *Mission Marmalade* is focused on Paddington's favourite food, and how you can make the most of it in every situation!



© P&CO LTD / SC 2024

© P&CO LTD / SC 2024



# TEEN CODEBREAKERS AND SECRET LISTENERS

**IMAGINE** receiving a mysterious command:  
“Report to Station X”.

Imagine being told to catch a steam train to a small town called Bletchley, with no idea of why you’re wanted or what to expect.

And also imagine that you’re not allowed to tell your friends, or your parents, what you’re doing!

We spoke to best-selling author and Bletchley Park historian Sinclair McKay about some incredible teenagers who played big parts during the Second World War...



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Sunday  
10 November

### What’s the day all about?

REMEMBRANCE Sunday takes place every year on the second Sunday of November.

It’s a day for the nation to remember those who sacrificed themselves for the country during both World Wars and any conflicts since then. Many people gather at memorials, churches, cenotaphs (a monument to a person or people who are buried somewhere else) and other public places around the country, to remember those who died. During this ceremony, a two-minute silence is held around the UK to focus people’s thoughts on those who served their country. Many people wear poppies that they pin to their clothing, as a way to remember.

Watch a quick  
Sky Kids FYI video on  
why remembrance  
is important.



This QR code should be scanned by a responsible adult.

## WELCOME TO BLETCHLEY PARK

**IN** World War Two, ‘Station X’ was one of Britain’s most top-secret bases: Bletchley Park.

This was a big country house on the edge of a town in Buckinghamshire. Nothing about it looked out of the ordinary. A Nazi spy would not have given it a second glance.

And that was the point. Because it was here that some of the most amazing wartime feats took place. In the long wooden huts scattered around the grounds, brilliant codebreakers worked through the day and night. They were cracking the most fiendish codes ever devised.

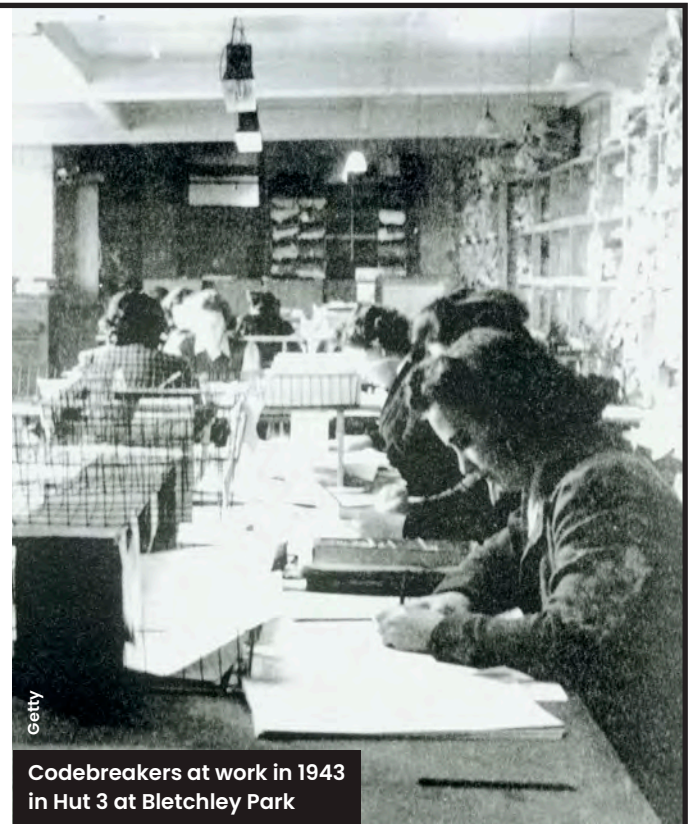
### The Enigma machines

The Nazis used ‘Enigma’ machines – devices with keyboards, electric circuits and letters that lit up.

These could generate millions upon millions of different combinations of scrambled letters. To crack them, there had to be teams of people with a wide range of super-skills: everything from languages to maths to chess-playing.

And this struggle also involved cutting-edge technology. Bletchley was where some of the world’s first ever computers were used. The people who operated them were making history.

As the war went on, about 10,000 people worked in and around this mansion and its grounds. Many of them were young – and some truly amazing recruits were teenagers.



Codebreakers at work in 1943  
in Hut 3 at Bletchley Park

## WHERE DID THEY FIND THESE YOUNG PEOPLE?

**THE first place was university.**

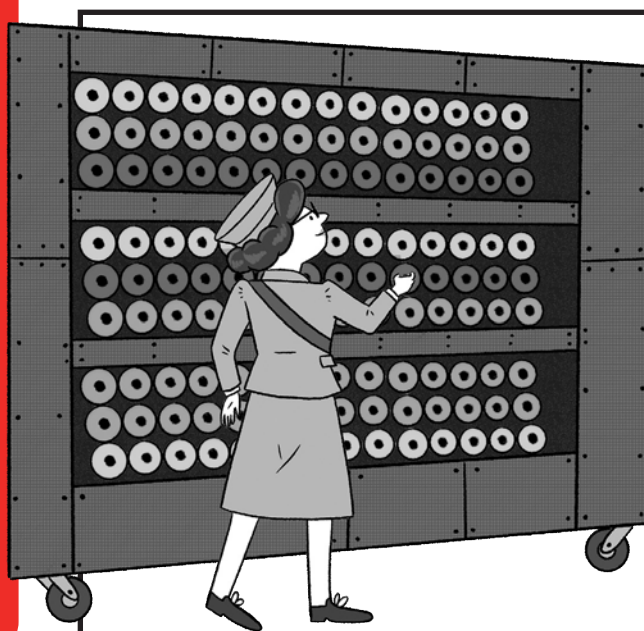
Keith Batey was a 20-year-old from Carlisle. He’d won a scholarship to Cambridge to do heavy-duty, brain-bashing maths. By 1940 he was in Bletchley’s Hut 6 – part of the team decoding German Air Force messages.

