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KITTIES



First News

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YOUR **CORONAVIRUS** QUESTIONS ANSWERED IN OUR 4-PAGE SPECIAL **P3-6**



HOW TO KEEP
IN TOUCH WITH
GRAN AND
GRANDAD **P3**

- Work from home
- Avoid restaurants, theatres and cinemas
- Elderly people to shield themselves for 12 weeks
- Those with a cough or fever to stay home for 14 days
- Events cancelled
- Don't travel unless necessary
- Schools may close

BRITISH people face months of living our lives differently in the fightback against COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged people to work from home, not to travel unless they need to and to avoid places like restaurants, cinemas and theatres. It's thought schools may have to close as the virus spreads.

One of the other key parts of the prime minister's battle plan is for older people to shield themselves

from others by staying home alone for 12 weeks. This is because the over-70s aren't doing so well with COVID-19, with this age group most at risk of dying from the illness.

The good news is that, even among the elderly, nearly everyone survives unless they have other serious health problems already. The illness is generally mild in younger adults and children, no worse than a cold.

Earlier this week, Mr Johnson said anyone who lives with someone who has a cough or a temperature should stay at home for 14 days. This is to stop their illness spreading, in case it's caused by the coronavirus.

The virus was first found in China on 31 December. Since then it has spread around the world. Now, countries across the globe are at war with it.

1. HEDGE YOUR BETS

The RSPB charity is asking gardeners to stop hedge cutting until August to help wildlife. Breeding season for birds is almost here and pruning hedges could have a big effect if nests are dislodged or damaged. Charlotte Ambrose, RSPB Wildlife Adviser, says: "If you must prune, please be aware that it is illegal to damage or destroy an active nest. It's crucial we all play our part in giving nature a home."



2. LONG IN THE TOOTH

Indian student Pawan Bhavsar has set a record after having a tooth that was causing him pain removed. The massive molar measured 1.53 inches (3.89cm) long, beating the previous Guinness World Record of 1.46 inches.



3. WAITING FOR ORGANS

NHS Blood and Transplant says the average wait for a lifesaving organ is one to three years. More than 250 people have waited over seven years for a kidney. New organ laws are coming into force in England on 20 May that should improve wait times.

4. SEA PLEA

Sir David Attenborough has called for an end to deep sea mining, where companies dig for minerals for things like mobile phones and batteries. Sir David said: "Mining of the deep sea could create a devastating series of impacts that threaten the processes that are critical to the health and function of our oceans."

5. SCREEN STUDY

YouGov research has shown that 40% of UK children have their own tablet by age six, while 10% own a smartphone. By age 17, 96% have their own phone. Some studies suggest that kids should be limited to less than two hours of screen time a day. It has also been suggested that between one and two hours a day can be good for the wellbeing of children.

20 THINGS TO KNOW AND TELL

QUICK NEWS TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

6. FLYING HIGH

The Aerobility charity gives disabled people the chance to fly a plane. Stuart Miller, a wheelchair user, now has a pilot's licence thanks to help from the charity. He said: "Once you're up in the air, there's no disability."

7. BY GUM

Salisbury City Council has used chalk to circle all the chewing gum that litters the streets. It says it will cost £36,000 to steam clean the gum to remove it from pavements. A council spokesman said: "It costs 3p per stick to buy and 10p to prise off the streets. It's a blight on our beautiful city."



8. STORMS IN EGYPT

Thunderstorms across Egypt have caused havoc, killing five people and injuring many. Rain caused flooding that demolished houses, lightning sparked several fires and strong winds blew a car into a canal.

9. FIX IT, DON'T BIN IT!

People in the city of Lincoln are taking their broken items to be repaired at the Lincoln Repair Cafe. Plastic Free Lincoln set up the project to help people get things fixed instead of binning them and making more waste.

10. POLL RESULTS

Last week, we showed you a gaming bed and asked if you thought it was a good idea: 16% of you said it was, while 84% thought it was too much!

COMMENT

First News Live! user unicorn248 thinks it is a bad idea because "it focuses kids too much on screens and will also lead to obesity and a lack of sleep."

11. PEST PREDICTION

Locusts continue to threaten food supplies across East Africa. Kenya, Somalia and Uganda have been particularly affected. Britain has donated a supercomputer that uses satellite data to track the locusts and predict where they will go next. It is hoped the computer will help to control outbreaks. A small swarm of locusts can eat enough crops in a single day to feed 35,000 people.

12. FALCON CRIME

A peregrine falcon has been shot in the wing and may never fly again. The birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act but are still illegally killed. The bird was shot in Telford and police are investigating.



13. DODGY DISNEY DEALS

A woman who sold fake trips to Disneyland has been jailed for 29 months. Katherine Clark, from Durham, caused at least 35 victims to lose a total of £12,000. The judge said she "took away sunshine" from the victims' children.

14. 100 YEARS YOUNG

Marion Watson is a former gymnast and a 100-year-old keep fit teacher! She teaches exercise classes three times a week at her retirement home in Essex. Marion says: "I just love the joy of movement and seeing people improve."



15. SEA LEVELS RISE

The World Meteorological Organization says that global sea levels hit a record high in 2019. Melting ice caps and warmer water raised sea levels, making coastal communities more vulnerable to storm surges.

16. UNIFORM COSTS

Some parents don't apply to send their children to certain schools because the uniforms are so expensive. England's school standards minister Nick Gibb said: "Some families are facing uniform bills in the hundreds of pounds." He added the idea of a uniform being a barrier to a certain school was "simply unacceptable". It is hoped that a law to give cheaper uniform options to parents will be passed by the Government.

17. HAND GEL HOPE

Authorities in Greece say they have up to 155 tonnes of confiscated alcohol that could be turned into hand sanitiser to fight coronavirus. They are looking for manufacturers willing to turn it into antiseptic hand gels.

18. RARE GIRAFFES KILLED

Poachers have killed two extremely rare white giraffes. A female and her calf were killed and later discovered by rangers at Kenya's Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy.



A spokesperson said: "This is a very sad day for Kenya." It is believed that only one white giraffe now remains in the world.

19. BOXING BOOST

Bristol boxing charity Empire Fighting Chance has been given £30,000 to continue its great work. The charity offers non-contact boxing courses, mentoring and therapy for more than 4,000 vulnerable children and teenagers each year.

20. CAT STUCK FAST

Firefighters from Barry in Wales were called to help a poor cat who got itself stuck in a very narrow space. The cat was too wedged in to be pulled free, so some bricks were removed to get her out. The cat, named Max, is safe and sound and relaxing at home after being reunited with her owners.



STAY CONNECTED!



COVID-19 is a lot more dangerous to older people than younger ones.

To keep older generations safe from the coronavirus, the Government has said that the over-70s should 'self-isolate' and avoid others for 12 weeks.

For many older people across the UK, maybe your grandparents or neighbours, this will be difficult and they could get very lonely.

As these rules are brought in, we're calling on our readers and their families to help the older people in their lives keep loneliness away, by keeping in touch with them while the coronavirus is with us.

Below, we've included some guides for you to share with elderly people you know on how to set up various video-calling apps and software. And there are some other ways that you can help.

While tech may come easy to you, it can be hard for older people to get the hang of things.

So, with the help of a parent or carer, send this page to older people and help them stay connected even if you can't see them in person.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



IT feels a bit like we're at war, doesn't it?

However, the enemy is not an army, it is a new strain of coronavirus disease called COVID-19.

But, although wars are harsh, they also bring out the best in people. There is a sense that people put aside their differences and pull together for the good of those around them.

We've been hearing about a lot of good things going on in communities, with people looking out for one another. Share this page with older people you know who are most at risk from the virus, but also from loneliness in the coming weeks. Stay in touch.



FIRST NEWS' VIDEO CALL TIPS TO SHARE WITH GRANDPARENTS



GOOGLE HANGOUTS

● Google Hangouts is available on both Apple and Android smartphones and tablets, and can be accessed on computer at hangouts.google.com

● You'll both need a Google account. Any email address can be used – but make sure you write the password down somewhere safe! To set one up, head to accounts.google.com/signup

● Once you've set up an account, you can make video calls, audio calls, and message, entirely for free. If using a computer, you may get a prompt asking if you give permission for Google Hangouts to use your microphone and camera. If you say yes, you will be able to hear and see your grandchildren!



WHATSAPP

● You'll need two smartphones with WhatsApp installed (free on Android and Apple devices), a strong internet connection and, ideally, a front-facing camera.

● When setting up WhatsApp, you'll be prompted to add your phone number. Type this in, and you'll receive a verification text.

Once this is done, you should be good to go! To video call, simply head to your list of contacts, tap on the name of the person you want to call, then tap the little video icon.



WHEREBY

● Whereby is a free tool that can be used for video calling. It doesn't need users to download or sign up to anything.

● One person should either download the Whereby app or head to whereby.com – where you'll need to put in your email. Once that's done, you'll get a verification code.

● After inputting the code, you'll be asked to make a room. This is a link that can be sent to three other people. Once they've clicked on it, they'll need to give permission for Whereby to use their microphone and camera. Once that's agreed, you should be on video call!



FACETIME

● You'll need two Apple devices, and you'll both need an Apple ID. While these are mostly set up when people get their Apple devices, you can make one at appleid.apple.com

● If you're using an iPhone, FaceTime will automatically have your phone number, meaning other Apple device users can FaceTime you. If you're using an iPad or an iPod

Touch, or want to register your email on your iPhone, head to: Settings > FaceTime > Use your Apple ID for FaceTime, then sign in with your Apple ID.

● Once that's done, you can head to the Phone app, tap the name of the contact you want to FaceTime, and then hit the little video icon.

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SHOULD SCHOOLS CLOSE?



THE Government has the power to close schools, but they have chosen not to do that yet. Why not?

At the time of writing (Tuesday), schools remain open, despite Prime Minister Boris Johnson telling the public to work from home and avoid gatherings of lots of people.

Mr Johnson said: "We think at the moment it's much better if we can keep schools open, for all sorts of reasons. This is something we need to keep under review."

One of the arguments for keeping schools open is that children infected with COVID-19 are at a really, really low risk – lower than any adults.

If schools close and children stay at home, there is a worry that many parents who work in the NHS and other public services won't be able to get to work.

Lots of parents get help from their own parents to look after their children. But as people over 70 are among the most vulnerable people, it is too risky to let them look after

children who could have the virus.

But with more teachers taking time off work to stay home, head teachers' unions say some schools face closures anyway. "It is likely that a number of schools will have to close because there are too few staff available," they said in a joint statement.

The National Education Union has also called on the prime minister "to close schools, at least for some time and at least in some areas".

They ask that SATs tests, due to take place in May, are abandoned and for the Government to suggest what they plan to do about "the inevitable widespread disruption to GCSE and A-level exams".

At the time of writing, the advice remains that teachers and students should prepare for exams as normal.

VOTE IN OUR POLL

Do you think schools in the UK should close?
first.news/polls

An important reminder that the best way to protect yourself and other people is by:

- washing your hands (with hot water and soap) for the length of time it takes to sing *Happy Birthday* twice
- using hand sanitiser if you have it
- coughing and sneezing into a tissue, then binning it. If you don't have one, cough into your elbow, not your hand
- not touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- getting the latest, accurate advice from reliable sources:
 - tinyurl.com/whocv2019
 - www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

ON LOCKDOWN IN ITALY

MEET Eleanora. She is 15 years old and lives in Verona, Italy. We asked her to tell us what life is like in lockdown, with no school to go to.



"The situation is really, really strange because we're not allowed to leave the house unless you have to go to work, to buy something or just for medical reasons. Bars and restaurants are all empty. The streets are empty. People are also asked to maintain one metre of distance and there are people in scarves and masks.

We also must wear plastic gloves at the grocery store before touching anything. Some people are panicking, but most of them are just following the rules and doing their best to stop the spread.

I have not been to school for over two weeks and if school is not open by 3 April, everyone passes with full marks. Woo hoo!

In conclusion, I miss my normal life but I don't miss waking up every morning at six for school."



ONLINE CLIMATE STRIKES

GRETA Thunberg has told students around the world to protest against climate change online, to avoid gathering in large groups during the coronavirus outbreak.

She suggests taking part in a digital strike at home by posting a photo with a sign and the new hashtag #ClimateStrikeOnline. "Keep your numbers low but your spirits high," she says.

The 17-year-old campaigner outlined a number of ways activists can make their voice heard without leaving the house, including emailing politicians, putting a strike sign in the window and posting on social media.



COW PEE "CURE"

A HINDU group in India has hosted parties where people drink cow urine to protect themselves from COVID-19.

The cow is considered to be sacred (special and greatly respected) by many Hindus.

Some believe cow urine or cow dung can cure cancer, despite there being no evidence that it does. Experts have also warned that it will not prevent coronavirus.

"We have been drinking cow urine for 21 years, we also take a bath in cow dung. We have never felt the need to consume English medicine," said Om Prakash, who attended one of the parties.



A man drinks cow pee

CORONAVIRUS: FACT OR FAKE?

Hairdressers in China are using long poles to cut hair from a distance.

FACT! Weirdly, this is true! You can watch the video in episode 66 of FYI.

For more fake news and to see Eleanora's report, go to first.news/FYI

TRUMP ASKED TO RESPECT SCIENCE



DONALD Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic has been widely criticised by scientists, even though the US president rated his handling of the crisis as ten out of ten.

At first, Trump dismissed the outbreak as a "hoax" and said that his political rivals were making a meal out of it to make him look bad.

It was pointed out that Trump's government broke up the team responsible for preparing for a possible pandemic, and didn't replace them. When journalists asked him about it last week, he denied knowing anything about it.

The respected journal *Science* printed an editor's comment that blasted Trump. "The nation has had nearly four years of harming and ignoring science," wrote Holden Thorp, who also said that the president's words "are now clearly a matter of life and death".



by Ian Eddy and Aaron Henderson

SHOPPERS across the UK have been called "selfish" for emptying supermarket shelves and leaving nothing for other people.

Even though supermarket bosses and the prime minister have asked people to only buy what they need, people have been filling trolleys with toilet paper, canned food, rice, pasta, tissues, hand sanitiser and painkillers.

"Please think before you buy and only buy what you and your family need," the supermarkets said. "If we all do this then we can make sure we have enough for everyone."

At first, the stockpiling resulted in lots of jokes on social media, but then people started to get annoyed because they couldn't get products that they genuinely needed. Stores have now put limits on how many of some items people can buy, but some

shoppers have been going back in, or taking family members so that each person can grab as much as possible.

To make sure that vulnerable people don't miss out, many supermarkets are now allowing only older people into stores for the first or hour or two that they're open every day.



VIRAL KINDNESS



WHILE there are certainly some who are behaving selfishly during this outbreak, lots of people are doing their bit to help out wherever they can.

In the UK, tens of thousands of people have come together (while staying a safe distance apart), and joined up with community groups to help out the most vulnerable in our society.

They're delivering leaflets with contact information on, so those who need to can call and request help from someone who's healthy and has washed their hands.

The volunteers are offering to pick up shopping, deliver medicine or just chat, should someone be feeling lonely.

Celebrities have been helping out too. Ryan Reynolds (the voice of Detective Pikachu) has donated \$1 million to food banks in the US and Canada. Noel Fielding, *Great British Bake Off* presenter, hosted an art competition online to keep people busy and lift spirits.

All over the world, people are showing kindness. Kuwait has donated \$10 million to coronavirus relief in Iran, and Chinese billionaire Jack Ma has pledged to donate more than a million testing kits to Africa, as cases begin to rise there.



HOW TO CLEAN YOUR PHONE



WHEN is the last time you cleaned your phone?

Even though we touch our phones dozens of times each day, it's not exactly something we think to do regularly.

During the coronavirus pandemic, some health officials are suggesting that we clean our phones whenever we wash our hands – but just how do we do that?

Apple and Samsung say that anti-bacterial wipes can damage a smartphone's protective screen, so to clean it they recommend that you use a soft, damp, lint-free cloth and soap.

Make sure you clean the full device, including the case if you have one.

£25,000 TECH PRIZE

THE Longitude Explorer Prize is offering £25,000 for a school or youth group who comes up with the best tech solution to some of the problems facing the world today.



This week, 40 teams of 11 to 16-year-olds were revealed to have made it to the finals, and a number of the inventions could really help people who are affected by the coronavirus.

One is the MedBot (pictured above), developed by West Exe School, which can deliver prescriptions to those who cannot leave the house.

Or there's the Loneliness Buddy, developed by Titus Salt School, which can chat to lonely people and connect them to people who like similar topics.

The teams will now be mentored ahead of the finals in July.

VENTILATORS NEEDED

IN countries affected by the coronavirus, factories have been helping out.

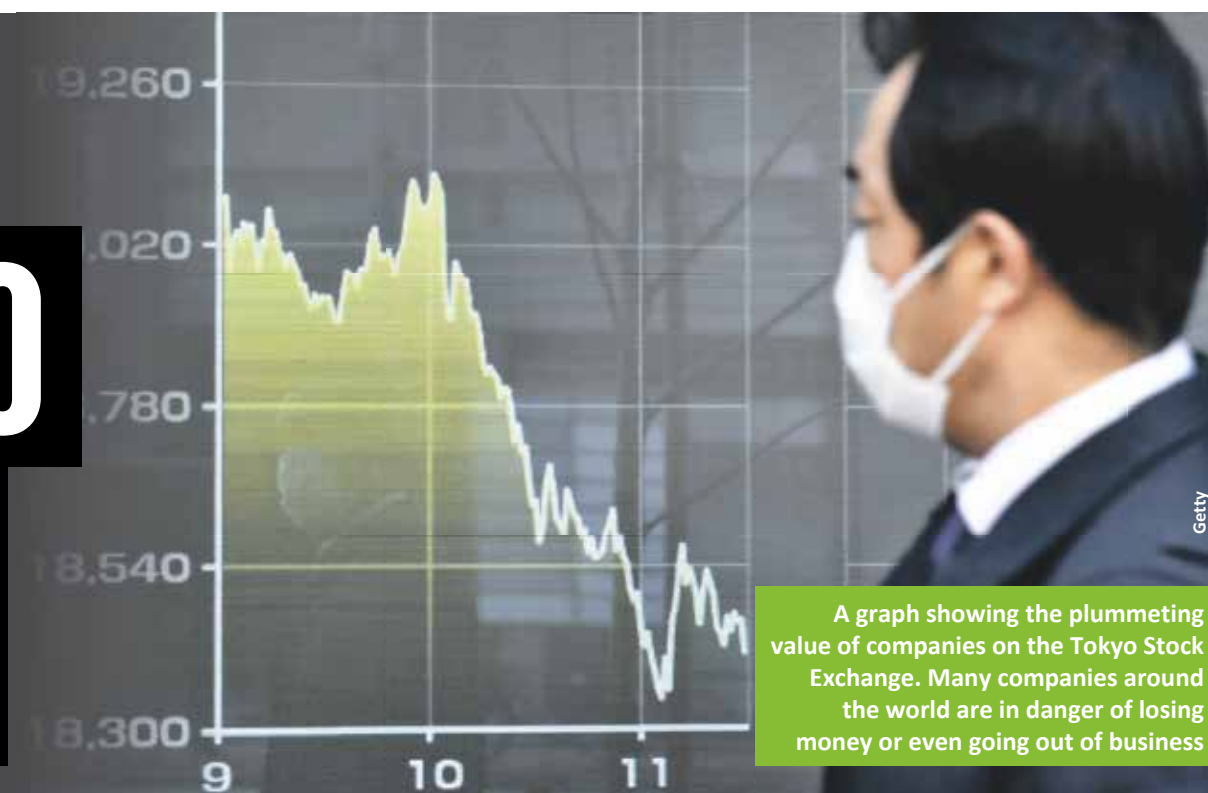


Coronavirus can lead to breathing troubles for some, so they may need ventilators to help them breathe.

Lots of factories are now trying to use their machines to make ventilators instead of their usual products.

In Italy, a hospital that ran out of ventilator valves was contacted by a 3D printing company, who designed and printed 100 in 24 hours for them.

THE WORLD GRINDS TO A HALT



WE'VE talked about the health effects of the new coronavirus in recent weeks, but there are many other negative effects of such a widespread outbreak. We took a look at some of the disruption that the coronavirus is causing for societies, businesses and governments around the world.

HOLIDAYS HALTED

The travel and tourism industries were the first to feel the effects, as people started to worry about travelling to countries where outbreaks have occurred. Reports of cruise ships being quarantined or not allowed to dock has also put people off booking a cruise.

Italy has been hit hard by the virus and is on almost total lockdown. Many businesses in the country rely on tourists, whether that's in cities like Rome and Venice or one of the many ski resorts in the north of the country. More countries soon followed suit, and the UK Government has recommended against all but essential travel to anywhere in the world.

The International Air Transport Association said last week that losses for airlines in 2020 will be at least \$63-113 billion (around £48-86 billion). That's just for the passenger side of the business – there'll also be huge losses for cargo flights as well. That's due to travel restrictions, but also because companies can't produce as many goods because their factories have had to close down, either because staff are ill or because they can't get the materials they need to make things.



Schools have been closed in many countries, including Poland, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic and Ireland. Many experts think it could backfire, as kids will be more likely to pass the virus on to older relatives. It also forces parents to take time off work, including many health workers who are needed now more than ever

IT'S NOT KICKING OFF

The effects on society and culture are also increasing, as events and sports matches are called off – Euro 2020 has been postponed for a year. Officials have said that some leagues may not even finish this year, so they'll have to decide how, or even whether, to award the titles. There are also worries that the Olympics – the world's biggest sporting event – will be delayed or called off.

As people stay home, it means that shops, pubs, restaurants, cinemas and theatres are going to lose money, and these are some of the most vulnerable businesses that don't have huge piles of cash to fall back on. Even Cineworld, the world's second-largest cinema chain, has said that closing cinemas for three months could put it out of business.

There is pressure on governments to give businesses money so they don't close, so it's likely that rich countries will have to pay out billions of pounds to stop the world economy from collapsing.

TRAVEL UNRAVELS

In China and Italy, the two worst-affected countries, travel restrictions mean that many workers have had to stay at home. Although some people can work from home, many people, such as those who work in factories or drive vans, can't. This means that lots of companies are losing money, and some workers who don't get sick pay won't be earning anything. For small companies, there's a real risk of going out of business or having to sack people they can't afford to pay. People who aren't getting paid then have to worry about paying bills and putting food on the table.

Although it seems heartless to talk about money when people are dying, if poorer countries get hit with the coronavirus and have to put travel restrictions in place as well, the effect on their economy could mean less money going to their health service, making everything much worse. Plus, if people lose their jobs and have no money, it affects their physical and mental health in lots of negative ways.



Food banks are suffering due to panic buying (where people buy much more than they need), which means they can't use cash donations to buy basic food products, as shops are out of stock

IS THERE ANY GOOD NEWS?

● One image that went viral during China's lockdown period was this NASA pic, showing how nitrogen dioxide pollution (from factories, car exhausts, etc) had fallen dramatically since January. Some scientists have suggested that this will even save lives because there'll be many fewer deaths from air pollution. However, António Guterres, the head of the UN, said that countries shouldn't let the coronavirus distract from the climate crisis. "We will not fight climate change with a virus," he said.





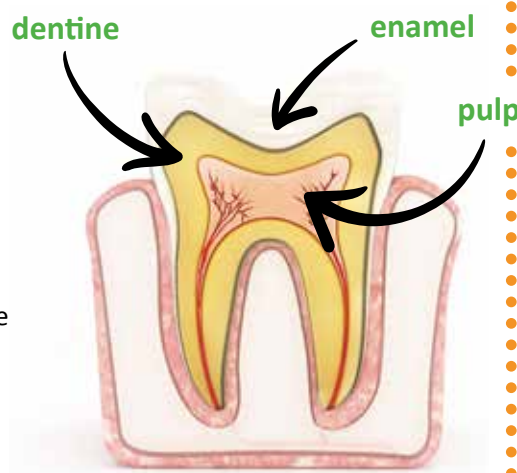
DAMAGED TEETH COULD FIX THEMSELVES!

SCIENTISTS think they could be able to create a drug that helps damaged teeth repair themselves.

When a tooth isn't healthy, it decays and a hole called a cavity can form inside it. To fix them, we can get fillings from dentists, who use certain materials to fill the cavity and protect the tooth from further decay.

Researchers at King's College London have found that a drug called Tideglusib can activate stem cells (cells that make other cells) in teeth. These stem cells can make a substance similar to dentine, the part of the tooth between the hard enamel on the outside and the sensitive pulp on the inside.