In a nearby department was a brilliant 19-year-old called Mavis Lever. Her genius subject was languages – and like Keith, she had been grabbed from university.

Mavis’ codebreaking boss, Dilly

Knox, was a huge fan of *Alice in Wonderland*, and he taught all his young codebreakers to look at the world in that upside-down crazy way. Why? Because it helped to approach secret codes from weird, unusual angles.

Mavis Lever’s fantastic efforts at cracking Italian messages would help Britain win an important naval battle in 1941. And, more than that, she and Keith met. They fell in love, and later got married. So did lots and lots of other young people at Bletchley!





## FROM CHESS TO CODEBREAKING

**THE codebreaker's mind was also about thinking several moves ahead and trying to imagine what your opponent is planning.**

Bletchley was always on the lookout for brilliant chess players and they had several champions working there, including Harry Golombek and Stuart Milner-Barry.

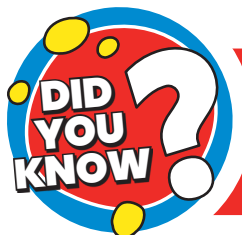
Other sorts of people were recruited too. Jane Fawcett, aged 18, was soon to be an opera singer. She was sent to Bletchley because she was fantastic at speaking German. She was also quite posh – as

were a few of her young colleagues. Osla Benning, aged 19, was so super-grand that she went out with a young chap called Prince Philip – a few years before he married the future Queen Elizabeth III!

But Bletchley was interested in people from all backgrounds. Harry Hinsley, a 20-year-old from Walsall, was a whizz at history, and he was so clever with codes that he became very senior at the Park very quickly. He was even sent across to America to help pull all the codebreakers together.



Illustrations by Allison Steinfield



**EVERYONE** that worked at Bletchley was asked to sign a very serious document called the Official Secrets Act. That meant they couldn't ever talk about what they had done – for years and years. Even to each other. But thank goodness this rule was lifted in the 1990s and their amazing achievements can now be celebrated.



Ceylon, 1945

## INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURES

**JEAN** Valentine, aged 18, had recently left school and volunteered to become a 'Wren' (from the initials of the Women's Royal Naval Service).

She was super-keen on very hard cryptic crosswords, where each clue was a complete puzzle in its own right. Before she knew it, she was being sent from Scotland to Bletchley.

But Jean's adventure was only just beginning. There were Bletchley codebreakers based around the world, and she was set to join them.

Jean was sent on a six-week voyage across dangerous seas, filled with submarines and sharks. She arrived at Colombo in Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka), a new world of wild colour – and gigantic snakes and spiders.

Jean was working on cracking Japanese codes in a bamboo hut. Late at night, the insects and snakes would slither in, perhaps to keep her company as she carried on with her top-secret work.

### Bob's close call

Elsewhere, in the rugged mountains of Sardinia in Italy, teenager Bob Roberts was a Secret Listener – intercepting coded messages for Bletchley's 'Y Service' (short for wireless, an old name for radio).

One thundery night, he was in a wooden hut with a couple of meat sandwiches to keep him going. After concentrating hard on some signals, he looked up from his radio set, and straight into the eyes of a terrifying, snarling wild mountain dog.

Bob knew in that split second that the dog could kill him for those sandwiches.

Pure instinct took over. Bob jumped up, shouted like a trumpet and waved his arms. The dog was startled and leapt back – just beyond the hut door. Bob flew forward and slammed and locked it shut.

## REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

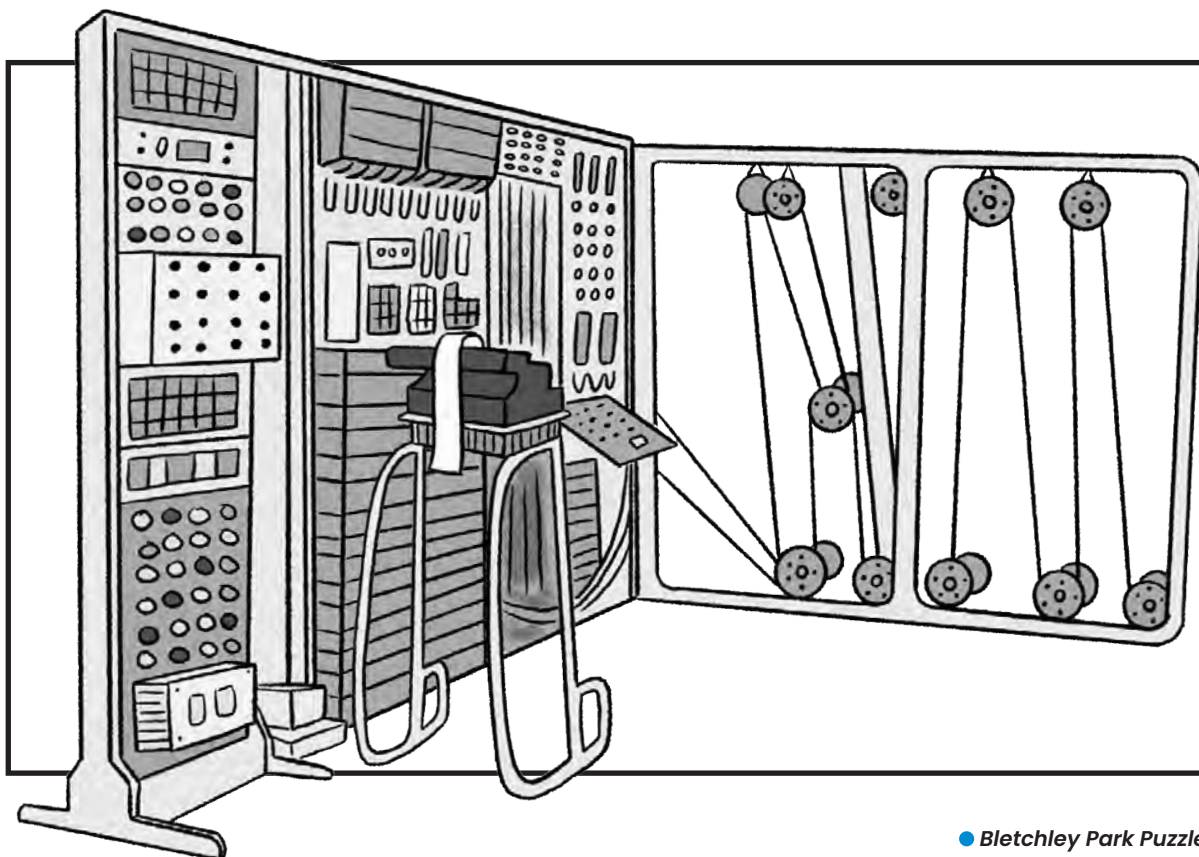
**WHAT** all the young codebreakers helped to achieve was incredible.

They cracked codes that the Nazis thought no human mind could ever unlock. Harry Hinsley, who we met earlier, reckoned Bletchley Park helped shorten the war by two, even three, years.

But these young people also brought life and fun and music to Bletchley. The work was so gruelling that their time off was incredibly important for mental health. There were dances, rounders, tennis and theatre shows that they put on themselves.

And the youngest of them all was 14-year-old Mimi Gallilee. She hated school, so got a job at Bletchley Park as a messenger (though not a codebreaker). She said she looked at all these older teenagers as though they were super-beings...

But they weren't. Young people like Oliver Lawn and Sheila Mackenzie and John Herivel just wanted to use their talents to help win the war.



● *Bletchley Park Puzzles and Brainteasers* by Sinclair McKay is out now.





# BRAINTEASER SPECIAL!

TO celebrate National STEM Day on 8 November, we've teamed up with the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) to bring you two pages of exciting puzzles and brainteasers. How many will you be able to solve?



## GCHQ

## WORD LADDER

Can you climb down the ladder from 'good' to 'quiz' changing only one letter per rung?

## WHAT IS GCHQ?

We are the Government Communications Headquarters, more commonly known as GCHQ. We are an intelligence, security and cyber agency and our mission is to keep the United Kingdom safe. We've been doing this for over 100 years.

Some people call us spies but we're also analysts, linguists, computer scientists, engineers, mathematicians, programmers, codebreakers and much more! Most of us have to be secretive about where we work, but you may recognise our Director, Anne Keast-Butler (right).

At GCHQ we love puzzles because the skills needed to solve them also help us with our work. To work here you don't need to be a genius or top of the class, you just need to have an interest in figuring things out.

We hope you enjoy solving the brainteasers we've set you this week. Let us know how you get on by



GCHQ Director Anne Keast-Butler

asking a grown-up to tag us on Instagram @GCHQ.

And if you enjoyed these puzzles, you'll love our Christmas Challenge, which is designed for you and your class to solve together. Ask your teacher to search 'GCHQ Christmas Challenge' online to find out more!

**GOOD**

**COLD**

**HEAT**

**QUIZ**

## WORDSEARCH

Y	T	I	S	R	E	V	I	D	I	M
I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y	N	A
N	C	H	C	Y	B	E	R	E	C	S
Y	T	I	U	N	E	G	N	I	L	T
E	R	S	R	C	A	T	R	C	U	B
I	Y	T	I	L	A	U	Q	E	S	O
M	R	O	T	U	G	R	H	B	I	C
P	U	D	Y	E	L	I	O	N	O	D
A	O	A	M	G	I	N	E	N	N	C
C	H	E	Q	H	C	G	L	T	E	N
T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K	H	A	M



- CYBER
- DIVERSITY
- ENIGMA
- EQUALITY
- GCHQ
- IMPACT
- INCLUSION
- INGENUITY
- INTEGRITY
- NCSC
- SECURITY
- TEAMWORK
- TURING

Each letter may appear in more than one word. Once all the given words are found, where will you find us?



## CODING SKILLS



Below are some essential skills for spies. Unfortunately the words have been written in a substitution code, or 'cipher', where each letter on the top row (plain text) has been replaced with the letter on the bottom row (cipher text).

Some of the enciphered letters are shown below. Identify the skills - we've started the first one for you - and deduce the missing letters from the cipher alphabet to find a hidden message.

PUTERS	RYOAEJARMELHY
RNFBMLAE JRHAURA	

FWLCAFWLHRJ	AUGHUAAEHUG
-------------	-------------

SWUGMVGAJ	RNKAOEAWIHUG
-----------	--------------

Plain text:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L		
Cipher:														
	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
			B	D	E	J	L	M	P	V	X	Y	Z	

## CROSSWORDS

Fill in the answers to the clues. Unfortunately a couple of the clues got lost, but you won't need those!

- Short for iceberg
- A long heroic poem or film
- Well-off
- ? 
- Area of grass
- French for 'with'
- What spiders make
- ? 

 See next week's issue for the answers!



**COMPETITIONS:** *First News* competitions are only open to those aged 15 and under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of *First News*, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be selected at random from all those with the correct answer. No purchase necessary. *First News* will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly. If you are a winner, your details will be securely passed on to the person who is providing the prize so they can post it out to you. If you are contacted but don't reply within 28 days, we may offer the prize to another entrant. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition. Your personal data will be held for a maximum of 12 months after the competition and then destroyed. It will not be used for any other purpose unless you have given us permission. If you would like your data deleted before this, please do get in touch with us. You have the right to complain to the ICO if you believe there is a problem with the way your data has been handled.

## SUDOKU

Complete this letter-based Sudoku so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the nine unique letters CEHINPRTY

What do the highlighted squares spell out?

		Y	C		T	P		
	N						T	
	C		R		P		Y	
T				P				C
			I		H			
E				T				R
	T		P		R		H	
	I						P	
		P	Y		E	N		



## ISSUE 959 ANSWERS:

Word wheel: electrify.

Word ladder: life, lift, loft, lout, bout, boat.

C	E	N	T	I	M	E	T	R	E	
O		N		E		E				
A	C	H	E	S		L	E	V	E	L
C	U	E		S	O					
H	U	N	G	R	Y		G	L	O	W
	D		T		C		T			
G	E	R	M		C	A	R	I	N	G
O	E		S		M		N		E	
D	O	D	G	E		E	A	G	L	E
	T		E		R				S	
C	H	I	M	P	A	N	Z	E	E	

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



Enjoying the puzzles? See the *First News* app for more fun, quizzes and games!



## PUMPKIN PADDLER SETS RECORD

© Guinness World Records



**AN American man has achieved a remarkable feat by paddling a boat made from a gigantic pumpkin for a record-breaking distance.**

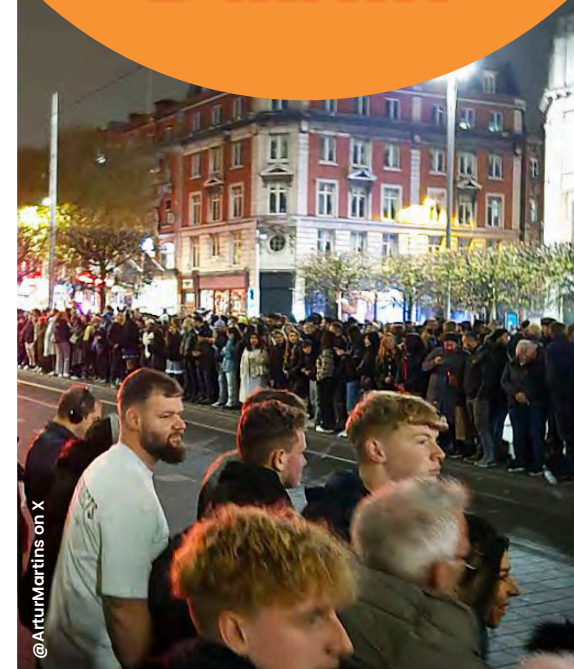
Gary Kristensen, 46, travelled 73.5km (45.67 miles) along the Columbia River in Washington to break the record.

His unusual orange vessel, named Punky Loafster, was hand-carved from a huge 555.2kg pumpkin.

Kristensen faced challenging conditions during his 26-hour journey, including strong winds and choppy waves. Despite the difficulties, he successfully completed the trip, setting a new world record for the 'longest journey by pumpkin boat (paddling)'.

The record is featured in the *Guinness World Records 2025* book, which is out now.

## AI parade hoax in Dublin



@ArtuMartins on X

**AN AI-generated website tricked thousands of Dublin residents into gathering for a non-existent Halloween parade.**

The hoax, which spread rapidly online, claimed that a popular arts group was hosting the event.

People waited for an hour before realising there was no parade.

Local authorities had to step in to clear the streets and to let the public know about the deception.



iStock

## RACCOONS ON THE RUN!

**FOUR female raccoons made an escape from a zoo on the Isle of Wight!**

The furry fugitives broke out of Amazon World Zoo Park at night, prompting a search using dogs and drones.