Paul Sharpe, who is involved with the research, said: "The latest results bring us another step closer to natural tooth repair." He added that the approach could prove to be "simple and cost effective [value for money]".



This is what the inside of a tooth looks like. The pulp has nerves and blood vessels that can cause a lot of pain if they are exposed to decay

MEAT EATING MUST HALVE

THE UK may have to cut the amount of meat and dairy it eats by half to hit its climate change targets, a Government-funded report suggests.

Last year, the Committee on Climate Change proposed that meat and dairy consumption would need to reduce by a fifth. But a report by Energy Systems Catapult, a not-for-profit centre, said that a fifth would not be enough for Britain to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Even with positive growth in other areas like more solar and wind farms, the report said that less meat, as well as less flying, were the "two key lifestyle changes [that] will need to be achieved".

Their report also studied other ways that the UK can help to hit its 2050 target. They said up to 124,000 acres of trees need to be planted each year to store carbon. Another suggestion was that electricity needs to be generated by four times as many wind farms, five times more solar farms and up to 32 new nuclear plants.

The report admitted that making such big changes would need a lot of technological innovation, as well as convincing people to change their ways.



The report said that less meat and less flying were the best ways to make a difference

GOOD WEEK FOR...

SALFORD

THE city in Greater Manchester has been announced as the greenest place to live in England and Wales. Salford is building more energy-efficient homes and green spaces than any other place. It also has low energy consumption and high recycling rates.



BAD WEEK FOR...

WALKING IN THE WIND

A MAN who chased his umbrella off a cliff in Bournemouth tumbled 100ft and was trapped above beach huts before someone heard his cries and he was rescued. Amazingly, he only suffered a broken shoulder after the spectacular fall.



RARE BLOND BADGER



This little bundle of fur turned out to be a rare find

A RARE 'blond' badger has been found in a garden in Oxford.

The light-coloured badger – very different to their usual black-and-white markings – was found last month. However, it was only released back into the wild last week after recovering from some injuries.

RSPCA officer Peter Green said:

"We had a call about a 'strange' animal in the back garden and when I first arrived it wasn't quite clear what it was. But as

I managed to get closer I could see that it was in fact an albino or blond badger!"

Blond badgers are quite unusual. The change in colour is caused by a condition called leucism. This is when pigment, the natural colouring of an animal, is reduced, causing the fur to turn a pale yellow colour. It's similar to albinism, where skin, hair or feathers turn white.



A regular badger



An albino rat

DID YOU KNOW?

DAIRY butter is three times worse for the planet than plant-based spreads, according to research. This is because cows burp a lot, causing more emissions. Plant spreads come from oils with low emissions – as long as the plants aren't grown on deforested land.





NEW YORK, USA

THE 100th floor of the Hudson Yards skyscraper is home to Edge, the highest outdoor sky deck in the western hemisphere. It is made of glass panels that tilt outwards, allowing the brave to step out 1,100ft (335m) over the city and take in the spectacular view of the New York skyline.



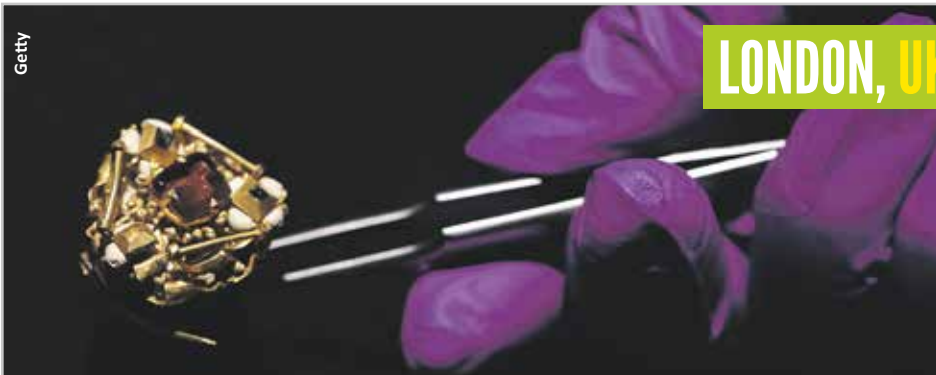
BARCELONA, SPAIN

A PRIEST live-streams Mass via YouTube at an empty Santa Maria di Betlem church, as people follow orders to stay home due to the coronavirus.



UK

A NEW collector's edition James Bond coin with a face value of £7,000 has been unveiled by the Royal Mint. The 7kg gold coin, which measures 185mm in diameter, features an engraving of an Aston Martin DB5 with its famous BMT 216A number plate. It is the largest coin with the highest face value ever produced by the Royal Mint in its 1,100-year history.



LONDON, UK

THE V&A museum has announced it has acquired a rare late-medieval cluster brooch, after it was uncovered in 2017 by a metal detectorist. Dating from 1400-1450, it is the only one of its kind to be found in the UK, and one of only seven known examples in the world.



LONDON, UK

More than 600 children, families and adults donned their red and white stripes to walk, jog and run for the National Literacy Trust's annual Where's Wally? fun run. The event, in its eighth year, raised more than £25,000 for the Trust.



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BUDGET 2020

THE Government says it will spend money on schools and climate change measures this year, but some people say the plans will leave people feeling short-changed.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak is in charge of delivering the Budget, an annual announcement that sets out how the nation's money will be spent. He said there would be funding for specialist 16-19 maths schools in every region, £25,000 on average for each secondary school to invest in arts activities and £29 million a year to improve PE teaching.

Meanwhile, climate spending will focus on limiting CO₂ pollution and protecting communities from flooding. There will be tax breaks (reductions) for electricity and an increase in tax on gas and non-recycled plastic. There'll also be investment in protecting and planting woodland.

However, teaching unions say less money will be available to repair school buildings, which they say could create dangerous teaching conditions.

Dr Mary Bousted, joint general secretary of the National Education Union, thinks the investment doesn't go far enough. "It is welcome," she said, "but it falls well short of the £12.6bn needed to replace the cuts since 2015, let alone provide a world-class education for every child."

People have also said that parts of the Budget could be harmful to the environment. New road building plans and a freeze on petrol prices could lead to an increase in cars on the road.

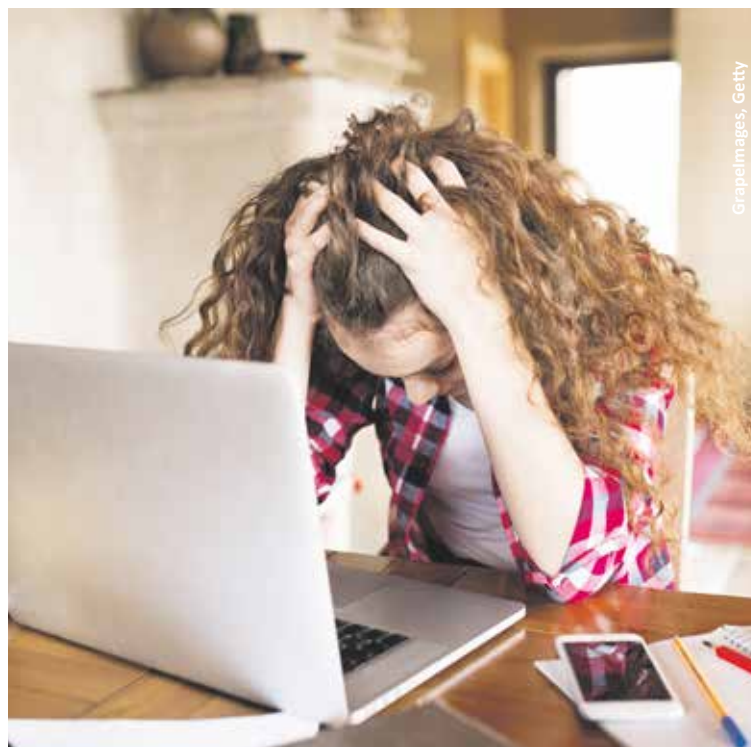
WEB CRISIS

THE World Wide Web is failing girls, according to its creator, Tim Berners-Lee.

In an open letter, he says many women in the world don't have internet access. He also worries the internet is not safe enough and that artificial intelligence (AI) is stopping women from getting jobs. Discrimination is especially bad for those from vulnerable groups.

Research by the Web Foundation and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts found over half of young women have experienced abuse online, and 84% think the problem is getting worse.

"Online abuse forces women out of jobs and causes girls to skip school, it damages relationships and causes tremendous distress," says Berners-Lee. He is now asking companies and governments to put women first.



GrapiImages, Getty

WOW!

SCIENTISTS from the University of Plymouth say that a LEGO brick could survive in the ocean for up to 1,300 years! The researchers say it emphasises how important it is for people to dispose of plastic products properly.



iStock

BUGGED BY RUBBISH



National Trust/Glen Pearce

A can of Russian insect spray found its way to Britain via the ocean

A BIN called Pete, Russian bug spray and a pair of 200-year-old shoes have washed up on beaches in the UK.

The list of 20 unusual objects has been released by the National Trust to highlight how far pollution can travel and how long it can remain in our oceans.

Other items on the list include the remains of a 1980s picnic and Smarties lids from before 1988. Items have travelled from as far as Canada, the Caribbean and Saudi Arabia.

GREEN MEANS GO

ECO transport, including e-scooters, will soon be given the green light by the Government.

A £90 million funding boost will put e-scooters on public roads for the first time in four test zones, as well as funding a trial of medical delivery drones on the Isle of Wight and a test of self-driving cars between Bristol and Bath.

The Future of Transport review

will also consider how small changes can make everyday travel easier and better for the environment. Transport secretary Grant Shapps says: "Emerging technologies are ripping up the rulebook and changing the way people and goods move forever."



Getty

CHILDLINE HELPS THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN EVERY WEEK. IF YOU EVER FEEL WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING IN THE NEWS OR YOU JUST NEED TO TALK, YOU CAN VISIT WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK OR CALL THEM ON 0800 11 11.

UK

Bus cuts
More than a million people could end up feeling “trapped in their homes” because of cuts to bus services, the Campaign For Better Transport has said. BBC research revealed disabled people and the elderly have used their free bus passes 18% less since 2010. This is in part because Government funding for bus services has fallen by £800m in the last ten years. Many people now rely on charity-run bus services or neighbours to get them to the shops or the doctor. Judith Lawrence, 75, says she hasn’t left her village at all this year. “I’ve got a bus pass, but no bus,” she said.



CORNWALL

Garden gone
A huge hole has appeared near a house in Cornwall, swallowing up most of its garden. The hole in Beacon, near Camborne, is believed to have collapsed because of an old mine shaft under the ground. Geologist Dale Foster suggested the mine could be “from the late 1700s into the early 1800s”. The area has been cordoned off and is still being monitored, as the ground around it is very weak.



STIRLING

Crackdown on illegal parking
Stirling Council is cracking down on drivers who illegally park in disabled spaces. A blue badge is given to disabled people so they can use these spaces, but last year Stirling Council said there were 1,100 penalty notices due to illegal parking. Councillor Jim Thomson said: “It is completely unacceptable that a small minority of drivers continue to act this way with no consideration to disabled people.”



TADCASTER

Rammed road
More than 40 sheep caused the A64 road in Tadcaster to be closed. The flock had escaped their flooded field and it took police around an hour to clear the road. North Yorkshire Police joked: “Just want to say ‘Thank Ewe’ to the public for their patience.”



BRACKLEY

Songs for soap
A teenager has created a website that matches song lyrics to a 13-step hand-washing routine. Seventeen-year-old William Gibson wanted more options than just singing Happy Birthday twice. His website, Wash Your Lyrics, allows you to pick a song and download the musical poster. Over 175,000 posters were downloaded in the first three days. Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody is the most popular song so far.



BRISTOL

Surf therapy
Kids with poor mental health will be offered surf therapy by the NHS. The Wave Project began in Cornwall but will be based inland for the first time, in partnership with Bristol’s wave machine, The Wave. It aims to build confidence and self-esteem in children. A 2018 report found that the Cornish course “consistently improved the wellbeing of young people” and “had a lasting, positive impact.”



OXFORDSHIRE

Junior jungle
A tiny forest the size of a tennis court is being planted in Witney. Some 600 trees will be planted by the Earthwatch charity, council staff and volunteers. The idea of tiny forests is to mimic native woodland in urban areas. The trees have lots of uses, such as storing carbon, attracting wildlife, improving air quality and soaking up water to reduce flooding.