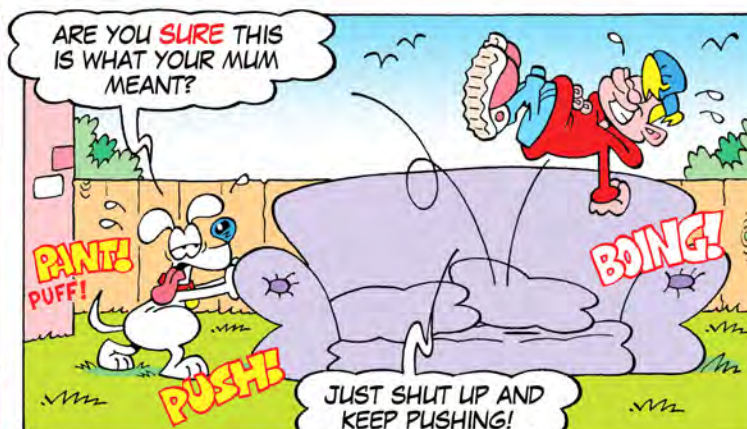
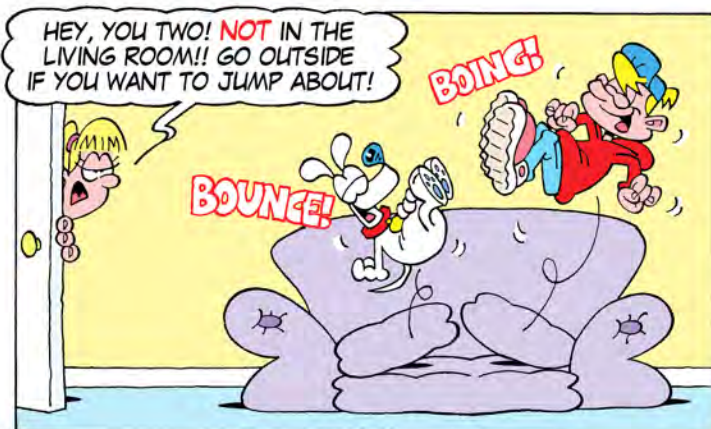
Zoo staff asked people to keep an eye out, but not to approach the animals.

Raccoons are known for their distinctive black 'masks' and striped tails. They sleep during the day and become active at dusk.

When *First News* went to press, three of the four raccoons had been found. The zoo has asked residents to check sheds and bonfire piles for any signs of the last animal.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



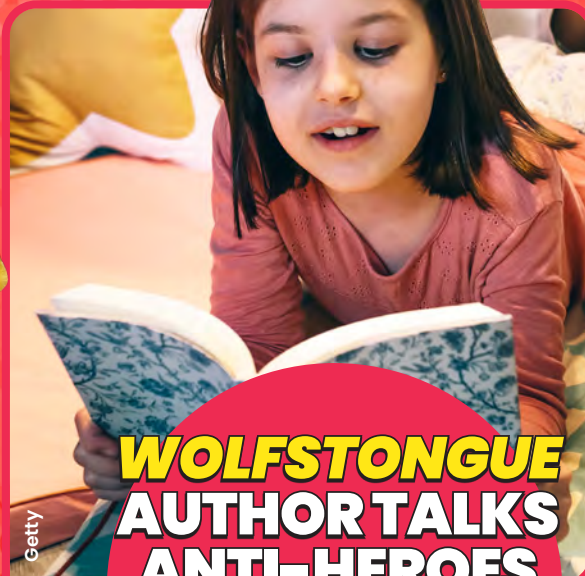
# IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!

DON'T MISS IT!

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



BBC CHILDREN IN NEED



WOLFSTONGUE AUTHOR TALKS ANTI-HEROES

Love reading

# FirstNews?

There's even more on the First News app!

DAILY NEWS

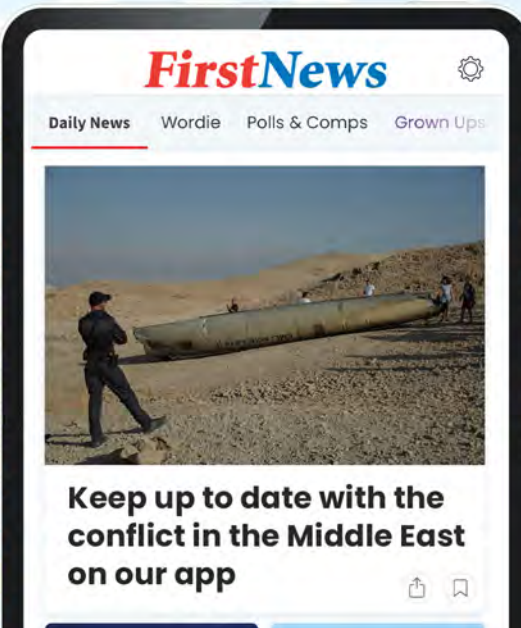
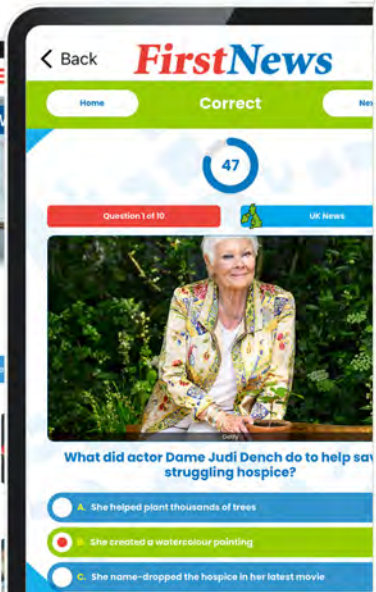
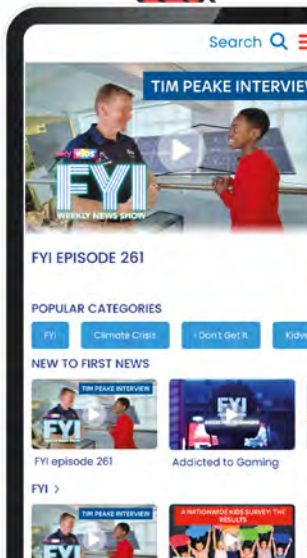
PLAY FUN GAMES

AWESOME PUZZLES

WATCH SKY FYI

PLAY OUR BRAND NEW WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!