NEWS IN NUMBERS

89 is the age of powerlifter Ted Brown. His passion for weightlifting has spanned 70 years. He has won nine world and 30 British titles and still competes today.

£437,500 is being paid by Barratt Homes to re-home ten rare birds. The company will be allowed to build new homes in Devon, as long as it builds a new home for five pairs of cirl buntings (right), which are found in south Devon and Cornwall.



£30,000 was raised by residents in Albrighton to buy an emergency vehicle. First responders (volunteers who can get to patients quicker than an ambulance) used to have to use their own vehicles, but can now use a proper emergency vehicle for their 999 calls.

50 men turned up for the first Leicester Walking Men’s Club. Jack Voss organised the club to encourage men to talk about their feelings and mental health in a fun way... and with dogs!



CONFLICT
KIDS

Getty

ALMOST five million children have been born in war-torn Syria and its neighbouring countries since the war began nine years ago.

Charity UNICEF released the figures this week as the country enters its tenth year as a warzone. As well as the 4.8 million born in Syria itself, more than a million children were born as refugees in temporary camps.

Violence and conflict is still ongoing in the region, with more than 9,000 children killed or injured during the war. Hundreds of thousands of kids are still living in refugee camps with only basic services and supplies.

UNICEF executive director Henrietta Fore said: "Millions of children are entering their second decade of life surrounded by war, violence, death and displacement. The need for peace has never been more pressing."

WOW!

Rescuers searching for a lost dog near Loch an Nid in Wester Ross, Scotland used a BBQ to lure her out of hiding. The team from Dundonnell Mountain Rescue cooked sausages and bacon in a bid to attract Nell to the area. It worked and she was reunited with her owners!



iStock

SHARK
SPOTTING
FROM
THE SKY

by Serena Lacey

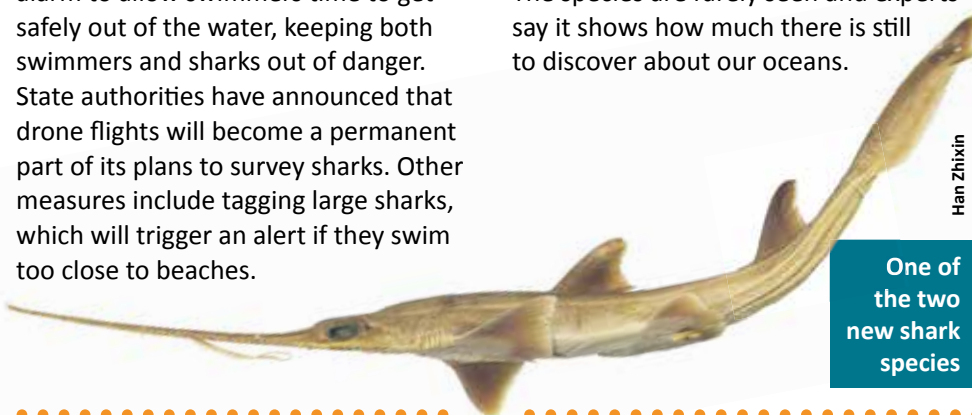
BEACHES in parts of Australia will be patrolled by drones to keep swimmers safe from shark attacks after a successful trial in New South Wales.

Shark attacks off New South Wales beaches fell to just four last year, half the number of previous years, and much lower than 2015 when 14 people were attacked. The trial was the largest drone operation conducted in Australia, with more than 8,000 flights by drones along 1,300 miles of beach. The drones spotted sharks swimming too close to shore and triggered an early warning alarm to allow swimmers time to get safely out of the water, keeping both swimmers and sharks out of danger. State authorities have announced that drone flights will become a permanent part of its plans to survey sharks. Other measures include tagging large sharks, which will trigger an alert if they swim too close to beaches.

Some of the largest species of shark in the world can be found in Australian waters and, so far, 500 large sharks have been tagged.

In other shark news, a team of marine scientists have found two new species of sixgill sawsharks in the Western Indian Ocean.

The sixgill sawsharks were discovered during an investigation into fisheries. The species are rarely seen and experts say it shows how much there is still to discover about our oceans.



Han Zhixin

One of the two new shark species

HEART
SURGERY
HERO

Ingrid Marson

A **FIRST NEWS** reader has raised more than £2,300 for a children's charity by taking part in a fundraising race.

Charlotte Howard, eight, from Haywards Heath has a heart condition and is raising money to help other families in a similar situation.

Charlotte was just nine weeks old when she underwent six-hour, open-heart surgery to fix a serious heart problem. Thankfully, the surgery went well and Charlotte was soon on the way to recovery.

Charlotte said: "I feel passionate about helping children with special hearts. I am impressed by how much people have donated – they have been generous."

Charlotte has been training to run the Brighton Marathon Mini Mile under-9s race in April. The money she raises will go to Evelina London Children's Hospital and ECHO.



Charlotte in intensive care as a baby in 2012

CYCLE CITY

AN entire car-free neighbourhood is being built in Utrecht in the Netherlands, with homes for more than 12,000 people.

The residential area, located between two canals, will be the largest car-free area of its kind in the world, spanning 24 hectares.

Around 20,000 bicycles are expected to be used by the community in the new Merwede district.

Construction on the site

doesn't begin until early 2022, but will include two new primary schools, a high school, sports centre and shops.

Utrecht has a reputation as the bicycling capital of Europe, with huge multi-storey car parks for regular bike users.



iStock

VOTE IN OUR POLL

Would you live in a street with no cars?
first.news/polls

USA



Dead Sea deception

This week, 16 fragments thought to be from the Dead Sea Scrolls were found to be fakes. After months of re-testing, the Museum of the Bible has announced that the pieces are likely to be made of ancient leather and the Hebrew on them was written in modern times, but carefully made to look like the real scrolls. The real Dead Sea Scrolls are ancient religious manuscripts that were discovered in 1946 in caves in the Middle East, close to the Dead Sea. They are thought to be more than 2,000 years old and contain some of the oldest-known biblical writing in the world. The Museum of the Bible bought the fragments for millions of pounds.



USA



Is this a cow-nvict or a ref-moo-gee?

Police in the town of Pembroke Pines, Florida, are asking for help to track down an escaped cow. Officers released a wanted poster for the 'unknown cow', which was described as: "Brown with a white head. Faster than it looks. Talented fence jumper. Enjoys pools." As First News went to press, the bovine fugitive was still on the loose.

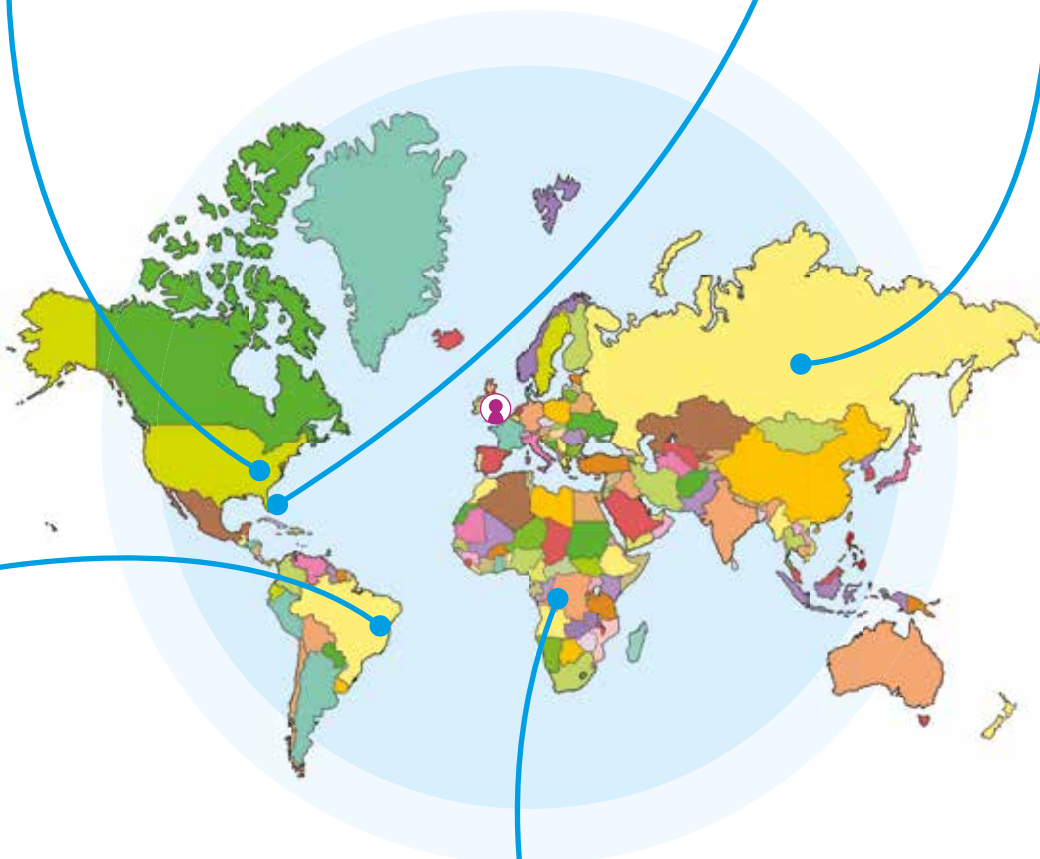


RUSSIA



More power for Putin

President Putin could stay in charge of Russia until 2036, after the country's ruling party, United Russia, announced it would back a change to Russian law. At the moment, the law bans Putin from running for more than two terms in a row (12 years). But Putin has asked Russia's constitutional court if it is legal for him to change the constitution (the laws of a country that set out people's rights).



BRAZIL



Ecosystem collapse

Scientists have said that large ecosystems could collapse sooner than originally thought. A report in the science journal *Nature Communications* says that the Amazon could become "a savannah-type ecosystem of trees and grass in only 49 years" (a savannah is a flat grassland with trees spaced out very widely). Computer simulations and real-world data from 40 natural environments found that once these ecosystems reach a "tipping point", they can quickly collapse.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Epidemic ends

The last Ebola patient in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been discharged from hospital. The disease has killed more than 2,200 people in the country, since this outbreak began in August 2018. Health workers were seen dancing to celebrate the end of the epidemic. "This is very good news," said World Health Organization boss Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.



WEST AND EAST AFRICA



African adventures

Star Wars actor John Boyega (above), has signed a deal with Netflix to develop film projects focused on West and East Africa. Netflix said that it is thrilled to be creating movies focused on Africa, which will "bring unique African stories to members in Africa and around the world".



OUR WORLD

NAME: TAIJUAN LIVES: LONDON

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.SPORTRELIEF.COM

TAIJUAN is a Year 9 student looking forward to his future.

He loves football and dreams of playing professionally. When he first started secondary school, Taijuan struggled with his behaviour. But things improved when he started attending Football Beyond Borders. The organisation uses football to build trust and break down barriers between kids from neighbouring areas of south London, thanks to funding by Comic Relief.

Taijuan says taking part has helped him be a better student at school and his behaviour has improved dramatically.

COMIC
RELIEF



KILLER KITTIES



One of the cats in the study wearing a GPS tracker

A NEW study has revealed that house cats who hunt have a big effect on local animals, because they kill more prey in the area than similar-sized wild predators do.

If you've got a pet cat then you'll know they sometimes do like to bring you grim little gifts, like a mouse or a bird that they've caught. But did you know that their hunting trips could be having a huge effect on the local wildlife?

Researchers at NC State University and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences worked with scientists and pet owners from six countries to collect GPS tracking data on cats, as well as reports on the prey captured by 925 of the pets.

They discovered that, as these are pet cats, they're fed every day so don't kill as many animals a day as wild cats. But because they only tend to roam a small area – a 100-metre radius around their homes – the effect on local prey is quite concentrated. Also as there can often be quite a lot of pet cats in the same area, this makes the risks to birds and small mammals worse. The scientists found that house cats have a 2-10 times larger impact on wildlife than wild predators. They discovered that house cats kill between 14 and 39 prey animals per 100 acres every year.

Knowing that, would you keep your cat indoors to help protect local wildlife?

'HEALTHY' OPTION?



SOME people think that choosing an artificial sweetener is a healthier option than sugar, but a new study has revealed that combining them with carbohydrates can affect the body's ability to regulate blood sugar.

New research from Yale University has shown that sugar substitutes could also be bad for you. They asked 60 people to take seven drinks over two weeks: some people had drinks with sugar; others had drinks containing the low-calorie sweetener sucralose; some had a non-sweetening carbohydrate; others had both sucralose and the carbohydrate. The study showed that people who drank the sucralose-carbohydrate combo had a lower insulin sensitivity (a measure of how well the body regulates blood sugar) after the trial than before. Low insulin sensitivity can come before diabetes.

They also discovered that combining artificial sweeteners with carbohydrates alters a person's sensitivity to sweet tastes, so might not be a healthy option after all.

TATA
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES

INNOVATIONS

STUDENTS at a London college have created a simple device that could reduce pollution caused by driving.

The invention attaches to the wheels of a car and is said to collect up to 60% of airborne tyre particles before they enter the atmosphere. The students from Imperial College, who call themselves



The Tyre Collective, say the collected particles could be reused in processes like 3D printing and soundproofing.

Non-exhaust emissions (NEE) are expected to rise from 7.4% today to 10% of all UK PM2.5 emissions by 2030.

SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP

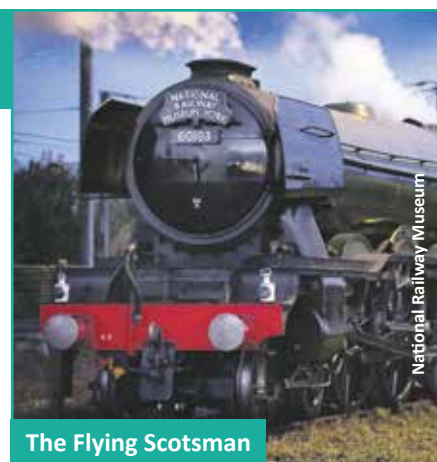
This report is from our friends at the National Railway Museum

TRAINS, or locomotives, today travel at up to 125 miles per hour (mph), but the railways haven't always been this fast.

In the 1830s, the locomotive Stephenson's Rocket was only able to reach 30mph, but even this was considered dangerously fast by some who were more used to travelling by horse.

Over the years, engineers found new ways to make locomotives faster and more powerful. The number of wheels, the condition of the tracks and even the engine's shape can affect how fast a locomotive can travel.

In 1934, the world-famous Flying Scotsman became the first locomotive to reach 100mph and, in 1938, the streamlined Mallard set a new speed record (for steam locomotives) of 126mph, which still stands to this day. You can see all three locomotives on display this Easter at the National Railway Museum in York.



The Flying Scotsman

National Railway Museum

THE GREATEST DANCERS!

LAST week Latin and ballroom dance duo Michael and Jowita were crowned the winners of *The Greatest Dancer*. First News caught up with the pair to see how they feel about winning and what they're up to next.

● Congratulations on winning *The Greatest Dancer*!

Michael: We are over the moon, we can't believe it. It's even more than a dream come true. We didn't think we would get past the mirror at the first auditions.

Jowita: We were so stressed and thought we were not spectacular or good enough for that show, then the mirror opened and Oti was there and we were like: "We did it!" We worked so hard to make her proud and to make ourselves proud and to show that ballroom and Latin can be very exciting.



● How did you celebrate? Did you give yourselves a day off from dancing?

Michael: Oh no, absolutely not. We were rehearsing again straight away.

Jowita: Early Sunday morning we went straight to the studio and we rehearsed for the *Havana Nights* UK tour, which we started on Tuesday with Graziano Di Prima. We never stop; we just love dancing and we love what we do. We never feel tired, even if our bodies are feeling tired. We are so excited to join the tour; it's like a dream come true. We are so blessed to be in this position.

● Oti was a huge fan of yours from the start. How much did having her as your dance captain mean to you?

Jowita: Oti was the best dance captain ever and I

think without her we couldn't do what we've done or achieve what we've achieved. She wasn't just a dance captain and mentor, she was also our friend. She was there with us when we were down and up, when we were crying and laughing. I just want to say how hard she works. In the beginning she had three acts and she was travelling every day; a few hours each day to help everyone be great. I can't believe she did it and I can't believe what a machine she is! We thought we were working hard, but she made us work even harder.

● Which of the dances from the series was your favourite?

Jowita: The favourite one was with Oti in the final. We feel blessed to dance with her.

Michael: Dancing with a *Strictly* winner was just something else.



● You've become quite well known for your daring lifts and tricks, but do you ever get nervous?

Jowita: We get nervous all the time.

We were nervous every Saturday.

Michael: Some of the tricks we did were quite scary. We never went the easy way.

Jowita: Sometimes on the Saturday we were practising and the tricks weren't working, so we just had to relax and try again – but the stress is always there.

● The contestants were all so different this year. What did you learn from each other?

Jowita: of course, we were all just dancing all the time. Every time we were in the studio we would show each other some stuff. We were always having fun and dancing. I'm so happy that we met the final 12 and we made friends. Hopefully when this crazy time is finished we can all meet again and dance!

Michael: We actually started teaching them some of the Polish language as well.

● What can you tell us about the *Havana Nights* tour?

Jowita: The show is about Havana and the main person is Graziano Di Prima from *Strictly*. It's his story and we are dancing along next to him. We just can't wait. There are so many great numbers. The music is fantastic and we can't wait to perform.

● Part of your prize was getting to perform on *Strictly* – do you know what you'll do?

Jowita: We are going to do something new and exciting that we haven't done before, because we love to surprise our audience. We are going to do something special.

Michael: We have some ideas already but we will prepare something special, for sure.



Michael and Jowita are touring with *Havana Nights*. See www.havananightstour.co.uk

ALL ABOUT OTI!

Oti Mabuse is a 29-year-old, eight-time Latin American dance champion from South Africa.

As well as being a dance captain on *The Greatest Dancer*, Oti has been one of the *Strictly Come Dancing* professionals since 2015.

Oti's older sister, Motsi Mabuse, is one of the judges on *Strictly Come Dancing*. The sisters also worked together on the German show *Let's Dance*.

She's a double champ! Oti won the first series of *The Greatest Dancer* with Ellie and the last series of *Strictly Come Dancing* with actor Kelvin Fletcher.

Oti has also appeared on *Celebrity Masterchef*!



1 Comedian Matt Lucas is replacing Sandi Toksvig as co-host of *The Great British Bake Off*. He will join Noel Fielding to present the show. Matt said: "I'm chuffed to bits to be joining the most delicious show on television. I can't wait to break bread with Noel, Prue and Paul and meet the brilliant bakers. And bearing in mind my love of cake, I've already ordered some much larger trousers in anticipation. See you in the tent!"



2 Coachella, one of the world's biggest music festivals, has been postponed until October because of the spread of the coronavirus. The Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards have also been postponed. In the UK, the release of *Peter Rabbit 2* has also been delayed and it will now hit cinemas in August.

3 Chris Ramsey will join Little Mix for the live shows when their series *Little Mix: The Search* starts on BBC One this spring. Little Mix said: "We're so happy Chris has come on board to present *The Search*. He's genuinely one of the funniest people we know and he'll bring loads of his South Shields charm to the show. We can't wait."



PICS OF THE WEEK

HAMLET, one of William Shakespeare's most famous plays, has been re-imagined for young people!

These fun pictures from the hour-long show were taken on the show's schools tour. The play is currently touring primary schools in the UK, before heading to the National Theatre in London.

Hamlet will be at the National Theatre from 30 March – 9 April. For tickets, visit www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/hamlet



FIVE MINUTES WITH... FFLYN EDWARDS



THE Snow Spider is a magical new TV series, based on Jenny Nimmo's best-selling book trilogy. Fflyn plays Gwyn Griffiths, the lead character in the story.

Tell us about your character.

At the beginning, Gwyn is just a normal nine-year-old boy. His sister Bethan went missing four years ago on his fifth birthday, and his dad has blamed Gwyn for Bethan's disappearance ever since. On his ninth birthday his gran, Nain, gives him five gifts, and Gwyn comes to realise that he has magic and he grows more in character. He has a good friend called Alun, and he makes friends with Arianwen, the Snow Spider. At first, Gwyn is really scared, but mostly he becomes really brave throughout the show!

How would you describe *The Snow Spider*?

It's a really adventurous show. I think Harry Potter lovers will absolutely love it! There is also a great quote in the show that Nain says: "You've got to be scared to be brave." I think anyone who watches it, will be inspired to be more brave.

What has been your favourite moment in the series so far?

I think a favourite moment was when we were filming in the bedroom for the first time. I'd read the books and they say that Gwyn has a really cool bedroom with cool wallpaper, drawers and everything. But when I walked in it for the first time, it had spaceships and little knights everywhere too. It was so cool! Another favourite moment was when we were filming the special effects,



as I'd never done it before – I was amazed by how they did it all! I just thought they filmed it and then edited it in later, so I learned something new that day.

What was it like auditioning for *The Snow Spider*?

Well, first of all, I'd never done anything like it before. This is my first big thing! I sent a video clip to my mum, who told me: "Fflyn, I don't think there's a really big chance of you getting this because some kids have had a lot of experience." And I was like: "Okay, but I still want to do it." So I sent a video in and we had a call back. I was really excited because I'd never done it before.

The show is about magic. If you could have any magical power in real life, what would it be?

I would like to breathe underwater, but I would also like to fly. I think I'd go with flying!

Catch the first episode of *The Snow Spider* on CBBC and BBC One Wales on Sunday 29 March



Getty

FUN WITH FORKY

TONY Hale is the name of the actor behind Toy Story 4's spork superstar, Forky. With his new Disney+ show *Forky Asks A Question* about to launch, we caught up with Tony to find out what fans can expect from Pixar's new animated series...



Disney



Disney

● Hi Tony! When did you first hear about this new Disney+ show?

After I finished work on *Toy Story 4*, Pixar approached me and asked: "Would you be interested in doing a series where Forky asks a ton of questions?" When Pixar asks you to do something, you immediately say yes. I was really excited to be Forky again!

● What's your favourite episode of the show?

Oh, man... it's so hard to pick a favourite. There are ten episodes in total and the one that comes to mind right now is *What Is A Friend?* In that episode, Forky develops a friendship with a coffee mug. It's a really quirky and silly episode, but it's also beautiful and funny. It's really, really well done.



Disney

● What have you learned from Forky's questions?

I have learned to take time out. In my head, I get very busy. Sometimes my mind is like a fast-moving train and there's a lot of noise in there, but watching these episodes makes me sit back and unwind. When you watch them, you think: "Let me just sit for four minutes and focus on these very simple values." I like that.

● How much has your love for Forky grown since Toy Story 4?

I can't get enough of Forky. When you work on an animation like this, you can be really silly and goofy. There are no limits with animation, so I love stepping into that arena where there are no holds barred. You can be as crazy as you want to be!

● Will we see any other Toy Story characters?

Sure! You'll see Hamm, Rex and Trixie. You'll also see Mr Potato Head.

● Do you get to step into the recording booth with any of the other voice actors?

No. I didn't record with any of the actors for the film either, which is odd. Well, it's odd but it's not unusual. Typically in animation, you go into the recording booth on your own. You have a real trust in the director because he's

heard all of the vocal performances. You have to trust in the director that you're responding and reacting correctly to the way the other characters speak.

● Do you have tons of Forky merchandise at home?

I have various pieces of merchandise. I have the tiny car. There's a little racecar toy that's very special. It looks like Forky has been flattened out. It's tiny. I have a little Forky toy. You know what? It's fun to give the merchandise away. I always carry little Forky magnets and button badges with me so I can give them away whenever I meet a kid who is a *Toy Story* fan.

● What excites you the most about the launch of Forky Asks A Question?

There's so much going on in the world right now. It's such a busy world, but I love the way that *Forky Asks A Question* gives everyone a four-minute bump of joy. Each episode is a very simple message of kindness. I love anything that brings the world back to a sense of kindness and seeing things in simple, truthful values. I'm absolutely crazy about that. That's why *Forky Asks A Question* is so special to me.



Disney

Forky Asks A Question
will be available to stream on Disney+ from 24 March

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



OTTERLY ADORABLE



THE UK's only sea otters have arrived at their new home in Birmingham.

Ozzy and Ola have joined the other residents at the National Sea Life Centre in Birmingham after travelling 5,000 miles from Alaska.

The otters were found as very young pups in different areas of Alaska and rehabilitated in captivity. Experts believe these animals would not be able to survive if they were to be released into the wild, so have found them a new permanent home in England.