VIDEOS



Get an adult to scan one of these QR codes to download the app. They'll need the Web ID which we emailed to the person who paid for your subscription. If they can't find it please ask an adult to email [info@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:info@firstnews.co.uk) and we will be happy to help!



App Store

Google Play



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

Did you celebrate Guy Fawkes Night this year by going to a fireworks display or bonfire? A couple of weeks ago, the *First News* front page said that most people in the UK want to see alternative light displays, like light or drone shows, that are better for the environment and for animals. And it looks like you agree, judging by the poll on the opposite page!

We are always interested to see what you, our readers, think. Make sure to take part in our polls to let us know!

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR CHILDREN IN NEED?

BBC Children in Need's Pudsey Day is coming up soon, on 15 November.

Schools all over the UK are encouraged to get involved by taking part in activities and fundraising. But what are you doing? Write in to let us know and you could feature on these pages!

**Let us know!**

Ask a responsible adult to email us at [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk)



**Espoir is working to make positive changes in his community**

**ESPOIR works with UNICEF, a charity that helps children across the world, as one of their U-Reporters. U-Report is UNICEF's digital community of young people who raise their voices and share their opinions on important topics. In his role as a U-Reporter, Espoir is helping people in his country to learn how to protect themselves against a harmful infection, mpox, which is caused by the monkeypox virus.**

by **Espoir Lumengo**

My name is Espoir Lumengo and I am a Youth U-Reporter for UNICEF. Since 2023, I have been part of the U-Report Kalamu community in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(DRC), Africa. Like many young people in my country, I joined U-Report to actively contribute to change in my community and beyond. Faced with the numerous health challenges in the DRC, such as mpox, we have chosen to act together to make a difference.

I work with other U-Reporters to raise awareness among families and children about how they can protect themselves against getting mpox. Running these sessions, especially with children, gives me a deep feeling of purpose. In their eyes, I see their desire to protect themselves and grow healthy, which motivates me and brings me great satisfaction.

Every action we take reinforces our commitment to building a healthier, safer future for all.

## From bedtime story to a proper book

**FLORENCE'S** mum has always told her and her siblings bedtime stories, but now they've been turned into a book, *Tales from Muggleswick Wood: A Magical Bedtime Treasury*. Florence wrote in to tell you all about it!

by **Florence Clarke**

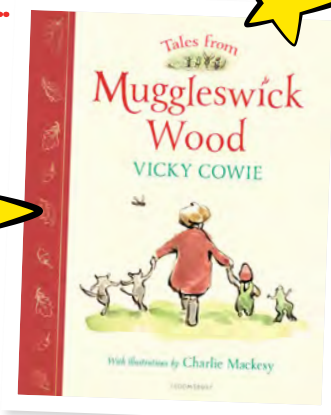
My mum has been writing books since I was seven years old. The first time I remember seeing her writing, we were on holiday in France. My sisters and I were splashing in the pool and mum would sit at a table with a notebook writing. She was so full of stories that they would jump out of her at any time. She would see a squashed mosquito on a mirror and instantly create the funniest rhyming story about it.

Once her tiny little stories had been turned into real books, she would read them and put on silly voices to make us giggle. Later, when I was older, I enjoyed reading them to my little brother, Tom. He loved them so much he could recite his favourite one, *The Biggest Blooming Beetle*, word-for-word at the age of two.

I am so proud of my mum and how far her books have come. She has managed to write books, ride horses and look after us, her four children. Her books have created

wonderful memories for our own family, and also many happy memories for other families across the country. Now it looks like her books will be read all over the world. I hope *Tales from Muggleswick Wood* will become everyone's favourite bedtime stories.

***Tales from Muggleswick Wood: A Magical Bedtime Treasury*, published by Bloomsbury, is out now.**



Florence (right) with her siblings and their horse Nifty

# NEWS CLUB SHOUT-OUT!

**THIS WEEK WE'RE GIVING SHOUT-OUTS TO...** Anglo Singapore International School, St Cedd's School, St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, Greenhill Special School and Fulston Manor School!





# Painting for charity



Artist Scott in action!

SCOTT has been selling his artwork to make money for mental health charity Mind!

by Scott

Hi, I'm Scott, and I've created three pieces of artwork to raise money for Mind. The children's section of the charity helps kids where I live (in Jersey), and elsewhere in England and Wales, with low mood, anxiety and other mental health issues. I painted a cool volcano, an abstract landscape with a little Easter egg and a hidden lighthouse on water, and my favourite painting of all, called *Arctic Green*. It looks like the northern lights but without snow, which makes it unique.

I was just having fun with the canvas, and the art turned into something amazing.

I'm really happy that I was able to raise £700 for charity! I created these artworks because I want them to be enjoyed by others.

## WANT TO FEATURE ON YOUR NEWS?



If you want to be a junior journalist for *First News* and go to cool press events or write about a topic that you're passionate about, get in touch by asking a trusted adult to email us at [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk).