The move to Birmingham has taken a lot of planning, and the UK has been granted guardianship of the endangered animals. This means that any money raised by people going to see the animals in Birmingham will be used to help environmental efforts in Alaska, their native home.

There are only two other places in Europe where sea otters can be found in captivity and just 17 places globally.



EARLY RISERS

BEARS have been spotted foraging for food in a number of countries around the world more than a month earlier than expected.

Most species of bear hibernate for around six months over winter, sleeping deeply before waking up in spring.

Bears wake up hungry and will start looking for food, which may not be available yet. This forces them to travel further to hunt for food, potentially taking them closer to humans and populated areas, which could cause conflict.

Experts think that the unusually warm winter temperatures across Europe and the USA, where most bears live, is the reason they are waking early.



PLASTIC SMELLS TASTY



A NEW study has found that sea turtles are eating plastic because it smells like food.

It's well known that turtles often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, but that didn't explain why they also eat so many small pieces of plastic.

Scientists from the University of North Carolina found that plastic that had been in the ocean for a long time smelt like food, which encouraged the turtles to eat it.

In the study, 15 loggerhead turtles in captivity were exposed to the smell of clean plastic and 'biofouled' plastic. Biofouled plastic is plastic that has been in the ocean and has algae, microbes, small plants and microscopic animals growing on it. Experts found that the turtles reacted to the biofouled plastic in the same way they reacted to food.

Scientists say that nearly every sea bird and more than half of the world's sea turtles have eaten plastic. More than eight million tonnes of plastic is dumped into our oceans every year, putting all marine species under threat. The study was published in *Current Biology*.

SET UP AN INSECT A&E



TWO leading wildlife charities have joined forces with Dr Amir Khan from the TV show *GPs: Behind Closed Doors* to urge people to become 'nature doctors' this spring.

In the last 80 years more than 97% of our wildflower meadows have disappeared, meaning fewer homes for bees and butterflies. Butterfly Conservation and Bumblebee Conservation are urging everyone to set up their own 'insect A&E' by planting wildflowers and other insect-friendly flowers in gardens, pots or even window boxes. By giving insects a place to rest, pollinate and feed, you'll be helping a number of species that are under threat.

You can find an easy guide on how to help butterflies and bees at www.butterfly-conservation.org/insectae.



INNOVATING A NEW WORLD OF READING

SUPER SMART company Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has opened up a whole new world of reading to those who thought that chapter of their lives was closed forever.

TCS Digital
Innovators

TATA
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in partnership with **FirstNews**

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES LIVES

Digital innovations are often created to make life easier for us. From drones that can deliver our Amazon packages, to AI that can write our shopping lists, innovation has created a world where technology has touched and improved endless aspects of day-to-day human life. Technology has changed all of our lives, but it has truly transformed some people's lives.

THE GIFT OF READING

Digital innovating goes way beyond creating thinner smartphones and slicker tablets. Take one such innovation created by our friends at TCS. It's a platform known as Access Infinity and it has given the gift of reading to thousands in India – a country where books published in Braille and other accessible formats are not readily available.

Reading is a gift that most of us take for granted. The ability to pick up a book, separate the pages and dive into a world of wonder and learning is something most of us barely think about, because we can choose to do it anytime we please.

Some aren't so lucky.

WHAT IS A PRINT DISABILITY?

Millions suffer from what is known as a print disability. According to TCS, a print disability is "a condition that prevents a person from being able to read a printed book, either because of blindness or other physical impairment".

According to The World Health Organization, there are more than 285 million visually-impaired people in the world, most of whom live in developing countries.

"Those with a print disability can only read books specially formatted for that disability," explains TCS.

"According to the World Blind Union, of the million or so books published in the world each year, less than 5% are made available in accessible formats." Imagine not being able to read 95% of the books in your school library.

It's all quite hard to imagine, isn't it? Not being able to read because of a physical condition? For many, this is a reality, but TCS, believing in "accessibility for all", have found a solution using their unique innovation.



Braille is a pattern of bumpy dots that can be felt and 'read' by blind people



TCS uses technology to improve people's lives

WHAT IS ACCESS INFINITY?

Access Infinity is a platform that brings together a range of organisations, including schools, libraries, universities, government bodies and publishers such as Bookshare – an international online library for people with a print disability – to achieve a ground-breaking solution.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Well, simply, the team at TCS automated the process that converts books into different formats. The platform allows quick and easy creation and distribution of reading materials into a range of formats like Braille, DAISY text and EPUB 3, which are all accessible to those with print disabilities.

These formats can then be accessed across a wide range of channels – from local libraries to individual smartphones – in a wide range of languages, gifting reading to thousands.

Today, more than 400,000 books can be accessed and read by those with print disabilities, thanks to this remarkable innovation.

CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOL RESOURCES AT [FIRST.NEWS/INNOVATORS](https://first.news/innovators)

THE MAKING OF A SHOW!

WE took a look behind the scenes as inclusive theatre company Chickenshed put together their new show, *Tales from the Round Table*. Plus, don't miss the exclusive chance to write for the show and see your work performed on stage!

Each year, Chickenshed's *Tales from the Shed* team puts on a new show based on stories both old and new, anything from *The Arabian Nights* to *The Jungle Book*.

This year the team are looking at Arthurian legends. There are hundreds of different myths and tales told about King Arthur and the legendary round table. The Chickenshed team liked the image of the round table, because when a table is round then no-one is at the

head and everyone's ideas are equal, which is the way their team like to work. Whether someone's been working for Chickenshed for many years or they've just started, their ideas have the same weight.

The show will be built from many different Arthurian stories. It will feature famous characters such as Guinevere, Merlin, the Lady in the Lake, Sir Lancelot, the legendary sword Excalibur, dragons – of course – and

other mysterious stories that aren't as well known.

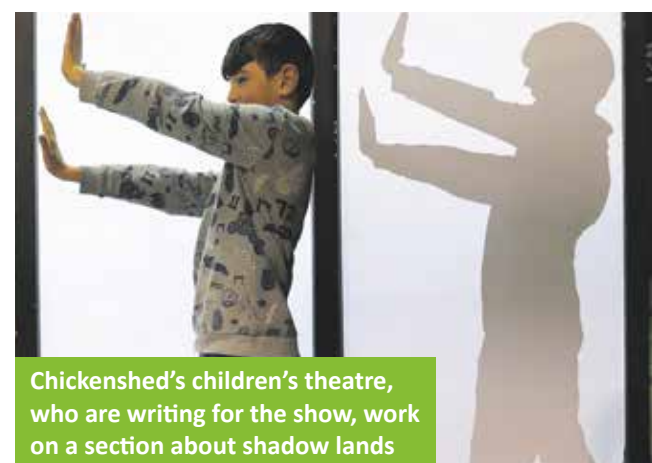
The team want to bring these stories to life in a new and exciting way for today's audiences. The show will have a total cast of up to 30 performers. The key thing about any *Tales from the Shed* show is that the audience will have a say over some of the action, so no two shows will be the same! Here's a sneak peek at how the show is shaping up...



A practice ride on a pantomime horse (the team will visit a real stable to see how horses move!)



King Arthur gets into his role



Chickenshed's children's theatre, who are writing for the show, work on a section about shadow lands



One of the highlights of the show is a joust between two knights on horseback!

The team of people behind the show is much bigger than the people you see on stage. There are the costume makers, puppet makers, set designers and a big team of writers... and one of those writers could be you! Don't miss the chance to write a section of the show (see below). Optional extra: if you want to add a bit of humour to your entry, Chickenshed are also looking for funny alternatives to the sword in the stone. So, it could be the sausage in the stone, or the sword in the jelly, perhaps! These will be acted out by the cast and the audience will vote for their favourite each show! Or if you don't want to enter the competition but just want to send in some funny ideas (to the address below), Chickenshed would love to hear from you!

Find out more about Chickenshed at chickenshed.org.uk.



Queen Guinevere

WIN! THE CHANCE TO WRITE FOR THE SHOW!

CALLING all budding writers! Would you like to see your writing performed on stage?

Chickenshed are looking for a talented First News reader to write a section of *Tales from the Round Table* (see above for more about the show).

They'd like you to write a section about the Lady in the Lake, who always appears just before something magical happens in the story.

They'd like you to bring this character up-to-date (perhaps including environmental concerns or any other modern-day issues).

Chickenshed shows are always original and full of fun, so use your imagination and be as creative as you like!

Chickenshed would like the section to be:

- Written in rhyming verse
- Five verses, maximum
- Include a modern-day twist
- Suitable for all children, from babies upwards (*Tales* shows are aimed at younger children).

(You could also include an optional extra funny idea based on the sword in the stone – see above.)

The winner will be invited to see *Tales from the Round Table* with their family and friends (up to a maximum of eight tickets).

Transport costs are not included, so the winner will need to be able to get to Chickenshed Theatre in Southgate, London.

Send in your entry to Chickenshed Easter Tales, First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT or email win@firstnews.co.uk with Chickenshed Easter Tales in the subject line.

Dates for *Tales from the Round Table* are yet to be confirmed (the show has now been postponed from the original dates, 14-19 April)

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 17 April 2020.

CHICKENSHEd
THEATRE CHANGING LIVES



JUNIOR BAKE OFF

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BEST YOUNG BAKERS

AGED 9 - 15

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APPLY BY
5th APRIL 2020

Enquiries:
applyforjuniorbakeoff@lonaproductions.co.uk



WIN! THE EPIC KID NORMAL SERIES BY GREG JAMES AND CHRIS SMITH!

TO celebrate the publication of *Kid Normal* and the *Final Five*, we're offering you the chance to join the Super Zeroes on all four of their high-flying, horse-summoning, storm-gathering, mind-blowing adventures!

Murph Cooper and the Super Zeroes are about to face their greatest challenge yet... the general public!

In a plan to become the planet's most powerful leader, super-smarmy ubervillain Nicholas Knox has revealed the existence of Heroes to the world at large, painting them as mad, bad and dangerous to know. Can Kid Normal expose Knox's evil plan, or is the world of Heroes doomed forever?

We have ten sets of this super series up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these three famous book characters is not a villain?

- a) Miss Trunchbull b) Murph Cooper
c) Lord Voldemort



BLOOMSBURY

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY KID

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 23. The closing date is 2 April 2020.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

FART NINJAS

AMAZON.CO.UK £5.99 EACH

Surprise and disgust your friends and family with fart sounds when they least expect it. Hide your Fart Ninja figure and launch a fart attack! This ninja clan has eight characters, with ten realistic fart sounds activated by a motion sensor. These stealthy ninjas really are "silent, butt deadly".



BLUME SURPRISE DOLL THETOYSHOP.COM £8.00

Blume dolls come hidden in their own flower pots. Just add water to your Blume pot and watch them grow and bloom right before your eyes! Each Blume Doll has hair that matches their distinctive personalities and outfits. Mix and match outfits, accessories and friends between your Blume dolls.

With ten surprises in each pot, including accessories, stickers, mini-playsets and a surprise friend for your Blume, you'll have hours of fun!



POP! VINYL FIGURES

SMYTHSTOYS.COM FROM £9.99 EACH

Pop! figures bring all your favourite characters to life with a unique stylised design. Each vinyl figure comes in window-box packaging, making them great for keeping on display! There are hundreds to collect, from Trolls to Harry Potter, Star Wars to WWE wrestlers. How many will you add to your collection?

*All prices correct at time of printing



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We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. The new material we use to wrap mailed copies is made from potato starch, so it is now fully home compostable and completely biodegradable, and you can put it in with your food waste, in your green garden waste recycling bins, or on your own compost heap.

PIG POO FIRE



A GREEDY pig caused a fire in a very strange chain of events at a farm in Yorkshire.

One porker was wearing a pedometer, which was tracking its movements to show it was free-range (had lots of room to move). But then another pig ate the device!

When that pig had a poo, out came the pedometer. But the batteries in the pedometer leaked copper and reacted with all the pig poo and dry hay, starting a fire.

The fire spread across four pigpens at the farm and firefighters were called to put out the blaze. Luckily, no pigs or people were harmed.



Firefighters put out the last of the fire. Imagine the smell!

RARE ROLLS

LOO rolls are becoming a luxury item, as panicked shoppers are buying them in bulk and causing supermarkets to run out (see p5).

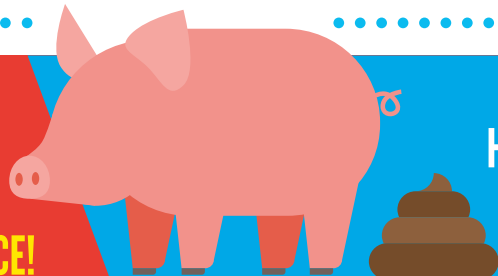
One cheeky chappie in Yorkshire decided to have some fun with the shortage. Eddy Chapman, who runs Chapmans Funland, took all the toys out of his claw-grabber machine and filled it full of paper prizes instead!

It costs 30p a go to try and win one. Local punter Kev McCabe (above) posted on Facebook: "Come to Bridlington to get your toilet rolls when the supermarkets are sold out." However, after having a go, Kev admitted that he had failed to grab any of the white wonder wipes.



Kev McCabe/Facebook

**HOW DO PIGS GET TO HOSPITAL?
BY HAM-BULANCE!**

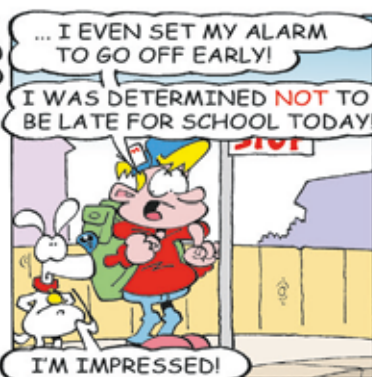
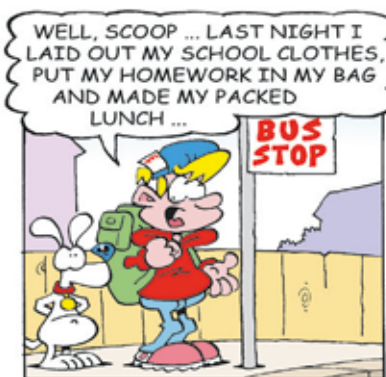


**DO YOU WANT TO HEAR A POO JOKE?
DON'T WORRY, IT STINKS!**

SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



Getty

MULLETFEST!



Getty

THE annual Mulletfest took place last month in the Australian town of Kurri Kurri.

The festival celebrates the mullet haircut, which, although popular in the 1980s, is rarely seen today. Someone with a mullet has their hair short on the top and sides but grows it long at the back.

The festival has lots of awards for people sporting the strange style, including trophies for the grubbiest and most extreme mullet. Rob Ayton, from the UK, won Best International Mullet.

There are even four awards for under-18 age groups. Why not grow your own mullet ready for Mulletfest 2021?!



goldmunicorn/Instagram

UNICORN PUP!

AN adorable golden retriever puppy is getting an online following thanks to her unusual look.

Rae is a 12-week-old puppy with one ear on the top of her head! When it's down, it looks like a funky hairdo, but when it's up, it looks like a unicorn horn! As we went to press, Rae's Instagram account had racked up 171,000 followers.

She lost her left ear because of an accident during birth. Her owner Brianna Aardema says Rae's remaining right ear moved more and more to the middle as she grew. It works just like a normal ear – it's just in a different place!

Rae isn't the only adorable unicorn pup. Last November, Narwhal (pictured right) went viral because of a tail-like growth that looked like a little unicorn horn.



goldmunicorn/Instagram



na.west/Instagram

WIN! THE CURE FOR A CRIME

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle and fill in the numbers one to nine?

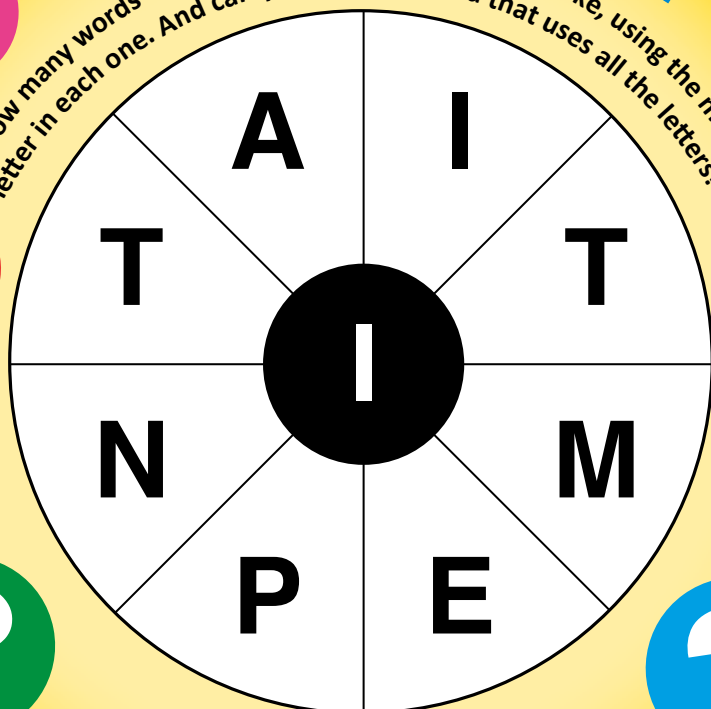
Send in your answers and five lucky winners will a copy of *The Cure For A Crime*, a thrilling new medical mystery series by junior doctor Roopa Farooki.



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

WORD WHEEL

SEE how many words of three or more letters you can make, using the middle letter in each one. And can you find the word that uses all the letters?



WIN! AN AMAZON VOUCHER

TO be in with a chance of winning one of two £50 Amazon vouchers, visit first.news/survey2020 and complete our readership survey!

The survey is for all First News readers under the age of 16. To enter this competition, you'll need a parent or guardian to confirm they are happy for you to have your say.



WIN! HAPPY CONFIDENT ME JOURNAL

CAN you complete our crossword by using the clues below?

Send in your answers and two lucky winners will get a copy of the *Happy Confident Me Journal*, a brand-new journal that helps you develop positive daily habits, happiness and confidence. This colourful journal is super-easy to jot in, with daily questions, worry boxes, weekly activities (that sometimes involve your family!) and free pages for doodling.



1		2			3			4		5
6			7				8			
		9								
10						11				
					12					
		13						14		
15							16			
17										

ACROSS

- 1 US musician whose hits include *Shake It Off* (6,5)
- 6 Ringing instrument (4)
- 8 A request made in an urgent manner (4)
- 9 Free time (7)
- 10 Temporary outdoor shelters (5)
- 11 Item put on a letter before posting (5)
- 13 Scrape (7)
- 15 Not any (4)
- 16 Note (anag) (4)
- 17 Large shop (11)

DOWN

- 1 Game also called ping-pong (5,6)
- 2 Shout or scream loudly (4)
- 3 A traditional type of Sunday dinner (5)
- 4 Inactive or doing nothing (4)
- 5 See-through (11)
- 7 A leafy green vegetable (7)
- 8 Look after (7)
- 12 Saying; proverb (5)
- 13 Cut a little bit off (4)
- 14 Curved piece of metal (4)

WIN! TEAMSTERZ VEHICLE BUNDLE

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Disney's *Mulan*? Send in your answers and one lucky winner will win an exclusive bundle of Teamsterz vehicles, including the Mighty Moverz Fire Engine, Delivery Van, JCB Dump Truck, Street Starz Colour Change Car and Red Wheelie Bike.



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WIN! PREMIUM PASSES TO THE ALTON TOWERS RESORT

WE'VE teamed up with Alton Towers Resort to give away two Premium Season Passes, which include Theme Park entry throughout their 2020 season, including summer weekends and Scarefest*.



Celebrate 40 years of The Power of the Towers this year as you share joy, laughter and thrills with family and friends at Britain's Greatest Escape! New for 2020, take a spin through the sewers on Gangsta Granny: The Ride!, based on the World of David Walliams, and pull off the greatest jewel heist in history on a 360° special effects-laden wild ride to break into the crown jewels vault, from spring! Plus, enjoy an awesome choice of world-class rollercoasters, including Wicker Man, Nemesis, Oblivion and The Smiler, plus a host of fantastic family attractions in CBeebies Land!

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:



Gangsta Granny is the story of a boy called...
a) Matt b) Ben c) James

For more information, visit:
www.altontowers.com
*see website for exclusions

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ALTON

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 2 April 2020.

WIN! FAMILY TICKETS TO DISNEY ON ICE



WE'VE teamed up with Disney On Ice to offer five lucky readers and their family the chance to see Disney On Ice presents *Magical Ice Festival*.

Disney On Ice presents *Magical Ice Festival* is a magical mix of royalty, featuring Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and your friends from around the Disney Kingdom. The star-studded talent extravaganza will feature Moana, Ariel, Rapunzel and Flynn Rider, plus Anna and Elsa.



If you're ready to enter a world of adventure, simply answer the following question to be in with a chance of winning:



What object does the Little Mermaid call a "dinglehopper"?
a) fork b) spoon c) knife

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY ICE

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 29 March 2020.

COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (eg, Holiday), First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. **Please note:** First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are open to those aged 17-and-under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Trinity Mirror and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: handle is missing, extra books have been added, T-shirt is a different colour, exclamation mark is missing, board rubber is missing.

Word Wheel: encourage.

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

A	S	T	E	R	I	S	K
U	A	N	N				
A	S	E	T	H	O	O	D
M	M	S	A	W	A		
E	M	I	T	F	L	A	S
R	E	M	I	T	C	H	E
I	C	E	A	G	E	I	O
C	E	E	P	E	G		
A	S	H	E	N	A	T	A
I	D	I	L				
C	H	A	T	R	O	O	M



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WORDS FOR LIFE



ISZI Lawrence is a comedian, podcaster and history presenter. Iszi is a purple belt in Japanese-style jiu-jitsu, so she also spends time in the week helping to teach short people (7 to 11-year-olds) how to punch her in the face. She told us what the best thing about reading is.



“ I can read it at the pace I want, I can re-read the bits I like and I can skip parts without anyone knowing. If I want to call Hermione ‘Hermy One’ in my head, NO-ONE CAN STOP ME. ”

TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK/AUTHOR-INTERVIEWS](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/author-interviews). FOR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES, GO TO [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk).

THE BEST BOOKS TO... WHISK YOU AWAY

THE outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) might mean that you'll soon have to spend a lot more time at home. While that might seem daunting, one brilliant way you can make those hours go quickly is by getting lost in a book! We've rounded up a few of our favourite stories with deep, intriguing worlds that you can get lost in for days...

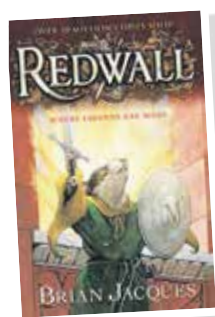
THE MORTAL ENGINES QUARTET PHILIP REEVE

Mortal Engines is set in a distant future where enormous moving cities roam the Earth, gobbling each other up. It's the first in a quartet of books set in this strange world, filled with fighting factions, secret societies and impossible inventions.



REDWALL SERIES BRIAN JACQUES

A series for slightly older readers, the *Redwall* books are about a fantasy world of lords and warriors. Oh, and all the characters in it are woodland creatures, like mice, badgers and snakes! With 22 books in the series, set across decades, there's plenty to get lost in!



CAMP HALF-BLOOD CHRONICLES RICK RIORDAN

No list about books that whisk you away would be complete without a mention of the *Camp Half-Blood Chronicles*. Originally based on ancient Greek and Roman myths and legends, Rick Riordan's books have weaved in both ancient Egyptian and Norse stories into modern-day settings. All of them are great, including the various spin-offs.



YOUR READS!

UKI AND THE OUTCASTS KIERAN LARWOOD

reviewed by Anna Sagrillo, Parkland Primary School

Uki is a boy rabbit who was rejected by his tribe because his fur is black and white patchwork. When he and his mother escaped from the death threat from the tribe, his mother died. He was saved by Iffrit, the good guard spirit from the Crystal.

Uki must capture four bad spirits before they cause devastation to the world, otherwise he would fade into blackness. On his quest to seize the bad spirits, he made friends with Jori, a trained assassin rabbit who refuses to kill, and Kree, a messenger rabbit who rides a jerboa. The three friends arrested the spirit of War, but Uki was caught by a traitor in the city of Syn. He was rescued by his friends.

The book is written by award-winning children's fiction author Kieran Larwood and illustrated by David Wyatt. It is a very good read – filled with drama and wonder, which always keeps me on the edge of my seat.