Or, get your teacher to sign up to the *First News* FYI News Club at [first.news/fyinewsclub](http://first.news/fyinewsclub).

# Learning to save lives at sea

GIRLGUIDING members from across the south of England recently went to Poole to learn some crucial water safety skills from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)!

They did lots of activities throughout the day and were told how to stay safe near water, as well as learning about lifeboats and lifeguards. They earned their Mayday badge as a result!



The Mayday badge



Girlguides learnt water safety skills from the RNLI

# THIS WEEK'S BIG QUESTION



We asked you... **Would you prefer a light or drone show to a fireworks display?**

**71%**  
(1,444 of you)  
said YES

**29%**  
(597 of you)  
said NO



What do you think? Join in the conversation and cast your vote!

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



# A WINTRY WALK IN THE PARK!

FROM marmalade sandwiches in sunny Hollywood to making a snowman in frosty London, author Simon Stephenson is ready for some wintry magic!

*The Snowman Code* is the first children's novel from *Paddington 2* screenwriter and former children's doctor Simon Stephenson.

It follows a ten-year-old girl called Blessing who's being bullied at school. She needs all the help she can get, and finds it in the form of Albert Framlington, a talking snowman! They team up to try to overcome

the bullies and end the longest winter in over 300 years.

*First News* went for a stroll with Simon in London's Victoria Park – the setting for the book – to discover some of the spots that he included in it!



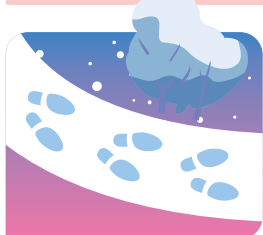
## STOP 1: THE DUCK POND

**Simon says:** "Blessing is always running over this bridge while the ducks quack up at her, complaining that their pond is still frozen. I used to live just five minutes from this park when I worked as a children's doctor, before I moved to Los Angeles, USA, to pursue writing."

"A good trick when writing your own stories is to set at least part of it somewhere that you know. This can really help you concentrate on the characters and describe the place."

## STOP 2: THE PLAYING FIELDS

**Simon says:** "This is where Albert the snowman lives. Blessing sees him moving and, in her persistent, determined way, she discovers that if you talk to a snowman six times, they have to answer you!"



## STOP 3: THE CANAL

**Simon says:** "There's a reason why it is such a long winter, and it's got something to do with another snowman that Albert fell in love with a long time ago. He and Blessing head to the canal to try and find her."

## STOP 4: ALL OVER LONDON!

**Simon says:** "Their adventure isn't just in Victoria Park – they go to all of the parks and gardens in London! They visit Blessing's mum in hospital, and head to the Natural History Museum (right) too."



*The Snowman Code* by Simon Stephenson is out now.

Simon says: "When children tell me they want to be a writer, I tell them that I was 32 when I wrote my first book! So don't worry – writing should be about enjoyment!" Read more advice from Simon, including what he learnt from working on *Paddington 2* and Pixar's *Luca*, on the *First News* app!



# Saluting an Indian war hero

AS the country gears up for Remembrance Sunday, a new book shines the spotlight on the adventures of an overlooked hero.

Hardit Singh Malik was the first Indian pilot of World War One, battling high in the air against German planes over Passchendaele in Belgium.

Born in Punjab, he was sent to school in Eastbourne, studied at Oxford and played cricket for Sussex before war broke out.

Hardit was about to join France's air force until he was given special permission to fly for Britain. His Oxford tutor wrote a letter on his behalf, allowing him to make history. Cool fact – Hardit even had a special helmet made to fit over his turban!

The latest in Scholastic's Voices series, which celebrates unsung heroes, *Hardit Singh Malik: World War One Flying Ace* by Bali Rai is out now.

## Recommended reads

in partnership with Peters



## Stories of strength

NOVEMBER is the awareness month for pancreatic, lung and mouth cancer. Did you know that each year in the UK, there are nearly 2,000 new cases of cancer in children? Here, we've assembled a list of touching stories featuring kids living with illnesses.



### *No Matter the Distance* by Cindy Baldwin

Penny befriends a sick dolphin in the river behind her house. Can their friendship help her discover more about herself beyond her cystic fibrosis?



### *A Dangerous Game* by Malorie Blackman

Sam, who has sickle-cell anaemia, must save the class bullies who take a reckless risk during a school trip in the Highlands.



### *The Misunderstandings of Charity Brown* by Elizabeth Laird

Join Charity as her life radically changes after returning from hospital, with a new home, new neighbours and new possible future!



### *Two Weeks with the Queen* by Morris Gleitzman

Colin's on a quest – to find the best doctor in the world to cure his brother, who has cancer. Who better to ask than the Queen...?



### *Wink* by Rob Harrell

For older kids, this funny look at life from a boy with cancer is inspired by the author's own experience, and features comic strips about Batpig.

# FirstNews Quiz

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

**1** Which country is Paddington off to in his latest adventure?

**2** How many pumpkins make up this amazing mural?



**3** In which country did this tram crash occur?



**4** Which new phone has Indonesia banned from its shops?

**5** What are 17 UK companies trialling to try to make work more productive?

**6** The Portuguese man o' war is closely related to what other animal?



**7** Kemi Badenoch has become the leader of which UK political party?

**8** The Glenfinnan Viaduct is known for featuring in which film series?



**9** What did the UK government's Treasury announce recently?

**10** What was the name of this colossal croc that passed away in Australia?



**11** Which UK country is set to become the next big tech hub?

**12** What's the name of the big energy-saving scheme that lots of schools will take part in this month?

**13** Which alien are these people dressed up as for Halloween?



**14** Which famous Japanese mountain has seen a record-breaking lack of snow?

**15** Rúben Amorim has been named as the new manager of which football club?

Do you love our quiz? Check out our Quiz that you can play online as an individual or with your family! You can find it at [firstnews.co.uk/quiz](https://www.firstnews.co.uk/quiz) and on the *First News* app!

**FirstNews WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ!**  
Check out our new online Quiz!

- Answers:**  
1 Peru 2 3,500 3 Norway 4 iPhone 16  
5 A four-day week 6 Jellyfish 7 Conservative Party  
8 Harry Potter 9 The Budget 10 Cassius  
11 Northern Ireland 12 Switch Off Forthright  
13 ET 14 Mount Fuji 15 Manchester United



A Red Bull mechanic cheers Verstappen across the finish line

getty

## WET-WEATHER WIZARD MAX SHIFTS UP A GEAR

**MAX Verstappen took a step closer to another world title after a stunning performance that's been called one of the greatest wet-weather drives of all time.**

After starting the São Paulo Grand Prix in 17th place on the grid, just three places from the back, Verstappen was already up to 11th after the first lap. Less than halfway through the race he was in second place, and eventually took the lead on lap 43 of 69.

By the end, the Dutch star had created a massive gap

of 19.477sec – about a quarter of a lap – between him and his nearest rival, Alpine's Esteban Ocon.

"My emotions today have been a rollercoaster," he said after the race. "I was hoping for good points, but this is absolutely crazy."

It means that Verstappen now has a 62-point lead in the championship over Lando Norris, who finished in sixth. There are three races left to go, but Verstappen could clinch the title in the next race in Las Vegas.



Ajaz Patel celebrates the historic win

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New Zealand's men hadn't won a Test match in India for 36 years, but just handed India their first ever home whitewash in a series of three or more Tests. The stunning 3-0 win ended with a 25-run victory in the third Test in Mumbai. Player of the match was New Zealand's Ajaz Patel, who was born in Mumbai but upset his old neighbours by taking 11 wickets.



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Laura Muir has finally picked up her bronze medal, nine years after a race! She came fourth in the 3,000m at the 2015 European Athletics Indoor Championships, but Russia's Yelena Korobkina was found guilty of using drugs to cheat, so the three runners below her were all moved up a place



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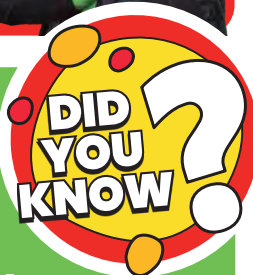
The USA won the World Para Ice Hockey Women's World Challenge for the third time in a row. The round-robin format meant that each team played four games, and the USA's matches against Canada, Team Europe and Team Pacific saw them score 27 goals and not concede any. It's hoped that the competition will help to increase participation and eventually get the sport into the Paralympic Winter Games.

Rúben Amorim has been named as the new boss of Man United. Since he took charge of Sporting CP in 2020, they've had the highest win percentage (120 wins out of 156 games) in any of Europe's top ten leagues. United will be hoping he does the same for them, as this is their worst start after ten matches since 1986-87!



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The England women's rugby league side notched up a record win last week, with an 82-0 victory over Wales. Winger Anna Davies also set an England record for most tries in a game, with five, while scrum-half Isabel Rowe had an 18th birthday to remember, kicking nine conversions!



## Braydon's on the ball

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



Unexpected defeats for both Arsenal and Man City opened the door for Liverpool to return to the top of the Premier League at the weekend. Brighton took the lead through Ferdi Kadioğlu's first-half strike, but Liverpool fought back and two goals in two minutes from Cody Gakpo and Mo Salah meant the Reds took full advantage.

The surprise team of the season are now third, after Nottingham Forest continued their fine form with a 3-0 win over West Ham. What a job Nuno Espirito Santo has done there to turn them around. Chris Wood is their main man with the goals and he scored his eighth of the campaign; only Erling Haaland has scored more.



getty

Chris: the best Wood in the Forest!

At the bottom, Southampton celebrated their first win with a narrow 1-0 victory over Everton, and by doing so avoided matching the fewest number of points won after the first ten games of a Premier League season. A late winner from Adam Armstrong gives them some hope to build upon as they look to climb the table.

In the WSL, unbeaten Man City and Chelsea both enjoyed convincing away victories to continue their battle for the title, with Brighton not too far behind them in third. Man United shared a draw with Arsenal to remain unbeaten in their opening five matches and stay within touching distance of leaders Man City.

**Centre Stage** this week are Newcastle, who looked strong in their victory over Arsenal. I expect them to start to climb the table and challenge for a top-six place, despite this being their first win in six league games. The Magpies followed up an impressive 2-0 victory over Chelsea in the EFL Cup with a strong performance against the Gunners, so look out for them over the next few weeks.

Looking ahead, there's a big London derby this weekend, with Chelsea facing Arsenal at Stamford Bridge, and Liverpool taking on Villa at Anfield. Let's hope for some goals in those!

**Braydon's Team of The Week:** Bournemouth, who ended City's 32-game unbeaten league run!

**Braydon's Player of The Week:** Chris Wood, Forest's key man, and firing in the goals.

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

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