THE WIZARDS OF ONCE: KNOCK THREE TIMES CRESSIDA COWELL

reviewed by Alma Unwin, aged eight

It's so exciting to leap back into this magical world of snow cats, giants, sprites and werewolves.

Knock Three Times is the third book. In the first two, Xar, a wizard, makes friends with Wish, a warrior, although they've been brought up to hate each other like poison.

The wizards and warriors are so busy fighting they didn't notice the witches, who are old evil. Xar and Wish keep trying to get the wizards and warriors to stop fighting and join together to fight the witches' baaad magic.

But don't worry, there are loads of funny bits, like the baby sprites, called the 'hairy fairies.' *Knock Three Times* is the funniest of all three, and I can't wait for the fourth one, although I'll be sad when it ends.



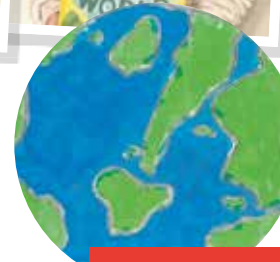
HOW TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD KELLY SWIFT

reviewed by Erin Sales, aged nine

This book is all about how you can make positive changes in the world. It gives you lots of ideas for things you can do, like starting a litter-picking team, travelling by plane and car less, or eating less meat.

There are all sorts of things you can do and it's up to you where you start and what steps you want to take, from small, everyday ways to make your community better to going on a protest march or starting a campaign.

The book gave me confidence to know I can make a difference and make my voice heard! I loved the designs and the words are brilliant. I'd definitely recommend this book to anyone who wants to find out more.



BECOME A FIRST NEWS BOOK REVIEWER!

HAVE you read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about? Write us a review! We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading – good or bad – and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!). Email your review to bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk



IT'S-A LEGO SUPER MARIO TIME!



NINTENDO and LEGO have partnered up to create a unique interactive Mario LEGO set – and it looks super!

Developed over four years, LEGO's new Super Mario set isn't your average set of bricks.

Like a real-life *Super Mario Maker*, you can use the different parts and bricks in the set to create your own Mario levels, featuring Goombas, Bowser Jr and a whole load of coins.

These levels can then be played, by bouncing an interactive LEGO Mario figure through the level.

According to LEGO, the new set will let you experience "the playful world of *Super Mario* like never before."

From what we can gather from the trailer released by LEGO and Nintendo, it looks like the figure will play classic *Super Mario Bros* music as you move the character through a level.

LEGO says that full details are still to come, but from what you can see in the trailer, Bluetooth connectivity may play a part in the set.

Last year, LEGO released the augmented reality (AR) game *LEGO Hidden Side*, which worked alongside a LEGO set. Here at *First News*, we're wondering if something similar will be released to work with the LEGO Super Mario set?



THE world's biggest video game convention, E3, has officially been cancelled.

Along with sporting events, festivals and shows, E3 has been called off due to the coronavirus outbreak.

It had been expected that Microsoft and Sony were going to officially unveil their new consoles during E3, the PlayStation 5 and the Xbox Series X.

Rather than revealing new products with big stage shows, Microsoft and Ubisoft have said they'll be showing off new stuff in 'digital events' instead.

As *First News* went to press, there had been nothing from Sony or Nintendo on their summer plans, but it's likely they'll end up hosting similar online events.

E3's hosts have promised that the big show will be back next year, saying that they "look forward to bringing you E3 2021 as a re-imagined event that brings fans, media and the industry together in a showcase that celebrates the global videogame industry."

MINECRAFT'S "UNCENSORED LIBRARY"



REPORTERS Without Borders, an international group dedicated to sharing news and information freely, has created a library for censored information – in *Minecraft*!

In many countries, governments ban news websites that publish articles that they don't want people to see.

To get around the bans, Reporters Without Borders has built a library in *Minecraft* filled with books and articles that were banned in the countries where they were written – since *Minecraft* isn't banned anywhere.

"These articles are now available again within *Minecraft*, hidden from government surveillance technology inside a computer game" the group explained last week.



YOU may have seen on our front page last week that Italy is in lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak, and schools and universities have been closed.

Italy's biggest internet company, Telecom Italia, has revealed that since the shutdown began, internet use in the country has rocketed by 70% – and a lot of that is because of *Fortnite* (PEGI 12)!

The company say it'll be boosting network capacity as more people turn to streaming services, videogames and other internet-dependent boredom busters.

A RIGHT TO REPAIR

**GADGET
CORNER**

MEMBERS of the European Union (EU) are hoping to create a new law that forces electronics manufacturers to make it easier to repair their products.

The Right to Repair initiative would mean that all manufacturers of electronic products, from smartphones to tumble dryers, would have to offer more repairs, upgrades and ways to reuse existing goods, instead of encouraging consumers to buy new ones.

Virginijus Sinkevičius, the union's environment commissioner, said that the EU wants greener products that are "designed to last longer, to be easier to repair and upgrade, easier to recycle and easier to reuse."

It will take a while before the plans are anywhere near becoming law, however, as they'll first need the approval of the European Union's parliament and the governments of its 27 member states. EU experts say that could take around four years!



PORTA-BREW INVENTION

by Daniel Hutton

I HAVE made it through to the finals of The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition with my project, Porta-Brew.

Did you know that we are the world's third top tea drinkers and consume 165 million cups of tea a day?

In fact, it seems that hot drinks in general are everyone's cup of tea, with around 95 million coffees drunk per day too.

The Porta-Brew was created to allow hot drinks to be made anywhere, even without a power supply, and it is environmentally friendly.

It makes it perfect for camping, festivals or in a power cut, and has the ability to heat any liquid to temperatures up to 100°C or to maintain any temperature within that range. It's the only heating device you will ever need again.

Using electro-magnetic induction to generate the heat, no harmful gases or particulates are released, so it can be used inside or in nature without risking damaging yourself or the environment. The lightweight cup and user-friendly interface make it easy to control and set the perfect temperature, giving you the perfect drink every time.

So wherever you are, wherever you go, tea will be there.



The Porta-Brew

JUNIOR
JOURNALIST

**WE WANT TO
HEAR WHAT
YOU/YOUR
SCHOOL IS UP TO**

Are you doing something sponsored for charity? Starting your own school newspaper? Putting on a show? Are you off on an amazing holiday or did you have a great day out? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

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

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

CLEAN AIR

by Eloise Lingham

I MET with senior MPs in London to call for tougher action on air pollution.

I took the fight for clean air to the top, meeting with over 30 MPs, including Environment Minister Rebecca Pow and Shadow Environment Secretary Luke Pollard, at a parliamentary reception hosted by the British Lung Foundation in Westminster.

Together with my sister Alice and my parents (who are members of the British Lung Foundation's Clean Air Parents' Network in Birmingham), we are calling for tougher air pollution limits to be included within the Environment Bill.

The Clean Air Parents' Network brings together and supports concerned families across the country who want to take action to help solve the UK's air pollution health crisis.

These actions can include campaigning for the introduction of active transport



Eloise

options such as walking school buses, clean air zones around schools and behaviour change to discourage engine idling at the school gates.

Air pollution is bad for all of us and especially for my friends who suffer with asthma. The MPs seemed very keen to talk to me and listen to my health concerns.

I hope they do more to protect children in Birmingham and all over the country.

JUNIOR
JOURNALIST

BOOK DAY INSPIRATION

by Audrey Gibby, Highfield Junior School, Kent

TO celebrate World Book Day, my school, Highfield Juniors, encouraged us to come to school dressed as a significant person from the past or present.

This was because our book day theme was non-fiction.

I dressed up as Greta Thunberg because she is changing the way people think about the climate.

I can't believe she does great, big speeches in front of important people like world leaders and how someone so young is making such a massive difference.

Greta is an inspiration for all of us.



Audrey dressed as Greta Thunberg

SCHOOL
NEWS

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SPORT IN NUMBERS

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Formula 1 driver couldn't cope with a weekend without racing, so when the Australian Grand Prix was cancelled, Lando Norris took part in an esports race instead. Bizarrely, one of his opponents was Real Madrid goalie Thibaut Courtois, as well as a host of esports pros and YouTubers.



Getty

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under par was Alice Hewson's final score at the South African Open. The British golfer will be pleased that it was one of the few events not to be cancelled, as she finished in top spot to win her first Ladies European Tour title.



10

Russian track and field athletes is the maximum number that will be allowed to compete at the Tokyo Olympics. World Athletics (formerly the IAAF) made the announcement last week, as well as handing Russia an £8m fine for the way it broke rules to help athletes cheat by using drugs. However, it's still not definite that the Olympics will even go ahead, due to the coronavirus situation.



Getty

RIDING HIGH



BBL/WBBL

Leicester's Sara Hinriksdóttir charges down the court

LEICESTER Riders made it a hat-trick of WBBL Trophy wins, beating Durham Palatinates at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow to win the tournament for the third year in a row.

It was a close game, but Leicester ended up winning 70-66. Leicester's Icelandic star Sara Hinriksdóttir was the top scorer, with 23 points, and was named as the game's MVP (most valuable player).

It was tough on Durham, who have now lost three major finals in the last 12 months. They'll also have a long while to stew over their defeat, as the season has now been suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak.

"We're the only teams playing right now, which is kind of outrageous," Durham's

Nicolette Fong told the BBC. "Health is more important than basketball."

The men's final was even closer, as Newcastle Eagles came close to a shock defeat from the second division's Team Solent Kestrels. The game went into overtime, but Newcastle just edged it 96-94 to take the trophy (right).

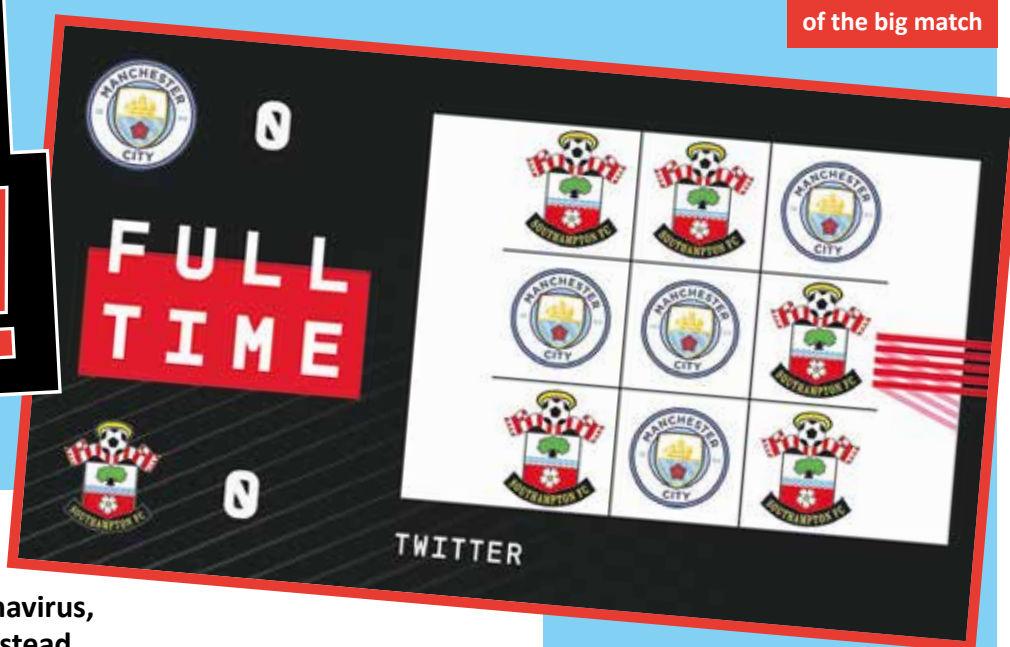
The Eagles were missing three of their international stars due to the coronavirus, but Rahmon Fletcher led the way for the team with an outstanding 29 points.



BBL/WBBL

WHAT A CROSS!

The final result of the big match



SINCE almost all football and most other sport was postponed because of the coronavirus, the excitement moved online instead.

Southampton were due to play Norwich, so challenged them to a game of noughts and crosses on Twitter instead. When the Canaries failed to respond, Man City jumped in and tweeted: "We'll play!"

After a hilarious move-by-move commentary, the game ended with a draw, with City tweeting that it was a "decent point on the road in the circumstances"!

Other teams stuck with football, and quite a few matches were played out on *Football Manager* instead, including a 1-1 draw between Watford and Leicester. Some fans even suggested using *Football Manager* to simulate the rest of the season in case it can't be completed!



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